



BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: (16)
1946, 1947, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 2012, 2013

TENNESSEE STATE FOOTBALL

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS: (3)
1998, 1999, 2024

SET THE SCENE

Location: Nashville, Tenn.
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Capacity: 69,143
Surface: AstroTurf
Forecast: Day 87° Cloudy // Night 61° Clear

TUNE IN

TV: ESPN+
Dan Laing (pxp)
Darren Arbet (Analyst)



Radio: WNSR 560 AM, 95.9 FM
107.9 FM (Smyrna)

Satellite XM: Ch. TBA | TBA (app)

Stream: TSU Tigers App

WNSR.com, Alexa (Play WNSR)

Greg Pogue (pxp)

Dean Cokinos (Analyst)



COACHING STAFF

Reggie Barlow Head Coach
Cedric Thornton Assoc Head Coach/
Linebackers
Gregg Williams Defensive Coordinator
Deion Harris Defensive Line
Jerod Kruse Special Teams / Secondary
Dexter Jackson Safeties
Justin Hannah Defensive Analyst

Shannon Harris Co-Offensive Coordinator / QB
Toriano Morgan Co-Offensive Coordinator / RB
Russ Ehrenfeld Offensive Line
Eddie Woods Tight Ends
Nick Andrews Wide Receivers

SUPPORT STAFF

Scott Holsopple Asst. AD / Sports Performance
Mike Brown Football Athletic Trainer
Johnny Johnson Football Operations
Kevin Mashack Director of Recruiting
Jeremy Taylor Football Equipment
Dusty Bennett Football Administrator
Nick Guerriero Asst. AD / Football SID

COMMUNICATIONS

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Assistant AD / Communications & Creative
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TSU_Tigers

WEEK 1 • SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025 • 3:30 PM

TENNESSEE STATE

0-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH-OVC
Head Coach: Reggie Barlow
Record at TSU: 0-0 (1st Season)
Career Record: 83-58
Home: 0-0 | Road: 0-0 | Neutral: 0-0
Streak:

VS

NORTH CAROLINA A&T

0-0, 0-0 CAA
Head Coach: Shawn Gibbs
Record at NCAT: 0-0 (1st Season)
Career Record: 22-9
Home: 0-0 | Road: 0-0 | Neutral: 0-0
Streak:

BETWEEN THE LINES

0.0	Points/Game	0.0
0.0	Points Allowed/Game	0.0
0.0	Rush Yards/Game	0.0
0.0	Rush Yards Allowed/Game	0.0
0.0	Pass Yards/Game	0.0
0.0	Pass Yards Allowed/Game	0.0
0.0	Total Offense/Game	0.0
0.0	Total Defense/Game	0.0



GAME NOTES

Fresh off a shared OVC regular-season title and an FCS Playoff appearance, the Tennessee State Tigers are now led by new head coach Reggie Barlow. Barlow took over this summer following the departure of former head coach Eddie George to Bowling Green (FCS). This season, the Tigers will host a program-best eight home games, opening with the John A. Merritt Classic against North Carolina A&T. TSU will play its first four games of the season in Nashville to begin Barlow's tenure.

WHERE TO WATCH & LISTEN: TSU football can be heard on WNSR's flagship stations: 560 AM, 95.9 FM (Nashville), and 107.9 FM (Smyrna), and streamed online at WNSR.com. The broadcast is also available globally on Sirius XM. WNSR provides comprehensive pregame and postgame analysis, exclusive interviews with coaches and players, and behind-the-scenes content to enhance fan engagement. "The Voice of the Tigers," Greg Pogue, returns for his 14th season behind the mic and will be joined by veteran Arena Football League head coach and former Titans scout Dean Cokinos for home games, and TSU Assistant Athletic Director Nick Guerriero for road games. All TSU home games will be streamed live on ESPN+, and the action can also be accessed through the TSU Tigers app. Dan Laing returns for his third season as play-by-play announcer, joined in the booth by Arena Football Hall of Famer and Nashville Kats head coach Darren Arbet. Dean Cokinos will also serve as an analyst throughout the season.

2025 John A. Merritt Classic Honoree — Leon Murray

One of the most prolific quarterbacks in TSU history, Leon Murray (1997-99) earned 1998 OVC Player of the Year, 1999 Sporting News All-America honors, and was named the 1999 John A. Merritt Classic MVP. He threw for 7,207 career yards and 56 touchdowns, ranking among the program's all-time leaders. Murray set the school single-game passing

2025 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

Cont. on page 5

Aug. 30 // 3:30 PM
North Carolina A&T
John Merritt Classic
ESPN+ / 560AM



Sept. 6 // 1:30 PM
North Dakota St.
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Sept. 13 // 3:30 PM
Alabama A&M
Legacy Series
ESPN+ / 560AM



Sept. 27 // 3:30 PM
Tennessee Tech
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Oct. 4 // 2:00 PM
at Eastern Illinois
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Oct. 11 // 3:00 PM
at SEMO
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Oct. 18 // 4:30 PM
Howard
Homecoming
ESPN+ / 560AM



Oct. 25 // 1:30 PM
Western Illinois
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Nov. 1 // 3:30 PM
Lindenwood
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Nov. 8 // 1:00 PM
at UT Martin
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Nov. 15 // 1:30 PM
Gardner-Webb
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



Nov. 22 // 1:00 PM
at Charleston Southern
ESPN+ / 560AM,
95.9 FM, 107.9 FM



All times listed are in CT



TSU TWO-DEEP DEPTH CHART & PRONUNCIATIONS

OFFENSE

LT	63	Veguer Jean-Jumeau	6-7	275	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
	75	Arlington Williams Jr.	6-4	292	Fr.	Nassau, Bahamas / Anatol Rodgers / Snow
LG	55	Breon Brown	6-4	287	R-So.	Richmond, Va. / Varina / James Madison
	71	Robert Howell	6-5	315	Fr.	Trussville, Ala. / Hewitt-Trussville
C	54	Darius Neals	6-4	315	R-so.	Ellenwood, Ga. / Cedar Grove
	53	Steven Nelson	6-3	270	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Rockvale
RG	70	Jesse Igwe	6-2	330	Jr.	Greer, S.C. / Riverside / Gardner-Webb
	69	KJ McCou	6-3	345	R-Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. Desoto Central Florid
RT	73	Joel Van-Tagoe	6-6	310	Jr.	Oklahoma City, Okla. / Oklahoma City / NE Oklahoma A&M
	77	Jakhye Irby	6-8	342	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Powell / Butler CC
QB	6	Jonathan Palmer	6-3	210	R-Fr.	Franklin, Tenn. / Page / Gardner-Webb
	10	Byron McNair	6-0	185	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. / St. Louis / Kansas Wesleyan
RB	1	Kendric Rhymes	6-0	195	Gr.	Houston, Texas / Heights / Southern
	5	Devon Starling	6-1	210	R-Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Northern Arizona / Memphis
X-WR	14	Tyson Edwards	6-2	189	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton / Memphis
	17	Justin Hughes	6-3	200	Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Lipscomb Academy / Memphis / Arkansas Baptist
Z-WR	9	Brock Montgomery	6-2	198	So.	Columbia, Tenn. / Riverdale / UConn
	83	LJ Walker	6-0	197	Fr.	Gilbert, Ariz. Perry
SLOT	82/18	Devaughn Slaughter	6-1	182	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Indianapolis Cathedral
	0	Jayden Guy	6-0	175	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
TE	89	Jason Hoath Jr.	6-2	235	Jr.	Columbia, Tenn. / Page
	86	Christian Jones	6-4	230	Sr.	Inola, Okla. / Inola / Missouri Southern State / Northeastern A&M

DEFENSE

DE	19	Ravon Johnson	6-4	245	Jr.	Grayson, Ga. / Grayson / Alabama A&M
	49	Brandon Collins	6-2	250	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
NT	99	Lathun Snipes	6-1	290	Sr.	Elk Grove, Calif. / Monterey Trail / Butte College
	2	Stephon Shivers	6-4	399	Fr.	Brentwood, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy
DT	4	Marlon Huff	6-3	280	So.	Delray Beach, Fla. / Atlantic
	0	Braelen Perry	6-3	290	Sr.	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Northridge / Prairie View A&M
BUCK	7	James Stewart	6-3	247	R-Sr.	Antioch, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy / Memphis / MTSU
	18	Jaylon Price	6-3	220	Jr.	Sunflower, Miss. / Ruleville Central / S.W. Mississippi CC.
MIKE	47	Matthew Wilson	6-2	230	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Middleton
	36	Caleb Reid	6-3	236	R-Fr.	Newnan, Ga. / Newman / MTSU
WILL	25	Sammy Taylor	6-2	225	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
	3	Micah Gay	6-1	205	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Johns Creek
NICKEL	27	Byron Davis	6-1	185	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Kentucky Wesleyan
	22	DuJuan Sharp III	5-9	180	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
CB (L)	21	Jayden Cook	6-0	190	R-So.	Frankfort, Ill. / Lincoln-Way East / Kansas State
	1	Jashon Watkins	6-4	215	Gr.	Nashville, Tenn. East Nashville Magnet Memphis / UMass
FS	8	Brandon Hale	6-1	185	R-Jr.	Orange, Calif. / Orange Lutheran / Southern Utah
	13	Dominique Dixon	6-1	195	So.	St. Louis, Ill. / Cardinal Ritter College Prep
SS	28	Kaiki Baker	6-3	210	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
	33	Taeshawn Jefferson	5-11	188	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Germantown
CB (R)	10	Syncere Safeeullah	6-3	180	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro / IMG / Nebraska
	32	Jayden Coleman	5-10	180	So.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	4	Freddy Perez	6-3	190	So.	Carrollton, Ga. / Carrollton / Georgia Military
	39	Roman Mathis	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
KO	4	Freddy Perez	6-3	190	So.	Carrollton, Ga. / Carrollton / Georgia Military
	39	Roman Mathis	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
P	15	Mark Shenouda	6-1	210	R-So.	Mt. Juliet, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet / Memphis
	39	Roman Mathis	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
KR	5	Devon Starling	6-1	210	R-Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Northern Arizona / Memphis
	1	Kendric Rhymes	6-0	195	Gr.	Houston, Texas / Heights / Southern
PR	22	Anthony Taylor	5-9	172	Fr.	San Diego, Calif. / Cathedral Catholic
	0	Jayden Guy	6-0	175	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
LS	43	Kyle Hicks	6-3	231	R-Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
	90	Connor Ridderhoff	6-2	240	R-Jr.	Chelsea, Ala. / Chelsea
H	15	Mark Shenouda	6-1	210	R-So.	Mt. Juliet, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet / Memphis
	6	Jonathan Palmer	6-3	210	R-Fr.	Franklin, Tenn. / Page / Gardner-Webb

PRONUNCIATION CHART (Alphabetical order)

Name	First	Last
Shawn Ayers	SHAWN	AIRZ
Kaiki Baker	KYE-kee	BAY-kur
Christopher Barnett		
Alijah Bivans	uh-LYE-juh	BIV-unz
Daniel Bravo		
Plexico Brown	PLEX-ih-co	
Breon Brown	BREE-on	
Terence Carpenter II		
Jayden Coleman		
Brandon Collins		
Jayden Cook		
Shamar Crawford	shuh-MAR	CRAW-furd
Ethan Cunningham		
Nicholas Cyrus		SIGH-rus
Byron Davis		
Dominique Dixon	DAH-muh-neek	DIX-un
Terence Dotson		
Camron Douglas		
Tyson Edwards		
Epoki Fakaosi	eh-POH-kee	fah-kah-OH-see
Darien Farmer	DARE-ee-un	FAR-mur
Jacorris Foreman	juh-KOR-us	FOR-mun
Gavin Forsha	GAV-in	FOR-shuh
Jakobe Freeman	juh-KOH-bee	FREE-mun
Micah Gay	MYE-kah	GAY
Bryce Gray		
Joshua Green		
Demetrius Gore	duh-MEE-tree-us	GOR
Jayden Guy		
Brandon Hale		
Ryder Hagan	RYE-dur	HAY-gun
Parker Harden		
Lucas Harkless	LOO-kus	HARK-lis
Kyle Hicks		
Jason Hoath Jr.		
Robert Howell	RAH-burt	HOW-uhl
Marlon Huff		
Justin Hughes		
Jesse Igwe		EEG-way
Jakhye Irby	jah-KYE	ER-bee
Khy' Lek Jarrett	KYE-lek	JARE-it
Veguer Jean-Jumeau	veh-GAIR	zhahn-zhoo-MOH
Tyean Jefferson	ty-SEE-un	JEH-fur-sun
Taeshawn Jefferson	TAY-shawn	JAHN-sun
Ravon Johnson	ruh-VAHN	JAHN-sun
Jalen LaBranche	JAY-lin	luh-BRANCH
Zachariah Lee	zak-uh-RYE-uh	LEE
Joshua Malone		
Juice Majors	JOOS	MAY-jurz
Roman Mathis	ROH-mun	MATH-iss
Coby May	KOH-bee	MAY
KJ McCou	KAY-jay	muh-KOO
Caleb McCreary	KAY-lub	muh-CREE-ree
Byron McNair	BYE-run	mick-NAIR
Brock Montgomery		
Johnathan Moore	JAH-nuh-thun	MORE
Darius Neals		
Jonathan Palmer		
Trevor Pearson	TREV-ur	PEER-sun
Freddy Perez		
Braelen Perry	BRAY-lin	PEH-ree
Taveon Porter	TAY-vee-on	POR-tur
Jaylen Price		
Caleb Reid		REED
Exavious Reed	eg-ZAY-vee-us	
Snap Reed		
Joshua Reece		
Kendric Rhymes	KEN-drik	RHYMZ
Connor Ridderhoff	KAH-nur	RID-ur-hoff
Brent Rowe		
Connor Ruth		
Syncere Safeeullah	sin-SEER	sah-FEE-oo-lah
Ryan Screen		
DuJuan Sharp III		
Mark Shenouda		shuh-NOO-duh
Stephon Shivers	steh-FAHN	SHIH-vurz
Devaughn Slaughter	duh-VAWN	SLAW-tur
Zack Simmons-Brown		
Anthony Smith		
Lathan Snipes	LAY-thun	SNYPES
Amari Southall	uh-MAR-ee	SOUTH-hall
Devon Starling	deh-VAHN	STAR-ling
James Stewart		
Jaylin Suggs		
Joel Van-Tagoe	JOH-uhl	van-TAH-go
Deuce Walker	DOOS	
LJ Walker		
Jashon Watkins	Juh-SHAWN	
Deon Wiggins		
Arlington Williams Jr.	AR-ling-tun	WIL-yumz junior
Deon Wiggins	DEE-on	WIG-unz
Jelani Willis		
Brandon Wilson		
Germani Wilson	jur-MAHN-ee	
Matthew Wilson		




2025 TSU ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL			NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL / PREVIOUS SCHOOL
96	SHAUN AYERS	DT	0	Jayden Guy	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
28	KAIKI BAKER	DB	0	Braelen Perry	DL	6-3	290	Sr.	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Northridge / Prairie View A&M
61	CHRISTOPHER BARNETT	OL	1	Jashon Watkins	DB	6-4	215	Gr.	Nashville, Tenn. East Nashville Magnet Memphis / UMass
35	ALIJAH BIVANS	LB	1	Kendric Rhymes	RB	6-0	195	Gr.	Houston, Texas / Heights / Southern
80	PLEXICO BROOKS	WR	2	Snap Reed	WR	6-2	207	R-Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Bartlett
41	DANIEL BRAVO	K	2	Stephon Shivers	DT	6-4	399	Fr.	Brentwood, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy
55	BREON BROWN	OL	3	Micah Gay	LB	6-1	205	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Johns Creek
49	BRANDON COLLINS	DE	4	Marlon Huff	DT	6-3	280	So.	Delray Beach, Fla. / Atlantic
32	JAYDEN COLEMAN	DB	4	Freddy Perez	K	6-3	190	So.	Carrollton, Ga. / Carrollton Georgia Military College
21	JAYDEN COOK	DB	5	Devon Starling	RB	6-1	210	R-Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Northern Arizona / Memphis
58	SHAMAR CRAWFORD	OL	6	Jonathan Palmer	QB	6-3	210	R-Fr.	Franklin, Tenn. / Page Gardner-Webb
44	ETHAN CUNNINGHAM	RB	6	Jelani Willis	LB	6-1	218	Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Bartlett / Western Michigan
13	NICHOLAS CYRUS	QB	7	Juice Majors	WR	5-9	155	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / John Overton
27	BYRON DAVIS	DB	7	James Stewart	DE	6-3	247	R-Sr.	Antioch, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy / Memphis / MTSU
14	TYSON EDWARDS	WR	8	Brendan Hale	DB	6-1	185	R-Jr.	Orange, Calif. / Orange Lutheran Southern Utah
51	EPOKI FAKAOSI	LB	8	Caleb McCreary	QB	5-11	195	So.	Wetumpka, Ala. / Montgomery Catholic Prep / Troy
60	DARIEN FARMER	OL	9	Brock Montgomery	WR	6-2	198	So.	Columbia, Tenn. / Riverdale / UConn
37	JACORRIS FOREMAN	DB	10	Byron McNair	QB	6-0	185	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. / St. Louis / Kansas Wesleyan
57	GAVIN FORSHA	LB	10	Syncere Safeeullah	DB	6-3	180	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro / IMG Nebraska
15	JAKOBE FREEMAN	DB	11	Brent Rowe	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Milwaukee, Wisc. / Hendersonville
3	MICAH GAY	LB	12	Ryder Hagan	QB	6-2	200	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton
94	DEMETRIUS GORE	DT	13	Nicholas Cyrus	QB	6-5	190	Fr.	Brooklyn, N.Y. / South Shore
50	JOSHUA GREEN	DT	13	Dominique Dixon	DB	6-1	195	So.	St. Louis, Ill. / Cardinal Ritter College Prep
52	BRYCE GRAY	DT	14	Tyson Edwards	WR	6-2	189	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton / Memphis
0	JAYDEN GUY	WR	14	Brandon Wilson	DB	5-11	185	R-Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Park Crossing
12	RYDER HAGAN	QB	15	Jakobe Freeman	DB	6-1	170	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Whitehaven
8	BRENDAN HALE	DB	15	Mark Shenouda	P	6-1	210	R-So.	Mt. Juliet, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet / Memphis
78	PARKER HARDEN	OL	16	Exavious Reed	TE	6-5	220	R-So.	LaGrange, Ga. / Callaway / Southern Miss
21	LUCAS HARKLESS	WR	17	Justin Hughes	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Lipscomb Academy / Memphis / Arkansas Baptist
43	KYLE HICKS	LS	17	Jaylin Suggs	DB	6-1	180	Fr.	Cordova, Tenn. / Cordova
89	JASON HOATH JR.	TE	18	Devaughn Slaughter	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Indianapolis Cathedral
71	ROBERT HOWELL	OL	18	Jaylon Price	DE	6-3	220	Jr.	Sunflower, Miss. / Ruleville Central / S.W. Mississippi CC.
17	JUSTIN HUGHES	WR	19	Ravon Johnson	DE	6-4	245	Jr.	Grayson, Ga. / Grayson / Alabama A&M
4	MARLON HUFF	DT	19	Joshua Reese	QB	6-4	200	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
77	JAKHYE IRBY	OL	21	Jayden Cook	DB	6-0	190	R-So.	Frankfort, Ill. / Lincoln-Way East / Kansas State
91	KHY'LEK JARRETT	DE	21	Lucas Harkless	WR	5-10	168	Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Montgomery Catholic / Troy
33	TAESHAWN JEFFERSON	DB	22	DuJuan Sharp III	DB	5-9	180	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
23	TYSEAN JEFFERSON	RB	22	Anthony Taylor	WR	5-9	170	Fr.	San Diego, Calif. / Cathedral Catholic
63	VEGUER JEAN-JUMEAU	OL	23	Tysean Jefferson	RB	5-7	170	R-Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Beech / Western Kentucky
19	RAVON JOHNSON	DE	24	Taveon Porter	RB	5-10	210	Sr.	Chicago Heights, Ill. / Bremen / Elmhurst / College of DuPage
86	CHRISTIAN JONES	TE	25	Sammy Taylor	LB	6-2	225	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
26	JALEN LABRANCHE	DB	26	Jalen LaBranche	DB	5-8	172	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central
45	ZACHARIAH LEE	LB	27	Byron Davis	DB	6-1	185	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Kentucky Wesleyan
29	JOSHUA MALONE	DB	28	Kaiki Baker	DB	6-3	210	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
7	JUICE MAJORS	WR	29	Joshua Malone	DB	5-8	160	Fr.	Gardendale, Ala. / Gardendale
			29	Ryan Screen	WR	5-11	155	So.	Fort Meade, Fla. / Fort Meade / Warner
			30	Zack Simmons-Brown	RB	5-10	170	R-Fr.	Columbus, Ga. / Central / Garden City CC
			31	Trevor Pearson	RB	5-10	215	R-So.	Montgomery, Ala. / Trinity Presbyterian / Troy / Prairie View A&M
			32	Jayden Coleman	DB	5-10	180	So.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central
			33	Taeshawn Jefferson	DB	5-11	188	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Germantown
			33	Deuce Walker	RB	5-10	205	R-Fr.	Glendale, Ariz. / Cactus




2025 TSU ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL / PREVIOUS SCHOOL	ALPHABETICAL (CONT.)
35	Alijah Bivans	LB	5-11	220	Sr.	Salisbury, Md. / Parkside / Towson	46 COBY MAY K
36	Caleb Reid	LB	6-3	236	R-Fr.	Newnan, Ga. / Newman / MTSU	39 ROMAN MATHIS K/P
37	Jacorris Foreman	DB	5-11	197	R-So.	Pahokee, Fla. / Everglades Preparatory Academy	10 BYRON MCNAIR QB
37	Johnnothan Moore	RB	5-11	200	R-So.	Smyrna, Tenn. / Montgomery Bell Academy	8 CALEB MCCREARY QB
39	Roman Mathis	K/P	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy	69 KJ MCCOU OL
41	Daniel Bravo	K	5-7	180	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Antioch	37 JOHNNOZHAN MOORE RB
42	Germani Wilson	WR	6-4	180	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. / May	9 BROCK MONTGOMERY WR
43	Kyle Hicks	LS	6-3	235	R-Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro	54 DARIUS NEALS OL
44	Ethan Cunningham	RB	5-9	185	So.	College Grove, Tenn. / Fred J. Page / North Alabama	53 STEVEN NELSON OL
45	Zachariah Lee	LB	6-4	225	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / John Overton	6 JONATHAN PALMER QB
46	Coby May	K	6-0	165	Gr.	Aurora, Colo. / Eaglecrest / Colorado Mesa	31 TREVOR PEARSON RB
47	Matthew Wilson	LB	6-2	235	So.	Tampa, Fla. / Middleton	4 FREDDY PEREZ K
49	Brandon Collins	DE	6-2	250	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth	24 TAVEON PORTER RB
50	Joshua Green	DT	6-3	280	Fr.	North Little Rock, Ark. / Georgetown	18 JAYLON PRICE DE
51	Epoki Fakaosi	LB	5-11	220	Jr.	Los Altos Hills, Calif. / Foothills	36 CALEB REID LB
52	Bryce Gray	DT	5-11	280	Fr.	Belleville, Ill. / Cardinal Ritter College Prep	2 SNAP REED WR
53	Steven Nelson	OL	6-3	270	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Rockvale	16 EXAVIOUS REED TE
54	Darius Neals	OL	6-4	315	R-So.	Ellenwood, Ga. / Cedar Grove	19 JOSHUA REESE QB
55	Breon Brown	OL	6-4	287	R-So.	Richmond, Va. / Varina / James Madison	90 CONNOR RIDDERHOFF LS
55	Camron Douglas	DL	6-2	265	R-Jr.	Brownsville, Tenn. / Haywood / Tennessee	11 BRENT ROWE LB
56	Anthony Smith	OL	6-3	305	Gr.	Lakeland, Fla. / Lakeland / Iowa State	87 CONNOR RUTH TE
57	Gavin Forsha	LB	6-2	220	Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet Christian / South Alabama	10 SYNCERE SAFEEULLAH DB
58	Shamar Crawford	OL	6-5	287	R-Jr.	Tampa, Fla. / Riverview / MTSU	22 DUJUAN SHARP III DB
60	Darien Farmer	OL	6-0	290	R-So.	Aurora, Ill. / West Aurora	15 MARK SHENOUDA P
61	Christopher Barnett	OL	6-4	300	Fr.	Snellville, Ga. / Blackman	2 STEPHON SHIVERS DT
63	Veguer Jean-Jumeau	OL	6-7	275	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro	81 TERENCE DOTSON WR
69	KJ McCou	OL	6-3	335	R-Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Desoto Central / Florida A&M	97 TERENCE CARPENTER II DE
70	Jesse Igwe	OL	6-2	330	Fr.	Greer, S.C. / Riverside Gardner-Webb	18 DEVAUGHN SLAUGHTER WR
71	Robert Howell	OL	6-5	315	Fr.	Trussville, Ala. / Hewitt-Trussville	56 ANTHONY SMITH OL
73	Joel Van-Tagoe	OL	6-6	310	Jr.	Oklahoma City, Okla. / Oklahoma City Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	30 ZACK SIMMONS-BROWN RB
75	Arlington Williams Jr.	OL	6-4	300	Fr.	Nassau, Bahamas / Anatol Rodgers / Snow	84 AMARI SOUTHALL WR
77	Jakhye Irby	OL	6-8	342	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Powell / Butler CC	5 DEVON STARLING RB
78	Parker Harden	OL	6-5	350	Fr.	Pickerington, Ohio / Pickerington Central	7 JAMES STEWART DE
80	Plexico Brooks	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Middletown, N.Y. / Pine Bush	17 JAYLIN SUGGS DB
81	Terence Dotson	WR	5-10	170	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Hillsborough / Wyoming	25 SAMMY TAYLOR LB
83	LJ Walker	WR	6-0	198	Fr.	Gilbert, Ariz. / Perry	22 ANTHONY TAYLOR WR
84	Amari Southall	WR	6-0	180	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro	73 JOEL VAN-TAGOE OL
85	Deon Wiggins	WR	5-10	175	R-Fr.	Pompano Beach, Fla. / Blanche-Ely	83 LJ WALKER WR
86	Christian Jones	TE	6-4	230	Sr.	Inola, Okla. / Inola / Missouri Southern State / Northeastern A&M	33 DUECE WALKER RB
87	Connor Ruth	TE	6-3	230	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Knoxville Catholic	1 JASHON WATKINS DB
89	Jason Hoath Jr.	TE	6-3	245	Jr.	Columbia, Tenn. / Page	85 DEON WIGGINS WR
90	Connor Ridderhoff	LS	6-2	240	R-Jr.	Chelsea, Ala. / Chelsea	75 ARLINGTON WILLIAMS JR. OL
91	Khy'Lek Jarrett	DE	5-4	218	Fr.	Hamilton, Ohio / Princeton	42 GERMANI WILSON WR
94	Demetrius Gore	DT	6-0	260	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Jam Prep	47 MATTHEW WILSON LB
96	Shaun Ayers	DT	6-4	305	So.	Rocky Point, N.Y. / St. Thomas Moore / Sacred Heart	14 BRANDON WILSON DB
97	Terence Carpenter II	DE	6-3	225	R-So.	Memphis, Tenn. / Blackman	
99	Lathun Snipes	DL	6-1	290	Gr.	Elk Grove, Calif. / Monterey Trail / Butte College	





NOTES

record with 491 yards against Murray State in 1998 and later tied the single-game mark with five touchdown passes at UT Martin in 1999. After his TSU career, he played professionally in the Arena Football League with the Nashville Kats, Georgia Force, and New York Dragons.

PRESEASON BY THE NUMBERS:

5: Offensive line coach Russ Ehrenfeld brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record in developing NFL talent. Ehrenfeld holds the distinction of having coached the last five NFL draft picks under his tutelage. His first came in 2000 with Michael Thompson (Atlanta Falcons), followed by Kadeem Edwards (Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 2014), Demetrius Rhaney (St. Louis Rams, 2014), Robert Myers (Baltimore Ravens, 2015), Anthony Morris (Oakland Raiders, 2015), and Lachavious Simmons (Chicago Bears, 2020). Known for his expertise in developing linemen at multiple positions, Ehrenfeld has consistently prepared players to compete at the next level.

8: Mark Shenouda is Tennessee State's lone returning punter for the 2025 season. In 2024, he appeared in 10 games and punted 40 times for 1,608 yards, averaging 40.2 yards per punt with a long of 60. Shenouda consistently helped control field position, placing 13 punts inside the 20-yard line and recording seven fair catches. He also had eight punts travel 50 or more yards, showcasing both distance and accuracy, while avoiding any blocked punts.

13: Devon Starling played three seasons at Tennessee State before transferring to Northern Arizona for the 2023 season. At TSU, he totaled over 1,900 all-purpose yards and 15 touchdowns, earning OVC Co-Freshman of the Year honors as a freshman. Starling led the Tigers in rushing in multiple seasons and was a consistent threat in the passing game, while also contributing on special teams. In 2023 at Northern Arizona, he led the Lumberjacks with 726 rushing yards and seven total touchdowns, including three 100-yard rushing games. He added 210 receiving yards on 22 catches, averaged 85.1 all-purpose yards per game, and contributed four tackles on defense, showcasing his versatility and playmaking ability.

15: Ravon Johnson will face his former team, Alabama A&M, later this season in Week 3. Johnson played one season at Alabama A&M in 2024, appearing in all 15 games. He finished the year with 15 total tackles, including three solo stops and 12 assists, and added one pass defended, providing a steady presence in the Bulldogs' secondary.

16: Braelen Perry played two seasons at Prairie View A&M before joining Tennessee State. Over his collegiate career, he appeared in 16 games, recording 16 total tackles, including three solo stops and 13 assists. Perry also added 0.5 tackles for loss, contributing consistently on the defensive front and providing depth and experience to TSU's defense.

17: Jelani Willis played four seasons at Western Michigan, including a redshirt in 2021. In 2024, he appeared in six games and recorded 11 tackles, highlighted by three tackles each against Bethune-Cookman and Eastern Michigan. Willis contributed in 2023 with six tackles over 11 games and added a kickoff return for three yards. He also saw action in two games in 2022.

22: Brandon Hale joins Tennessee State after three seasons at Southern Utah. In 2024, he appeared in six games for the Thunderbirds, recording 12 tackles, including eight solo stops. Hale played in all 11 games in 2023, adding nine tackles (six solo, three assisted), and made two appearances in 2022, recording one tackle and catching an interception against Lincoln (Calif.).

24: Of the 24 players hailing from Nashville (area), 11 different high schools are represented. Five schools produced multiple teammates: John Overton High School — 4 players; Hillsboro High School — 5 players; Ensworth School — 3 players; Cane Ridge High School — 3 players; Fred J. Page High School (Franklin)

Hillsboro: Kaiki Baker, Kyle Hicks, Veguer Jean-Jumeau, Syncere Safeeullah, Amari Southall
Overton: Tyson Edwards, Ryder Hagan, Zachariah Lee, Juice Majors

Ensworth: Brandon Collins, DuJuan Sharp III, Sammy Taylor
Cane Ridge: Byron Davis, Joshua Reese, Devon Starling
Fred J. Page: Jonathan Palmer, Jason Hoath Jr., Ethan Cunningham
Brentwood Academy: Stephon Shivers, James Stewart
Lipscomb: Justin Hughes
Beech: Tysean Jefferson
Mt. Juliet Christian: Gavin Forsha
Antioch: Daniel Bravo
Montgomery Bell Academy: Johnnothan Moore

25: Kendric Rhymes joins Tennessee State after four productive collegiate seasons, including three at Southern and one at Kilgore College. A dynamic offensive weapon, Rhymes rushed for 645 yards and seven touchdowns in 2024 at Southern, adding 10 receptions for 95 yards and one score. Over his Southern career, he totaled 1,568 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns, with 48 catches for 351 yards and five receiving scores. He began his career at Kilgore, posting 317 yards and two touchdowns as a freshman, including a season-best 255-yard game.

28: The number of NCAA Division I transfers on this seasons roster: **Shaun Ayers** — Sacred Heart; **Alijah Bivans** — Towson; **Breon Brown** — James Madison; **Jayden Cook** — Kansas State; **Shamar Crawford** — MTSU; **Ethan Cunningham** — North Alabama; **Byron Davis** — Kentucky Wesleyan; **Terence Dotson** — Wyoming; **Camron Douglas** — Tennessee; **Tyson Edwards** — Memphis; **Gavin Forsha** — South Alabama; **Brendan Hale** — Southern Utah; **Lucas Harkless** — Troy; **Justin Hughes** — Memphis / Arkansas Baptist; **Jesse Igwe** — Gardner-Webb; **Ravon Johnson** — Alabama A&M; **Caleb McCreary** — Troy; **KJ McCou** — Florida A&M; **Brock Montgomery** — UConn; **Jonathan Palmer** — Gardner-Webb; **Trevor Pearson** — Troy / Prairie View A&M; **Braelen Perry** — Prairie View A&M; **Exavious Reed** — Southern Miss; **Caleb Reid** — MTSU; **Syncere Safeeullah** — Nebraska; **Devon Starling** — Northern Arizona / Memphis; **James Stewart** — Memphis / MTSU; **Jelani Willis** — Western Michigan

40: Players from Tennessee — Kaiki Baker, Daniel Bravo, Terence Carpenter II, Brandon Collins, Ethan Cunningham, Byron Davis, Camron Douglas, Tyson Edwards, Gavin Forsha, Jakobe Freeman, Jayden Guy, Ryder Hagan, Kyle Hicks, Jason Hoath Jr., Jakhye Irby, Veguer Jean-Jumeau, Taeshawn Jefferson, Tysean Jefferson, Zachariah Lee, Juice Majors, Roman Mathis, KJ McCou, Brock Montgomery, Johnnothan Moore, Steven Nelson, Jonathan Palmer, Joshua Reese, Snap Reed, Connor Ruth, Syncere Safeeullah, DuJuan Sharp III, Stephon Shivers, Amari Southall, Jaylin Suggs, Devon Starling, James Stewart, Sammy Taylor, Justin Hughes, and Jelani Willis.

40: Gavin Forsha enters Tennessee State after three seasons of collegiate experience at South Alabama and Kansas State. A versatile linebacker, Forsha recorded 27 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss in 2024 at South Alabama before a season-ending injury, highlighted by a career-high eight tackles at Arkansas State. At Kansas State in 2022, he played in nine games, notching 10 tackles, 2.5 TFLs, a sack, and a pass breakup.

51: Players that entered TSU as true freshman — Kaiki Baker, Christopher Barnett, Daniel Bravo, Plexico Brooks, Terence Carpenter II, Jayden Coleman, Brandon Collins, Nicholas Cyrus, Dominique Dixon, Darien Farmer, Jakobe Freeman, Micah Gay, Demetrius Gore, Bryce Gray, Joshua Green, Jayden Guy, Ryder Hagan, Parker Harden, Kyle Hicks, Jason Hoath Jr., Jackson Howell, Marlon Huff, Khy' Lek Jarrett, Veguer Jean-Jumeau, Taeshawn Jefferson, Jalen LaBranche, Zachariah Lee, Juice Majors, Joshua Malone, Roman Mathis, Johnnothan Moore, Darius Neals, Steven Nelson, Snap Reed, Joshua Reese, Connor Ridderhoff, Brent Rowe, Connor Ruth, DuJuan Sharp III, Stephon Shivers, Devaughn Slaughter, Amari Southall, Jaylin Suggs, Anthony Taylor, Sammy Taylor, Duece Walker, LJ Walker, Deon Wiggins, Brandon Wilson, Germani Wilson, Matthew Wilson

54: James Stewart enters Tennessee State after four collegiate seasons at Memphis and MTSU. At MTSU, he totaled 46 tackles over two seasons, including seven tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, and a forced fumble in 2024, highlighted by 2.5 TFLs and a sack against New Mexico State. Stewart earned Defensive Lineman of the Week





NATIONAL RANKINGS, GENERAL INFORMATION, RECENT SCHEDULES

TSU NATIONALLY RANKED (SPORTS NETWORK-STATS POLL / COACHES POLL)

	'25										
Preseason	RV/RV										
Week 1											
	'24	'23	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17	'16	'15	'14
Preseason	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/--	--/--	15/17
Week 1	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	23/24	RV/--	--/--	14/16
Week 2	--/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/24	RV/--	--/--	22/22
Week 3	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	20/20	RV/--	--/--	20/20
Week 4	--/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	24/24	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 5	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 6	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	25/25
Week 7	RV/--	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/25	--/--	RV/RV
Week 8	RV/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	RV/RV
Week 9	25/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 10	25/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 11	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 12	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 13	21/19	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
FINAL	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--

	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07	'06	'05	'04	'03
Preseason	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/--	--/--	15/17
Week 1	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	23/24	RV/--	--/--	14/16
Week 2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/24	RV/--	--/--	22/22
Week 3	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	20/20	RV/--	--/--	20/20
Week 4	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	23/25	--/--	24/24	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 5	--/--	--/24	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 6	--/23	18/20	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV24	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	25/25
Week 7	24/22	17/18	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/21	--/--	--/--	25/25	--/--	RV/RV
Week 8	21/21	21/21	--/--	--/--	--/--	19/19	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	RV/RV
Week 9	23/24	18/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 10	RV/RV	24/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/22	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 11	RV/RV	23/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	18/18	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 12	25/25	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 13	19/17	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
FINAL	17/17	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--

	'02	'01	'99	'98	'97	'96	'95	'94	'93	'92	'91
Preseason	--/--	--/--	13	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 1	--/--	--/--	14	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 2	--/--	--/--	12	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 3	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 4	--/--	25	7	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 5	--/--	22	5	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 6	--/--	18	4	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 7	--/--	15	2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 8	--/--	13	2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 9	--/--	15	2	19	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 10	--/--	14	2	16	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 11	--/--	24	1	11	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 12	--/--	RV	1	10	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 13	--/--	25	11	12	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
FINAL	--/--	25	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--

	'90	'89	'88	'87	'86	'85	'84	'83	'82	'81	'80
Preseason	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 1	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	10	16	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	7	--/--	RV	13	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 3	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	9	--/--	9	8	18	--/--	--/--
Week 4	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	7	--/--	7	12	6	--/--	--/--
Week 5	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	3	12	5	--/--	--/--
Week 6	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	7	--/--	3	13	3	T-7	--/--
Week 7	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	5	--/--	3	8	4	5	--/--
Week 8	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	9	--/--	2	12	3	5	--/--
Week 9	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	9	--/--	1	18	3	7	--/--
Week 10	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	RV	17	4	6	--/--
Week 11	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	14	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	6	--/--

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of School.....	Tennessee State University (TSU)
City/Zip.....	Nashville, Tenn. 37209
Founded.....	1912
Enrollment.....	8,088
Nickname.....	Tigers
School Colors.....	Reflex Blue and White
Affiliation.....	NCAA Division I
Conference.....	Ohio Valley Conference (OVC)
Stadium.....	Nissan Stadium (69,143)
Surface.....	Tifsport Bermuda Sod
Interim President.....	Dwayne Tucker
Director of Athletics.....	Dr. Mikki Allen
Athletics Department #.....	615-963-1248
Asst. AD / Communications.....	Nick Guerriero
SID Phone #.....	615-963-6638
Official Web Site.....	TSUTigers.com

TSU FOOTBALL

First Season.....	1912
All-Time Record:.....	591-330-33
First Year in OVC:.....	1988
OVC Record:.....	117-139
OVC Championships:.....	3 (Last-2024)
NCAA FCS Playoff Appearances:.....	6 (Last-2024)
HBCU National Championships:.....	16 (Last-2013)
Cumulative All-Americans:.....	339
Pro Football Hall of Famers:.....	Richard Dent 2011, Claude Humphrey 2014

FUTURE SCHEDULED GAMES

9/9/28.....	at North Carolina A&T.....	TBA
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2024 RESULTS — 9-4 — (4-1 H, 4-3 A, 1-0 N) — 6-2 OVC — (3-1 H, 3-1 A)

8/31.....	MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE.....	W, 41-21
9/7.....	at North Dakota State.....	L, 3-52
9/14.....	vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff.....	W, 41-28
9/21.....	at Tennessee Tech*.....	L, 14-24
9/28.....	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN*.....	W, 13-9
10/5.....	at Lindenwood*.....	W, 24-20
10/12.....	EASTERN ILLINOIS*.....	W, 41-17
10/19.....	at Howard.....	W, 27-14
11/2.....	UT MARTIN*.....	L, 21-28
11/9.....	at Western Illinois*.....	W, 45-20
11/16.....	at Gardner-Webb*.....	W, 23-20
11/23.....	SEMO*.....	W, 28-21
11/30.....	vs. Montana!.....	L, 27-41

2023 RESULTS — 6-5 — (4-1 H, 1-4 A, 1-0 N) — 2-4 OVC — (2-1 H, 0-3 A)

9/2.....	at Notre Dame.....	L, 3-56
9/9.....	vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff.....	W, 24-14
9/16.....	GARDNER-WEBB*.....	W, 27-25
9/30.....	at UT Martin*.....	L, 10-20
10/7.....	at Kennesaw State.....	W, 27-20
10/14.....	NORFOLK ST.....	W, 24-17
10/21.....	LINCOLN.....	W, 54-0
10/28.....	LINDENWOOD*.....	W, 43-20
11/4.....	at Charleston Southern*.....	L, 21-35
11/11.....	at Eastern Illinois*.....	L, 17-30
11/18.....	TENNESSEE TECH*.....	L, 0-35

2022 RESULTS — 4-7 — (2-3 H, 2-3 A, 0-1 N) — 2-3 OVC — (1-2 H, 1-1 A)

9/3.....	at Eastern Washington.....	L, 29-36
9/10.....	vs. Jackson St.....	L, 3-16
9/17.....	at Middle Tennessee.....	L, 6-49
10/1.....	LANE.....	L, 27-28
10/8.....	BETHUNE-COOKMAN.....	W, 41-17
10/15.....	TENNESSEE TECH*.....	W, 30-14
10/22.....	EASTERN ILLINOIS*.....	W, 28-0
10/29.....	at Murray State*.....	L, 3-19
11/5.....	SEMO*.....	L, 0-42
11/12.....	UT MARTIN*.....	L, 3-20
11/19.....	at Texas A&M-Commerce.....	W, 22-14

2021 RESULTS — 5-6 — (3-1 H, 2-3 A, 0-2 N) — 3-3 OVC — (2-1 H, 1-2 A)

9/10.....	vs. Grambling St.....	L, 10-16
9/11.....	vs. Jackson St.....	L, 16-38
9/18.....	KENTUCKY ST.....	W, 41-7
9/25.....	at SEMO*.....	L, 14-47
10/2.....	at Austin Peay.....	W, 24-22
10/16.....	TENNESSEE TECH*.....	W, 20-13
10/23.....	at Eastern Illinois*.....	W, 28-0
10/30.....	MURRAY STATE*.....	W, 27-21
11/6.....	at UT Martin*.....	L, 20-41
11/13.....	AUSTIN PEAY*.....	L, 7-36
11/20.....	at Mississippi State.....	L, 10-55





COACHING STAFF



REGGIE BARLOW
HEAD COACH

Tennessee State University named Reggie Barlow as the 23rd head football coach in program history on March 23, 2025.

A proven leader with extensive coaching experience and a championship pedigree, Barlow brings a wealth of knowledge and a history of success at both the professional and collegiate levels.

Barlow joins TSU after a standout tenure as head coach of the UFL's D.C. Defenders, where he led the team to a league-best 9-1 record and a championship game appearance in 2023. His remarkable leadership earned him 2023 XFL Coach of the Year honors.

Under his guidance, the Defenders produced seven All-XFL players, including Offensive Player of the Year Jordan Ta'amu, the most of any team in the league. His squad dominated on the ground, leading the league in rushing yards (1,490) and rushing touchdowns (18), while defensively ranking second in sacks (29) and first in pick-sixes (4).

Before his success with the Defenders, Barlow served as head coach at Virginia State University for six seasons. He made history in 2017 leading the Trojans to their first unbeaten season in school history and winning the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Championship. His efforts earned him CIAA Coach of the Year honors.

Barlow began his collegiate coaching career at his alma mater Alabama State University as quarterback coach for two seasons and head coach for eight seasons. During his time at the helm, he led the Hornets to a 49-42 record and three SWAC East Division titles while developing standout quarterbacks like Super Bowl XLVII champion Tarvaris Jackson. His influence went beyond wins and losses, as his teams also excelled in the classroom, boasting an 80% graduation rate.

As a player, Barlow was a standout wide receiver and return specialist at Alabama State before being selected in the fourth round of the 1996 NFL Draft by the Jacksonville Jaguars. During his NFL career, he played for the Jaguars, Oakland Raiders, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, leading the league in punt return yards in 1998 and earning a Pro Bowl alternate selection. He capped his playing career by winning Super Bowl XXXVII with the Buccaneers in 2002.

COORDINATORS



GREGG WILLIAMS
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Gregg Williams brings more than 30 years of professional football coaching experience, including a Super Bowl title and multiple stints as a defensive coordinator and head coach in the NFL. Williams served as the defensive coordinator and secondary coach for the D.C. Defenders of the UFL/XFL from 2023 to 2025. His extensive NFL resume includes coaching stops with the New York Jets, Cleveland Browns, Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams, New Orleans Saints, Buffalo Bills, Washington Redskins, Jacksonville Jaguars and Tennessee Titans. He was head coach of the Buffalo Bills from 2001 to 2003 and served as interim head coach of the Cleveland Browns in 2018, posting a 5-3 record. Williams was the defensive architect behind the New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl XLIV championship run in 2009. In Music City, Williams is most remembered for guiding the Tennessee Titans to an AFC Championship appearance in 1999 as defensive coordinator. He spent seven seasons working under former Titans head coach Jeff Fisher, who later reunited with Williams during their time with the Rams. Throughout his career, Williams has coached two AP Defensive Rookie of the Year winners — Jevon Kearse (Titans, 1999) and Aaron Donald (Rams, 2014) — and developed a reputation as one of the game's most innovative defensive minds.



SHANNON HARRIS
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / QB

Shannon Harris, fresh off winning the UFL Championship with the D.C. Defenders, has been named Co-Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach at Tennessee State University. Harris will also serve as permanent head coach of the Defenders for the 2026 season, marking his third stint with TSU. A former starting quarterback, captain, and Team MVP for the Tigers, Harris began his coaching career at his alma mater (2002-09) before building an extensive résumé with stops at Hampton, Alabama State, Alcorn State, and Virginia State. At Alcorn, he helped guide the Braves to three straight SWAC Championship appearances, a 2015 league title, and the inaugural Celebration Bowl, while mentoring multiple all-conference players. He later returned to TSU as Offensive Coordinator (2019-20) and served as Offensive Coordinator and Interim Head Coach at Virginia State (2021-22). Harris has also gained NFL experience with the Tennessee Titans as a coaching intern.



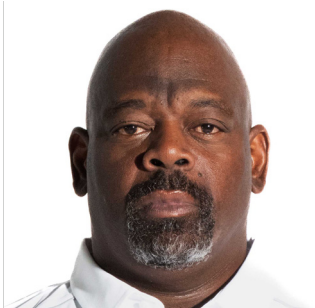
TRIANO MORGAN
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / RB

Toriano Morgan enters his first season as Co-Offensive Coordinator and Running Backs Coach at Tennessee State after serving as head coach at Edward Waters. With more than 20 years of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate levels, Morgan has developed 35 all-conference players and helped send 13 to the NFL. Nicknamed "Mr. 180" for his ability to transform programs, Morgan led Edward Waters to its first winning season in over two decades and guided the Tigers to a top-10 HBCU national ranking in 2023. Under his leadership, the offense produced record-setting performances, including quarterback Jyron Russell becoming the program's all-time leading passer and earning BoxToRow National Player of the Week honors. Morgan also served as Assistant Head Coach, Offensive Coordinator, and Quarterbacks Coach at Virginia State, helping the Trojans to an 8-2 record and a second-place finish in the CIAA Northern Division. He previously revitalized programs at Virginia Union University and Dillard High School, earning a reputation for innovative, high-powered offenses. In 2022, Morgan was selected for the NFL Coaching Academy and named to FootballScoop's Rising Star Coaches Watch List.





COACHING STAFF / RECRUITING

**CEDRIC THORNTON, ASSOC. HC / LINEBACKERS**

Cedric Thornton brings more than 20 years of coaching experience to Tennessee State, including recent roles as defensive tackles coach and special teams coordinator at Alabama A&M, and defensive coordinator at Grambling State and Alcorn State. At Alcorn, he helped lead the Braves to two SWAC championships and Celebration Bowl appearances, developing multiple all-conference and All-America players while overseeing nationally ranked defenses in sacks, tackles for loss, and turnovers. At Grambling, Thornton mentored standout players like Sundiata Anderson and freshman Keyshawn Johnson, a 2023 Stats Perform FCS Freshman All-American. He also served as defensive coordinator at Alabama State, where his 2014 unit ranked among the top 15 nationally in scoring defense, passing defense, and takeaways, including a program-first shutout since 1994.

**DEION HARRIS / DEFENSIVE LINE**

Deion Harris, who most recently served as linebackers coach for the D.C. Defenders, has been named linebackers coach at TSU. Harris began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Virginia State and rose through the ranks of the UFL, where he helped develop one of the league's top linebacker units.

**JEROD KRUSE, SPECIAL TEAMS / SECONDARY**

Jerod Kruse, a 24-year coaching veteran, joins Tennessee State as Defensive Secondary Coordinator and Special Teams Coordinator after serving as the Research and Strategy Coach for the Cleveland Browns in 2024. He previously spent 2021–23 on the Kansas City Chiefs' staff, working on advanced game planning, and also consulted for EA Sports on Madden and NCAA video games. Kruse's NFL experience includes two stints with the Cleveland Browns (2017–18, 2024), where he helped elevate the defensive secondary into the league's top 10 and mentored Pro Bowl cornerback Denzel Ward. At the collegiate level, he served as Secondary Coach and Co-Defensive Coordinator

**DEXTER JACKSON, SAFTIES**

Former NFL safety and Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson brings a wealth of experience and championship pedigree to the Tennessee State football coaching staff, serving as the Tigers' safeties coach. Jackson was named Super Bowl XXXVII MVP after recording two interceptions in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' 48-21 win over the Oakland Raiders. He played 10 seasons in the NFL, primarily with the Buccaneers, and also had stints with the Arizona Cardinals and Cincinnati Bengals. Over his career, Jackson totaled 17 interceptions and more than 450 tackles. A native of Quincy, Florida, Jackson played collegiately at Florida State from 1995 to 1998. He earned second-team All-ACC honors as a junior and senior, finishing his Seminole career with 194 tackles, seven interceptions, 16 pass breakups and four blocked field goals.

**RUSS EHRENFELD, OFFENSIVE LINE**

Russ Ehrenfeld enters his 10th year of his fourth stint at Tennessee State after spending last season with the DC Defenders of the UFL. A highly experienced offensive line coach, Ehrenfeld has developed numerous professional players, including four NFL draft picks in a two-year span—Kadeem Edwards, Demetrius Rhane, Robert Myers, and Anthony Morris—the first time in TSU history that four linemen were drafted in such a short period. During his tenure at TSU, Ehrenfeld has coached multiple All-Ohio Valley Conference selections and All-Americans, including Chidi Okeke and Jessamen Dunker, several of whom earned opportunities in the NFL. His offensive lines have consistently ranked among the conference's best in rushing and fewest sacks, setting the foundation for TSU's high-powered offenses. Prior to his current stint, Ehrenfeld spent three seasons at Chattanooga, helping the Mocs allow just nine sacks in 2009—third fewest nationally—and coaching multiple all-league linemen and tight ends. He previously coached TSU's offensive line from 1997–99, helping the Tigers win back-to-back OVC championships in 1998 and 1999, with four linemen from the 1999 squad advancing to the NFL.

**EDDIE WOODS, TIGHT ENDS**

Joining the offensive staff as Tight Ends coach is Eddie Woods, a legendary high school coach in Middle Tennessee and TSU football alum. Woods compiled a 77-30 record in nine seasons at Cane Ridge High School and is credited with developing dozens of Division I athletes. He brings a no-nonsense approach and a strong commitment to player accountability.

**NICK ANDREWS, WIDE RECEIVERS**

Nick Andrews, who will serve as wide receivers coach. A former standout at Alabama State and a two-time All-SWAC receiver, Andrews most recently served as defensive coordinator at powerhouse Clay-Chalkville (Ala.) High School. His deep understanding of both sides of the ball makes him a valuable asset to TSU's passing attack.

**JUSTIN HANNAH, DEFENSIVE ANALYST**

Justin Hannah will serve as a defensive analyst. Hannah played professionally in the Arena Football League before coaching at his alma mater, Tuskegee University, and most recently served as head coach at Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama.

2025 TSU FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF



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Recruiting Director
2nd Season



JOHNNY JOHNSON
Football Operation
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SCOTT HOLSOPPLE
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WILL JACKSON
Assistant Sports
Performance Coach
4th Season



DUJUAN SHARP II
Assistant Sports
Performance Coach
3rd Season





Kruse Brings NFL Pedigree, Development Focus to Secondary

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

When Jerod Kruse joined Tennessee State this summer as special teams coordinator and secondary coach, he immediately recognized the Tigers had something many college programs lack: depth in the defensive backfield.

"Coming from the NFL, you're used to traveling with seven or eight defensive backs," Kruse said. "Now, we've got 11 or 12 guys who can all contribute in some way. That's a blessing."

That depth, combined with Kruse's emphasis on teaching and player development, could play a major role in TSU's push for consistency in 2025. After years of tutelage under around Gregg Williams' defensive system, the secondary is expected to anchor a Tigers defense that prides itself on physical play and speed.

Kruse is not building the group alone. Former Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson, who played more than a decade in the NFL, works closely with the defensive backs, while analyst Justin Hannah provides additional support after professional stints in the CFL and NFL camps. Together, the staff is creating an environment centered on accountability and growth.

"These guys have taken coaching really well," Kruse said. "We coach them hard in practice, then on game day we want them to play fast and confident. That balance has helped them grow through camp."

A longtime collaborator with current TSU defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, Kruse has carried a consistent philosophy throughout his career: players respond to coaches who make them better.

"Our philosophy has always been that players will follow you if they believe you can help them improve," Kruse said. "Gregg has turned more undrafted free agents into Pro Bowlers than just about anyone in the last 25 years. That's development. That's what we're bringing to TSU—finding each player's strength and holding them accountable to it."

Kruse's coaching toolbox also includes an innovative background with technology. He has consulted with EA Sports on the Madden video game series, helping design scheme adjustments. That experience, he said, has given him a new perspective on how young players learn the game.

"Practice mode is an incredible teaching tool," Kruse said. "Players can run formations, recognize alignments and communicate in real time with a joystick in hand. The brain doesn't distinguish between mental reps and physical reps, so you can stack learning without adding wear and tear on the body."

Those methods align with Tennessee State's broader embrace of analytics and artificial intelligence. Kruse saw the trend firsthand in his recent stint with the Cleveland Browns, where AI-driven

teaching tools and virtual meeting rooms became part of daily preparation.

"AI is the buzzword right now, and everybody is figuring out how it fits," he said. "Some of the technology can break down film faster, and virtual teaching models can help players get more reps without taking more hits. At the end of the day, it's all about making them better and keeping them healthy."

For Kruse, the message to his players at TSU is simple: they are here because they have talent, and it's his job to maximize it.

"They wouldn't be here if they didn't have something special," Kruse said. "Our job is to figure out what that is, develop it, and put them in positions to succeed. If they believe you can make them better, they'll give you everything they've got."

As the Tigers prepare for the 2025 season, Kruse's blend of NFL experience, innovative teaching, and emphasis on player development may be exactly what helps turn depth into dominance.





Special Teams Poised for Growth with Barlow at the Helm

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

Special teams has long been called football's "hidden third," but at Tennessee State, it's beginning to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with offense and defense. The Tigers are betting that a renewed focus on this phase of the game will give them a competitive edge.

The shift comes with the arrival of Jerrod Kruse, TSU's new special teams coordinator and secondary coach, alongside the rare perspective of head coach Reggie Barlow—a former NFL standout return specialist. Together, they are building a unit capable of flipping fields, swinging momentum, and winning games.

Before becoming a coach, Barlow spent seven seasons in the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, establishing himself as a dynamic playmaker in the return game. He totaled 92 kickoff returns for 1,855 yards and one touchdown, and 158 punt returns for 1,639 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 23.2 yards per kickoff and 10.4 yards per punt. For Tennessee State, those numbers are more than statistics—they serve as a blueprint.

"Coach Barlow knows exactly what it looks like to change a game on special teams," Kruse said. "That perspective trickles down to our players. It's not just about kicking and covering—it's about creating opportunities."

Kruse's approach emphasizes flexibility across the unit. "Sometimes it's a crapshoot," he said. "One guy today, another guy tomorrow, depending on the game. We've looked at a bunch of players back

there."

That extends to the kicking game, where Kruse stresses consistency and resilience as much as mechanics. "There's no kicker in the world who's ever been 100% on PATs or field goals," he said. "Short memories—if you miss, you have to move on to the next play because you're only as good as your next one."

Kruse highlighted the impact of punter Mark Shenouda. "Mark got some kicks in last year, so he's really the only returning specialist," Kruse said. "What I've really liked about him is his approach with the group overall and his role as the veteran leader of the specialist units. He's taken it upon himself to hold the group accountable to the standards we set, and he knows that if anything's wrong, I go to him first. He's embraced the coaching, stepped into the leadership role, and the rest of the guys have followed in a really positive way."

A key part of that development is finding the right fit for critical roles. Kruse said the Tigers are testing multiple players in return positions, with guidance from Barlow and assistant Nick Andrews, both of whom excelled in similar roles during their careers. "It's nice to have guys like Nick Andrews and Coach Barlow, who know what it takes," Kruse said. "We've worked with several players, and we haven't locked in on one yet. The good thing is we have multiple guys we're developing to be proficient."

"When I got here in May, they'd already done some really good things in

the past," Kruse said. "We're making a few slight adjustments in technique and approach, but the group has been extremely coachable. From mid-May to now, and adding a few in early August, the growth over the last few weeks has been exactly what we wanted."

The message is clear: if you want to play for Tennessee State, don't overlook special teams.

That philosophy has carried into training camp, where competition remains fierce for jobs in the kicking and return game. No starting spots have been locked in, and the staff treats these roles with the same importance as starting quarterback or middle linebacker.

Kruse said his approach in camp is to challenge players and help them progress step by step. "We've put them in difficult situations, but we've progressed them through a system," he said. "We're starting to filter out what works and what doesn't. Our job as coaches is to find what they do well and accelerate it. Don't ask them to do something outside their skill set and expect top performance."

For a program building its foundation under Barlow, special teams represents more than execution. It's about momentum, hidden yards, and seizing opportunities that often decide close games. With Kruse's detailed teaching and Barlow's NFL-tested vision, Tennessee State believes it has finally found a formula to make the "hidden third" impossible to ignore.





Harris Returns Home With Alumni Spirit and Renewed Championship Confidence

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

When Shannon Harris walks into the Tennessee State football offices, the walls are the same, the hallways are familiar, and the memories come rushing back. For the former Tigers quarterback and longtime assistant, returning to his alma mater feels like stepping back home — but with a program moving forward in new ways.

Harris is entering his third stint on the TSU staff, this time as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He first traded his cleats for a whistle in 2003 as a graduate assistant and went on to serve in nearly every offensive role through 2009. He returned in 2018 as an analyst, was elevated to offensive coordinator in 2019–20, and left the program in 2021 following the arrival of then-head coach Eddie George.

Now, four years later, Harris is back on Jefferson Street, bringing with him fresh perspective — and hardware. He spent the past two seasons with the DC Defenders of the United Football League, helping guide the team to a championship in 2025 and earning UFL Coach of the Year honors.

“To go from being a head coach at that level and now back as an assistant, I think everyone should experience that,” Harris said. “It makes you better. You understand why head coaches say certain things, and you manage the game differently. It’s made me a much stronger coordinator, and I’m excited to bring that here.”

What excites Harris just as much as the playbook is the renewed spirit of TSU’s alumni and fan base. From his playing days in the early 2000s, Harris recalls the old tradition of former players — some coming straight from work shifts

— gathering along the practice field fence to cheer on the team.

That culture, he said, is coming alive again under head coach Reggie Barlow.

“With Coach Barlow’s vision, you can definitely see the excitement,” Harris said. “I’ve seen more former players at scrimmages in the last year than I had in the last 15 or 20. Guys are reengaged, and that matters to this program. It feels like the TSU I remember.”

Barlow has made embracing TSU’s alumni a priority. From open practices to community events, he has worked to ensure former players feel connected — something Harris said makes a difference for both recruiting and gameday atmosphere.

That connection will be tested and showcased in 2025 as the Tigers host an unprecedented eight home games, the most in program history. For a fan base that once packed Nissan Stadium with crowds of 20,000 to 30,000 during Harris’s playing career, the expanded home schedule is an opportunity to show out again.

“It’s huge for our fan base,” Harris said. “We don’t have to go to Memphis or Atlanta anymore — those fans can come here. With the type of schedule we have, and bringing Alabama A&M, North Dakota, and others right here, it’s a chance to get the city involved and give our players the support they deserve.”

Last season, TSU averaged just over 8,000 fans per game — a number Harris believes can grow with consistency and alumni engagement.

“Coming off a championship season and with eight home games, there’s no reason not to fill it up,” Harris said. “I’ve been part of those nights when 40,000 people were in the stands. These young guys deserve that same energy.”

Harris’s coaching journey — from TSU to Alabama State, Alcorn State, Virginia State, and the UFL — has been marked by steady growth. His return is more than just another job move; it’s a homecoming rooted in pride and responsibility.

“This place means everything to me,” Harris said. “When I walk around campus, I see the same buildings and remember the same moments from when I played here. But I also see the growth Dr. (Mikki) Allen has brought to athletics. It’s not just football — the whole department is moving forward. To be back as part of that is special.”

As TSU prepares for the new season, Harris represents both continuity and fresh momentum — an alum returning home with championship experience, charged with leading an offense that will be central to the Tigers’ aspirations.

“It’s not just about football,” Harris said. “It’s about reconnecting the alumni, engaging the city, and making this program something everyone is proud of. That’s why I came back. And I believe the support is here to make it happen.”





Andrews Reunites With Barlow, Harris to Lead Young TSU Receivers

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

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Russ Ehrenfeld Returns to Tennessee State with NFL Track Record

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

Russ Ehrenfeld is back at Tennessee State University for the fourth time, and his connection to the Tigers runs deep. The offensive line coach has spent 16 seasons with the program across multiple stints and has developed a reputation for producing NFL-caliber players, whether through the draft or free agency.

"I just love Tennessee State. I love what it stands for. I love the young people that come to school here," Ehrenfeld said. "The people that I have worked with here and the people I'm currently working with are great. I just have a great love and affection for TSU."

Ehrenfeld first arrived on campus in 1997 and was part of two Ohio Valley Conference championship teams. The 1999 squad achieved a national No. 1 ranking, cementing the Tigers' place in college football history. "The walls were built by a lot of great people, a lot of great football players, a lot of great athletes overall that have put this place on the map," he said, reflecting on TSU's legacy.

Known as "the NFL guy," Ehrenfeld has guided dozens of Tigers to professional careers. "Once you start coaching and you are around other coaches and they mentor you, or you buy into what they're emphasizing, you just become a student

of the game," he said. "I've been very blessed to work with some great players who bought into what I was teaching. Then the light turned on, the switch turned on, and they just kept working hard."

Recruiting is a cornerstone of Ehrenfeld's approach. He blends old-school techniques — visiting a prospect's home or speaking with family — with modern strategies using social media and film. "I came up originally with Splice and Film, and then it went to VHS to Disks. That changed it. But there's a loyalty. Guys can be in the portal and play for you for one season, then get in the portal again. So that makes a difference," he said.

Ehrenfeld's professional experience in leagues like the XFL and UFL gives him a unique perspective. "We had guys from Stanford, James Madison, Mizzou, Oregon State, Georgia — all different backgrounds," he said. "Those guys buying into what I was teaching, and me meeting them halfway, is how we became successful."

His love for Nashville also runs deep. A New Jersey native who attended college in Chattanooga, Ehrenfeld appreciates the city's growth and culture. "There's some great pizza places here now that weren't here 25, 30 years ago.

Monell's in Germantown is a spot I like, and the 51st Deli up on 51st Street," he said. "The music, Lower Broadway, it's all great. I've been fortunate; I have a nephew in the music industry at a very high level, and I've been able to see some great shows. I enjoy that."

As Ehrenfeld settles into his latest tenure at TSU, his focus remains on the offensive line and developing players ready for the next level. His career, which spans college and professional football, his dedication to Tennessee State, and his love for Nashville make him a cornerstone of the Tigers' program.





Morgan's Déjà Vu: Experience and Heart Return Home

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

Toriano Morgan walked across Tennessee State's campus recently and felt as if he had traveled back in time. "Making my walk to lunch today, I kind of felt like it was 2000 and I was a senior walking to the cafeteria," Morgan said. "The buildings have changed a little bit, the campus has grown a lot. But for the most part, it still has that homely feeling."

Morgan, a former TSU wide receiver and team captain, has returned to his alma mater as co-offensive coordinator and running backs coach under head coach Reggie Barlow. It is a homecoming more than two decades in the making for a coach with more than 20 years of experience at the high school and collegiate levels. "To be back and be able to serve in a school that's been great to me is just amazing," Morgan said. "This program groomed me as a player and transitioned me into coaching. I couldn't write a better story."

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Morgan began his coaching career at Tennessee State in 2002 as a graduate assistant before moving on to stints at Dillard High School, Virginia Union, and Virginia State.

Most recently, he served as head coach at Edward Waters University, where he earned the nickname "Mr. 180" for turning programs around. Under his leadership, the Tigers recorded their first winning season in more than two decades and entered the HBCU D2 national polls

for the first time as a full SIAC member in 2023.

Morgan's success has been recognized nationally. In 2022, he participated in the NFL's Coaching Academy, was named to FootballScoop's Rising Star Coaches Watch List, and was selected as head coach for the nationally televised HBCU Pigskin All-Star Classic. Throughout his coaching career, he has guided 35 all-conference players and helped 13 athletes reach the NFL. Known for his innovative offensive strategies, Morgan developed record-setting units at Edward Waters, including quarterback Jyron Russell, who became the school's modern-day all-time leading passer, and Johnny Jones, an All-American honoree.

Returning to Nashville, Morgan has been struck by the growth of both the city and the university. "Going downtown, the biggest building used to be the Batman building. Now you can't even see it because there are so many bigger ones," he said. "That expansion shows the growth of the city and the commitment of Tennessee State to grow as well."

On the field, Morgan has been impressed by the leadership of TSU's veteran players, who have helped set the tone for younger athletes. "Those guys have had team success and individual success, so they're able to show the younger guys exactly how to do it," he said. "From day one, we've set our expectations and our

goals, and everyone has fallen in line." He emphasizes preparation and execution as central tenets of the team's philosophy. "It's about doing it the way we practice and letting the chips fall where they may," Morgan said.

The 2025 schedule features eight home games, a rarity for TSU in recent years. Morgan said that home-field advantage is significant not only for performance but also for the legacy of Tennessee State football. "There's no place like home," he said. "It's unacceptable for TSU football not to play well and to lose at home in front of our fans. Having eight home games on familiar turf gives us something to defend, and that's truly going to work in our favor."

The Tigers' schedule also features marquee HBCU matchups alongside non-conference tests, including perennial FCS power North Dakota State. Morgan sees these games as an opportunity to showcase both TSU football and the broader TSU experience. "Families can come out, tailgate, and young Tigers can see what it's all about," he said. "That's where it starts — making that impression so they want to grow up and be part of this tradition and legacy."

For Morgan, being back at Tennessee State is the culmination of a career built on both success and loyalty to his roots. "You couldn't script it any better," he said. "I'm blessed to be here and to help carry this program forward."





Cedric Thornton Brings HBCU Legacy and Leadership to TSU

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

For Cedric Thornton, coming to Tennessee State as associate head coach and linebackers coach is about more than football—it's about family, legacy, and a lifelong bond with Reggie Barlow.

Thornton, who has previously held head coaching roles and built programs at multiple levels, described his bond with TSU head coach Reggie Barlow as lifelong. "Family, look out for family. My Lord and I, we've known each other since we were 18 years old. He's a brother to me, always will be a brother to me," Thornton said. When Barlow reached out to bring him to TSU, Thornton said it was impossible to ignore the call.

Being named associate head coach at a university with the storied history of John Merritt was meaningful on multiple levels. "It means a lot. It means my head coach sees something in me and the leadership passing. This school has a lot of history. My father-in-law, my mother-in-law, both went to school here. Father-in-law played ball here. It probably means more to them than it does to me because now their grandson gets to come be around," Thornton said.

While the title carries prestige, he emphasized that his focus is on serving wherever needed. "The title's a title. I'm a football coach. I just do whatever the

boss man asks me."

Thornton's connection to TSU runs beyond coaching; it is personal and familial. "I'm a guy, man, and I love our schools. I'm an HBCU guy. I love our schools. Like I said, it just means a little bit more because I have some family ties to the university," he said.

Walking through campus, Thornton sees the history and legacy of those who came before him—from John Merritt to Coach Gilliam and countless others—reinforcing the sense of responsibility he feels as a coach and mentor.

For Thornton, the presence of alumni and community members at games and practices carries more weight than any paycheck. "I can go to work for a dollar, but their presence means a lot. Just to see those guys get the encouragement from them, it means a lot," he said, reflecting on the volunteers and alumni who devote time and energy to support TSU athletes.

Thornton also sees the role of the community in fostering team spirit and connection. "With the history of this school, with all the great things and people that have been through here, I don't understand how it can be hard to get behind them. The moment we get to the point to realizing that, regardless of who's

standing on the sideline, those young men are still wearing blue and white... support them," he said. He noted that even though TSU is not his alma mater, he stands respectfully during the alma mater and daily recitations of the Tiger Creed as a sign of reverence for the university and its traditions.

As TSU football enters a season with a first-year staff and eight home games, Thornton sees an opportunity to strengthen the bond between players, coaches, alumni, and fans. For him, returning to a place intertwined with his family and lifelong friendships is a reminder that coaching is about more than wins and losses—it's about legacy, community, and family.





Music City Miracle to Roar City: Gregg Williams' Homecoming at Nissan Stadium

by Nick Guerriero, Assistant AD

Gregg Williams stood near midfield at Nissan Stadium, the summer sun cutting across the empty seats as Tennessee State wrapped up a scrimmage. He tugged at his whistle, his eyes sweeping across the field he once called home during some of the most unforgettable moments in Tennessee Titans history.

Just stepping onto the turf, he said, brought a rush of memories.

"It made me smile just walking in here today," Williams said. "And I need to smile as much as I can in life. I've got great memories of living here — one of my favorite cities of the 10 NFL cities I've lived in. And there were some big-time games when I walked in here that we were in. I can't wait to be in some big-time games with these young men right here."

For Williams, the new defensive coordinator at Tennessee State, this season is more than just another job. It's a homecoming of sorts — a return to Music City, to the same stadium where he helped lead the Titans to a Super Bowl appearance during the famed 1999 season and the "Music City Miracle."

Williams spent a decade with the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans franchise, carving out a reputation as one of the NFL's fiercest defensive minds. His units were physical, disciplined, and relentless — a reflection of his own fiery presence on the sideline. He later went on to become the head coach of the Buffalo Bills (2001–03) and interim head coach of the Cleveland Browns (2018), with stops at nearly a dozen NFL franchises, including this writer's favorite, the New York Jets.

But when he looks back on his career, Williams is quick to point to one name: Jeff Fisher.

"Jeff was one of the best guys I've ever worked with," Williams said. "We grew together. Those were some of the best years of my life."

Fisher and Williams spent more than a decade and a half together with the Oilers/Titans and again with the St. Louis/Los Angeles Rams,

forging a partnership that helped define an era of football in Nashville.

Now, at 67, Williams isn't chasing the next NFL job. Instead, he's pouring his energy into teaching — and that, he says, is where he finds the most joy.

"The three happiest places I am in life... One, with my family. Two, inside the white lines — I'm a competitionaholic — and three, helping young men and young women be who they want to be," Williams said. "At this stage of my career, I only want to coach with people I like being around. Reggie [Barlow] is a big-time coach. I enjoy helping him grow too. So, this is a family moment, along with helping as many men and women as we can grow up in this profession."

Williams first crossed paths with TSU head coach Reggie Barlow and offensive coordinator Shannon Harris in the XFL and UFL, where they spent the past two seasons with the D.C. Defenders. When Barlow got the call to take over the Tigers, Williams didn't hesitate to follow.

It also helped that Tennessee State wasn't unfamiliar territory.

"In 1997, we practiced on Tennessee State's campus," Williams said. "And in 1998, we practiced in a bankrupt mall parking lot on the grass. We finally got here in 1999. I remember great things and some phenomenal players that came from this university during the times I've been in the league since 1989. I've always thought greatly about Eddie George [former TSU head coach] and his staff, too, because five of those guys have been on my staff. I think the world of them."

Williams sees his role at Tennessee State as both a teacher and a mentor, not just to players but also to young coaches eager to break into the profession. His passion for development has long been a part of his DNA, from his early days coaching high school football in Missouri to building NFL defenses.

"I love this stage of it," Williams said. "Because

I get to help these guys chase their goals — whether that's the NFL, coaching, or whatever profession they choose. This place has always produced competitors."

Nashville itself has changed dramatically since Williams last lived here. The skyline is taller, the city busier, the football scene even more competitive. But for Williams, the city's spirit remains the same.

"You don't think the music industry isn't competitive? Or some of the billion-dollar companies here?" Williams said. "This place has a ton of competition in it. And those kinds of young men have prospered coming out of here. So, I want to help as many young men as we can here on this team — and young women in the different departments of this program — to grow and keep going, because that's Nashville."

Of course, returning to Nashville also means reconnecting with old haunts. Asked about his favorite places to eat, Williams' face softened as he recalled one in particular.

"Jimmy Buffett's [Margaritaville] place downtown," he said with a smile. "Jimmy was a very close friend of mine. He helped a lot with my foundation for children. I always loved going down there."

Inside Nissan Stadium, though, the pull is strongest. Williams says the rush of competition hasn't dulled, even after more than three decades of coaching at the highest levels.

"I love being inside the lines," Williams said. "That hasn't changed. To get another chance to do it here, in Music City, it's pretty special."

As the Tigers wrapped up their final scrimmage, Williams lingered on the turf at Nissan Stadium, whistle in hand, watching players jog to the sideline. For a man who once called the NFL's brightest stages home, the empty seats and echo of footsteps offered something just as meaningful — another chance to compete, another chance to teach, and another chapter in a city that still feels like home.





ALL-TIME NFL DRAFT PICKS & TIGERS IN THE PROS

TSU TIGERS FIRST ROUND NFL PICKS			
1968	3rd Pick	Claude Humphrey	Atlanta Falcons
1969	25th Pick	Eldridge Dickey	Oakland Raiders
1969	23rd Pick	Jim Marsalis	Kansas City Chiefs
1971	15th Pick	Vernon Holland	Cincinnati Bengals
1974	1st Pick	Ed "Too" Tall Jones	Dallas Cowboys
1974	4th Pick	Waymond Bryant	Chicago Bears
2008	16th Pick	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	Arizona Cardinals

DRAFTED TIGERS PER NFL TEAM	
Arizona Cardinals	2
Atlanta Falcons	4
Baltimore Colts	5
Baltimore Ravens	1
Buffalo Bills	4
Chicago Bears	5
Cincinnati Bengals	4
Cleveland Browns	5
Dallas Cowboys	3
Denver Broncos	3
Detroit Lions	6
Green Bay Packers	3
Houston Oilers	3
Indianapolis Colts	1
Jacksonville Jaguars	1
Kansas City Chiefs	7
Los Angeles Rams	4
Miami Dolphins	6
Minnesota Vikings	5
New England Patriots	2
New Orleans Saints	2
New York Giants	1
New York Jets	4
Oakland Raiders	4
Philadelphia Eagles	7
Pittsburgh Steelers	4
San Diego Chargers	6
San Francisco 49ers	8
St. Louis Cardinals	1
St. Louis Rams	1
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2
Washington Redskins	2

ALL-TIME TIGERS IN THE PROS	
Name	Teams (Year)
A	
Joe "747" Adams — QB	San Francisco 49ers (1981); Saskatchewan Roughriders (1982–1983); Toronto Argonauts (1983); Ottawa Rough Riders (1984)
Brent Alexander — S	Arizona Cardinals (1994-97); Carolina Panthers (1998-99); Pittsburgh Steelers (2000-03); NY Giants (2004-05)
Hubbard Alexander — C	Coach: TSU (1962-63); Vanderbilt (1975-87); UMiami (1979-88); Dallas Cowboys (1989-97); Minnesota Vikings (1998-99); New Orleans Saint (2000-03) 3x Super Bowl champion (XXVII, XXVIII, XXX) 2x National champion (1983, 1987)
Bennie Anderson — RB	St. Louis Rams (2000); Chicago Enforcers (2001); Baltimore Ravens (2001–2004); Buffalo Bills (2005); Miami Dolphins (2006)
B	
Larry Barnes — RB	San Diego Chargers (1977-1978); St Louis Cardinals (1978); Philadelphia Eagles (1978-1979)
Bill Bass — RB	Chicago Rockets (1947); Montreal Alouettes (1948); Toronto Argonauts (1950–53); Ottawa Rough Riders (1954); Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers (1955)
Avion Black — WR / KR	Buffalo Bills (2000–2001); Houston Texans (2002)
Terrell Bonds — CB	Memphis Express (2019); Baltimore Ravens (2019–2020); Miami Dolphins (2021)* Pittsburgh Maulers (2022); Tennessee Titans (2022)*; San Antonio Brahmas (2023–present)
Sam Bowers — TE	New York Jets (1980–1981)*; Toronto Argonauts (1981); New Jersey Generals (1983–1985); Chicago Bears (1987)
Clifford Brooks — DB	Cleveland Browns (1972–1974); Philadelphia Eagles (1975–1976); Buffalo Bills (1975–1976); New York Jets (1976)
Waymond Bryant — LB	Chicago Bears (1974–1977)
C	
Alex Carter — DE	Buffalo Bills (1985–1986)*; Miami Dolphins (1987)*; Cleveland Browns (1987); Edmonton Eskimos (1988); Ottawa Rough Riders (1989)*
Eugene Clifford — S	Baltimore Ravens (2011)*; Texas Revolution (2013)
Al Coleman — DB	Minnesota Vikings (1967); Des Moines Warriors (1967); Charleston Rockets (1968); Cincinnati Bengals (1969–1971); Philadelphia Eagles (1972–1973)
D	
Dave Davis — WR	Green Bay Packers (1971–1972); Pittsburgh Steelers (1973); New Orleans Saints (1974)
Oliver Davis — CB	Cleveland Browns (1977–1980); Cincinnati Bengals (1981–1982)
Rosey Davis — DE	New York Giants (1965–1967)
Sonny Davis — RB	Philadelphia Eagles (1971); The Hawaiians (1974–1975)
Richard Dent — RB	Chicago Bears (1983–1993); San Francisco 49ers (1994); Chicago Bears (1995); Indianapolis Colts (1996); Philadelphia Eagles (1997) 2x Super Bowl champion (XX, XXIX) Super Bowl MVP (XX) First-team All-Pro (1985) 3x Second-team All-Pro (1984, 1988, 1990) 4x Pro Bowl (1984, 1985, 1990, 1993) 2x NFL forced fumbles leader (1984, 1985) NFL sacks leader (1985) 100 greatest Bears of All-Time
Eldridge Dickey — QB / WR	Oakland Raiders (1968–1971); AFL champion (1968)





ALL-TIME TIGERS IN THE PROS

Lamar Divens —NT	San Diego Chargers (2008)*; Baltimore Ravens (2008–2010); Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2011)*; Tennessee Titans (2012)*; San Francisco 49ers (2013)*
Larry Dorsey —WR	San Diego Chargers (1976–1977); Kansas City Chiefs (1978)
Marcus Dowdell —WR	New Orleans Saints (1992–1993); Arizona Cardinals (1995–1996)
Elbert Drungo — G / T	Houston Oilers (1969–1977); Buffalo Bills (1978)
E	
Cid Edwards —RB	St. Louis Cardinals (1967–1971); San Diego Chargers (1972–1974); Chicago Bears (1975)
Kadeem Edwards —G	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2014); Jacksonville Jaguars (2015); Dallas Cowboys (2016–2018)
Steve Edwards —OF / DL	Philadelphia Eagles (2002)*; Chicago Bears (2002–2005); New York Giants (2006); Baltimore Ravens (2007)*; Philadelphia Soul (2008) Arizona Rattlers (2008); California Redwoods (2009); Arizona Rattlers (2011); Chicago Rush (2013)
Cleveland Elam	San Francisco 49ers (1975–1978); Detroit Lions (1979)
Onzy Elam — LB	New York Jets (1987–1988); Dallas Cowboys (1989)
Homer Elias —G	Detroit Lions (1978–1984)
F	
Charley Ferguson —TE	Cleveland Browns (1961); Minnesota Vikings (1962); Buffalo Bills (1963–1969)
Rodney Fritz —DL	Huntington Hammer (2011); Tulsa Talons (2011)*; Winnipeg Blue Bombers (2011–2013); Toronto Argonauts (2013)*; San Jose Saber-Cats (2014–2015); Los Angeles KISS (2016); Arizona Rattlers (2016); Baltimore Brigade (2018); Albany Empire (2019)
Randy Fuller —CB	Denver Broncos (1994); Pittsburgh Steelers (1995–1997); Atlanta Falcons (1998); Seattle Seahawks 1999
G	
Chuck Gavin —DE	BC Lions (1959); Denver Broncos (1960–1963)
Joe Gilliam — QB	Pittsburgh Steelers (1972–1975); New Orleans Saints (1976–1977)*; Pittsburgh Wolf Pak (1978); Baltimore Eagles (1979); New Orleans Blue Knights (1981); Denver Gold (1983)*; Washington Federals (1983)
H	
Mike Hegman —LB	Dallas Cowboys (1976–1988) Super Bowl champion (XII)
Jeremy Hickbottom — QB	Cologne Crocodiles (2023)*; Massachusetts Pirates (2023)*; DC Defenders (2023–present)
Sylvester Hicks — DE	Kansas City Chiefs (1978–1981)
Jarrick Hillery — WR / Db	Nashville Kats (2000–2001); Georgia Force (2002–2003); Carolina Cobras (2003–2004); Nashville Kats (2004–2006); Georgia Force (2007)
Joe Hills —WR	Tennessee Titans (2011)*; Spokane Shock (2012); Tampa Bay Storm (2012–2014); Hamilton Tiger-Cats (2014)*; Pittsburgh Power (2015)*; Jacksonville Sharks (2015–2016); Dalian Dragon Kings (2016)*; Tampa Bay Storm (2017); Jacksonville Sharks (2017); Florida Tarpons (2018); Albany Empire (2018); Baltimore Brigade (2019)
John Holland —WR	Minnesota Vikings (1974); Buffalo Bills (1975–1977); Hamilton Tiger-Cats (1979–1980); Calgary Stampeders (1981); Ottawa Rough Riders (1982)
Vernon Holland —T	Cincinnati Bengals (1971–1979); Detroit Lions (1980); New York Giants (1980)

Claude Humphrey —DE	Atlanta Falcons (1968–1978); Philadelphia Eagles (1979–1981); NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year (1968) 5× First-team All-Pro (1971–1974, 1977) 3× Second-team All-Pro (1969, 1970, 1976) 6× Pro Bowl (1970–1974, 1977) Atlanta Falcons Ring of Honor
Herman Hunter —RB	Philadelphia Eagles (1985); Detroit Lions (1986); Houston Oilers (1987)
J	
Ligarius Jennings — CB	Detroit Lions (2001)*; Cincinnati Bengals (2001–2002); Amsterdam Admirals (2002, 2004)
Daniel Johnson —LB	Green Bay Packers (1978)
Lee Johnson — WR	San Francisco 49ers (1969–1970)
Ed "Too Tall" Jones — DE	Dallas Cowboys (1974–1978, 1980–1989); 1974 NFL Draft 1st Overall Pick Super Bowl champion (XII) First-team All-Pro (1982) 2× Second-team All-Pro (1981, 1983) 3× Pro Bowl (1981–1983)
Joe "Turkey" Jones —DE	Cleveland Browns (1970–1973); Philadelphia Eagles (1974–1975); Cleveland Browns (1975–1978); Washington Redskins (1979–1980)
Mike Jones — WR	Minnesota Vikings (1983–1985); New Orleans Saints (1986–1987); Kansas City Chiefs (1988); New England Patriots (1989); New Orleans Saints (1989)
Roger Jones —CB	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1991–1993); Cincinnati Bengals (1994–1997); Tennessee Oilers (1997)
Eric Joyce — DB	Arizona Cardinals (2002)*; Chicago Bears (2002)
K	
Jim Kelly — TE	Chicago Bears (1974)
Greg Kindle — G / T	St. Louis Cardinals (1974–1975); Atlanta Falcons (1976–1977); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1978–1979)
Larry Kinnebrew — RB	Cincinnati Bengals (1983–1987); Buffalo Bills (1989–1990)
L	
Izzy Lang —RB	Philadelphia Eagles (1964–1968); Los Angeles Rams (1969)
Donald Laster —T	Washington Redskins (1982); Detroit Lions (1984)
A.C. Leonard —DL / TE	Minnesota Vikings (2014)*; Brooklyn Bolts (2014); New Orleans VooDoo (2014–2015)*; BC Lions (2015); Hudson Valley Fort (2015)*; Jacksonville Sharks (2016)*; Saskatchewan Roughriders (2016–2017); Ottawa Redblacks (2018); Saskatchewan Roughriders (2019–2022); Edmonton Elks (2023–present)
Anthony Levine —S	Green Bay Packers (2010–2011)*; Baltimore Ravens (2012–2021)
M	
Jim Marsalis —CB	Kansas City Chiefs (1969–1975); New Orleans Saints (1977) Super Bowl champion (IV); AFL champion (1969); PFW AFL Defensive Rookie of the Year (1969); First-team All-Pro (1970); 2× Pro Bowl (1969, 1970)
Loaird McCreary —TE / WR	Miami Dolphins (1976–1978); New York Giants (1979); Oklahoma Outlaws (1984)
Frank McRae — DT	Chicago Bears (1967)
Jerrold McRae —WR	Kansas City Chiefs (1978); Philadelphia Eagles (1979)
Willie Mitchell —CB	Kansas City Chiefs (1964–1970); Houston Oilers (1971)
Steve Moore — T	New England Patriots (1983–1987)





ALL-TIME TIGERS IN THE PROS

Anthony Morris —T	Oakland Raiders (2015); Montreal Alouettes (2017–2018); Memphis Express (2019); Los Angeles Wildcats (2020); TSL Conquerors (2021)
Leon Murray — QB	Washington Redskins (2000)*; Orlando Rage (2001)*; New York Giants (2001)*; Berlin Thunder (2001); Edmonton Eskimos (2002)*; Georgia Force (2003–2004); Nashville Kats (2005–2006); Detroit Fury (2007)*; Philadelphia Soul (2007); New York Dragons (2007)
Robert Myers —G	Baltimore Ravens (2015)*; Indianapolis Colts (2015)*; Baltimore Ravens (2015)*; Denver Broncos (2015); Seattle Seahawks (2016)*; Memphis Express (2019); Seattle Dragons (2020)*; Team 9 (2020)*; Seattle Dragons (2020); New Jersey Generals (2022–present)
N	
Cecil Newton —C	Jacksonville Jaguars (2009–2010); Hartford Colonials (2011)*; New Orleans Saints (2011)*; Green Bay Packers (2011)*; Baltimore Ravens (2011–2012)*
O	
McDonald Oden —TE	Cleveland Browns (1980–1982)
Chidi Okeke —T	Washington Redskins (2019)*; Kansas City Chiefs (2019)*; Miami Dolphins (2019)*; Saskatchewan Roughriders (2021)*; Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2021)*; Pittsburgh Maulers (2022); San Antonio Brahmas (2023–present)
P	
Rodney Parker —WR	Atlanta Falcons (1978)*; Saskatchewan Roughriders (1978–1979); Philadelphia Eagles (1980–1982); Philadelphia Stars (1983–1984); San Antonio Gunslingers (1984); Pittsburgh Maulers (1984)
Frank Pillow — WR	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1988–1990); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1992)
Anthony Pleasant — DE	Cleveland Browns (1990–1995); Baltimore Ravens (1996); Atlanta Falcons (1997); New York Jets (1998–1999); San Francisco 49ers (2000); New England Patriots (2001–2003); 2× Super Bowl champion (XXXVI, XXXVIII)
David Pool —DB	Buffalo Bills (1990); New England Patriots (1991–1992); Buffalo Bills (1993); Miami Dolphins (1994)
R	
Brian Ransom —QB	Houston Oilers (1983–1985); Montreal Alouettes (1986)
Gilbert Renfro —QB	Ottawa Rough Riders (1986); Toronto Argonauts (1987–1989); Atlanta Falcons (1990); Minnesota Vikings (1990); Atlanta Falcons (1991)*; Calgary Stampeders (1991); Detroit Drive (1992–1993); BC Lions (1992); Shreveport Pirates (1994)*
Demetrius Rhaney —C	St. Louis / Los Angeles Rams (2014–2016); Jacksonville Jaguars (2017)*; Washington Redskins (2017–2018); Memphis Express (2019); Hamilton Tiger-Cats (2019); Buffalo Bills (2019)*; Houston Roughnecks (2020)
Shaun Richardson — LB	San Francisco 49ers* (2008); Edmonton Eskimos (2009); Kansas City Command (2012)
Patrick Robinson — WR	Cincinnati Bengals (1993); Arizona Cardinals (1994)
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie —CB	Arizona Cardinals (2008–2010); Philadelphia Eagles (2011–2012); Denver Broncos (2013); New York Giants (2014–2017); Oakland Raiders (2018); Washington Redskins (2019); Tampa Nightcrawlers (A7FL) 2023; Second-team All-Pro (2016); 2× Pro Bowl (2009, 2015)
Chris Rowland —WR	Atlanta Falcons (2020–2021); Tennessee Titans (2021)*; Philadelphia Stars (2022–present)
S	
De'Ante Saunders —DB	Cleveland Browns (2015)
Simon Shanks — LB	Arizona Cardinals (1995)

Anthony Shelton —DB	San Diego Chargers (1990–1991); Shreveport Pirates (1994); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1994); Shreveport Pirates (1995)
Lachavious Simmons —T / G	Chicago Bears (2020–2022); Arizona Cardinals (2022–present)*
Nate Simpson —RB	Green Bay Packers (1977–1979)
Ahmaad Smith —DB	Mississippi MudCats (2007) Texas Copperheads (2007) Team Tennessee (2008) BC Lions (2008)* Toronto Argonauts (2010)* Iowa Barnstormers (2009–2010) Pittsburgh Power (2011–2012)*
Fletcher Smith —S	Kansas City Chiefs (1966–1967); Cincinnati Bengals (1968–1971); Jacksonville Express (1975)
Noland Smith — WR / KR	Kansas City Chiefs (1967–1969); San Francisco 49ers (1969)
Ollie Smith —WR	Baltimore Colts (1973–1974); Green Bay Packers (1976–1977)
Tony Stargell —CB	New York Jets (1990–1991); Indianapolis Colts (1992–1993); Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1994–1995); Kansas City Chiefs (1996); Chicago Bears (1997)
Joe Sweet —WR	Los Angeles Rams (1972-75)
T	
Malcolm Taylor —DE	Houston Oilers (1982–1986); Los Angeles Raiders (1987–1988); Atlanta Falcons (1989)
Larry Tharpe —T	Detroit Lions (1992–1994); Arizona Cardinals (1995); New England Patriots (1996); Detroit Lions (1997–1998); Pittsburgh Steelers (2000)
Jim Thaxton —TE / WR	San Diego Chargers (1973–1974); Cleveland Browns (1974); New Orleans Saints (1976–1977); St. Louis Cardinals (1978)
Michael “Moon” Thompson —T	Atlanta Falcons (2000–2002)
Bill Tucker —RB	San Francisco 49ers (1967–1970); Chicago Bears (1971)
W	
Charlie Wade —WR	Miami Dolphins (1973); Chicago Bears (1974) Green Bay Packers (1975); Kansas City Chiefs (1977) Super Bowl champion (VIII)
Carl Wafer —DE	New York Giants (1974); Green Bay Packers (1974)
Dwight Wheeler —T	New England Patriots (1978–1983); Los Angeles Raiders (1984); San Diego Chargers (1987); Los Angeles Raiders (1987–1988)
Javarri Williams —RB	Kansas City Chiefs (2009); Seattle Seahawks (2010)*; Houston Texans (2011–2012)*; Dallas Cowboys (2012)*; Washington Redskins (2012)*
Remond Willis —DL	Calgary Stampeders (2009)*; Milwaukee Iron (2010); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (2009, 2010–2011); Saskatchewan Roughriders (2011); Portland Thunder (2015)
Bernard Wilson —LB	Detroit Lions (1992–1993)*; Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1993–1994); Arizona Cardinals (1994–1998)
Devin Wilson —WR	Richmond Raiders (2015); Saskatchewan Roughriders (2015); Cleveland Gladiators (2016); Jacksonville Sharks (2017); Cleveland Gladiators (2017); Maine Mammoths (2018); Jacksonville Sharks (2019–2023)
Larry Woods — DT	Detroit Lions (1971–1972); Miami Dolphins (1973); New York Jets (1974–1975); Seattle Seahawks (1976)
Robert Woods — T	New York Jets (1973–1977); New Orleans Saints (1977–1980); Birmingham Stallions (1983–1984); Memphis Showboats (1985)
Will Wynn — DE	Philadelphia Eagles (1973–1976); Washington Redskins (1977)
* Offseason and/or practice squad member only	




TSU NFL & AFL DRAFT PICKS

Year	Round	Pick	Team	Player	Position
1952 NFL Draft	28	333	Detroit Lions	Hal Turner	DE
1953 NFL Draft	28t	329	Chicago Bears	Jim Caldwell	T
1961 NFL Draft	8	103	Pittsburgh Steelers	George Balthazar	OT
1964 NFL Draft	18	240	Philadelphia Eagles	Izzy Lang	RB
1965 NFL Draft	8	112	Baltimore Colts	Rosey Davis	DE
1965 NFL Draft	16	217	Washington Redskins	Bob Reed	OG
1966 NFL Draft	4	59	Detroit Lions	Willie Walker	WR
1966 NFL Draft	6	92	Chicago Bears	Frank McRae	DT
1966 NFL Draft	7	103	Detroit Lions	Johnnie Robinson	DB
1966 NFL Draft	12	185	Baltimore Colts	Jim Carer	OG
1967 NFL Draft	3	65	San Francisco 49ers	Bill Tucker	RB
1967 NFL Draft	4	87	Minnesota Vikings	Al Coleman	DB
1967 NFL Draft	6	156	Kansas City Chiefs	Noland Smith	WR
1967 NFL Draft	10	252	Los Angeles Rams	Leon Moore	DB
1967 NFL Draft	10	260	Dallas Cowboys	Eugene Bowen	RB
1967 NFL Draft	12	315	New Orleans Saints	John Robinson	WR
1967 NFL Draft	13	318	Buffalo Bills	Howard Finley	DB
1968 NFL Draft	1	3	Atlanta Falcons	Claude Humphrey	DE
1968 NFL Draft	1	25	Oakland Raiders	Eldridge Dickey	WR
1968 NFL Draft	4	108	Green Bay Packers	John Robinson	WR
1968 NFL Draft	6	141	San Francisco 49ers	Lee Johnson	WR
1968 NFL Draft	8	216	Baltimore Colts	Tommy Davis	DT
1969 NFL Draft	1	23	Kansas City Chiefs	Jim Marsalis	DB
1969 NFL Draft	3	65	Houston Oilers	Elbert Drungo	OT
1969 NFL Draft	5	129	Baltimore Colts	King Dunlap	DT
1969 NFL Draft	8	186	Pittsburgh Steelers	Joe Cooper	WR
1969 NFL Draft	11	284	Oakland Raiders	Harold Rice	DE
1969 NFL Draft	12	295	Washington Redskins	Bob Shannon	DB
1969 NFL Draft	12	313	Atlanta Falcons	Harry Carpenter	OG
1970 NFL Draft	2	36	Cleveland Browns	Joe Jones	DE
1970 NFL Draft	5	117	New York Giants	Claude Brumfield	OG
1970 NFL Draft	16	393	Miami Dolphins	Charlie Williams	OG
1971 NFL Draft	1	15	Cincinnati Bengals	Vern Holland	OT
1971 NFL Draft	4	100	Detroit Lions	Larry Woods	DT
1971 NFL Draft	6	143	San Diego Chargers	Jacob Mayes	RB
1971 NFL Draft	7	168	Green Bay Packers	Dave Davis	WR
1971 NFL Draft	8	197	Cincinnati Bengals	Fred Herring	DB
1971 NFL Draft	10	238	Oakland Raiders	Bill West	DB
1971 NFL Draft	11	264	Philadelphia Eagles	Sonny Davis	RB
1971 NFL Draft	11	273	San Diego Chargers	Don Pinson	DB
1971 NFL Draft	17	435	Los Angeles Rams	Joe Sweet	WR
1972 NFL Draft	2	45	Cleveland Browns	Cliff Brooks	DB
1972 NFL Draft	11	268	New York Jets	Robert Stevenson	LB
1972 NFL Draft	11	273	Pittsburgh Steelers	Joe Gilliam	QB
1973 NFL Draft	2	38	New York Jets	Robert Woods	OT
1973 NFL Draft	4	84	San Diego Chargers	Jim Thaxton	TE
1973 NFL Draft	4	85	Baltimore Colts	Ollie Smith	WR
1973 NFL Draft	5	113	Denver Broncos	Charles McTorry	DB
1973 NFL Draft	7	159	Philadelphia Eagles	Will Wynn	DE
1973 NFL Draft	12	305	San Francisco 49ers	Larry Pettus	OT
1973 NFL Draft	13	318	San Diego Chargers	Alfred Reese	RB
1973 NFL Draft	17	442	Miami Dolphins	Charlie Wade	WR
1974 NFL Draft	1	1	Dallas Cowboys	Too Tall Jones	DE
1974 NFL Draft	1	4	Chicago Bears	Waymond Bryant	LB
1974 NFL Draft	2	29	Minnesota Vikings	John Holland	WR
1974 NFL Draft	2	33	St. Louis Cardinals	Greg Kindle	OT
1974 NFL Draft	2	42	Denver Broncos	Carl Wafer	DE
1974 NFL Draft	13	331	Buffalo Bills	Ed Gatewood	LB
1975 NFL Draft	4	85	San Francisco 49ers	Cleveland Elam	DT
1975 NFL Draft	7	173	Dallas Cowboys	Mike Hegman	LB
1975 NFL Draft	9	218	San Francisco 49ers	James Johnson	DB
1975 NFL Draft	14	339	Miami Dolphins	James Lewis	DB




TSU NFL & AFL DRAFT PICKS

Year	Round	Pick	Team	Player	Position
1976 NFL Draft	2	49	Miami Dolphins	Loaird McCreary	TE
1976 NFL Draft	3	64	San Diego Chargers	Larry Dorsey	WR
1976 NFL Draft	4	98	Miami Dolphins	Mel Mitchell	OG
1976 NFL Draft	7	200	Miami Dolphins	John Owens	DE
1976 NFL Draft	14	385	Philadelphia Eagles	Melvin Shy	DB
1977 NFL Draft	4	102	Cleveland Browns	Oliver Davis	DB
1977 NFL Draft	5	122	Green Bay Packers	Nate Simpson	RB
1977 NFL Draft	6	145	Philadelphia Eagles	Kevin Russell	DB
1977 NFL Draft	6	151	San Diego Chargers	Larry Barnes	RB
1977 NFL Draft	11	282	Buffalo Bills	Nate Jackson	RB
1978 NFL Draft	2	29	Kansas City Chiefs	Sylvester Hicks	DE
1978 NFL Draft	2	46	Los Angeles Rams	Stan Johnson	DT
1978 NFL Draft	4	85	Kansas City Chiefs	Danny Johnson	LB
1978 NFL Draft	4	102	New England Patriots	Dwight Wheeler	C
1978 NFL Draft	4	107	Detroit Lions	Homer Elias	OG
1978 NFL Draft	5	112	Kansas City Chiefs	Jerrold McRae	WR
1978 NFL Draft	6	152	Atlanta Falcons	Rod Parker	WR
1979 NFL Draft	10	261	Cleveland Browns	John Smith	WR
1979 NFL Draft	11	276	San Francisco 49ers	Billy McBride	DB
1979 NFL Draft	11	301	Los Angeles Rams	Jesse Deramus	DT
1981 NFL Draft	12	322	San Francisco 49ers	Joe Adams	QB
1982 NFL Draft	5	121	Houston Oilers	Malcolm Taylor	DE
1982 NFL Draft	9	233	Minnesota Vikings	Bryan Howard	DB
1982 NFL Draft	12	309	Washington Redskins	Don Laster	OT
1983 NFL Draft	3	80	New England Patriots	Steve Moore	OT
1983 NFL Draft	6	159	Minnesota Vikings	Mike Jones	WR
1983 NFL Draft	6	165	Cincinnati Bengals	Larry Kinnebrew	RB
1983 NFL Draft	8	203	Chicago Bears	Richard Dent	DE
1983 NFL Draft	10	266	Minnesota Vikings	Walter Tate	C
1984 NFL Draft	5	120	Indianapolis Colts	Golden Tate	WR
1985 NFL Draft	11	289	Philadelphia Eagles	Herman Hunter	RB
1987 NFL Draft	3	75	New York Jets	Onzy Elam	LB
1987 NFL Draft	8	205	Pittsburgh Steelers	Charles Buchanan	DE
1988 NFL Draft	11	279	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Frank Pillow	WR
1990 NFL Draft	3	56	New York Jets	Tony Stargell	DB
1990 NFL Draft	3	73	Cleveland Browns	Anthony Pleasant	DE
1990 NFL Draft	11	289	San Francisco 49ers	Anthony Shelton	DB
1990 NFL Draft	11	300	Philadelphia Eagles	Tyrone Watson	WR
1992 NFL Draft	6	145	Detroit Lions	Larry Tharpe	OT
1992 NFL Draft	10	276	New Orleans Saints	Marcus Dowdell	WR
1993 NFL Draft	7	187	Houston Oilers	Patrick Robinson	WR
1994 NFL Draft	4	123	Denver Broncos	Randy Fuller	DB
1995 NFL Draft	5	150	Arizona Cardinals	Cedric Davis	DB
1996 NFL Draft	7	227	Jacksonville Jaguars	Clarence Jones	WR
1996 NFL Draft	7	245	Kansas City Chiefs	Darrell Williams	DB
2000 NFL Draft	4	100	Atlanta Falcons	Michael Thompson	OT
2000 NFL Draft	4	121	Buffalo Bills	Avion Black	WR
2008 NFL Draft	1	16	Arizona Cardinals	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	DB
2009 NFL Draft	7	212	Kansas City Chiefs	Javarris Williams	RB
2014 NFL Draft	5	143	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Kadeem Edwards	OG
2014 NFL Draft	7	250	St. Louis Rams	Demetrius Rhaney	C
2015 NFL Draft	5	176	Baltimore Ravens	Robert Myers	OG
2015 NFL Draft	7	218	Oakland Raiders	Anthony Morris	OT
2020 NFL Draft	7	227	Chicago Bears	Lachavious Simmons	OG
1947 AAFC Draft			Chicago Rockets	Bill Bass	RB
1961 AFL Draft	16	--	Boston Patriots	George Balthazar	OT
1965 AFL Draft	12	--	Houston Oilers	Bob Reed	OG
1966 AFL Draft	7	--	Oakland Raiders	Frank McRae	DT
1966 AFL Draft	8	--	Kansas City Chiefs	Fletcher Smith	DB
1966 AFL Draft	9	--	Buffalo Bills	James Carter	DE





TV/RADIO CHART — PROJECTED OFFENSIVE STARTERS



KENDRIC RHYMES

Graduate Student
Running Back
6-0 // 195
Houston, Texas
Heights
Southern

1



JONATHAN PALMER

Redshirt Freshman
Quarterback
6-3 // 210
Franklin, Tenn.
Page
Gardner-Webb

6



BROCK MONTGOMERY

Sophomore
Wide Receiver
6-2 // 198
Columbia, Tenn.
Riverdale
UConn

9



TYSON EDWARDS

Redshirt Sophomore
Wide Receiver
6-2 // 199
Nashville, Tenn.
Overton
Memphis

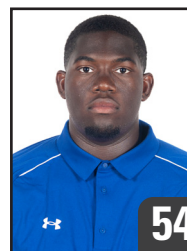
14



DEVAUGHN SLAUGHTER

Freshman
Wide Receiver
6-1 // 182
Indianapolis, Ind.
Indianapolis Cathedral

18



DARIUS NEALS

Redshirt Sophomore
Center
6-4 // 315
Ellenwood, Ga.
Cedar Grove

54



BREON BROWN

Redshirt Sophomore
Offensive Left Guard
6-4 // 295
Richmond, Va.
Varina
James Madison

55



VEGUER JEAN-JUMEAU

Sophomore
Offensive Left Tackle
6-3 // 305
Lakeland, Fla.
Lakeland
Iowa State

63



JESSE IGWE

Junior
Offensive Right Guard
6-2 // 330
Greer, S.C.
Riverside
Gardner-Webb

70



JOEL VAN-TAGOE

Junior
Offensive Right Tackle
6-6 // 310
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Oklahoma City /
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M

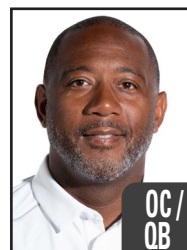
73



JASON HOATH JR.

Junior
Tight End
6-5 // 245
Pickerington, Ohio
Michigan State / Youngstown St.

89



SHANNON HARRIS

1st Season
Tennessee State '04
On Field

OC/
QB



TORIANO MORGAN

1st Season
Tennessee State '00
On Field

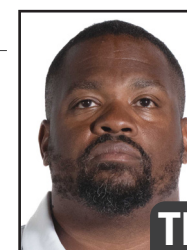
OC/
RB



RUSS EHRENFELD

1st Season
Vanderbilt '19
On Field

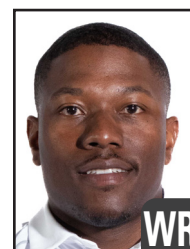
OL



EDDIE WOODS

1st Season
Tennessee State '06
On Field

TE



NICK ANDREWS

1st Season
Alabama State '12
On Field

WR



LEO RUMBAUGH

1st Season
Union College
On Field
"Soldiers to Sidelines"

CI





TV/RADIO CHART — PROJECTED DEFENSIVE STARTERS



MARLON **HUFF**

Sophomore
Defensive Tackle
6-3 // 280
Delray Beach, Fla.
Atlantic

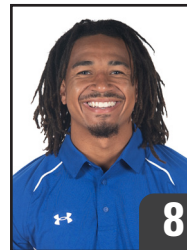
4



JAMES **STEWART**

Redshirt Senior
BUCK
6-3 // 274
Antioch, Tenn.
Bewntwood Academy
Memphis / MTSU

7



BRANDAN **HALE**

Redshirt Junior
Defensive Back
6-1 // 185
Orange, Calif.
Orange Lutheran
Southern Utah

8



SYNCERE **SAFEULLAH**

Sophomore
Defensive Back
6-3 // 180
Nashville, Tenn.
Hillsboro / IMG
Nebraska

10



RAVON **JOHNSON**

Junior
Defensive End
6-4 // 245
Grayson, Ga.
Grayson
Alabama A&M

19



JAYDEN **COOK**

Redshirt Sophomore
Defensive Back
6-0 // 190
Frankfort, Ill.
Lincoln-Way East
Kansas State

21



SAMMY **TAYLOR**

Redshirt Sophomore
WILL
6-2 // 225
Nashville, Tenn.
Ensworth

25



BYRON **DAVIS**

Junior
Defensive Back
6-1 // 185
Nashville, Tenn.
Cane Ridge
Kentucky Wesleyan

27



KAIKI **BARBER**

Redshirt Freshman
Defensive Back
6-3 // 210
Nashville, Tenn.
Hillsboro

28



MATTHEW **WILSON**

Redshirt Freshman
MIKE
6-2 // 235
Tampa, Fla.
Middleton

47



LATHUN **SNIPES**

Graduate Student
Nose Tackle
6-1 // 290
Elk Grove, Calif.
Monterey Trail
Butte College

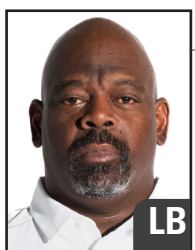
99



GREGG **WILLIAMS**

1st Season
Northeast Missouri State
On Field

DC



CEDRIC **THORNTON**

1st Season
Alabama State '95
On Field

LB



DEION **HARRIS**

1st Season
Virginia State '20
On Field

DB



JEROD **KRUSE**

1st Season
Emporia State '00
On Field

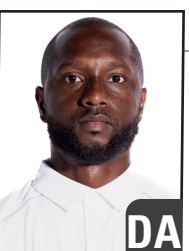
DL



DEXTER **JACKSON**

1st Season
Florida State '98
On Field

S



JUSTIN **HANNAH**

1st Season
Tuskegee '10
On Field

DA



RYAN **CONWAY**

1st Season
Virginia
On Field

CI





TV/RADIO CHART — PROJECTED SPECIAL TEAMS STARTERS



JAYDEN GUY

Freshman
Punt Returner
6-0 // 175
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Blackman

0



KENDRIC RHYMES

Graduate Student
Kick Returner
6-0 // 195
Houston, Texas
Heights
Southern

1



FREDDY PEREZ

Sophomore
Kicker
6-3 // 190
Carrollton, Ga.
Carrollton
Georgia Military College

4



DEVON STARLING

Graduate Student
Kick Returner
6-1 // 210
Nashville, Tenn.
Cane Ridge
Memphis / TSU /
Northern Arizona

5



MARK SHENOUDA

Redshirt Sophomore
Punter
6-2 // 190
Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
Mt. Juliet
Memphis

15



ANTHONY TAYLOR

Freshman
Punt Returner
5-9 // 170
San Diego, Calif.
Cathedral Catholic

22



ROMAN MATHIS

Freshman
Kicker / Punter
6-4 // 185
Joelton, Tenn.
Davidson Academy

39



KYLE HICKS

Redshirt Freshman
Long Snapper
6-3 // 235
Nashville, Tenn.
Hillsboro

43



JEROD KRUSE

1st Season
Emporia State '00
On Field

ST

