HEAD COACH Chris Wilkerson



CHRIS WILKERSON
Head Coach
4th year at Eastern Illinois as Head Coach
(11th season at EIU overall)
Eastern Illinois, 1995

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Eastern Illinois			
Year	Overall	Conf.	
2022	2-9	1-4 (OVC)	
2023	8-3	4-2 (OVC)	No. 24
2024	3-9	2-6 (OVC)	
EIU	13-21	7-12	
University of Chicago Record			
2021	8-2	7-2 (MWC)	
2020	*Season cancelled COVID-19		
2019	6-3	6-1 (MWC)	
2018	7-3	7-1 (MWC)	
2017	6-4	6-2 (MWC)	
2016	4-6	4-4 (SAA)	
2015	6-4	5-3 (SAA)	
2014	8-1	3-0 (UAA)	UAA title
2013	6-4	1-2 (UAA)	
Totals	51-27	39-15	9 years
Career	64-48	46-27	

Eastern Illinois
* Hired as 26th head coach in Eastern Illinois history on January 26, 2022
* Begins fourth year as head coach for 2025 season
* Finished sixth in voting for Eddie Robinson FCS Coach of the Year Award
* Named Big South-OVC Football Coach of the Year in 2023
* Coached team from 2 wins in 2022 to 8 wins in 2023 and No. 24 FCS Coaches Poll final ranking
* Coached six All-Conference selections in 2024 (three first team)
* Team ranked 13th in the FCS in passing offense and 9th in FCS in fewest penalty yards
* Team featured quarterback Pierce Holley who became just fourth QB in school history with 3,000 passing yards in a season
* Wide receiver Cooper Willman set school single game record with 291 yards receiving against Gardner-Webb (3rd most in OVC history)
* Coached team players that earned Big South-OVC honors in 2023 (six first team selections)
* Coached four players that earned a total of seven All-America honors in 2023
* Coached MJ Flowers - 2023 Jerry Rice Award runner-up and Big South-OVC Freshman of the Year
* Team ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained in 2023
* Team ranked 18th in FCS in scoring defense in 2023
* Team ranked 25th in FCS in passing offense in 2023
* Coached team that featured two All-Americans in 2022
* Coached team that had 12 All-OVC selections in 2022 (four first-team selections)
* Team ranked 11th in FCS in fewest penalties in 2022
* Team ranked 16th in passes intercepted in 2022, 29th in turnovers gained
* Team ranked fifth in FCS in net punting
* Served as an assistant coach at Eastern Illinois from 1995-2001 under head coach Bob Spoo
* Coached special teams during entire tenure working on defensive staff (linebackers and defensive line)
* Served as defensive coordinator during final season on staff in 2001
* Helped coach team to four FCS playoff appearances
* Helped coach team to a pair of conference championships as team played in both the Gateway Football Conference and OVC
* Defense and Special Teams units regularly ranked in Top 20 in FCS in numerous categories

Prior To Eastern Illinois
* Head football coach at University of Chicago from 2013-21
* Team posted a winning record in seven of eight seasons, 2020 year was not played due to COVID
* Coached an offensive unit that featured the leading rusher in NCAA Division III in 2021 as team posted 8-2 record
* Team also posted an 8-1 record in 2014 winning UAA Conference title
* Guided the University of Chicago program through three different conference alignments posting a 39-15 record in conference play
* Coached three Division III All-Americans
* Coached nine All-Region selections
* Coached four Conference Players of the Year
* Coached 94 All-Conference selections
* (University of Chicago Record – 51-27)
* Coached at Dartmouth College from 2005-13, serving as Associate Head Coach since 2007
* Served as Defensive Coordinator, Special Teams Coordinator, running backs coach and linebackers coach in tenure
* Team ranked in FCS Top 10 nationally in several categories including punt return average, blocked kicks, individual rushing average, fewest fumbles lost
* Dartmouth pass defense ranked 14th in the FCS in debut season as defensive coordinator
* Coached at San Jose State from 2002-04
* In 2003 was a nominee for Broyles Award, given annually to nation's top assistant coach

Personal
* Played football at Eastern Illinois for head coach Bob Spoo
* Bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois in 1995
* He and wife Sharna (a former EIU softball player) have three children
* Native of Indianapolis, Indiana

ASSISTANT COACHES



Kyle Derickson
Associate Head Coach
Offensive Coordinator / Quarterbacks Coach
4th year at Eastern Illinois
Butler, 2003

Recruiting Areas: Ohio, Michigan
Illinois Recruiting Counties/Areas: Champaign, Vermilion, Edgar, Douglas, Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Crawford, Jasper, Effingham

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired as an assistant coach in February 2022 on head coach Chris Wilkerson's staff
* Serves as associate head coach, entering fourth season on staff for 2025
* Coached wide receivers and special teams units in first two seasons
* Promoted to Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks coach in January 2024
* Coached two first team All-Conference selections in 2024 (RB MJ Flowers / WR Cooper Willman)
* Coached quarterback Pierce Holley, only fourth quarterback in school history to throw for 3,000 or more yards in a season
* Wide receiver Cooper Willman set school record for receiving yards in a game with 291 vs Gardner-Webb (3rd most in OVC history)
* Coached offensive unit that ranked 13th in the FCS in passing offense
* Coached two Big South-OVC Football All-Conference wide receivers (1st team Eli Mirza / 2nd team Justin Thomas)
* Coached on offensive staff that ranked 25th in the FCS in passing offense in 2023
* Had four different receivers record a 100-yard receiving game during 2023 season
* Worked on coaching staff that helped produce a turnaround from 2 wins in 2022 to 8 wins in 2023 and No. 24 national ranking
* Kicker Stone Galloway connected on 56-yard field goal vs McNeese (2nd longest in school history)
* Special teams unit was one of top in FCS and OVC with five All-OVC selections
* Coached first team All-OVC players (Stone Galloway and Trey Wilhoit)
* Coached second team All-OVC players (Jack Valente, Mark Aitken, Cooper Willman)
* Coached third team All-American Trey Wilhoit, also named to FCS Punter of the Year Watchlist
* Kicker Stone Galloway ranked second in FCS in field goal percentage
* Punter Trey Wilhoit ranked fifth in FCS in punting average
* Special teams led OVC in blocked kicks, punt returns and kick return defense
* Coached wide receivers group that had four different players catch multiple touchdowns
* Wide receiver group featured six different players that started at least one game last season

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Worked as an assistant coach at the University of Chicago in 2021
* Was the team's offensive coordinator, quarterbacks and wide receivers coach
* Team posted an 8-2 record ans set nine team records including ranking first in NCAA Division III in third down conversion
* Offensive group had six first team All-Conference players, one first team All-Region, one second team All-Region selections
* Helped develop All-American Nick D'Ambrose who led the nation in rushing yards and was second nationally in all-purpose yards
* Worked on the coaching staff at Western Michigan (2017-21)
* Served as the Director of Player Personnel and Special Teams quality control
* Helped recruit and sign four classes ranked in the top three in the Mid-American Conference
* Helped coach four All-Conference special teams performers
* Member of Western Michigan coaching staff for Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (2018) and First Responder Bowl (2019)
* Worked as an assistant coach at Allegheny College (2015-17)
* Was the team's offensive coordinator, quarterbacks and wide receivers coach
* Coached two All-Conference performers
* Worked as an assistant coach at Elmhurst College (2008-14)
* Was team's offensive coordinator in final two seasons with team ranking No. 1 in Division III in time of possession
* Coached 14 All-CCIW performers including one All-American
* Helped team reach 2012 NCAA playoffs, first time in school history, team finished ranked 8th in NCAA

Personal
* Played football at Butler University
* Was an All-Conference selection at wide receiver
* Was an Academic All-Conference selection
* Member of passing offense that ranked fifth in FCS
* Bachelor's degree from Butler University in 2003
* Master's degree from Ohio University in 2014
* Native of Barrington, Illinois



Andrew Strobel
Defensive Coordinator
2nd year at Eastern Illinois
Northern Michigan, 2009

EIU Recruiting Areas: Kentucky, Tennessee, California, Nevada
Illinois Recruiting Counties/Area: Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Hardin, Pope, Johnson, Massac

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired as an assistant coach in January 2024 on head coach Chris Wilkerson's staff
* Entering second season on staff for the 2025 season
* Coached safeties during 2024 season, promoted to defensive coordinator for 2025 season
* Safeties group accounted for 217 tackles during 2024 season with nine tackles for loss and 12 pass break-ups

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Assistant coach at Morehead State six seasons (2018-2023)
* Served as associate head coach and defensive coordinator (2021-23)
* Served as associate head coach, special teams coordinator and linebackers coach (2018-2020)
* Coached defensive unit that ranked fourth in the FCS in interceptions and sixth in the FCS in tackles for loss in 2023
* Coached two players that tied for the FCS national lead in interceptions in 2023 (Kaleb Lyons and Jihad McCall)
* Defensive consistently ranked among best in Pioneer Football League all three seasons
* Coached three All-Americans including Buck Buchanan Award Finalist Vaughn Taylor in 2021
* Defensive Coordinator at Alma College (2016-18)
* Coached #1 Red Zone Defense in the Nation (all Divisions)
* Assistant coach at Alfred State College (2015)
* Served as special teams coordinator and defensive backfield coach
* Assistant coach at East Stroudsburg (2014)
* Served as special teams coordinator and defensive backfield coach
* Assistant coach at Culver-Stockton College (2010-2013)
* Served as defensive coordinator during 2013 season
* Served as special teams coordinator and defensive backfield coach
* Defense ranked in the Top 15 nationally in pass defense in back-to-back seasons

Personal
* Played football at Northern Michigan University
* Three time member of Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Fall Academic Team
* Named Northern Michigan program Freshman of the Year in 2007
* Bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University in 2009
* Master's degree from Concordia University (Calif.) in 2013
* He and wife Carrie have four children



Andrew Brady
Special Teams Coordinator / Safeties
4th year at Eastern Illinois
Wheaton College, 2019

EIU Recruiting Areas: West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C.
State of Illinois Recruiting Areas: Kane, Kendall, DuPage, DeKalb

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Eastern Illinois
* Promoted to Special Teams Coordinator in January of 2024
* Enters fourth season on staff, third as a full-time member for 2025 season
* Moved to safeties coach for the 2025 season after coaching outside linebackers in 2023 & 2024
* Hired as outside linebackers coach in March of 2023 on head coach Chris Wilkerson's coaching staff
* Coached linebackers group that included All-Conference selection Anthony Shockey
* Coached special teams unit that included All-Conference punter selection Jacob Horvath
* Assisted on a defensive staff that ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained in 2023
* Scoring defense was 1st in the Big South-OVC while ranking 19th in the FCS in 2023
* Helped coach a defensive unit that had three first team All-Conference selections including one linebacker
* Worked on coaching staff that helped produce a turnaround from 2 wins in 2022 to 8 wins in 2023 and No. 24 national ranking
* Assisted on a defensive staff that ranked 16th in FCS in interceptions and 29th in turnovers gained in 2022
* Worked as a defensive graduate assistant coach during 2022 season

Prior To Eastern Illinois
* Coached outside linebackers at Wheaton College in 2019 (CCIW Champions)
* Coached outside linebackers at Harding in 2020
* Coached wide receivers at Harding 2021 (GAC Champions)

Personal
* Four-year member of Wheaton College football team
* Bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in 2019
* Master's degree from Harding University in 2021
* Native of Wheaton, Illinois



Maurice Fleming
Defensive Backs Coach / Defensive Pass Game Coordinator
3rd year at Eastern Illinois
Iowa, 2016

EIU Recruiting Areas: Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma
Illinois Recruiting Counties/Area: Cook

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired as an assistant coach on Chris Wilkerson's football staff in April of 2023
* Will coach the cornerbacks, entering third season on staff for 2025
* Promoted to Defensive Pass Game Coordinator in January 2024
* Coached NiJhay Burt who ranked fifth in conference in interceptions in 2024
* Defensive backs collected four of six team interceptions for 2024 season
* Unit had a defensive touchdown with fumble return for TD by Moses Alexander
* Coached All-American corner Russell Dandy in 2023 (Walter Camp AA)
* Coached Big South-OVC Football 1st Team selection Russell Dandy in 2023
* Coached national FCS leader in passes defended in Russell Dandy (19 total)
* Assisted on a defensive staff that ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained in 2023
* Scoring defense was 1st in the Big South-OVC while ranking 19th in the FCS in 2023
* Helped coach a defensive unit that had three first team All-Conference selections
* Worked on coaching staff that helped produce a turnaround from 2 wins in 2022 to 8 wins in 2023 and No. 24 national ranking

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Worked as a defensive graduate assistant at the University of Houston in 2022
* Helped Houston post an 8-5 record appearing in Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl (win over Louisiana)
* Helped coach two second team All-American Athletic Conference selections in defensive backfield
* Helped coach one player selected to participate in the Hula Bowl in 2022

Personal
* Began college playing career at University of Iowa for three seasons
* Helped Iowa play in three Bowl Games (2013 Outback), (2014 Taxslayer) and (2015 Rose Bowl)
* In final season Iowa posted 12-2 record including 8-0 in Big Ten to play in the Rose Bowl
* Played final college season at West Virginia University
* Helped West Virginia go 10-3 including 7-2 in the Big 12
* Played in 2016 Russell Athletic Bowl
* Bachelor's degree from Iowa in 2016
* Undrafted free agent with Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2017
* Spent 2017 and 2018 on NFL Rosters and NFL Practice Squads
* Played 2019 season for Ottawa Redblacks of Canadian Football League
* Played for Louisville Xtreme in Indoor Football League
* Native of Chicago, Illinois

ASSISTANT COACHES



Cole Hoover
Offensive Line Coach
3rd year at Eastern Illinois
Eastern Illinois, 2021

EIU Recruiting Areas: Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa
EIU Illinois Recruiting Areas/Counties: Cook, Boone, McHenry, Lake, Winnebago, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Carroll, Whiteside, Rock Island, Mercer, Henderson, Warren

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired as assistant football coach in May of 2024
* Began second stint on Eastern Illinois staff for the 2024 season
* Enters second season on Coach Chris Wilkerson's EIU staff for 2025 season
* Worked as a graduate assistant coach at EIU with offense in 2022
* Coached tight ends during 2024 season, moved to coaching offensive line for 2025 season
* Coached tight ends group that hauled in 39 passes for 447 yards and four touchdowns

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Hired as an assistant coach at Western Illinois, coached WIU during 2024 spring practice
* Graduate assistant coach at Ball State working with offensive line group

Personal
* Five year member of Eastern Illinois football team
* Bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University in 2021
* Father Jeff was a former assistant coach at Eastern Illinois
* Native of Charleston, Illinois



Tino Smith II
Wide Receivers Coach
2nd year at Eastern Illinois
Savannah State, 2021

EIU Recruiting Areas: Indiana, Michigan
Illinois Recruiting Counties/Area: Clay, Richland, Lawrence, Marion, Jefferson, Wayne, Edwards, Wabash, Franklin, Hamilton, White

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired as assistant coach in January 2024 on head coach Chris Wilkerson's staff
* Serves as wide receivers coach, enters second year on staff for 2025 season
* Coached first team All-Conference wide receiver Cooper Willman
* Cooper Willman set EIU single game record with 291 yards against Gardner-Webb (3rd most in OVC history)
* Wide receivers group caught 166 passes for 2,298 yards and 12 touchdowns
* Passing offense ranked 13th in FCS for 2024 season

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Graduate assistant coach at Michigan State for 2023 season
* Assisted wide receivers coach at Michigan State
* Assistant coach at Albion College from 2018-2022
* Served as assistant head coach & recruiting coordinator during 2022 season
* Coached wide receivers group with All-American wide receiver and later EIU player Justin Thomas
* Coached two Conference Offensive MVP's in Justin Thomas (2021) and Mark Tocco (2022)
* Helped coach team to 2021 NCAA Division III playoff appearance
* Coached five All-Conference wide receivers

Personal
* Played football at Savannah State University
* Team captain and four-year starter
* Bachelor's degree from Savannah State University in 2018
* Attended Fork Union Military Academy
* Native of Carmel, Indiana

ASSISTANT COACHES



Carlif Taylor
Defensive Line Coach
2nd year at Eastern Illinois
Southern Connecticut, 2014

EIU Recruiting Areas: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island
Illinois Recruiting Counties/Area: Livingston, McLean, Ford, Iroquois, De Witt, Piatt, Moultrie, Macon, Christian, Shelby, Montgomery, Fayette

Eastern Illinois
* Hired as an assistant coach on head coach Chris Wilkerson's staff in February 2024
* Enters second season on coaching staff for 2025 season
* Will coach Panthers defensive line
* Coached first team All-Conference defensive lineman Nicholas Oliveira-Chace
* Defensive line unit had 35.5 tackles for loss with 11.5 sacks during 2024 season

Prior To Eastern Illinois
* Assistant coach at University of Chicago, 2022-23
* Served as defensive line coach and strength & conditioning coach
* Worked with University of Chicago 13 varsity programs, helping several advance to NCAA Tournament appearances based on strength & conditioning program
* Assistant coach at Pope John XXIII High School (2019-21)
* Worked as defensive line coach / strength & conditioning coach
* Assistant coach at Fordham Prep School (2017-18)
* Worked as defensive line coach / strength & conditioning coach
* Founder of Taylor Made Fitness - strength & conditioning company in Tri-State Area (NY, NJ, CT)

Personal
* Played in National Football League for four seasons (New York Giants 2014-16, Dallas Cowboys 2017)
* Played football at Southern Connecticut State University
* Was a multiple-time All-Northeast 10 Conference selection
* Bachelor's degree from Southern Connecticut in 2014
* Mentor for Capital Prep Charter School
* Native of New York City, New York



Spencer Treadwell
Running Backs Coach & Recruiting Coordinator
1st year at Eastern Illinois
Miami (Ohio), 2015

EIU Recruiting Areas: Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi
EIU Illinois Recruiting Areas/Counties: Greene, Calhoun, Macoupin, Jersey, Madison, Bond, Clinton, St. Clair, Washington, Monroe, Randolph, Perry, Jackson, Union, Alexander, Pulaski

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired in March 2025 on head coach Chris Wilkerson's staff
* Will serve as the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Assistant coach at Defiance College (2022-24)
* Served as assistant head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach and recruiting coordinator
* Coached six All-Conference selections
* Coached Region Newcomer of the Year
* Assistant coach at Arkansas Pine Bluff in 2021
* Served as tight ends and specialists coach
* Assistant coach at Walsh University (2018-21)
* Served as wide receivers coach
* Coached two All-Conference wide receiver selections, had three Division I transfers into the program
* Assistant coach at Alma College (2017)
* Served as running backs coach with Caleb Reinhart setting school single game rushing record
* Graduate Assistant coach at Kent State (2015-17)

Personal
* Played football at Miami (Ohio)
* Team Captain
* Bachelor's degree from Miami University in 2015
* Master's degree from Kent State University in 2017
* Native of East Lansing, Michigan



Rodman Noel
Linebackers Coach
1st year at Eastern Illinois
North Carolina State, 2016

EIU Recruiting Areas: Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina
EIU Illinois Recruiting Areas/Counties: Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Mason, Logan, Sangamon, Menard, Cass, Morgan, Scott, Pike, Brown, Schuyler, Adams, Tazewell

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired in March 2025 on head coach Chris Wilkerson's staff
* Will coach linebackers

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Assistant coach at West Georgia (2024)
* Worked as linebackers assistant and special teams assistant
* Defense ranked third in FCS in sacks per game
* Part of FCS National Team of the Week in opening week of season
* Assistant coach at Morehead State (2023)
* Coached linebackers and served as recruiting coordinator
* Coached two All-Conference linebackers, six total defensive All-Conference players
* Defensive unit led FCS in interceptions
* Graduate Assistant coach at Southwest Baptist (2021-23)
* Coached linebackers group
* Coached All-American Coleton Smith, leading tackler in NCAA Division II
* Coached three All-Conference selections
* Assistant coach at Alonzo and Tracey Mourning High School in Miami, Fla. (2020-21)
* Coached linebackers and special teams

Personal
* Played linebacker at NC State
* Member of three bowl teams (Belk Bowl, Music City Bowl, St. Petersburg Bowl)
* Led team in tackles in 2014 earning teams Defensive Player Award
* Team Captain
* Bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University in 2016
* Master's degree from Southwest Baptist University in 2023
* Undrafted free agent by Cleveland Browns
* Native of Everett, Massachusetts



Mason Keeler
Tight Ends Coach
1st year at Eastern Illinois
Wyoming, 2020

EIU Recruiting Areas: Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Colorado, Kansas
EIU/Illinois Recruiting Areas/Counties: Will, Kankakee, Grundy, Ogle, Lee, La Salle, Bureau, Henry, Stark, Knox, Peoria, Marshall, Woodford, Putnam

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired on EIU football staff in January of 2025, will serve first season staff
* Will serve as EIU tight ends coach
* Worked as a special teams quality control coach for latter portion of 2023 season when EIU posted an 8-3 record

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Assistant coach at McKendree University in 2024
* Coached special teams and safeties
* McKendree defense led GLVC in interceptions in 2024, ranking 16th in NCAA Division II
* Coached Wroclaw Panthers in Europe in 2023 as special teams coordinator, tight ends and running backs coach
* Team posted a 8-5 record to make ELF playoffs
* Special teams featured number two overall punter and number two overall kicker while blocking six kicks and one punt
* Coached linebackers at Seton Hill University in 2022
* Team featured No. 11 overall ranked defense and featured No. 1 tackler in NCAA Division II
* Graduate assistant coach at University of Wyoming in 2021

Personal
* Played football at Wyoming for two years, helping team win 2017 Idaho Potato Bowl
* Suffered career ending injury in 2018 finishing career as student assistant coach
* Bachelor's degree from University of Wyoming in 2020
* Graduate level work at both Wyoming and Seton Hill University
* Native of Broomfield, Colorado

ASSISTANT COACHES



David Brubaker
Director of Football Operations
3rd year at Eastern Illinois
Penn State, 2019

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Eastern Illinois
* Hired as Director of Football Operations in Spring of 2023
* Enters third year on staff for the 2025 season
* Part of staff that went from 2 wins in 2022 to 8 wins in 2023 with No. 24 FCS Coaches Poll national ranking
* Team consisted of ten Big South-OVC Football All-Conference selections in 2023
* Team had four players earn All-America honors in 2023
* Team featured six All-Confrence selections in 2024 (3 first team, 3 second team)

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Director of Football Administration at Morehead State (2022)
* Also served as assistant offensive line coach at Morehead State
* Coached two seasons at Lehigh University (2020 and 2021)
* Special teams analyst for special teams unit that ranked No. 1 in the FCS in blocked punts
* Worked in football operations, special teams analyst and recruiting quality control at Lehigh
* As an undergrad student worked as a recruiting and coaching intern at Penn State
* Volunteer defensive line coach at Warwick Senior High School (Pa.)

Personal
* Bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 2019



Jacob Hillman
Director of Football Performance
2nd year at Eastern Illinois
Iowa State, 2023

Eastern Illinois
* Hired as Director of Football Performance in March of 2024
* Enters second season with EIU football for 2025
* Football program produced six All-Conference players in 2024 (3 first team, 3 second team)

Prior to Eastern Illinois
* Graduate Assistant strength coach at Eastern Michigan
* Worked with Eastern Michigan football program and several Olympic sports including women's rowing
* Worked as an intern on Ohio State Football Strength & Conditioning Staff in spring of 2023
* Holds CSCS Certificiation through NSCA
* Certified in Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED

Personal
* Four year member of Iowa State football program
* Earned Academic All-Big 12 Honors
* Bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 2023
* Began collegiate career at Illinois Wesleyan University playing football
* Father, Aaron is Director of Player Development at Iowa State
* Mother, Dina, was a standout field hockey player winning three NCAA National Championships at Old Dominion
* Native of Gilbert, Iowa

SUPPORT STAFF

NICOLE JACKSON

Football Academic Services Director
Years at EIU: 4th year

Nicole Jackson was hired as the assistant director of academic services in the spring of 2022. Jackson provides academic support for the Panthers football team.

Prior to joining the staff at EIU, Jackson worked in donor relations at Lake Land College. Jackson also has worked at Franklin University as a Community College Regional Manager.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Christian University and a master's degree from Graceland University. Her husband Bill Jackson is the athletic director at Lake Land College. They have three children.

CLINT BAYS

Coordinator of Equipment
Years at EIU: 18th year

Clint Bays enters his 18th season as the coordinator of equipment and stadium facilities for Eastern Illinois football. Bays is a certified athletic equipment manager through the AEMA. He holds both a bachelor's and masters degree from Eastern Illinois University.

He previously worked with the Illinois Department of Corrections and Transportation Security Administration. He was the assistant equipment manager at EIU in 2007.

Bays and his wife Kirsten have four boys - Andy, John, Jake and Nick.

ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF

Head Athletic Trainer	Jim Nave
Head Football Athletic Trainer	TBA
Assistant Football Athletic Trainer	Alexis Fenrick
Assistant Football Athletic Trainer	Samantha Reinert
Sports Nutrition	TBA
Orthopedic Surgeon	Sarah Bush Lincoln Sports Medicine
Team Doctor	Dr. Andy Bays
Team Dentist	Dr. Jennifer Kennedy
Football Graduate Assistant Offense	Joshua George
Football Graduate Assistant Defense	Ryan DeMarois
Football Graduate Assistant Operations	Andrew Scheff
Football Graduate Assistant Performance	Andreas Missios
Football Quality Control Offense	TBA
Football Quality Control Defense	Matt Lindsey
Football Quality Control Special Teams	Kevin Moynihan
Football Quality Controal Performance	Arie Jenkins
Football Player Personnel	Liam Whelan
Football Recruiting Analyst	Brendan Lamanna
Student Assistant Coach	Peyton Wilkerson
Student Assistant Coach	Ryan Kilburg

2025 EIU PANTHER ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC/LAST)
0	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	300	R-Sr	3	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
1	Tylan Foster	LB	5-11	225	Sr	TR	Houston, Texas (Cypress Woods / Univ. of Incarnate Word)
1	Jay Pearson	RB	6-0	210	R-Jr	2	McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior)
2	Bruce Mitchell	DB	6-0	190	R-So	TR	Little Rock, Ark. (Lone Star (Texas) / Mississippi Valley State Univ.)
2	CJ Nelson	WR	5-11	185	R-Jr	1	North Richland Hills, Texas (Richland / Univ. of Houston)
3	Daniel Autrey	DB	6-2	205	Jr	TR	Glendale, Calif. (Glendale / Glendale College)
3	Cole LaCrue	QB	6-1	205	R-So	TR	Broomfield, Colo. (Broomfield / Univ. of Wisconsin)
4	Moses Alexander	DB	6-3	195	R-Sr	1	Galveston, Texas (Ball / Univ. of Houston)
4	Quenton Rogers	WR	6-2	195	R-So	1	Mahomet-Seymour, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour)
5	Surahz Buncom	WR	6-3	180	R-So	SQ	Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic / Univ. of Kansas)
5	Ja'Wuan Nickson	LB	6-0	235	Jr	TR	Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Hillcrest / Riverside City College)
6	Isaiah Houi	DB	5-10	175	So	1	Rockton, Ill. (Hononegah)
6	DeAirious Smith	WR	6-0	180	Grad	4	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
7	Blainey Dowling	QB	6-2	205	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel)
7	Jihad McCall	SAF	6-0	205	Grad	TR	Jersey City, NJ (Hoboken / Morehead State Univ.)
8	Tienne Fridge	DB	6-2	210	Grad	2	Sacramento, Calif. (Elk Grove / Sacramento City College)
8	Landers Green	WR	6-3	190	R-Jr	RS	Wharton, NJ (St. Peter's Prep / Union College)
9	Brady Ford	QB	6-0	205	Fr	HS	Toledo, Ohio (Whitmer)
9	Trevon Piggee	DL	6-1	315	R-So	1	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
11	Noah Williams	LB	5-11	205	R-Jr	TR	Dallas, Texas (Princeton / Dodge City CC)
12	Salah Hill	DB	5-11	185	R-Jr	TR	Norfolk, Va. (Chaminade Prep / Willamette Univ.)
12	Collin Willard	WR	5-11	200	R-Fr	RS	North Olmsted, Ohio (North Olmsted)
13	Mason Miller	P	6-0	185	Grad	TR	Avon, Ind. (Avon / Marian Univ.)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	205	Grad	4	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling)
14	Le'Javier Payne	DB	5-8	175	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
15	Connor Wolf	QB	6-3	210	R-Fr	RS	Ada, Mich. (Grand Rapids Central Catholic)
15	Brandon Worsley	SAF	5-11	205	Jr	TR	San Marcos, Calif. (Mission Hill / San Diego Mesa College)
16	Reed Blake-Thomas	LB	6-0	235	Fr	HS	Brighton, Mich. (Brighton)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	205	R-Jr	SQ	New Lenox, Ill. (Providence Catholic / Diamond Football Academy)
19	Alex Herrera	TE	6-2	240	R-Jr	RS	Linden, Calif. (Linden / College of the Sequoias)
19	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	220	Grad	3	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
20	Chris Caldwell	RB	5-9	200	R-So	RS	O'Fallon, Ill. (O'Fallon / Western Kentucky Univ.)
20	Saipeti Maiava Jr	SAF	5-11	200	Jr	TR	Fontana, Calif. (Etiwanda / Riverside City College)
21	Kaleb Lyons	DB	5-11	195	R-Jr	RS	Antioch, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy / Morehead State Univ.)
22	Charles Kellom	RB	6-0	205	R-Jr	TR	Cincinnati, Ohio (St. Xavier / Akron Univ.)
24	Nick Vecchiarelli	SAF	6-0	220	Sr	TR	Howell, NJ (Howell / Marist College)
25	Christopher Sharp	CB	5-11	180	R-So	1	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
26	Makhi Wilson	SAF	6-0	190	R-So	1	Bettendorf, Iowa (Pleasant Valley)
27	Josh Brown	SAF	6-1	200	R-Fr	RS	Suwanee, Ga. (Peachtree Ridge)
28	Jacarre Fleming	RB	5-8	195	R-Fr	RS	Hahira, Ga. (Lowndes)
29	Kham Boecker	SAF	6-2	205	R-Jr	TR	Toledo, Ohio (Whitmer / College of DuPage)
30	Joey Sprinkle	TE	6-4	240	R-Jr	RS	Monticello, Ill. (Monticello / St. Ambrose Univ.)
31	Johnovan Wysinger	WR	6-1	175	R-Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Morgan Park)
32	Cale Kimbro	LB	6-1	215	Fr	HS	Mattoon, Ill. (Mattoon)
33	Micheal Curry Jr	RB	5-10	190	Fr	HS	Louisville, Ky. (Atherton)
34	Jordyn Stewart	LB	6-0	230	R-Fr	RS	Homewood, Ill. (Homewood-Flossmoor)
35	Isaac Engle	DL	6-1	210	Jr	TR	Highland Ranch, Colo. (Highland Ranch HS/Univ. South Dakota Mines)
36	Dillon Conway	SAF	6-3	225	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
37	Taylor Goodson	SAF	5-10	205	R-Sr	SQ	Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett / Iowa Western CC)
38	Max Loveall	WR	6-3	210	R-Fr	RS	Richmond, Ill. (Richmond-Burton)
39	Davian Humphrey	LB	6-2	210	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
40	Isaiah Richardson	SAF	6-5	230	R-So	1	Suwanee, Ga. (Collins Hill)
41	Kennyan Chandler	LB	5-11	235	Fr	LB	Kankakee, Ill. (Kankakee)
42	Aaron Rice	P	6-5	205	So	TR	Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley / College of DuPage)
43	Tovie Martin	DL	6-4	230	Jr	TR	Clovis, Calif. (Clovis / College of the Sequoias)
44	Samuel Robles	DL	6-2	260	Jr	HS	Alief, Texas (Alief Taylor / Tyler JC)
45	Caden Telleson	LB	5-11	220	R-So	RS	Redondo Beach, Calif. (Redondo Union)
46	Nico Carrier	K	5-9	175	R-Fr	SQ	Naperville, Ill. (Metea Valley)

#WeNotMe #EIUBLEEDBLUE 2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

2025 EIU PANTHERS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)
47	Drew Schiller	K	6-1	175	R-Fr	RS	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
48	Maximo Vaughn	DL	6-5	250	Jr	TR	San Diego, Calif. (Kearny / San Diego Mesa College)
49	Jesse Garza	LB	6-2	235	Grad	RS	Nipomo, Calif. (Nipomo / Allan Hancock College)
50	Jett Reese	LB	6-2	235	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (DePaul College Prep)
51	Steven Arteaga	LB	6-0	220	Jr	TR	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta / Palomar CC)
52	Barron Sholl	DL	6-4	265	Fr	HS	Rockford, Ill. (Boylan Central Catholic)
53	King Smith	DL	6-3	315	R-Fr	RS	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur MacArthur)
54	Nic DiSanto	OL	6-5	330	Jr	2	Wyandotte, Mich. (Gabriel Richard)
55	James Collins	DL	6-2	295	R-Jr	TR	Mesquite, Texas (Mesquite Horn / College of the Sequoias)
56	Christian Takatch	DL	6-3	250	R-So	RS	Sunbury, Ohio (Big Walnut / Notre Dame College)
57	Panayiotis Mihalopoulos	OL	6-3	325	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
58	Dante Thompson	OL	6-1	330	R-Sr	TR	Montgomery Village, Md. (Quince Orchard / Robert Morris (Pa.) Univ.)
59	Brock VanDeever	LB	5-11	225	Fr	HS	Mahomet, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour)
60	Aidan Archibald	DL	6-2	260	R-Fr	RS	Charleston, Ill. (Charleston)
61	Ruben Popoca	K	5-11	185	R-So	SQ	Mundelein, Ill. (Carmel Catholic)
64	Cody Weaver	OL	6-6	330	Jr	TR	Turlock, Calif. (Turlock / Modesto JC)
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	6-3	310	R-Jr	SQ	Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath)
66	Jordan Yandila	OL	6-4	310	R-So	TR	Snohomish, Wash. (Glacier Peak / Adams State Univ.)
67	Dejan Guzina	OL	6-8	340	Fr	HS	Delta, British Columbia – Canada (Football Canada North)
69	Kwan Johnson	OL	6-5	310	R-Fr	RS	Blue Island, Ill. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)
70	Alejandro Arellano	OL	6-3	315	R-Jr	1	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling / College of DuPage)
71	Jourden Hale-Frater	OL	6-4	350	R-Jr	TR	Cincinnati, Ohio (Sycamore / Tennessee State Univ.)
72	Brandin Carpenter	OL	6-6	280	Fr	HS	Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena)
73	Chuck Lanier	OL	6-6	260	Fr	HS	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
74	Rahfeeq Katumbusi	OL	6-3	325	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
75	Jonathan Arellano	OL	6-3	325	R-Sr	1	Lancaster, Calif. (Bishop Alemany / College of the Canyons)
76	Dominic Fasano	OL	6-3	320	Fr	HS	Plainfield, Ill. (Plainfield North)
77	Sandro Malicevic	OL	6-5	330	Jr	1	Saratoga, Calif. (Prospect / San Jose City College)
78	Joseph Solomon	OL	6-5	305	Grad	1	Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard / Appalachian State Univ.)
79	Aidan Hubble	OL	6-7	320	R-Jr	TR	Boulder, Colo. (New Vista / San Diego Mesa College)
80	Carlyun Neal	WR	5-11	190	Fr	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Withrow)
81	Chase McConnell	TE	6-5	235	R-Fr	RS	Lebanon, Tenn. (Watertown)
82	Joe McNab	TE	6-6	260	R-Sr	2	Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
83	Taiye Ajose	WR	6-5	225	R-Fr	RS	Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's)
84	Jeremy Reeves	WR	6-4	210	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Gary Comer College Prep)
85	Jefferson McKinnon	LS	6-0	240	R-Fr	TR	Copley, Ohio (Revere / Marist College)
86	Jack Tremblay	WR	6-0	210	R-Jr	TR	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East / Central Michigan Univ.)
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	6-5	240	R-Jr	1	Wentzville, Mo. (Holt)
88	Trayvon Moore	TE	6-4	235	Grad	TR	Hattiesburg, Miss. (Oak Grove / Univ. of Nebraska Kearney)
89	Kenny Ajose	WR	6-6	225	R-Fr	RS	Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's)
90	Gerliaer Ervin	DL	6-4	260	R-Jr	TR	Baltimore, Md. (Dunbar / Riverside City College)
91	Knowledge Davis	DL	6-2	260	R-So	TR	Humble, Texas (Atascocita / Tyler JC)
92	Tyler Miller	DL	6-3	295	R-Jr	TR	Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Park Center / Independence CC)
93	Isaiah Hare	DL	6-2	295	R-Fr	RS	Mt. Washington, Ky. (Bullitt East)
94	Tyler Fortis	DL	6-3	290	Fr	HS	Park Ridge, Ill. (Maine South)
95	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	255	Grad	3	Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
96	Cole Silzer	DL	6-3	300	R-Jr	SQ	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
97	Tray Ross	DL	6-4	250	R-Fr	RS	Danville, Ind. (Danville Community)
98	Brett Galetti	LS	6-1	230	Grad	2	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
99	Kefa Pereira	DL	6-1	305	R-Jr	TR	San Antonio, Texas (Veterans Memorial / Monterey Peninsula College)
	Jerry Addo-Boateng	DB	6-1	180	Sr	TR	Sanford, Fal. (Orangewood Christian / Defiance College)
	Jesse Lajes	RB	5-10	205	R-Jr	TR	Fremont, Calif. (American / San Jose City College)
	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	210	Grad	SQ	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur St. Teresa)

2025 EIU PANTHER ROSTER (alphabetical)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR		HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC/LAST)
	Jerry Addo-Boateng	DB	6-1	180	Sr	TR	Sanford, Fal. (Orangewood Christian / Defiance College)
89	Kenny Ajose	WR	6-6	225	R-Fr	RS	Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's)
83	Taiye Ajose	WR	6-5	225	R-Fr	RS	Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's)
4	Moses Alexander	DB	6-3	195	R-Sr	1	Galveston, Texas (Ball / Univ. of Houston)
60	Aidan Archibald	DL	6-2	260	R-Fr	RS	Charleston, Ill. (Charleston)
70	Alejandro Arellano	OL	6-3	315	R-Jr	1	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling / College of DuPage)
75	Jonathan Arellano	OL	6-3	325	R-Sr	1	Lancaster, Calif. (Bishop Alemany / College of the Canyons)
51	Steven Arteaga	LB	6-0	220	Jr	TR	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta / Palomar CC)
3	Daniel Autrey	DB	6-2	205	Jr	TR	Glendale, Calif. (Glendale / Glendale College)
16	Reed Blake-Thomas	LB	6-0	235	Fr	HS	Brighton, Mich. (Brighton)
29	Kham Boecker	SAF	6-2	205	R-Jr	TR	Toledo, Ohio (Whitmer / College of DuPage)
27	Josh Brown	SAF	6-1	200	R-Fr	RS	Suwanee, Ga. (Peachtree Ridge)
5	Surahz Buncom	WR	6-3	180	R-So	SQ	Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic / Univ. of Kansas)
20	Chris Caldwell	RB	5-9	200	R-So	RS	O'Fallon, Ill. (O'Fallon / Western Kentucky Univ.)
72	Brandin Carpenter	OL	6-6	280	Fr	HS	Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena)
46	Nico Carrier	K	5-9	175	R-Fr	SQ	Naperville, Ill. (Metea Valley)
41	Kennyan Chandler	LB	5-11	235	Fr	LB	Kankakee, Ill. (Kankakee)
55	James Collins	DL	6-2	295	R-Jr	TR	Mesquite, Texas (Mesquite Horn / College of the Sequoias)
36	Dillon Conway	SAF	6-3	225	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
16	Kevin Conway	QB	6-2	205	R-Jr	SQ	New Lenox, Ill. (Providence Catholic / Diamond Football Academy)
33	Micheal Curry Jr	RB	5-10	190	Fr	HS	Louisville, Ky. (Atherton)
91	Knowledge Davis	DL	6-2	260	R-So	TR	Humble, Texas (Atascocita / Tyler JC)
54	Nic DiSanto	OL	6-5	330	Jr	2	Wyandotte, Mich. (Gabriel Richard)
7	Blainey Dowling	QB	6-2	205	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel)
35	Isaac Engle	DL	6-1	210	Jr	TR	Highland Ranch, Colo. (Highland Ranch HS/Univ. South Dakota Mines)
90	Gerliaer Ervin	DL	6-4	260	R-Jr	TR	Baltimore, Md. (Dunbar / Riverside City College)
76	Dominic Fasano	OL	6-3	320	Fr	HS	Plainfield, Ill. (Plainfield North)
65	Carson Fichtel	OL	6-3	310	R-Jr	SQ	Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath)
28	Jacarre Fleming	RB	5-8	195	R-Fr	RS	Hahira, Ga. (Lowndes)
9	Brady Ford	QB	6-0	205	Fr	HS	Toledo, Ohio (Whitmer)
94	Tyler Fortis	DL	6-3	290	Fr	HS	Park Ridge, Ill. (Maine South)
1	Tylan Foster	LB	5-11	225	Sr	TR	Houston, Texas (Cypress Woods / Univ. of Incarnate Word)
8	Tienne Fridge	DB	6-2	210	Grad	2	Sacramento, Calif. (Elk Grove / Sacramento City College)
98	Brett Galetti	LS	6-1	230	Grad	2	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
49	Jesse Garza	LB	6-2	235	Grad	RS	Nipomo, Calif. (Nipomo / Allan Hancock College)
87	Alex Ginnever	TE	6-5	240	R-Jr	1	Wentzville, Mo. (Holt)
37	Taylor Goodson	SAF	5-10	205	R-Sr	SQ	Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett / Iowa Western CC)
8	Landers Green	WR	6-3	190	R-Jr	RS	Wharton, NJ (St. Peter's Prep / Union College)
67	Dejan Guzina	OL	6-8	340	Fr	HS	Delta, British Columbia – Canada (Football Canada North)
71	Jourden Hale-Frater	OL	6-4	350	R-Jr	TR	Cincinnati, Ohio (Sycamore / Tennessee State Univ.)
93	Isaiah Hare	DL	6-2	295	R-Fr	RS	Mt. Washington, Ky. (Bullitt East)
19	Alex Herrera	TE	6-2	240	R-Jr	RS	Linden, Calif. (Linden / College of the Sequoias)
12	Salah Hill	DB	5-11	185	R-Jr	TR	Norfolk, Va. (Chaminade Prep / Willamette Univ.)
6	Isaiah Houi	DB	5-10	175	So	1	Rockton, Ill. (Hononegah)
79	Aidan Hubble	OL	6-7	320	R-Jr	TR	Boulder, Colo. (New Vista / San Diego Mesa College)
39	Davian Humphrey	LB	6-2	210	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Phillips)
0	Alton Jefferson	DL	6-0	300	R-Sr	3	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
69	Kwan Johnson	OL	6-5	310	R-Fr	RS	Blue Island, Ill. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)
74	Rahfeeq Katumbusi	OL	6-3	325	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
22	Charles Kellom	RB	6-0	205	R-Jr	TR	Cincinnati, Ohio (St. Xavier / Akron Univ.)
32	Cale Kimbro	LB	6-2	215	Fr	HS	Mattoon, Ill. (Mattoon)
3	Cole LaCrue	QB	6-1	205	R-So	TR	Broomfield, Colo. (Broomfield / Univ. of Wisconsin)
	Jesse Lajes	RB	5-10	205	R-Jr	TR	Fremont, Calif. (American / San Jose City College)
73	Chuck Lanier	OL	6-6	260	Fr	HS	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
	Zeke Lewis	RB	6-0	210	Grad	SQ	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur St. Teresa)
38	Max Loveall	WR	6-3	210	R-Fr	RS	Richmond, Ill. (Richmond-Burton)
21	Kaleb Lyons	DB	5-11	195	R-Jr	RS	Antioch, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy / Morehead State Univ.)
20	Saipeti Maiava Jr	SAF	5-11	200	Jr	TR	Fontana, Calif. (Etiwanda / Riverside City College)

#WeNotMe #EIUBLEEDBLUE 2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

2025 EIU PANTHERS ROSTER (alphabetical)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR		HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/JC)
43	Tovie Martin	DL	6-4	230	Jr	TR	Clovis, Calif. (Clovis / College of the Sequoias)
7	Jihad McCall	SAF	6-0	205	Grad	TR	Jersey City, NJ (Hoboken / Morehead State Univ.0
81	Chase McConnell	TE	6-6	235	R-Fr	RS	Lebanon, Tenn. (Watertown)
85	Jefferson McKinnon	LS	6-0	240	R-Fr	TR	Copley, Ohio (Revere / Marist College)
82	Joe McNab	TE	6-6	260	R-Sr	2	Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere)
57	Panayiotis Mihalopoulos	OL	6-3	325	R-So	1	Chicago, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
13	Mason Miller	P	6-0	185	Grad	TR	Avon, Ind. (Avon / Marian Univ.)
92	Tyler Miller	DL	6-3	295	R-Jr	TR	Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Park Center / Independence CC)
2	Bruce Mitchell	DB	6-0	190	R-So	TR	Little Rock, Ark. (Lone Star (Texas) / Mississippi Valley State Univ.)
88	Trayvon Moore	TE	6-4	235	Grad	TR	Hattiesburg, Miss. (Oak Grove / Univ. of Nebraska Kearney)
80	Carlyun Neal	WR	5-11	190	Fr	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Withrow)
2	CJ Nelson	WR	5-11	185	R-Jr	1	North Richland Hills, Texas (Richland / Univ. of Houston)
5	Ja'Wuan Nickson	LB	6-0	235	Jr	TR	Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Hillcrest / Riverside City College)
14	Le'Javier Payne	DB	5-8	175	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel)
1	Jay Pearson	RB	6-0	210	R-Jr	2	McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior)
99	Kefa Pereira	DL	6-1	305	R-Jr	TR	San Antonio, Texas (Veterans Memorial / Monterey Peninsula College)
9	Trevon Piggee	DL	6-1	315	R-So	1	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
61	Ruben Popoca	K	5-11	185	R-So	SQ	Mundelein, Ill. (Carmel Catholic)
19	Phoenix Porter	LB	6-1	220	Grad	3	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
50	Jett Reese	LB	6-2	235	Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (DePaul College Prep)
84	Jeremy Reeves	WR	6-4	210	R-Fr	RS	Chicago, Ill. (Gary Comer College Prep)
42	Aaron Rice	P	6-5	205	So	TR	Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley / College of DuPage)
40	Isaiah Richardson	SAF	6-5	230	R-So	1	Suwanee, Ga. (Collins Hill)
44	Samuel Robles	DL	6-2	260	Jr	HS	Alief, Texas (Alief Taylor / Tyler JC)
4	Quenton Rogers	WR	6-2	195	R-So	1	Mahomet-Seymour, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour)
97	Tray Ross	DL	6-4	250	R-Fr	RS	Danville, Ind. (Danville Community)
47	Drew Schiller	K	6-1	175	R-Fr	RS	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central)
25	Christopher Sharp	CB	5-11	180	R-So	1	St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit)
52	Barron Sholl	DL	6-4	265	Fr	HS	Rockford, Ill. (Boylan Central Catholic)
96	Cole Silzer	DL	6-3	300	R-Jr	SQ	Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township)
6	DeAirious Smith	WR	6-0	180	Grad	4	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
53	King Smith	DL	6-3	315	R-Fr	RS	Decatur, Ill. (Decatur MacArthur)
78	Joseph Solomon	OL	6-5	305	Grad	1	Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard / Appalachian State Univ.)
30	Joey Sprinkle	TE	6-4	240	R-Jr	RS	Monticello, Ill. (Monticello / St. Ambrose Univ.)
34	Jordyn Stewart	LB	6-0	230	R-Fr	RS	Homewood, Ill. (Homewood-Flossmoor)
56	Christian Takatch	DL	6-3	250	R-So	RS	Sunbury, Ohio (Big Walnut / Notre Dame College)
45	Caden Telleson	LB	5-11	220	R-So	RS	Redondo Beach, Calif. (Redondo Union)
58	Dante Thompson	OL	6-1	330	R-Sr	TR	Montgomery Village, Md. (Quince Orchard / Robert Morris (Pa.) Univ.)
86	Jack Tremblay	WR	6-0	210	R-Jr	TR	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East / Central Michigan Univ.)
59	Brock VanDeever	LB	5-11	225	Fr	HS	Mahomet, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour)
95	Drake Van Hyfte	DL	6-4	255	Grad	3	Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield)
48	Maximo Vaughn	DL	6-5	250	Jr	TR	San Diego, Calif. (Kearny / San Diego Mesa College)
24	Nick Vecchiarelli	SAF	6-0	220	Sr	TR	Howell, NJ (Howell / Marist College)
64	Cody Weaver	OL	6-6	330	Jr	TR	Turlock, Calif. (Turlock / Modesto JC)
12	Collin Willard	WR	5-11	200	R-Fr	RS	North Olmsted, Ohio (North Olmsted)
11	Noah Williams	LB	5-11	205	R-Jr	TR	Dallas, Texas (Princeton / Dodge City CC)
13	Cooper Willman	WR	6-1	205	Grad	4	Sterling, Ill. (Sterling)
26	Makhi Wilson	SAF	6-0	190	R-So	1	Bettendorf, Iowa (Pleasant Valley)
15	Connor Wolf	QB	6-3	210	R-Fr	RS	Ada, Mich. (Grand Rapids Central Catholic)
15	Brandon Worsley	SAF	5-11	205	Jr	TR	San Marcos, Calif. (Mission Hill / San Diego Mesa College)
31	Johnovan Wysinger	WR	6-1	175	R-Fr	HS	Chicago, Ill. (Morgan Park)
66	Jordan Yandila	OL	6-4	310	R-So	TR	Snohomish, Wash. (Glacier Peak / Adams State Univ.)

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

-- Jerry Addo-Boateng

Defensive Back • 6-1 • 180 • Senior
Sanford, Fla. (Orangewood Christian HS / Defiance College)



2024 - Honorable Mention MSFA Mideast League (Defiance)
2022 - Honorable Mention All-HCAC (Anderson)

DEFIANCE COLLEGE
2024 (JUNIOR): Played 2024 junior season at Defiance College… named MSFA Mideast League Honorable Mention in 2024… had 69 tackles with three interceptions and eight pass break-ups… had a two interception game in win over Judson…

INDIANAPOLIS
2023 (SOPHOMORE): Played 2023 sophomore season at Indianapolis… made 16 tackles with one pass break-up… appeared in ten games on team that advanced to first round of NCAA Division II playoffs…

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY
2022 (FRESHMAN): Played 2022 freshman season at Anderson University… earned honorable mention All-HCAC honors… had 50 tackles with one interception…

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a three-sport athlete at Orangewood Christian High School earning letters in football, basketball and track…

Misc.: Born in Ghana but grew up in Florida…

CAREER STATISTICS FO ADDO-BOATENG ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2022 *(AND)*	8	41	9	50	4	0	1	1 Blk
2023 *(IND)*	10	12	4	16	0	1	0	---
2024 *(DEF)*	11	50	19	69	4.5	8	3	1 Blk
Career	**29**	**103**	**32**	**135**	**8.5**	**9**	**4**	**2 Blk**

89 -- Kenny Ajose

Wide Receiver • 6-6 • 225 • RS-Freshman
Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Played in one game during the season appearing in road game at Gardner-Webb... did not record any statistics... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

HIGH SCHOOL: Two-way player for coach Terry Cistone at St. Vincent-St. Mary's HS in Akron, Ohio where he was rated the No. 14 prospect in the Akron area… as a junior helped lead team to an 8-5 record as they advanced to the third round of the Ohio Division II Region 5 playoffs… played both wide receiver and defensive end in high school…as a senior finished with more than 350 yards receiving on offense… on defense had six tackles for loss and four quarterback hurries…

83 -- Taiye Ajose

Wide Receiver • 6-5 • 225 • RS-Freshman
Akron, Ohio (St. Vincent-St. Mary's HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in three games during the 2024 season... did not record any statistics in action at Gardner-Webb, vs. Charleston Southern and at Tennessee Tech... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rules...

HIGH SCHOOL: Two-way player for coach Terry Cistone at St. Vincent-St. Mary's HS in Akron, Ohio where he was rated the No. 15 prospect in the Akron area… as a junior helped lead team to an 8-5 record as they advanced to the third round of the Ohio Division II Region 5 playoffs… played both wide receiver and defensive end in high school… as a senior finished with more than 400 yards receiving and four touchdowns on offense… on defense recorded five sacks and seven tackles for loss… added a blocked punt returned for touchdown on special teams…

4 -- Moses Alexander

Defensive Back • 6-3 • 195 • RS-Senior
Galveston, Texas (Ball HS / Univerity of Houston)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (RS-JUNIOR): Started first six games of the 2024 season at corner before suffering season ending injury against Southeast Missouri... led team with two fumble recoveries including a 60-yard return for touchdown against Indiana State which was the seventh longest in school history... had one interception against Lindenwood… finished season with 35 tackles including 24 solo stops... season high nine tackles at Illinois State with a fumble recovery... had eight takcles at Northwestern with a seven tackle game (all solo) against Indiana State...

HOUSTON: Was a two-year member of the Houston football team… played in eight games during the 2023 season finishing year with 11 tackles… had a season high four tackles with a tackle for loss against Texas Tech… added two tackles in last season games against both Oklahoma State and UCF adding one pass break-up against UCF… redshirted 2022 season at Houston…

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at Kilgore College with the 2020 COVID season and 2021 campaign… rated at 3-Star prospect by 247Sports… listed as No. 6 rated overall JUCO prospect and No. JUCO corner… 2021 Southwest Junior College Football First Team… played in ten games in 2021 finishing with 21 tackles, five break-ups and one interception… played in eight games in 2020 finishing with 14 tackles and two pass break-ups…

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a two-year varsity letter winner at Galveston Ball HS… as a senior 14 tackles with two interceptions…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR ALEXANDER ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU	OTHER
2022 *(UH)*	*Redshirted season at Houston*							
2023 *(UH)*	8/0	8	3	11	0	0	1	----
2024 *(EIU)*	6/6	24	11	35	0	1	2	60 YD FR TD
Career	**14/6**	**32**	**14**	**46**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**----**

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60 -- Aidan Archibald

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 260 • RS-Freshman
Charleston, Ill. (Charleston HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played senior season for Coach Brian Halsey at Charleston High School… helped team reach second round of IHSA Class 4A State Playoffs… earned All-State honors… first team All-Apollo Conference starting on defensive line… also played tight end… on defense had 98 tackles with 21 tackles for loss… selected for 2024 Shrine Game… earned varsity letters in both football and baseball… named Defensive MVP of Illinois High School Shrine Game...

Misc.: Father Bryan Archibald played football at Southern Illinois and was named to Salukis All-Century team… mother Tara Archibald played softball at Southern Illinois and is the former head softball coach at Eastern Illinois (now associate HC at Texas Tech)…

70 -- Alejandro Arellano

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 315 • RS-Junior
Sterling, Ill. (Sterling HS / College of DuPage)



2024 (JUNIOR): Appeared in 11 games during the 2024 season... saw time on field goal and point-after-attempt units during the season... had limited time as a back-up offensive lineman during the year...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Was a two-year member of the College of DuPage program… earned first team NJCAA All-American honors at offensive line in 2023 as a redshirt freshman… made 12 starts at right guard for NJCAA National Championship team… blocked for an offensive unit that ranked first in JUCO in points, points per game, total offense and rushing touchdowns… team ranked second in the nation in passing yards, passing touchdowns and rushing yards… earned NJCAA All-Academic honors as a freshman in 2022…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Sterling High School earning Academic All-State honors… was a two-time first team All-Western Big Six Conference selection… helped team win 2021 COVID spring conference championship…

75 -- Jonathan Arellano

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 325 • RS-Senior
Lancaster, Calif. (Bishop Alemany HS / College of the Canyons)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (RS-JUNIOR): Appeared in five games during the 2024 season making one start at right tackle in the final regular season game at Tennessee Tech... saw majority of time on special teams unit for punt, field goal and point-after-attempt... saw limited time as a back-up offensive lineman in additional four games with first action at UT Martin...

2023 (RS-SOPHOMORE): Appeared in nine games as a reserve offensive lineman seeing time at tackle... also played on special teams units for field goal and extra point... blocked for an offensive unit that ranked 25th in the FCS in passing offense and was third in the OVC in total offense averaging 373 yards per game...

2022 (SOPHOMORE): Transferred to EIU in the spring of 2022... played in final two games of the regular season making two starts at left tackle against nationally ranked teams Southeast Missouri and UT Martin... used NCAA redshirt season based on game participation...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played one season at College of the Canyons… team posted an 8-3 record in 2021 reaching the CCCAA playoff quarterfinals… blocked for an offense that averaged 29.7 points per game and 406 yards of total offense per game…

HIGH SCHOOL: Offensive lineman that played at Bishop Alemany HS… was a first team All-Mission League selection… helped team post a 4-1 record during shortened 2020-21 spring COVID-19 season… team captain…

51 -- Steven Arteaga

Linebacker • 6-0 • 220 • Junior
Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta HS / Palomar CC)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at Palomar CC… preseason rated as one of the top linebackers in junior college entering sophomore season… limited to six games due to injury finishing season with 65 tackles (10.5 tackles per game) with five tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks… earned second team All-SCFA Southern League honors despite missing a portion of the season… as a freshman played in ten games making 27 tackles with 1.5 tackles for loss…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Vista Murrieta High School… recorded 64 tackles with one sack and one interception during senior season…

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

3 -- Daniel Autrey

Defensive Back • 6-2 • 205 • Junior
Glendale, Calif. (Glendale HS / Glendale College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at Glendale College… in 2024 appeared in ten games finishing year with 33 tackles and two interceptions… posted a season-high eight tackles with a tackle for loss against LA Southwest College… had two interceptions in game against LA Pierce College… finished season with five pass break-ups… in 2023 played in four games making five tackles including a half sack in a shutout win over Compton College…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Glendale High School… posted 50 tackles with 3.5 sacks as a senior…

16 -- Reed Blake-Thomas

Linebacker • 6-0 • 235 • Freshman
Brighton, Mich. (Brighton HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Brighton High School… was an All-State selection by the Detroit News… earned first team All-Region (D1) and first team All-Conference honors… named team Defensive MVP and a first-team All-County selection… helped lead team to a 7-4 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the state playoffs…

29 -- Kham Boecker

Safety • 6-2 • 205 • RS-Junior
Toledo, Ohio (Whitmer HS / College of DuPage)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2024 season at College of DuPage earning second team NJCAA All-America honors for the NJCAA Division III National Championship team… appeared in 11 games finishing year with 32 tackles (23 solo)… had three tackles for loss with two interceptions and four pass break-ups… began career playing 2022 season at Hocking College in Ohio… played in five games with four tackles and one interception…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Whitmer HS… earned first team All-Conference and All-District as a senior… named to Toledo Blade All-Area team…

27 -- Josh Brown

Safety • 6-1 • 200 • RS-Freshman
Suwanee, Ga. (Peachtree Ridge HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in four games during the 2024 season... played on special teams unit as a reserve safety... did not record any statistics during season... used redshirt year under NCAA participation rule...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Matt Helmerich at Peachtree Ridge HS… earned second team All-Region 7-7A as a senior… as a senior had 73 tackles with 51 solo stops… added two interceptions and five pass break-ups… helped lead team to a 10-win season as a senior… posted 73 tackles with 42 solo stops as a junior… earned varsity letters in both football and baseball…

5 -- Surahz Buncom

Wide Receiver • 6-3 • 180 • RS-Sophomore
Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic HS / Univ. of Kansas)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in five games during the 2024 season... made EIU debut at Tennessee State on Oct. 12 catching one pass for five yards... would be only statistic for season...

KANSAS: Was a member of Kansas football program during 2023 season as a freshman but did not appear in any games using redshirt year based on NCAA participation rule…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Mater Dei Catholic HS for coach John Joyner… caught 30 passes for 467 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior… helped lead team to 13-0 record and California Open Division State Championship… rated a 3-star recruit by Rivals and 247 Sports…

MISC.: Brother Frank Buncom IV played at Stanford… grandfather Frank Buncom Jr., played seven years in the AFL at linebacker with the San Diego Chargers and Cincinnati Bengals, elected to Chargers Hall of Fame…

20 -- Chris Caldwell

Running Back • 5-9 • 200 • RS-Sophomore
O'Fallon, Ill. (O'Fallon HS / Western Kentucky Univ.)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (SOPHOMORE): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

WESTERN KENTUCKY: Went through spring 2024 football practice at Western Kentucky University after spending the 2023 fall season playing at Wisconsin Whitewater…

WISCONSIN WHITEWATER: Played in the final regular season game rushing for ten yards in win over Wisconsin Eau Claire… team posted an 11-2 overall record reaching the NCAA Division III playoff quarterfinals…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at O'Fallon High School rushing for 1,693 yards during junior and senior seasons with 19 touchdowns earning All-Conference honors…

72 -- Brandin Carpenter

Offensive Line • 6-6 • 280 • Freshman
Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena HS)

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Pasadena HS starting on the offensive line while also seeing playing time on the defensive line… listed on SVG Offensive Line Watch List for senior year… helped lead team to the CIF Division 6A Regional Finals as a senior…

46 -- Nico Carrier

Kicker • 5-9 • 175 • RS-Freshman
Naperville, Ill. (Metea Valley HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach John Parpet at Metea Valley HS… played both wide receiver and kicker as a senior… as a wide receiver hauled in 20 passes for 169 yards… during senior year knocked home five field goals during the season… performing at Vegas 42 Kicking Camp connected on 5-of-5 on field goals on distances of 40, 45, 50, 52 and 55…

41 -- Kennyan Chandler

Linebacker • 5-11 • 235 • Freshman
Kankakee, Ill. (Kankakee HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Pasadena HS starting on the offensive line while also seeing playing time on the defensive line… listed on SVG Offensive Line Watch List for senior year… helped lead team to the CIF Division 6A Regional Finals as a senior…

55 -- James Collins

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 295 • RS-Junior
Mesquite, Texas (Mesquite Horn HS / College of the Sequoias)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2024 season at College of the Sequoias… recorded 26 tackles with six tackles for loss and three sacks during the season… played the 2023 season at Saint Augustine University appearing in five games for the NCAA Division II school… recorded 12 tackles with one tackle for loss… attended Tyler Junior College in 2022 using redshirt season…

LAMAR: Began collegiate career as an offensive lineman at Lamar University in 2021 but did not appear in any games…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played high school football at Mesquite Horn High School… two-way player that also lettered in track & field… second team Academic All-District…

36 -- Dillon Conway

Safety • 6-3 • 225 • RS-Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel HS



2024 (FRESHMAN): Played in four games during the 2024 season... saw time on special teams units and as a reserve defensive back... had four assisted tackles with all four coming in road game at UT Martin... used redshirt year under NCAA participation rules...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Jordan Lynch at Chicago Mt. Carmel HS helping lead the team to a 13-1 record and IHSA Class 7A State Championship in 2023… team also posted a 14-0 record during junior season winning Class 7A title… part of defensive unit that allowed just 13.9 points per game during senior season… finished with four tackles, a half sack and pass break-up in state championship game…

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

16 -- Kevin Conway

Quarterback • 6-2 • 205 • RS-Junior
New Lenox, Ill. (Providence Catholic HS / Diamond Football Academy)



2024 (SOPHOMORE): Played in one game during the 2024 season... saw snaps as a back-up quarterback in road game at UT Martin... did not have any statistics in the game or for the season...

2023 (RS-FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2023 season...

2022 (FRESHMAN): Transferred to EIU in spring of 2022... played in one game during the 2022 season seeing time against Southeast Missouri... was 0-for-4 passing... had 11 yards rushing... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

PREP SCHOOL: Attended Diamond Football Academy prep school in Happy, Texas for the fall of 2021…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played quarterback and safety for Providence Catholic HS… team was limited in games played as fall 2020 season was postponed to the spring of 2021… as a dual threat quarterback passed for more than 500 yards and rushed for more than 300 during shortened season… overcame injuries from earlier in prep career playing for head coach Mark Coglianese…

33 -- Micheal Curry Jr

Running Back • 5-10 • 190 • Freshman
Louisville, Ky. (Atherton HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Anthony White at Atherton High School… as a senior set the school single season rushing record finishing with 1,867 yards with a school record 182 (25 rushing TD / 4 receiving TD / 1 INT returned for TD) points scored… finished as program's all-time leading rusher with 2,991 yards and all-time leader in touchdowns with 48… set school record with a 99-yard touchdown run during season… named Kentucky 5A District 3 Player of the Year… team finished with a 10-3 record advancing to Class 5A state quarterfinals…

91 -- Knowledge Davis

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 260 • RS-Sophomore
Humble, Texas (Atascocita HS / Tyler JC)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Two year member of the Tyler Junior College football program… played in ten games making 26 tackles with six sacks during 2024 season… added 9.5 tackles for loss earning honorable mention All-Conference honors… was a member of team that lost in SWJCFC Championship game… redshirted the 2023 season at Tyler JC…

HIGH SCHOOL: Finished high school career at Atascocita High School in Texas after beginning prep football career at Calumet New Tech High School in Gary, Ind...

54 -- Nic DiSanto

Offensive Line • 6-5 • 330 • Junior
Wyandotte, Mich. (Gabriel Richard HS)



2023 - 4th Team Freshman All-American (Phil Steele)

2024 (SOPHOMORE): Started first ten games of the 2024 season missing final two games of season due to injury... opened year as starter at left tackle for first three games before moving to starter at right tackle for last seven games played... blocked for 3,000 yard passer Pierce Holley as 342.3 yards per game of total offense...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Started nine games at offensive right tackle during the 2023 season... made collegiate debut with a start at FBS member Bowling Green in the second game of the season... earned 4th team Freshman All-America honors from Phil Steele... blocked for an offensive unit that had two individual 200-plus yard rushing performances during the season... offensive ranked 25th in the FCS in passing offense and third in the Big South/OVC in total offense at 373 yards per game...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played offensive and defensive line for coach Dionte Allen at Gabriel Richard High School… twice named a All-Detroit Catholic selection… first team All-Area… blocked for an offensive unit that averaged 33 points per game… team posted a 7-4 record advancing to the second round of the Michigan Division 8 state playoffs…

7 -- Blainey Dowling

Quarterback • 6-2 • 205 • RS-Sophomore
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in four games during the 2024 season.. saw first playing time of the season at Illinois State going 2-for-3 for 15 yards... finished season 8-of-16 for 69 yards with one interception... was 2-for-5 for 22 yards at Tennessee State with most extensive playing time at Tennessee Tech going 4-of-8 for 32 yards... also appeared in home win over Charleston Southern but did not record any statistics in that game... rushed three times for negative one yards with a long rush of five yards... long pass completion was 17 yards at Tennessee State...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2023 season... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played quarterback for coach Jordan Lynch at Chicago Mount Carmel High School… led team to the IHSA Class 7A State Championship posting a 14-0 record… was 205-of-290 for the season passing for 3,030 yards… added five rushing touchdowns… named Chicago Catholic League Tony Lawless MVP winner… first team All-Chicago Catholic League… named Player of the Year by Illinois Max Preps and Daily Southtown… a finalist for the Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year… earned first team All-State honors… rated a two-star recruit by Rivals.com…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR DOWLING ...

YEAR	G/GS	C-A-Int	PCT	YARDS	TDs	RUSH	YDs	TDs
2023	Redshirted season at							
2024	4/0	8-16-1	50.0	69	0	3	-1	0

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35 -- Issac Engle

Defensive Line • 6-1 • 210 • Junior
Highland Ranch, Colo. (Highland Ranch HS / Univ. of South Dakota Mines)

2024 - H.M. All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conf. (DL)

SOUTH DAKOTA MINES: Played two seasons at NCAA Division II Univ. of South Dakota Mines... earned honorable mention All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference honors in 2024... played in 11 games making 44 tackles with 11.5 tackles for loss and 7.5 sacks... added five pass break-ups, three forced fumbles and two blocked kicks... in 2023 appeared in 11 games making 30 tackles... had 1.5 tackles for loss with one sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and one pass break-up.

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Highland Ranch High School... earned All-State and All-Conference honors as a senior... named Team MVP...

CAREER STATISTICS FOR ENGLE ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	FF	Other
2023 *(SDM)*	11	13	17	30	1.5	1	1	1 FR
2024 *(SDM)*	11	29	15	44	11.5	7.5	3	2 BLK
Career	**22**	**42**	**32**	**74**	**13**	**8.5**	**4**	**-----**

90 -- Gertliaer Ervin

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 260 • RS-Junior
Baltimore, Md. (Dunbar HS / Riverside City College)

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2024 season at Riverside City College playing in five games during the season… recorded eight tackles with four of them resulting in tackles for loss with one sack… redshirted 2023 season at Riverside CC… played 2022 freshman season at College of the Desert… appeared in nine games making 21 tackles… posted five tackles for loss with 2.5 sacks and one fumble recovery…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School… recorded 49 tackles with ten tackles for loss as a senior playing outside linebacker… helped team post a 13-0 record as a senior as they won the Maryland MPSSAA Class 2A State Championship…

76 -- Dominic Fasano

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 320 • Freshman
Plainfield, Ill. (Plainfield North HS)



65 -- Carson Fichtel

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 310 • RS-Junior
Heath, Texas (Rockwall-Heath HS)



2024 (SOPHOMORE): Played in one game during the 2024 season... saw time as a reserve offensive lineman in road game at UT Martin...

2023 (RS-FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2023 season...

2022 (FRESHMAN): Played in two games during the 2022 season... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule... first collegiate appearance was against nationally ranked Southeast Missouri... made a start at center in final game of the season against nationally ranked UT Martin as team posted 426 yards of total offense, its second highest total of the year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played offensive line at Rockwall-Heath HS for coach Mike Spradlin... anchored an offensive line that had back-to-back 11 win seasons… team advanced to the third round of the Texas 6A D2 state playoffs during senior season… team advanced t to the Regional Finals, quarterfinal round during junior… son of former EIU Hall of Fame offensive lineman Brad Fichtel… team captain…

28 -- Jacarre Fleming

Running Back • 5-8 • 195 • RS-Freshman
Hahira, Ga. (Lowndes HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in three games during the 2024 season... saw time as kickoff returner on special teams in games at UT Martin and Western Illinois... had three kick returns for 61 yards for a 20.3 kick return average... had a long return of 25 yards against Western Illinois... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Zach Grage at Lowndes High School in Valdosta, Ga… speed runner that also lettered in track running as part of Georgia Class 7A State Championship 4x100 relay team as a junior… on the football field finished senior season with more than 1,000 all-purpose yards and 12 touchdowns… rushed for more than 2,000 yards and 20 touchdowns in prep career… earned All-Region honors…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR FLEMING ...

YEAR	G	KOR	KR Yds	Avg	Long
2024	4	3	61	20.3	25

9 -- Brady Ford

Quarterback • 6-0 • 205 • Freshman
Toledo, Ohio (Whitmer HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Ken Winters at Whitmer High School… named the Ohio Northwest District Division I Offensive Player of the Year as a senior… as a senior completed 60 percent of passes for 2,094 yards with 21 touchdowns and three interceptions… finished second in school history in both career passing yards and career touchdown passes… led team to a 9-3 record advancing to the Regional Quarterfinals as a senior…

94 -- Tyler Fortis

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 290 • Freshman
Park Ridge, Ill. (Maine South HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach David Inserra at Maine South High School… earned first team IHSA Class 8A All-State honors as a senior after being named the Central Suburban League Lineman of the Year… first team All-CSL honors… led team to an 8-3 record advancing to the IHSA Class 8A state quarterfinals… finished season with 13.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, three pass break-ups and one blocked kick…

1 -- Tylan Foster

Linebacker • 5-11 • 225 • Senior
Houston, Texas (Cypress Woods HS / Univ. of Incarnate Word)



INCARNATE WORD: Played two seasons at University of Incarnate Word helping team advance to second round of FCS playoffs in 2024… had 52 tackles (22 solo) with two tackles for loss, two sacks and one pass break-up in ten games in 2024… in 2023 was named a first team All-Southland Conference selection making 84 takes (32 solo) with three tackles for loss, one sack, one interception and one pass break-up… ranked second in the Southland Conference in total tackles…

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Began collegiate career playing at College of the Canyons with 34 tackles during the 2022 season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played high school football at Cypress Woods High School in Houston, Texas…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR FOSTER ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SACK	PBU	Other
2023 *(UIW)*	9	30	45	75	3	1	2	1 INT
2024 *(UIW)*	10	22	30	52	2	2	1	-----
Career	**19**	**52**	**75**	**127**	**5**	**3**	**3**	-----

8 -- Tienne Fridge

Safety • 6-2 • 210 • Graduate Student
Sacramento, Calif. (Elk Grove HS / Sacramento City College)



2024 (RS-JUNIOR): Played in all 12 games during the 2024 season making starts in the final two games of the year against Charleston Southern and Tennessee Tech at nickel... had 17 tackles with ten solo stops... season high five tackles against both Lindenwood and Tennessee Tech... had a half tackle for loss at Tennessee Tech... had two pass break-ups on the year with one each against UT Martin and Western Illinois...

2023 (JUNIOR): Appeared in first three games of the season seeing time on special teams and as a reserve defensive back... did not record any statistics... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Was a two-year member of the Sacramento City College football team… played in eight games during the 2022 season finishing year with 18 tackles including thee tackles for loss… added two interceptions, seven pass break-ups and a forced fumble… named Northern California Football Association National Division All-Valley League… had 13 tackles during the 2021 season with two interceptions and one pass break-up…

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a standout defensive back at Elk Grove High School… as a senior had 41 tackles with ten pass break-ups earning All-Conference honors…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR FRIDGE ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2023 *(*R)*	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	12/2	10	7	17	0.5	0	2
Career	**15/2**	**10**	**7**	**17**	**0.5**	**0**	**2**

98 -- Brett Galetti

Long Snapper • 6-1 • 230 • Graduate Student
Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East)



2024 (JUNIOR): Appeared in 11 games during the 2024 season... was snapper on punt team for early portion of season before taking over as long snapper for all special teams units midway through the season... made one tackle on special teams against Illinois State... named Academic All-District by College Sports Communicators...

2023 (SOPHOMORE): Appeared in nine games during the 2023 season... was the long snapper on punt team for the early portion of the season and spent several games as both the long and short snapper for special teams... did not play in the final two games of the regular season...

2022 (RS-FRESHMAN): Was the back-up long snapper for the season making collegiate debut in the final game of the regular season at nationally ranked UT Martin... part of special teams unit that featured both the OVC first team punter and field goal kicker while ranking fifth in the FCS in net punting... OVC Academic Medal of Honor...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Joined EIU roster during fall semester and served as long snapper for scout team during 2021 season... used redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Finished prep career at Lincoln-Way East HS... was a quarterback and long snapper in high schoool... began prep career at Ottawa HS and was a two-year starter at quarterback...

Misc.: Father played offensive line for coach Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin... mother ran track in college...

49 -- Jesse Garza

Linebacker • 6-2 • 235 • Graduate Student
Nipomo, Calif. (Nipomo HS / Allan Hancock College)



2024 (RS-JUNIOR): Played in first three games of the 2024 season... saw time on special teams unit and did not record any statistics...

2023 (JUNIOR): Played in four games during the 2023 season... saw time on special teams unit and did not record any statistics... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Came to EIU following two years playing at Allan Hancock College in California... in 2022 was a second team All-National Northern League selection after leading the team with 72 tackles... had six tackles for loss with three forced fumbles and three pass break-ups... as a freshman in 2021 finished with 40 tackles with a sack and interception..

HIGH SCHOOL: Prepped at Nipomo HS earning PAC 4A League Defensive Player of the Year honors... averaged eight tackles per game last season with nine tackles for loss... also lettered in track and wrestling winning the 2018-19 CIF Central Section Division 4 title at the 195 pound weight class...

87 -- Alex Ginnever

Tight End • 6-5 • 240 • RS-Junior
Wentzville, Mo. (Holt HS)



2024 (SOPHOMORE): Appeared in all 12 games starting final six games of the season at tight end... finished season with 22 catches for 232 yards and two touchdowns... made first collegiate reception at Tennessee State finishing that contest with seven catches for 43 yards... had six catches for 100 yards and two touchdowns in home win over Western Illinois... added four catches for 66 yards at Gardner-Webb... averaged 10.5 yards per catch... also played on special teams units making two tackles against UT Martin...

2023 (RS-FRESHMAN): Suffered injury in preseason camp and missed the entire 2023 season...

2022 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2022 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played tight end and defensive end for coach Ethan Place at Holt HS… during senior season had 36 catches for 651 yards and seven touchdowns… helped lead team to a 13-1 record losing in the Missouri Class 5 state championship game… as a junior had 13 receptions for 369 yards and three touchdowns… as a sophomore had 15 receptions for 249 yards and two touchdowns… finished prep career with more than 1,200 yards receiving and five 100-yard receiving games… was a first team All-State selection as a senior…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR GINNEVER ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2022	*Redshirted season at Eastern Illinois*					
2023	*Missed season due to injury in preseason camp*					
2024	**12/6**	**22**	**232**	**10.5**	**2**	**37**

37 -- Taylor Goodson

Safety • 5-10 • 205 • RS-Junior
Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett HS / Iowa Western CC)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (JUNIOR): Missed 2024 season due to injury...

2023 (RS-SOPHOMORE): Transferred to Eastern Illinois in fall of 2023 but did not play in any games...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2022 season at Iowa Western CC recording stats in six games... finished season with seven tackles including making one stop as IWCC won NJCAA National Championship game... helped team post 10-2 record during the year...

MERCER: Played in one game at Mercer during the COVID shortened 2020-21 season... redshirted at Mercer during 2021 season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Bill Stewat at North Gwinnett HS... helped lead team to 2017 Georgia Class 7A state championship... recorded 116 tackles over final three seasons... had three career sacks and six career interceptions, four coming in senior season... named 2019 Region Defensive Back of the Year... earned All-State and All-County honors...

Misc.: Younger brother of NFL running back Tyler Goodson...

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

8 -- Landers Green

Wide Receiver • 6-3 • 190 • RS-Junior
Wharton, NJ (St. Peter's Prep / Union College)



2023 - 2nd Team All-Liberty League (WR)

EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (JUNIOR): Appeared in one game during the 2024 season seeing time against Southeast Missouri... had three receptions for 48 yards in that game for an average of 16.0 yards per catch... had a long reception of 27 yards... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rules...

UNION COLLEGE: Was a two-year member of the Union College football team… as a sophomore in 2023 earned second team All-Liberty League honors… played in 11 games leading team with 41 receptions for 663 yards and four touchdowns… ranked third in Liberty League in receiving yards and sixth in receptions… had a season-high 97 yards receiving on six receptions vs Montclair State… season high seven receptions against St. Lawrence… hauled in five passes for 75 yards and a touchdown in NCAA playoff opening round against Delaware Valley… played in four games in 2022 making one catch against Buffalo State… also a member of track & field team earning All-Region honors in indoor track in the high jump…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football and ran track at St. Peter's Prep… as a senior had 13 receptions for 151 yards and one touchdown… helped football team reach New Jersey Non-Public A state semifinals as a senior…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR GREEN ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2022 *(UC)*	4	1	19	19.0	0	19
2023 *(UC)*	11	41	663	16.2	4	56
2024 (EIU)	1	3	48	16.0	0	27
Union	**15**	**42**	**682**	**16.2**	**4**	**56**
EIU	**1**	**3**	**48**	**16.0**	**0**	**27**
Career	**16**	**45**	**730**	**16.2**	**4**	**56**

67 -- Dejan Guzina

Offensive Line • 6-8 • 340 • Freshman
Delta, British Columbia - Canada (Football Canada North)



Enrolled as a gray-shirt joining the program in Spring 2025 following early high school graduation...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Jamie Lalonde at Clarkson Football North in Burlington, Ontario… starting offensive lineman that helped team post an 8-3 record during 2024 season against some top American teams winning the East Coast Power Prep League title… earned All-League honors at offensive tackle…

71 -- Jourden Hale-Frater

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 350 • RS-Junior
Cincinnati, Ohio (Sycamore HS / Tennessee State Univ.)



TENNESSEE STATE: Played at Tennessee State University in 2024 as part of the Tigers OVC co-champion and FCS playoff team…

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Spent 2023 season as a starting offensive lineman at Copiah-Lincoln CC in Mississippi where the team posted a 10-2 record beating Navarro JC in the Champs Heart of Texas Bowl…

AKRON: Redshirted freshman season at Akron in 2022…

HIGH SCHOOL: Attended Sycamore HS helping team make a pair of state playoff appearances and earning first team All-Conference as a senior…

93 -- Isaiah Hare

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 295 • RS-Freshman
Mt. Washington, Ky. (Bullitt East HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Keegan Kendrick at Bullitt East HS in suburban Louisville, Ky… helped lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship during junior season… missed part of senior season with injury but still set school record with 18 career sacks… played primarily as a defensive end but also played at defensive tackle during portion of season… earned All-State honors as a junior and senior… ranked in the top five defensive linemen in Kentucky…

19 -- Alex Herrera

Tight End • 6-2 • 240 • RS-Junior
Linden, Calif. (Linden HS / College of the Sequoias)



2024 (JUNIOR): Played in four games during the 2024 season making one start against Western Illinois... finished season with 12 receptions for 150 yards and two touchdowns... first EIU reception was at UT Martin finishing game against the Skyhawks with seven catches for 80 yards and one touchdown... added other touchdown in home win over Charleston Southern... had four catches for 48 yards against Charleston Southern... averaged 12.5 yards per catch... also saw time on special teams in those four contests... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2023 season at College of the Sequoias… appeared in 11 games finishing season with 27 receptions for 311 yards with three touchdowns… had a season-high five catches against both Sierra College and Reedley… hauled in four passes for a season-high 64 yards and two touchdowns against Sacramento City… earned second team All-America honors by JCGRIDIRON… named Regional I First-team All-California… played 2022 season at San Joaquin Delta College appearing in seven games… had 11 receptions for 152 yards and four touchdowns… season high three catches for 43 yards and a touchdown against Contra Costa College…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Linden HS… led team to a 7-5 record as a senior…passed for 2,331 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR HERRERA ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2024	4/1	12	150	12.5	2	25

12 -- Salah Hill

Defensive Back • 5-11 • 185 • RS-Junior
Norfolk, Va. (Chaminade HS / Willamette Univ.)



WILLAMETTE: Played 2024 season at NCAA Division III Willamette University... appeared in ten games finishing season with 32 tackles... had three interceptions with four pass break-ups... added three tackles for loss... had a two blocked kicks with one each against Simpson (Calif.) and George Fox (Ore.)...

MONTANA TECH: Redshirted 2023 season at NAIA member Montana Tech...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2022 season at Moorpark College in California... appeared in eight games making 24 tackles... had one interception...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Chaminade College Prep High School... totaled 50 tackles, 3 tackles for loss, and 1 sack in career... had 2 interceptions during senior year...

CAREER STATISTICS FOR HILL ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2023 *(MT)*	Redshirted at Montana Tech							
2024 *(WU)*	10	24	8	32	3	2	3	2 Blk

6 -- Isaiah Houi

Defensive Back • 5-10 • 175 • Sophomore
Rockton, Ill. (Hononegah HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in seven games during the 2024 season making starts at corner in the final three games of the season... opened year intending to redshirt seeing limited time on special teams and as a reserve defensive back... saw extended playing time in home win over Western Illinois and then started final three games of the year... made three tackles with two pass break-ups against Western Illinois... finished season with 16 tackles including two tackles for loss and five pass break-ups... had season high five tackles with four solo stops at Tennessee Tech... had four tackles with a tackle for loss against Charleston Southern... other tackle for loss was at Gardner-Webb to go with three tackles and two pass break-ups...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Brian Zimmerman at Hononegah HS in Rockton, Ill… was a two-way athlete playing both wide receiver and defensive back… was a multi-time All-Area and All-NIC-10 performer on both sides of the ball… as an offensive player had 40 receptions for 805 yards and 14 total touchdowns during senior year… on defense had four interceptions and 30 tackles… helped team post an 11-1 record advancing to the IHSA Class 7A state quarterfinals…

CAREER STATISTICS HOUI ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2024	7/3	12	4	16	2	0	5

79 -- Aidan Hubble

Offensive Line • 6-7 • 320 • RS-Junior
Boulder, Colo. (New Vista HS / San Diego Mesa College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2023 and 2024 seasons at San Diego Mesa College helping the team post an 8-3 record advancing to the SFCA semifinals in 2024… offense averaged 31.9 points and 358.4 yards per game during the season… attended Chaffey College in 2022 but did not play using redshirt season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at New Vista High School…

39 -- Davian Humphrey

Linebacker • 6-2 • 210 • Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (Phillips HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Phillips High School with senior season under coach Ivan Simmons… was a versatile player starting at both linebacker and wide receiver while serving as the team's punter and kickoff specialist, slated to play linebacker in college… named an All-Chicago Public League first team selection… on offense hauled in five touchdown receptions… on defense finished season with eleven tackles for loss and four forced fumbles…

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

0 -- Alton Jefferson

Defensive Line • 6-0 • 300 • RS-Senior
Louisville, Ky. (Trinity HS)



2024 (SENIOR): Missed 2024 season due to injury... used redshirt season...

2023 (JUNIOR): Played in six games during the 2023 season making four starts on the defensive line... finished year with nine tackles including six solo stops... season high five tackles at Northwestern State... part of EIU defensive unit that ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained during the regular season...

2022 (SOPHOMORE): Played in all 11 games during the 2022 season making one start on the defensive line in the final regular season game at nationally ranked UT Martin... finished season with 16 tackles including seven solo stops... made a season high four tackles at UT Martin... added three tackles against Lindenwood... had two tackles for loss during the season with one against Northwestern State and one at UT Martin... had a fumble recovery against Northwestern State...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Played in all 11 games during the 2021 season making three starts on the defensive line... finished season with 14 tackles, nine solo stops... season high five tackles in first career start against Illinois State... had two tackles in start at Murray State... third start was against nationally ranked UT Martin... had 1.5 tackles for loss on the season with a sack and TFL in final regular season game against Murray State... had a half TFL against Illinois State... had two quarterback hurries for the season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football for coach Bob Beatty at Trinity HS… part of a defensive unit that allowed just five points per game during 2020 season while holding opponents to negative three rushing yards per game and 77 passing yards per contest… defensive front unit has helped Trinity HS lead state in sacks… named honorable mention All-State... named All-Area after helping lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship with 10-0 record… as a junior helped lead team to Kentucky Class 6A State Championship as team posted a 13-2 record… team captain…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR JEFFERSON ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SACK	Other
2021	11/3	9	5	14	1.5	1	
2022	11/1	7	9	16	2	0	1 FR
2023	6/4	6	3	9	0	0	
2024	*Redshirted season at EIU*						
Career	**28/8**	**22**	**17**	**39**	**3.5**	**1**	**---**

69 -- Kwan Johnson

Offensive Line • 6-5 • 310 • RS-Freshman
Blue Island, Ill. (Dwight D. Eisenhower HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Sheamus Murphy at Dwight D. Eisenhower HS in Blue Island, Ill… helped lead team to three straight IHSA playoff appearances including a 7-4 record as a senior advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 6A state playoffs… was a three-time All-South Suburban Conference selection… earned varsity letters in four sports…

67 -- Rahfeeq Katumbusi

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 325 • RS-Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mount Carmel HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Jordan Lynch at Chicago Mt. Carmel HS helping lead the team to a 13-1 record and IHSA Class 7A State Championship in 2023… team also posted a 14-0 record during junior season winning Class 7A title… starter on offensive line on both state championship teams… team captain as a senior…earned first team All-Chicago Catholic League as a senior… led an offensive unit that averaged 39 points per game and 444 yards of total offense per game…

22 -- Charles Kellom

Running Back • 6-0 • 205 • RS-Junior
Cincinnati, Ohio (St. Xavier HS / Univ. of Akron)



AKRON: Played three seasons at University of Akron… during 2024 season appeared in 12 games rushing for 352 yards for a 4.1 yards per carry average… rushed for a season high 104 yards with a touchdown at Kent State… added a 59-yard game against Eastern Michigan… had 27 receptions for 210 yards for the year with receiving touchdowns against Colgate and Toledo… played in 11 games in 2023 with five rushing yards and making two tackles on special teams unit… played one game as a freshman in 2022 with 27 yards rushing against Northern Illinois…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at St. Xavier HS helping team make four playoff appearances… had more than 1,850 yards of total offense with 29 touchdowns as a senior…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR KELLOM ...

YEAR	G	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG	REC	YDS	TD
2022 *(AKR)*	1	2	27	0	14	0	0	0
2023 *(AKR)*	12	4	5	0	4	0	0	0
2024 *(AKR)*	12	85	352	1	43	27	210	2
Career	**25**	**91**	**384**	**1**	**43**	**27**	**210**	**2**

32 -- Cale Kimbro

Linebacker • 6-2 • 215 • Freshman
Mattoon, Ill. (Mattoon HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Mattoon High School ending career playing for father Jarad Kimbro who is a former football player at Eastern Illinois… was named an IHSFCA 5A All-State selection as a senior playing as a two-way player starting at both linebacker and wide receiver… also named All-Area by Decatur Herald Review while earning All-Apollo Conference honors (1st team linebacker / 2nd team wide receiver)… ended year with 119 tackles on defense and 954 All-Purpose yards on offense…

3 -- Cole LaCrue

Quarterback • 6-1 • 205 • RS-Sophomore
Broomfield, Colo. (Broomfield HS / Univ. of Wisconsin)



WISCONSIN: Two year member of the Wisconsin football program… redshirted the 2023 season and did not appear in any games during 2024 season… team participated in the ReliaQuest Bowl against LSU during freshman season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Rated a three-star recruit by Rivals, 247Sports and ESPN playing at Broomfield High School… passed for 57 touchdowns and more than 6,000 yards in three seasons as a varsity player… as a senior was 167-of-261 for 2,647 yards with 26 touchdowns and just six interceptions… added 808 yards on the ground with 20 rushing touchdowns as a senior… led team to Class 4A State Title passing for 233 yards and two rushing touchdowns in game… first team All-state and regional MVP and Colorado 4A player of the year as a senior… three time All-Conference selection… also lettered in baseball earning a state championship as a junior…

-- Jesse Lajes

Running Back • 5-10 • 205 • RS-Junior
Fremont, Calif. (American HS / San Jose City College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Was a two-time first team All-Conference running back in 2023 and 2024 at San Jose City College… named MVP of Northern California Bowl after rushing for 228 yards and two touchdowns… during 2024 season rushed for 1,544 yards and 15 touchdowns with a 140.4 yards per game average which ranked second in the state… had 15 touchdowns… season high 296 yards at Hartnell College… during 2023 season finished with 1,005 yards and ten touchdowns… attended De Anza College during 2022 season but did not play using redshirt season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at American High School averaging 81.5 yards per game as a senior with six touchdowns…

73 -- Chuck Lanier

Tight End • 6-6 • 260 • Freshman
Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin HS)

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Sacred Heart Griffin High School in Springfield... helped team make back-to-back IHSA Class 5A state playoffs... played defensive end and tight end in high school... earned All-Conference honors...

-- Zeke Lewis

Running Back • 6-0 • 210 • Graduate Student
Decatur, Ill. (St. Teresa HS)



2024 (JUNIOR): Played in nine games during the 2024 season... saw all time on special teams units for kickoff and kickoff coverage... made two tackles on special teams with tackle against Lindenwood and tackle in home win over Charleston Southern...

2023 (SOPHOMORE): Played in three games during the 2023 season... saw all of playing time on special teams unit... had one tackle on special teams against Tennessee State...

2022 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in five games during the 2022 season seeing time as a back-up running back and on special teams... had five carries for eight yards... season high four carries for five yards against Illinois State... made two tackles on special teams with one at Northern Illinois and one at UT Martin...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2021 season, used redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football for coach Mark Ramsey at Decatur St. Teresa HS... rushed for 389 yards in six games during shortened spring season in 2021 as teams did not play fall football due to COVID-19... rushed for eight touchdowns with one 100-yard rushing game... helped team post a 6-0 record in spring season... earned first team All-Central Illinois Conference honors at linebacker... as a junior rushed for 221 yards and three touchdowns... also started on defensive side of the ball making 77 tackles with 8 tackles for loss as a junior... helped team post an 11-2 record as they lost in the IHSA Class 2A State semifinals...

CAREER STATISTICS FOR Z. LEWIS ...

YEAR	G	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG	OTHER
2021	Redshirted at Eastern Illinois					
2022	5	5	8	0	3	2 Tackles
2023	3	0	0	0	0	1 Tackle
2024	9	0	0	0	0	2 Tackles
Career	**17**	**5**	**8**	**0**	**3**	**5 Tackles**

38 -- Max Loveall

Wide Receiver • 6-3 • 210 • RS-Freshman
Richmond, Ill. (Richmond-Burton HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Mike Noll at Richmond-Burton HS… earned All-Conference honors… helped team win seven games and advance to IHSA Class 4A state playoffs as a senior… had 33 receptions with six touchdowns… also had one punt return for a touchdown… advanced to IHSA Track State Championships…

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

21 -- Kaleb Lyons

Defensive Back • 5-11 • 195 • RS-Junior
Antioch, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy / Morehead State Univ.)



2023 - 3rd Team All-American (AP)
2023 - 1st Team All-Pioneer League (DB)

EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (JUNIOR): Played in first four games of the 2024 season... saw times as a starter on special teams unit and a reserve defensive back/nickel... made five tackles with a season high three stop against Illinois State... had solo tackles at Illinois and at Northwestern... used redshirt year under NCAA participation rule...

MOREHEAD STATE: Was a two-year member of the Morehead State football team… earned third team All-American honors by the Associated Press playing in all 11 games of the 2023 season… tied for the regular season lead for interceptions in the FCS with six… earned first team All-Pioneer Football League honors…finished year with 34 tackles including 1.5 tackles for loss… had three interceptions against Davidson finishing game with four tackles and a sack… had two interception game against Dayton… played in ten games during the 2022 season finishing year with 18 tackles… had one interception against Kentucky Christian…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Brentwood Academy in Nashville, Tenn… selected to play in Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association All-Star game as a senior… helped lead team to an 8-4 record as a senior…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR LYONS ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2022 (MOR)	10	12	6	18	1.5	4	1	1 Sack
2023 (MOR)	11	23	11	34	1.5	9	6	1 Sack
2024 (EIU)	4	3	2	5	0	0	0	-----
Morehead	**21**	**35**	**17**	**52**	**3**	**13**	**7**	**2 Sacks**
EIU	**4**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
Career	**25**	**38**	**19**	**57**	**3**	**13**	**7**	**-----**

20 -- Saipeti Maiava Jr

Safety • 5-11 • 200 • Junior
Fontana, Calif. (Etiwanda HS / Riverside City College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played in seven games at Riverside City College during the 2024 season… finished season with 42 tackles including a pair of double figure tackle games with 10 at No. 10 ranked Fullerton College and 11 against No. 1 ranked Mt. San Antonio College in the SFCA Championship game… added three tackles for loss, one sack and four pass break-ups… played the 2023 season at San Bernardino Valley College… appeared in ten games making 60 tackles (47 solo) with four tackles for loss and one sack… added three interceptions, two pass break-ups and three fumble recoveries… earned second team All-National Central League honors…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Etiwanda High School… made 59 tackles with four interceptions and four pass break-ups as a senior leading team to the CIF-SS Division V Championship…

77 -- Sandro Malicevic

Offensive Line • 6-5 • 330 • Junior
Saratoga, Calif. (Prospect HS / San Jose City College)



2024 (SOPHOMORE): Played in all 12 games during the 2024 season making five starts on the offensive line... made four starts at right tackle including in opening three games of the season... had one start at left tackle... also saw times on field goal, extra point and punt special teams units... blocked for an offense that had a first team All-Conference running back and the school's fourth 3,000 yard passer during a season as offense averaged 342.3 yards per game of total offense...

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played at San Jose City College during the 2023 season appearing as a starter at left tackle on the offensive line… helped program post an 8-2 record while earning first team All-Golden Coast League honors… blocked for an offensive unit that averaged 33.8 points per game with 368.6 yards of total offense per contest… named a JUCO Gridiron third team All-American…

HIGH SCHOOL: Starter on the offensive line at Prospect High School…

43 -- Tovie Martin

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 230 • Junior
Clovis, Calif. (Clovis HS / College of the Sequoias)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at College of the Sequoias… played in nine games during the 2024 season making 38 tackles with 8.5 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks… added one fumble recovery and three pass break-ups… had a season high nine tackles against both Sacramento City CC and San Joaquin Delta CC… named first team All-National Division Valley League… in 2023 appeared in eight games finishing season with 23 tackles including 5.5 tackles for loss and two sacks… had a season high five tackles against Diablo Valley College…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Clovis HS… played both tight end and defensive end… named to the City / County All-Star game roster as a senior…

#WeNotMe #EIUBLEEDBLUE 2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER FOOTBALL

7 -- Jihad McCall

Safety • 6-0 • 205 • Graduate Student
Jersey City, NJ (Hoboken HS / Morehead State Univ.)



MOREHEAD STATE: Five year member of Morehead State football team… Appeared in all 12 games during 2024 season ranking fifth on team with 57 tackles… had 2.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions and nine pass break-ups… in 2023 tied for Pioneer Football League lead for interceptions with six with then teammate and current EIU player Kaleb Lyons… had 35 tackles with two pass break-ups and one blocked kick… played in ten games in 2022 season with 27 tackles and one interception… had four blocked kicks… played in four games during 2021 season taking redshirt year and played in four games during Spring 2021 COVID season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Hoboken High School… had 40 tackles with three interceptions as a senior with 29.5 tackles and seven pass break-ups as a junior… named to the Super Football Conference National White Division Honorable Mention team…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR McCALL ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2020 *(MOR)*	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	-----
2021 *(MOR)*	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	-----
2022 (MOR)	10	9	18	27	0	0	1	4 BLK
2023 (MOR)	11	20	15	35	0	2	6	1 BLK
2024 *(MOR)*	12	25	32	57	2.5	9	2	1 FR
Career	**41**	**57**	**66**	**123**	**2.5**	**12**	**7**	**-----**

81 -- Chase McConnell

Tight End • 6-6 • 235 • RS-Freshman
Lebanon, Tenn. (Watertown HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Gavin Webster at Watertown HS… ranked as one of the top tight end prospects in the state of Tennessee by Prep Redzone… two-way player that hauled in 16 passes for 202 yards as a senior… on defense finished career with 78 tackles including 13 tackles for loss…

85 -- Jefferson McKinnon

Long Snapper • 6-0 • 240 • RS-Freshman
Copley, Ohio (Revere HS / Marist College)



MARIST COLLEGE: Was a one year member of the Marist football program redshirting during the 2024 season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Revere High School… served as team's long snapper in addition to playing time on offensive and defensive line… lettered in lacrosse…

82 -- Joe McNab

Tight End • 6-6 • 260 • RS-Senior
Madison Heights, Mich. (Lamphere HS)



2024 (JUNIOR): Played in 11 games during the 2024 season missing the final game at Tennessee Tech due to injury... had one start in road game at UT Martin... saw time as a starter on special teams for kickoff return and punt team along with time as a blocking tight end... had two tackles at Tennessee State and in home win over Charleston Southern...

2023 (SOPHOMORE): Played in all 11 games during the 2023 season... saw time on special teams as part of the punt unit and on kick return unit... made one tackle during the season at Southeast Missouri...

2022 (RS-FRESHMAN): Opened season as a reserve tight end moving to the offensive line group due to injuries in the latter part of the season... made collegiate playing debut in final game of the regular season playing tackle at nationally ranked UT Martin... helped offense post 426 yards of total offense in the game, its second highest total of the season...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2021 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played tight end and defensive end for coach Jason Charron at Lamphere HS… as a senior hauled in 13 passes for 151 yards and one touchdown on offense… on defense recorded seven tackles for loss with three sacks… helped lead team to an 8-1 record during senior season losing in Michigan Class 4A District 31 finals… earned All-North Conference honors…

57 -- Panayiotis Mihalopoulos

Offensive Line • 6-3 • 325 • RS-Sophomore
Chicago, Ill. (Loyola Academy)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Appeared in nine games during the 2024 season... saw time on the offensive line and as a starter on special teams units for punt team and field goal/extra point... helped block for an offense that had a first team All-Conference running back and the school's fourth 3,000 yard passer during a season... team averaged 342.3 yards per game of total offense...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2023 season using redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played offensive line for coach John Holecek at Loyola Academy… was an All-Chicago Catholic League selection blocking for an offense that averaged 387 yards per game and 41.5 points per game… as a senior helped lead team to a 13-1 record and IHSA Class 8A State Championship… during junior season team posted a 12-1 record…

2025 EASTERN ILLINOIS PANTHER PROFILES

13 -- Mason Miller

Punter • 6-0 • 185 • Graduate Student
Avon, Ind. (Avon HS / Marian Univ.)



2024 - 3rd Team NAIA All-American (Punter)
2024 - 1st Team All-MFSA Midwest League (Punter)
2023 - 2nd Team All-MFSA Midwest League (Punter)

MARIAN UNIVERSITY: Five year member of Marian football program… named a NAIA Third Team All-American in 2024 and first team All-MFSA Midwest League selection… led NAIA in punting average for the season at 45.26 yards per punt which set the single season school record… ended year with 13 punts over 50 yards and 14 punts inside the 20-yard line… had a season long punt of 65 yards against Saint Xavier… was a second team All-League selection in 2023 averaging 38.85 yards per punt for the season… had a season long punt of 55 yards with eight punts of 50 or more yards and 22 punts inside the 20-yard line… played in one game in both the 2021 and 2022 seasons… did not play during the Spring 2021 COVID season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Attended Avon High School… earned varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball in high school… averaged 36.8 yards per punt as a senior…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR M. MILLER ...

YEAR	G	P	Avg.	I-20	50+	Long
2020	Did not play during COVID-19 spring season					
2021	1	0	0	0	0	---
2022	1	1	47.0	1	0	47
2023	11	46	38.9	19	9	55
2024	10	42	45.3	14	13	65
Career	**22**	**89**	**41.9**	**34**	**22**	**65**

92 -- Tyler Miller

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 295 • RS-Junior
Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Park Center HS / Independence CC)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2024 at Independence CC appearing in ten games… made 18 tackles with three tackles for loss… posted a season high four tackles against Coffeyville CC… redshirted 2023 season at Independence CC… played 2022 season at North Dakota State College of Science… appeared in nine games making 12 tackles with one tackle for loss, one sack and one pass break-up… had a season high four tackles against Minnesota North College – Vermilion…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Park Center Senior High School…

2 -- Bruce Mitchell

Defensive Back • 6-0 • 190 • RS-Sophomore
Little Rock, Ark. (Lone Star HS (Texas) / Mississippi Valley State Univ.)



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE: Played the 2024 at Mississippi Valley State University appearing in 12 games… had 24 tackles (19 solo) with one tackle for loss, one forced fumble and five pass break-ups… had a season high five tackles against Florida A&M… had three tackles with tackle for loss against Arkansas Pine Bluff…

JACKSON STATE: Redshirted freshman season at Jackson State in 2023…

HIGH SCHOOL: Lists Little Rock, Arkansas as home town but attended high school in Texas playing final two years at Lone Star HS in Frisco… played first two seasons at Dallas Parish Episcopal HS… recorded 56 tackles with nine pass break-ups and one interception…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR MITCHELL ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	PBU	INT	Other
2023 *(JSU)*	Redshirted season at Jackson State							
2024 *(MVST)*	12	19	5	24	1	5	0	1 FF

88 -- Trayvon Moore

Tight End • 6-4 • 235 • Graduate Student
Hattiesburg, Miss. (Oak Grove HS / Univ. of Nebraska Kearney)

NEBRASKA KEARNEY: Played two seasons at University of Nebraska Kearney… played in 11 games in 2024 making two catches for 47 yards… had a touchdown reception against Emporia State… appeared in ten games in 2023 finishing year with five catches for 107 yards…

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played junior college football starting at Coahoma CC in 2021 before playing 2022 season at Gulf Coast CC… had 11 receptions for 65 yards and two touchdowns for Coahoma… hauled in three passes for 52 yards at Gulf Coast as part of team that reached MACCC semifinals…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Oak Grove HS helping team win 2020 Mississippi Class 6A State Championship with a 13-0 record… had ten catches for 140 yards and two touchdowns… caught game winning two-point conversion in closing seconds of state championship game… helped team finish as 2019 State runner-up…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR MOORE ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2023 *(UNK)*	10	5	107	21.4	0	45
2024 *(UNK)*	11	2	47	23.5	1	37
Career	**21**	**7**	**154**	**22.0**	**1**	**45**

80 -- Carlyun Neal

Wide Receiver • 5-11 • 190 • Freshman
Cincinnati, Ohio (Withrow HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Anthony Berry at Withrow High School… hauled in 12 passes for 229 yards and two touchdowns as a senior… had a 19.1 yards per reception average during the season as a two-way player that was named a first team Cincinnati All-Metro Athletic Conference selection… helped lead team to a Red Division Championship with a 5-0 conference record during senior season… added 300 yards on kick returns returning both kickoffs and punts… as a junior team went 12-2 reaching Division 2 Regional Final…

2 -- CJ Nelson

Wide Receiver • 5-11 • 185 • RS-Junior
North Richland Hills, Texas (Richland HS / Univ. of Houston)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (SOPHOMORE): Played in 11 games during the 2024 season making four starts at wide receiver... finished year with 21 catches for 292 yards and one touchdown... opened year with two catches for 21 yards at Illinois... season high five catches for 101 yards and a touchdown at Gardner-Webb... had three receptions for 59 yards against Southeast Missouri... added one rush for five yards against Southeast Missouri... had a 13.9 yards per catch average for the season...

HOUSTON: Played two seasons at the University of Houston… appeared in just two games in 2023 using redshirt year based on NCAA participation rule… played on special teams in those two contests making two tackles… as a freshman in 2022 appeared in all 13 games on special teams seeing time in five games at the wide receiver position… was a member of 8-5 Houston team that ended season with win over Louisiana in the Independence Bowl… made three tackles on special teams... hauled in two passes for seven yards against UCF… named Scout Team Offensive Player of the Week one time…

HIGH SCHOOL: Multi-faceted athlete at Richland High School that was ranked a 3-star recruit by 247Sports… rated the No. 69 overall wide receiver and No. 60 overall player in Texas, both by 247Sports… playing quarterback as a senior passed for 1,820 yards and 15 touchdowns… rushed for 651 yards with 12 touchdowns as a senior… as a junior playing wide receiver hauled in 48 passes for 1,079 yards and 14 touchdowns… during sophomore year caught 49 passes for 668 yards and six touchdowns… lettered in football, basketball and track… in track competed in 100-dash, long jump and triple jump… named first team Texas District 4-5A D1 at wide receiver as a junior… first team All-District as a sophomore…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR NELSON ...

YEAR	G	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	Other
2022 (UH)	13	2	7	3.5	0	4	3 tackles
2023 (UH)	2	Redshirted season at Houston					2 tackles
2024 *(EIU)*	11	21	292	13.9	1	40	5 Yd Rush
Career	26	23	299	13.0	1	40	-----

5 -- Ja'Wuan Nickson

Linebacker • 6-0 • 235 • Junior
Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Hillcrest HS / Riverside City College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at Riverside City College… played in 12 games in 2024 season helping team post a 10-2 record losing in the SCFA Championship game… finished year with 74 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and seven sacks… had a season high 16 tackles against No. 16 ranked El Camino College… added an 11 tackle game against San Diego Mesa College… named second team All-Region… appearing in 12 games in 2023 earning second team All-Region honors… finished year with 56 tackles with 7.5 tackles for loss and three sacks… posted a season high 12 tackles against Ventura College…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Hillcrest High School…

14 -- Le'Javier Payne

Defensive Back • 5-8 • 175 • Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (Chicago Mt. Carmel HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Jordan Lynch at Chicago Mt. Carmel High School… was a starter on IHSA Class 7A State Championship team that posted an 11-3 record during senior season… recorded six tackles with a half tackle for loss and interception in state championship win over Batavia… also a member of 7A State Championship teams in 2023 and 2022 finishing as team's leading tackler in title game during junior season… multiple time CCL/ESCC BLUE All-Conference selection…

1 -- Jay Pearson

Running Back • 6-0 • 210 • RS-Junior
McKees Rocks, Pa. (Sto-Rox Junior-Senior HS)



2024 (SOPHOMORE): Played in 11 games during the 2024 season seeing time as a starter on special teams and back-up running back... had 45 carries for 215 yards and one touchdown during the season... scored in final game of the year at Tennessee Tech rushing for a season high 69 yards on 11 carries... season long run was 59 yards at Tennessee Tech... had ten carries for 53 yards in home win over Charleston Southern... caught six passes for 96 yards... season long reception of 55 yards against Lindenwood... had two catches for 17 yards at Illinois State... served as kickoff returner in middle portion of season with four returns for 87 yards for a 21.8 yards per return average...

2023 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in five games during the 2023 season seeing time on special teams units... made two tackles during the year with one tackle at Northwestern State and one tackle against UT Martin...

2022 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2022 season using redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played multiple positions for coach LaRoi Johnson at Sto-Rox Junior-Senior HS… saw time as a defensive back, safety, running back and wide receiver during prep career… had 47 tackles with two interceptions and three pass break-ups during senior season… helped lead team to a 12-1 record advancing to the third round of Pennsylvania Class 2A state playoffs… on offense rushed for just under 1,200 yards with 19 touchdowns during senior year earning Three Rivers Conference co-Offensive Player of the Year honors…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR PEARSON ...

YEAR	G	RUSH	YDS	TD	LNG	REC	YDS	TD
2022	Redshirted at Eastern Illinois							
2023	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	11	45	215	1	59	6	96	0
Career	**16**	**45**	**215**	**1**	**59**	**6**	**96**	**0**

99 -- Kefa Pereira

Defensive Line • 6-1 • 305 • RS-Junior
San Antonio, Texas (Veterans Memorial HS / Monterey Peninsula College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played 2024 season at Monterey Peninsula College earning JUCO All-American honors while being named the Conference Defensive MVP and All State Region 2 MVP… led team to an 11-0 record leading the nation in turnovers gained while team won the NCFC American Division Championship Bowl… had 37 tackles with six sacks during the season… recorded 20 tackles for loss with four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries… played first two seasons at Cisco College… redshirted 2023 season after playing in three games during the 2022 season… made 18 tackles with two tackles for loss…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Veterans Memorial High School… recorded 65 tackles with ten tackles for loss and four sacks as a senior…

90 -- Trevon Piggee

Defensive Line • 6-1 • 315 • RS-Sophomore
St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in ten games during the 2024 season... saw time as a back-up on the defensive line making first collegiate tackle in season opener at Illinois... finished year with 12 tackles with 1.5 tackles for loss... had a tackle for loss at Gardner-Webb and a half tackle for loss at UT Martin... season high four tackles at Gardner-Webb... added a three tackle game in home win over Western Illinois...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2023 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at DeSmet Jesuit HS in St. Louis... earned Missouri Class 6 All-District honors as a senior... was a member of Missouri Class 6A State Championship team as a freshman... as a senior registered 29 tackles with five sacks and three forced fumbles...

CAREER STATISTICS FOR PIGGEE-BLAKE ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	Other
2023	Redshirted at Eastern Illinois						
2020	10	4	8	12	1.5	0	----

61 -- Ruben Popoca

Kicker • 5-11 • 185 • RS-Sophomore
Mundelein, Ill. (Carmel Catholic HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2023 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Dave Mattio at Carmel Catholic High School... member of team that posted a 7-4 record... had one field goal and six extra points during the season...

19 -- Phoenix Porter

Linebacker • 6-1 • 220 • Graduate Student
Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield HS)



2024 (JUNIOR): Played in all 12 games during the 2024 season making nine starts at linebacker... finished season second on team in tackles with 68 making 35 solo stops which was fourth on the team... posted a season high nine tackles at Illinois State and in home win over Charleston Southern... had eight tackles against Lindenwood... had three tackles for loss to go with two quarterback hurries and two pass break-ups... had a solo tackle for loss against Southeast Missouri... credited with a half tackle for loss against Illinois, Illinois State, Tennessee State and Gardner-Webb... pass break-ups at Tennessee State and in home win over Western Illinois...

2023 (SOPHOMORE): Played in all 11 games as a top reserve linebacker and a starter on special teams units... ranked sixth on team with 34 tackles including 19 solo stops... season best seven tackles with a sack in season opening shutout win over Indiana State... added five tackles with three tackles for loss and two sacks in road win at Lindenwood... also had five tackle game with half tackle for loss in win over Bryant... finished year with five tackles for loss and three sacks... had one forced fumble against UT Martin playing as a part of a defense that ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained during the regular season... had a pass break-up at Southeast Missouri...

2022 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in all 11 games during the 2022 season making one start at linebacker in the final regular season game at nationally ranked UT Martin... finished season with 30 tackles making 14 solo stops... made a season high six tackles against Northwestern State... added five tackle games against Northern Illinois and UT Martin... finished season with one tackle for loss...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in first two games of the season before suffering a season ending injury at SEC member South Carolina... used redshirt season per NCAA competition rules... made seven tackles in two games with three solo stops... had five tackles in season opener at Indiana State... had two tackles at South Carolina...

2020 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw time on special teams unit and as a reserve linebacker... finished season with nine tackles including four solo stops... season high five tackles in final game of year against Jacksonville State which included a sack... had two tackles in season college debut against Southeast Missouri and two tackles in home win over Tennessee Tech...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played linebacker for coach Jason Krause at Fairfield HS… helped lead team to a 10-2 record as a senior losing in the Ohio Division I Regional semifinals… named first team All-Greater Miami Conference as a senior… team captain… led team with 64 tackles adding three sacks, two forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries... as a junior was second on the team with 55 tackles and 2.5 sacks earning second team All-Conference honors…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR PORTER ...

YEAR	G/GS	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SK	PBU	Other
2020	6/0	4	5	9	2	1	0	---
2021	2/0	3	4	7	0	0	0	---
2022	11/1	14	16	30	1	0	0	---
2023	11/0	19	15	34	5	3	1	1 FF
2024	12/9	35	33	68	3	0	2	---
Career	**42/10**	**75**	**73**	**148**	**11**	**4**	**3**	**---**

50 -- Jett Reese

Linebacker • 6-2 • 235 • Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (DePaul College Prep)



HIGH SCHOOL: Team captain that played for coach Michael Passarella at DePaul College Prep… helped lead team to IHSA Class 4A State Championship as a senior finishing season with an 11-3 record… finished with five tackles in state championship win over Mt. Zion… finished season with 66 tackles including one sack and two tackles for loss…

84 -- Jeremy Reeves

Wide Receiver • 6-4 • 210 • RS-Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (Gary Comer College Prep)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Gary Comer College Prep Noble School… hauled in more than 65 passes for over 1,200 yards and 11 touchdowns over the last two seasons… helped team advance to IHSA Class 4A state playoffs as a junior…

42 -- Aaron Rice

Punter • 6-5 • 205 • Sophomore
Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley HS / College of DuPage)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2024 at College of DuPage earning NJCAA first-team All-America honors as team won NJCAA Division III title… ranked No. 5 in the junior college ranks in punts inside the 20-yard line… would have ranked No. 2 in NJCAA in punting average (36.0) but did not have enough attempts to qualify (team did not punt in two games during season)…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Neuqua Valley High School…

40 -- Isaiah Richardson

Safety • 6-5 • 230 • RS-Sophomore
Suwanee, Ga. (Collins Hill HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in nine games during the 2024 season... starter on special teams units and as a reserve safety... made four tackles during the season... had one tackle in each of the last four games of the season against Western Illinois, Gardner-Webb, Charleston Southern and Tennessee Tech...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Played in one game during the 2023 season... did not record any statistics... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played wide receiver and linebacker for coach Lenny Gregory at Collins Hill High School… had 13 receptions for 162 yards as a senior… led team with five touchdown receptions averaging 12.6 yards per catch… on defense had 30 tackles with four sacks and two pass break-ups… as a junior helped lead team to a Georgia Class 7A State Championship as team posted a 15-0 record during the season… team would then play in the Geico State Champions National Bowl Series losing to Graham-Kapowsin HS from Washington… had one touchdown reception during the season… rated a two-star recruit by Rivals.com…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR RICHARDSON ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2023 *(*R)*	1	Redshirted season at Eastern Illinois					
2024	9	2	2	4	0	0	0

44 -- Samuel Robles

Defensive Line • 6-2 • 260 • Junior
Alief, Texas (Alief Taylor HS / Tyler JC)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at Tyler Junior College… appeared in 11 games in 2024 making 16 tackles with five tackles for loss, four sacks and a forced fumble… added a blocked kick against Kilgore College… helped team post a 7-4 record, reaching the SWJCFC championship game… played in nine games during the 2023 season making two tackles with one tackle for loss…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Alief Taylor HS… earned All-District 23-6A honors…

4 -- Quenton Rodgers

Wide Receiver • 6-2 • 195 • RS-Sophomore
Mahomet, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in eight games during the 2024 season making four starts at wide receiver late in the season... first collegiate catch was a 39-yard touchdown against Southeast Missouri... earned Big South/OVC Freshman of the Week following five catch, 103 yard receiving day at Tennessee State... ended year with 22 catches for 349 yards and one touchdown... had a 15.9 yards per catch average with a long reception of 42 yards against Western Illinois... had four catches for 85 yards against Western Illinois... had a season high seven catches for 56 yards against UT Martin... had five catches for 66 yards in home win over Charleston Southern... missed final game of year due to injury...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Played in four games during the 2023 season... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule... played on special teams unit in all four games and as a reserve wide receiver in final game of season at Robert Morris... did not record any statistics...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Mahomet-Seymour HS for coach Jon Adkins... set school record for receiving yards and receptions in both a season and career... as a junior caught 58 passes for 1,255 yards... during senior year caught 59 passes for 1,141 yards... earned Class 5A All-State honors leading team to 11-1 record and IHSA quarterfinal playoff run as a senior... averaged 39.1 yards per kickoff return with more than 700 yards in kickoff returns... added 435 yards rushing... finished with 29 touchdown receptions and 16 rushing touchdowns...

CAREER STATISTICS FOR ROGERS ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG
2023 *(*R)*	4/0	Redshirted season at Eastern Illinois				
2024	8/4	22	349	15.9	1	62

97 -- Tray Ross

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 250 • RS-Freshman
Danville, Ind. (Danville Community HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Jayme Comer at Danville Community HS… was an Indiana All-State selection as a junior and multiple-time All-Sagamore Conference honors… recorded 41 tackles with 7.5 tackles for loss as a senior… as a junior had 43 tackles with 6.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks as team… helped team post a 7-3 record as a senior advancing to the IHSAA Class 3A State playoffs…

47 -- Drew Schiller

Kicker • 6-1 • 175 • RS-Freshman
New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way Central HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in four games during the 2024 season opening year as starting place kicker... named Big South/OVC Freshman of the Week following performance against Indiana State going 2-of-3 on field goals and 3-of-3 on extra points in home win... was 7-of-7 on point after attempts for the year... ended year 3-of-7 on field goals with final make against Lindenwood... season long of 40 yards against Indiana State... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach David Woodburn at Lincoln-Way Central HS… earned varsity letters in football and as a starter on soccer team… named first-team All-SouthWest Suburban Conference… earned All-Area and IHSFCA All-State honors… was 30-of-31 on extra points for the season and 9-of-10 on field goals with a long of 47… helped team go 9-2 during the season reaching second round of IHSA Class 7A State playoffs…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR SCHILLER ...

YEAR	FG	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Long	PAT
2024 *(*R)*	3-7	0-0	2-5	1-1	0-1	40	7-7

25 -- Christopher Sharp

Defensive Back • 5-11 • 180 • RS-Sophomore
St. Louis, Mo. (DeSmet Jesuit HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in ten games during the 2024 season as a starter on special teams unit and as a reserve defensive back... finished season with 18 tackles with 13 solo stops... had one tackle for loss as part of a three solo tackle performance at Tennessee State... season high six tackles at UT Martin... had a pair of two tackle games against Lindenwood and Southeast Missouri...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Played in four games during the 2023 season... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rule... saw time on special teams unit and as a reserve defensive back... made two tackles, both at Southeast Missouri... had a fumble recovery on a forced fumble on a punt... was part of a defense that ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained during the regular season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at De Smet Jesuit HS... rated No. 9 defensive back in Missouri by Six Star Football as a senior... as a senior had 38 tackles with two tackles for loss... helped team reach the Missouri Class 6 State Championship semifinals as a senior... was a first team All-Conference selection...

CAREER STATISTICS FOR SHARP ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU	Other
2023 *(*R)*	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	1 FR
2024	10	13	5	18	1	0	0	
Career	**14**	**15**	**5**	**20**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**---**

52 -- Barron Sholl

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 265 • Freshman
Rockford, Ill. (Boylan Central Catholic HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach John Cacciatore at Rockford Boylan Central Catholic High School… two-time first team All-Northern Illinois Conference 10 (NIC-10) honors as a junior and senior… team advanced to the second round of the IHSA Class 4A State Playoffs as a senior… recorded 67 tackles with 15 tackles for loss and five sacks as a junior… had 56 tackles with 13 tackles for loss and four sacks as a senior…

Misc: Is the son of former EIU All-OVC center Scott Sholl who snapped to Tony Romo...

96 -- Cole Silzer

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 300 • RS-Junior
Lockport, Ill. (Lockport Township HS)



2024 (SOPHOMORE): Missed 2024 season due to injury...

2023 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in two games during the 2023 season seeing time as a reserve defensive lineman... made first career tackle in college debut in road win at Northwestern State... also saw playing time in road win at Robert Morris in final game of the season...

2022 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2022 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played defensive line for coach George Czart at Lockport Township HS… helped lead team to a 13-1 record winning the IHSA Class 8A State Championship as a senior… starter on a defensive unit that posted five shutouts during the season allowing just 7.8 points per game for the season… had one pass break-up and a fumble recovery in State Championship game… had 42 tackles with 8.5 sacks… earned first team All-South West Suburban Conference Blue honors as a senior… qualified for IHSA State Track Championships in the shot put as a junior and senior… team captain…

6 -- DeAirious Smith

Wide Receiver • 6-0 • 185 • Graduate Student
Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)



2024 (SENIOR): Played in first two games of 2024 season before suffering season ending injury against Indiana State... made starts in both games at wide receiver... had five catches for 63 yards in season opener at Illinois... had one catch for 47 yards against Indiana State which was season long... averaged 18.3 yards per reception... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rules...

2023 (JUNIOR): Played in all 11 games during the 2023 season making two starts at wide receiver... had starts in games at Bowling Green and against McNeese... finished year with 28 receptions for 494 yards and two touchdowns... season high five receptions for 67 yards in road win at Lindenwood... hauled in four passes for season high 118 yards at Southeast Missouri... also had four catches for 83 yards for one touchdown at Bowling Green... had other touchdown catch in season ending win at Robert Morris... ranked 24th in the FCS in yards per reception at 17.6 yards per catch...

2022 (SOPHOMORE): Played in nine games during the 2022 season making two starts at wide receiver... had 12 catches for 127 yards and two touchdowns... had a season high five catches for 73 yards against Lindenwood including one touchdown... added a touchdown reception against nationally ranked Chattanooga... season long reception was 38 yards... had one kick return for 11 yards against Lindenwood...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Played in nine games during the 2021 season making two starts at wide receiver... finished season with 14 receptions for 209 yards and three touchdowns... had a season high six catches for 109 yards and two touchdowns in road win at Tennessee Tech... had four catches for 48 yards at Murray State... had one touchdown reception against nationally ranked UT Martin... season long reception was 56 yards at Tennessee Tech... had one special teams touchdown returning a blocked punt for a touchdown against Illinois State... tied for second on team in scoring with 24 points (four touchdowns)...

2020 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in five games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021... saw playing time on special teams unit... blocked a punt that resulted in a safety in first collegiate game at UT Martin... blocked punt traveled 23 yards... had one fair catch for no return on kickoff team at Murray State...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Doug Charles at Lexington Christian Academy as both a wide receiver and defensive back… led state of Kentucky in receiving yards per game as a senior at 139 finishing season with 82 catches for 1,671 yards and three touchdowns… earned first team All-State honors at wide receiver… helped lead team to Kentucky Class 2A state playoffs second round as a senior after team advanced to state playoff quarterfinals as a junior… team won 21 games over junior and senior seasons… as a junior was All-City selection with 60 catches for 923 yards and 11 touchdowns… added three interceptions on defense during senior year…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR D. SMITH ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	LONG	Other
2020	5/0	0	0	0	0	0	1 Blk Punt
2021	9/2	14	209	14.9	3	56	1 ST TD
2022	9/2	12	127	10.6	2	38	----
2023	11/2	28	494	17.6	2	54	----
2024 *(*R)*	2/2	6	110	18.3	0	47	----
Career	**36/8**	**60**	**940**	**15.7**	**7**	**56**	**----**

53 -- King Smith

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 315 • RS-Freshman
Decatur, Ill. (Decatur MacArthur HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt year...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Derek Spates at Decatur MacArthur HS… four year starter on defense… two-time first-team All-Central State Eight selection on defense… also played on offense line during prep career… helped lead team to six wins and IHSA Class 5A State playoff appearance…

78 -- Joseph Solomon

Offensive Line • 6-5 • 305 • Graduate Student
Indianapolis, Ind. (Bishop Chatard HS)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (GRADUATE): Played in 11 games during the 2024 season missing the season opener against Illinois... started final ten games of the year with seven at left tackle and three at left guard... blocked for a first team All-Big South/OVC running back and for the school's fourth individual to pass for more than 3,000 yards in a season... team averaged 342.3 yards per game of total offense...

APPALACHIAN STATE: Was a member of the Appalachian State football program during the 2023 season but did not appear in any games…

TULANE: Appeared in two games over three seasons at Tulane (2020-2022) with a COVID season in 2020 and a redshirt season with one appearance in 2021…

HIGH SCHOOL: Appeared in one game in 2022 against Alcorn State… attended Bishop Chatard High School helping lead the team to the 2019 Indiana Class 3A State Championship… named a 3-star recruit by 247Sports… was part of 2018 Class 3A semifinalist team…

30 -- Joey Sprinkle

Tight End • 6-4 • 240 • RS-Junior
Monticello, Ill. (Monticello HS / St. Ambrose Univ.)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (JUNIOR): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

ST. AMBROSE: Played two seasons at St. Ambrose University… in 2023 appeared in eight games… passed for 892 yards with 12 touchdowns going 66-of-121 through the air… ended season with 50 yards rushing… had eight interceptions… passed for a season high 285 yards at Upper Iowa going 18-of-30 with three touchdowns… had a 266 yard passing day with five touchdowns against Judson… as a freshman in 2022 played in season opener suffering a broken arm in the contest… return to play in the season finale finishing year with 211 yards and two touchdowns...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Monticello HS… earned All-State honors as a senior leading to an 8-3 record and the second round of the IHSA Class 3A playoffs… also a standout basketball player leading school to a IHSA Class 2A state runner-up finish as a senior..

CAREER STATISTICS FOR SPRINKLE ...

YEAR	G/GS	C-A-Int	PCT	YARDS	TDs	RUSH	YDs	TDs
2022 *(SA)*	2/0	15-28-1	53.6	211	2	7	-4	0
2023 (SA)	8/4	66-121-8	54.5	892	12	75	50	0
2024 *(EIU)*		Redshirted at Eastern Illinois						
Career	**10/4**	**81-149-9**	**54.3**	**1,103**	**14**	**82**	**46**	**0**

34 -- Jordyn Stewart

Linebacker • 6-0 • 230 • RS-Freshman
Homewood, Ill. (Homewood-Flossmoor HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Played in two games during the 2024 season... saw time on special teams unit in games against Western Illinois and at Gardner-Webb... did not record any statistics... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rules...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Terrell Alexander at Homewood-Flossmoor HS… recorded 78 tackles with 11.5 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks during senior season… added one interception, two pass break-ups and one forced fumble… helped team reach back-to-back IHSA Class 8A State playoff appearances as a junior and senior… named second team All-Area and first team All-SouthWest Suburban Conference as a senior…

56 -- Christian Takatch

Defensive Line • 6-3 • 250 • RS-Sophomore
Sunbury, Ohio (Big Walnut HS / Notre Dame College)



EASTERN ILLINOIS
2024 (SOPHOMORE): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season...

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE: Played freshman season (2022) at Notre Dame College appearing in one game and making one tackle...

HIGH SCHOOL: Lettered in football, wrestling and baseball at Big Walnut HS... was a multi-year starter... earned both All-Conference and All-District honors... recognized as North/South Player of the Game...

45 -- Caden Telleson

Linebacker • 5-11 • 220 • RS-Sophomore
Redondo Beach, Calif. (Redondo Union HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2023 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Redondo Union HS for coach Keith Ellison... registered 53 tackles with one interception and two forced fumbles as a senior before injury ended season in eighth game of season... earned All-Bay League honors...

58 -- Dante Thompson

Offensive Line • 6-1 • 330 • RS-Senior
Montgomery Village, Md. (Quice Orchard HS / Robert Morris (Pa.) Univ.)



ROBERT MORRIS: Was a four-year member of the Robert Morris football program playing as a member of the Big South Conference / Big South-OVC Football Association / Northeast Conference during his tenure with the program… was a starter for the last two seasons as offense averaged 351.8 yards per game of total offense… appeared in 11 games during 2022 season after redshirting 2021 season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, Md… starter on offensive and defensive line…

86 -- Jack Tremblay

Wide Receiver • 6-0 • 210 • RS-Junior
Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East HS / Central Michigan Univ.)



Transferred to Eastern Illinois in Spring 2025 from Central Michigan University...

CENTRAL MICHIGAN: Was a member of the Central Michigan football program during the 2022 season using redshirt season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Attended Lincoln-Way East High School earning All-Area as a senior… rated a two-star recruit by Rivals and 247 Sports… first team All-SWSC selection as a senior leading team to IHSA Class 8A state playoffs and conference title… earned All-Conference in track and lettered in basketball…

59 -- Brock Vandeever

Linebacker • 5-11 • 225 • Freshman
Mahomet, Ill. (Mahomet-Seymour HS)



HIGH SCHOOL: Played football at Mahomet-Seymour High School for coach Jon Adkins... was named an IHSFCA 5A All-State selection as a senior playing as a two-way player starting at both defensive back and running back… will move to linebacker position at the collegiate level… finished season with 47 tackles an interception and two forced fumbles anchoring a defense that allowed 30 points total in Apollo Conference play… added four rushing touchdowns as a running back on offense… lettered in wrestling…

95 -- Drake Van Hyfte

Defensive Line • 6-4 • 255 • Graduate Student
Annawan, Ill. (Annawan-Wethersfield HS)



2024 (JUNIOR): Played in nine games during the 2024 season making two starts on the defensive line against Lindenwood and Southeast Missouri... suffered injury against Southeast Missouri which led to missing next three games... had 25 tackles with five tackles for loss and one sack... had two tackles for loss with a sack and season high six tackles in final regular season game at Tennessee Tech... added tackles for loss at Illinois and at Illinois State.. had half tackles for loss against Indiana State and Lindenwood... opened season with five tackles at Illinois... had one pass break-up agaisnt Lindenwood...

2023 (RS-SOPHOMORE): Played in all 11 games during the 2023 season... finished season with 23 tackles including 12 solo stops... led team in tackles for loss with nine closing season with 6.5 tackles for loss in the final three games of the season... had three sacks in final regular season win at Robert Morris with 3.5 tackles for loss... had a sack at Lindenwood and another against UT Martin... added four quarterback hurries and one pass break-up... part of a defensive unit that ranked second in the FCS in turnovers gained for the regular season... had a season high five tackles in final two games against Tennessee State and at Robert Morris...

2022 (SOPHOMORE): Appeared in four games during the 2022 season... used redshirt season under NCAA participation rules... did not record any statistics seeing time on special teams and as a back-up defensive lineman...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in nine games during the 2021 season... saw time on special teams and as a reserve defensive lineman on a unit that ranked first in the OVC in team tackles for loss... did not record any statistics during the season...

2020 (FRESHMAN): Did not appear in any games during the 2020 season played in the spring of 2021...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Logan Willits at Annawan-Wethersfield HS… moved to linebacker as a senior after earning All-Lincoln Trail Conference honors at defensive line as a junior… helped lead team to IHSA Class 1A state semifinals with a record of 12-1… named All-State at linebacker finishing season with 163 tackles including 81 solo stops… added 38 tackles for loss with five sacks, three interceptions and a blocked kick… was a two-way player earning first-team All-Lincoln Trail Conference honors at linebacker and offensive line as a senior… father Ted played football at Wake Forest… mother Val played basketball at Bradley… team captain…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR VAN HYFTE ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	SACK	PBU
2020	Did not appear in any games during COVID season						
2021	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	4	Used Redshirt Season at Eastern Illinois					
2023	11	12	11	23	9	5	1
2024	9	11	14	25	5	1	1
Career	**33**	**23**	**25**	**48**	**14**	**6**	**2**

48 -- Maximo Vaughn

Defensive Line • 6-5 • 250 • Junior
San Diego, Calif. (Kearny HS / San Diego Mesa College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at San Diego Mesa College appearing in ten games during the 2024 season… finished year with 14 tackles with three tackles for loss, a half sack and two pass break-ups… helped team post an 8-3 record reaching the SCFA semifinals… played in six games during the 2023 season making nine tackles as team posted a 7-4 record and won the Cobb Family Strawberry Bowl…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Kearny HS as both a tight end and defensive end… had 61 tackles as a senior while hauling in 48 passes for 582 yards and 11 touchdowns… also lettered in volleyball…

24 -- Nick Vecchiarelli

Safety • 6-0 • 220 • Senior
Howell, NJ (Howell HS / Marist College)



MARIST COLLEGE: Was a three year member of the Marist football program… played in 11 games with 37 tackles during the 2024 season… had three tackles for loss during the season with one pass break-up… during the 2023 season appeared in 11 games recording 45 tackles… had a 97-yard interception return for touchdown against San Diego… added two fumble recoveries and one pass break-up… played in seven games as a freshman in 2022… had six tackles for the season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Howell High School… recorded 97 tackles with two interceptions as a senior in high school…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR VECCHIARELLI ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU	Other
2022 *(MAR)*	7	3	3	6	0	0	0	---
2023 *(MAR)*	11	24	21	45	3.5	1	1	2 FR
2024 *(MAR)*	11	20	17	37	3	0	1	---
Career	**29**	**47**	**41**	**88**	**6.5**	**1**	**2**	**----**

64 -- Cody Weaver

Offensive Line • 6-6 • 330 • Junior
Turlock, Calif. (Turlock HS / Modesto JC)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played two seasons at Modesto Junior College… helped team post a 9-3 record during 2024 season losing in the 3C2A Northern California Championship… blocked for an offensive unit that averaged 33.3 points and 446.3 yards per game during the season… during 2023 season team posted a 7-4 record losing in the regional playoffs… team averaged 32.7 points and 445.5 yards per game during the season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Turlock High School starting on the offensive line and seeing time on defensive line…

12 -- Collin Willard

Wide Receiver • 5-11 • 200 • RS-Freshman
North Olmsted, Ohio (North Olmsted HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Tim Brediger at North Olmsted HS… earned second team All-District honors as a senior… had a breakout game during senior year with 12 receptions for 264 yards and three touchdowns against Westlake High… earned second team Great Lakes Conference… as a junior hauled in 51 passes for 911 yards and 12 touchdowns…

11 -- Noah Williams

Linebacker • 5-11 • 205 • RS-Junior
Dallas, Texas (Princeton HS / Dodge City CC)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played the 2024 season at Dodge City CC… played in ten games making 61 tackles with five tackles for loss… added one sack, one interception and one forced fumble… earned honorable mention All-KJCCC honors… helped lead team to a No. 15 final NJCAA National Ranking… began college career as a wide receiver in 2023 playing at College of the Sequoias… played in nine games making eight catches for 193 yards with two touchdowns…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at football at Princeton High School…

13 -- Cooper Willman

Wide Receiver • 6-1 • 205 • Graduate Student
Sterling, Ill. (Sterling HS)



2024 - 1st Team All-OVC/Big South (WR)
2024 - 1st Team All-OVC/Big South (All-Purpose)
2022 - 2nd Team All-OVC (Punt Returner)

2025 (GRADUATE): Preseason OVC-Big South Offensive Player of the Year listed by Lindy's Preseason Magazine...

2024 (GRADUATE): Started all 12 games during the 2024 season at wide receiver... named first team All-Big South/OVC Football at both the wide receiver and all-purpose player positions... set single game school record for receiving yards with 291 yards on 11 receptions with three touchdown at Gardner-Webb, total was the third most in Ohio Valley Conference football history and set Big South/OVC Football record... named Big South/OVC Offensive Player of the Week for that effort... hauled in a season long 80-yard touchdown pass in the win which was the seventh longest in school history... added an 11 catch 143 yard game with one touchdown at UT Martin on the heels of an eight catch 141 yard game at Tennessee State... ended season with 66 receptions for 955 yards and eight touchdowns... ranked fifth in the conference in both receiving yards and receptions... became the 35th player in school history with 1,000 receiving yards ending season 19th on EIU career record book list with 1,335 yards... ended year with eight receptions for 86 yards... served as primary punt returner and then handled fair catches on kickoff return team late in the season... 66 receptions ranked 10th on the EIU single season receptions list...

2023 (JUNIOR): Played in four games during the 2023 season... started season opening game at Indiana State suffering injury in game... returned to play three games in middle of year before taking redshirt season under NCAA participation rules... had five catches for 53 yards in opener at Indiana State... added one more catch against UT Martin to finish year with six catches for 69 yards... had one punt return for nine yards at Northwestern State...

2022 (SOPHOMORE): Started all 11 games at wide receiver during the 2022 season... named second team All-Ohio Valley Conference at punt returner as team ranked first in the OVC and 24th in the FCS in punt return average... had seven total returns for 94 yards for an average of 13.4 yards per punt return... long punt return was 55 yards at Murray State... had 15 receptions for 182 yards during the season... season high seven receptions for 82 yards at McNeese... season long reception was 34 yards in season opener at Northern Illinois... added two rushes for 23 yards in final regular season game at nationally ranked UT Martin... had one pass completion for 25 yards against Lindenwood... was successful on two-point conversion attempt at McNeese...

2021 (FRESHMAN): Played in all 11 games during the 2021 season... made two starts at wide receiver while becoming primary punt returner late in season... had 11 receptions for 108 yards during the year... season high three catches in win at Tennessee Tech... season high 26 yards on two catches at Austin Peay... season long reception was 20 yards against Illinois State... had six punt returns for 32 yards (5.3 average) with a long punt return of 18 yards against Tennessee State... had two kickoff returns for 48 yards (24 average)...

Cooper Willman (Continued)...

Cooper Willman (Continued)...

2020 (FRESHMAN): Appeared in all six games during the 2020 season played during the spring of 2021... saw a majority of time on special teams unit... lone statistic for season was a pass reception for four yards in final game of the season against Jacksonville State...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Jon Schlemmer at Sterling HS… was a dual-threat quarterback leading team to an 11-1 record advancing to the second round of the IHSA Class 5A state playoffs… through the air passed for 994 yards and six touchdowns… on the ground led the team with 1,269 yards and 15 touchdowns as the offense averaged 40.2 points per game… named the Area Player of the Year… also served as team's punter averaging 41 yards per punt with 12 downed inside the 20… also earned varsity letters in basketball and baseball…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR WILLMAN ...

YEAR	G/GS	RCPTs	YDs	YDs/REC	TDs	PR	PRYds/Avg
2020	6/0	1	4	4.0	0	0	---
2021	11/2	11	108	9.8	0	6	32 (5.3)
2022	11/11	16	199	12.4	0	7	94 (13.4)
2023 *(*R)*	4/1	6	69	11.5	0	1	9 (9.0)
2024	12/12	66	955	14.5	8	5	53 (10.6)
Career	**44/26**	**100**	**1,335**	**13.3**	**8**	**19**	**188 (9.9)**

26 -- Makhi Wilson

Safety • 6-0 • 190 • RS-Sophomore
Bettendorf, Iowa (Pleasant Valley HS)



2024 (RS-FRESHMAN): Played in eight games during the 2024 season... saw time on special teams units and as a reserve defensive back... made five tackles with two solo stops... had one tackle each against Lindenwood, Tennessee State, UT Martin, Western Illinois and Gardner-Webb...

2023 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2023 season, used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played running back and safety for coach Rusty VanWetzinga at Pleasant Valley High School… helped team post a 10-1 record… earned first team All-State honors as a safety… as a versatile athlete rushed for 596 yards with three interceptions and a kickoff return for touchdown… lettered in track advancing to the Iowa State Championships in the 100 dash and 110 meter hurdles… grew up as a member of a military family with father active in the US Army…

CAREER STATISTICS FOR WILSON ...

YEAR	G	ST	AT	TT	TFL	INT	PBU
2023	Redshirted at Eastern Illinois						
2024	8	2	3	5	0	0	0

15 -- Connor Wolf

Quarterback • 6-3 • 210 • RS-Freshman
Ada, Mich. (Grand Rapids Central Catholic HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Todd Kolster at Grand Rapids Catholic Central HS… earned Michigan Division 5 All-State honors as a senior passing for 2,363 yards and 25 touchdowns while rushing for another 439 yards and ten scores… led team to a 13-1 record and Michigan Division 5 State Championship as a senior rushing for all three scores in the 21-7 title game win… twice named an OK-Gold All-Conference selection…

15 -- Brandon Worsley

Safety • 5-11 • 205 • Junior
San Marcos, Calif. (Mission Hill HS / San Diego Mesa College)



JUNIOR COLLEGE: Was a two-year member of the San Diego Mesa College football program… played in 11 games during the 2024 season… finished season with 47 tackles including six tackles for loss and six pass break-ups… helped team post an 8-3 record reaching the SFCA Semifinals… appeared in ten games during the 2023 season… recorded 22 tackles with one interception… added one tackle for loss, two fumble recoveries and three pass break-ups…

HIGH SCHOOL: Played at Mission Hills High School… averaged 4.7 tackles per game as a senior… helped team post a 9-4 record reaching the third round of the CIF playoffs…

31 -- Johnovan Wysinger

Wide Receiver • 6-1 • 175 • RS-Freshman
Chicago, Ill. (Morgan Park HS)



2024 (FRESHMAN): Did not play in any games during the 2024 season... used redshirt season...

HIGH SCHOOL: Played for coach Chris James at Morgan Park HS… helped lead team to back-to-back 10-2 records… team reached IHSA Class 5A state quarterfinals in both junior and senior seasons… averaged 19.2 yards per reception hauling in 21 passes for 406 yards and six touchdowns as a senior…

66 -- Jordan Yandila

Offensive Line • 6-4 • 310 • RS-Sophomore
Snohomish, Wash. (Glacier Peak HS / Adams State Univ.)



ADAMS STATE: Two-year member of Adams State football team… redshirted 2023 season…

HIGH SCHOOL: Attended Glacier Peak HS earning three varsity letters…