



## 2009 UAB Blazers



### 29 Terrell Springs

Cornerback  
5-9 • 180  
Sophomore  
Chester, S.C.  
(Chester HS)

One of UAB's top young defensive backs, the future appears bright for this South Carolina native ... listed as No. 1 cornerback going into fall preseason practice.

**2008:** Saw action in 10 games as a true freshman, starting seven during the season ... was starter at cornerback in final six contests ... sat out only the first two games of the season ... was team's eighth-leading tackler with 32 stops, including 20 solo tackles ... recorded a season-best six tackles on three occasions (vs. Tennessee, Houston and Southern Miss) ... also had five stops against Marshall ... registered four pass breakups during year ... picked up a fumble after a Chase Daniel 34-yard interception return and added 18 more yards with his own return.



**High School:** Attended Chester High School where he was standout performer and four-year starter ... listed among top defensive prospects in South Carolina ... has superb speed ... played in SCADA North-South All-Star Game ... ranked as No. 73 cornerback in the country by Rivals.com ... tabbed all-state, all-region and all-area by various publications ... *The State* (Columbia, S.C.) newspaper named Springs honorable mention all-state ... defensively as senior, he had 58 tackles with 20 pass breakups and four interceptions ... also had nine receptions for 171 yards and three touchdowns with 38 rushing attempts for 369 yards (9.7 per rush) and six TDs ... averaged 31.4 on kickoff returns as senior ... was coached by Victor Floyd ... also enjoyed great success as member of Cyclones' track team ... won region championship in 100 meters and finished third in the state ... also anchored Chester's 4x100-meter relay to state title ... also a member of wrestling team ... graduated with honors at Chester.

**Personal:** Born Dec. 26, 1989 at Chester, S.C. ... son of Tynette Thompson and Terry Springs ... was high school teammate of current Blazer Marquis Coleman who came to UAB a year earlier ... major is undeclared.

### Springs' Career Statistics

	G	UA	A	Tot	TFL	Yds	Sks	Yds	Int	Yds	PBU
2008	10	20	12	32	0	0	0	0	0	18	4



### 42 Ferson Stafford

Safety  
5-9 • 170  
Sophomore  
Phenix City, Ala.  
(Central HS)

Provides additional depth for Blazer secondary.

**2008:** Did not see any action for the Blazers.

**2007:** Did not see any action.

**High School:** Attended Central High ... earned all-region honors on two occasions ... started for the South team in North-South All-Star Game as a senior ... recorded 53 tackles as a senior ... as a junior, he registered 34 tackles, six interceptions and a blocked field goal ... also participated on basketball and track and field teams.

**Personal:** Born May 23, 1989 at Phenix City, Ala. ... son of Angelia Stafford and Ferson Lake ... major is psychology.



### 73 Caleb Thomas

Center  
6-3 • 290  
Sophomore  
Decatur, Ala.  
(Decatur HS)

Saw early action in 2007 but injury cut season short ... has come back and played reserve role on offensive line last season ... listed as No. 2 center coming out of spring practice behind all-conference center Jake Seitz.

**2008:** Played backup role on offensive line for the Blazers in his redshirt freshman season.

**2007:** Saw early action with start in season opener at right guard in contest at Michigan State ... season cut short by injury and was given medical redshirt.

**High School:** Attended Decatur High School ... was tabbed as a *Birmingham News* Super Seniors Class of 2007 Best of the Rest selection ... named to *The Daily* all-area team and was tabbed honorable mention all-state as a senior ... his Decatur HS Red Raiders team posted a combined record of 23-10 in his three seasons as a starter ... three-time all-region selection ... was a Wendy's Heisman representative ... voted team captain for his senior year by his teammates ... played in North-South All-State Game (at Troy) as a junior ... also played in Alabama-Mississippi Football Classic ... member of 2007 Prepsports.com All-Southeast Region Team ... nominated for Huntsville Channel 19 Sports Player of the Year award ... was a member of the National Honor Society ... coached by Jere Adcock.

**Personal:** Born May 16, 1988 at Decatur, Ala. ... son of Canitha and Tim Thomas ... father was a four-year basketball letterwinner at Ole Miss from 1979-82 and was a part of Rebels' only SEC championship team ... major is mass communications.



### 24 Cameron Thompson

Wide Receiver  
6-6 • 190  
Junior  
Little Rock, Ark.  
(J.A. Fair HS)

Provides depth at receiver position.

**2008:** Played in one game (vs. Alabama State) during season.

**2007:** Did not see any action.



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**High School:** Attended J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock ... was a two-time letterman in football and lettered three times in basketball ... helped basketball team earn berth in state playoffs ... football coach was Donald Harris.

**Personal:** Born March 24, 1989 at Little Rock, Ark. ... son of Chana and Bobby Ray Thompson ... major is industrial distribution.



### 63 Willie Thompson

Offensive Tackle  
6-6 • 295  
Senior  
Louisville, Ga.  
(Jefferson County HS)

Has excellent size and is expected to play larger role this season as he enters his final year with the Blazers ... saw his first action of career in 2006 for the Blazers ... was redshirted in 2005 as a true freshman ... listed No. 2 at left tackle on post-spring depth chart.

**2008:** Played in 10 games and started the first six games of the season at left tackle.

**2007:** Saw reserve duty on offensive front for the Blazers with three starts at midseason (vs. Mississippi State, Tulane and Houston).

**2006:** Saw limited action during the season ... made one start (vs. SMU).

**2005:** Did not see any action and was redshirted.

**High School:** Attended Jefferson County High School ... was a highly-regarded lineman prospect from the state of Georgia coming out of high school ... has physical tools to be outstanding college performer ... as a senior, was named first-team Class AAA all-state by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution at conclusion of 2004 season ... voted his team's best offensive lineman his junior and senior seasons ... was selected to participate in the 2004 North-South All-Star game ... helped Jefferson County advance to Class AAA state play-offs and earn 7-4 record in 2004 ... also tabbed all-region as senior ... coached by J.B. Arnold.

**Personal:** Born March 9, 1987 ... son of Patricia and Willie Thompson ... major is psychology.



### 94 Bryant Turner

Defensive End  
6-2 • 260  
Junior  
Daphne, Ala.  
(Daphne HS)

Redshirted in 2006 as a true freshman, Bryant played significant role on Blazer defense last two seasons ... listed No. 1 at defensive end entering fall practice ... has started 18 games over the last two seasons and has 15 tackles for loss.

**2008:** Played in all 12 contests and started final nine of the season at defensive end position ... finished the season with 20 total tackles, including 15 solo hits ... recorded four tackles against South Carolina with three sacks and another tackle for loss against the Gamecocks ... registered seven tackles for loss ... recorded three tackles against Tennessee, Memphis and Southern Miss ... had a sack (-9 yards) vs. the Volunteers ... forced fumbles in back-to-back games (vs. Alabama State and South Carolina) ... also had a quarterback hurry against Florida Atlantic

**2007:** Saw action in all 12 games for the Blazers, starting nine contests ... ranked 12th on the



Bryant Turner

team in tackles with 31, including 16 solo hits ... recorded eight tackles for loss (for 25 yards) ... also had one sack (6 yards vs. Alcorn State) ... recorded six tackles against Mississippi State and Houston.

**2006:** Did not see any action during the fall and was redshirted.

**High School:** Attended Daphne High School ... named honorable mention all-state in Class 6A as a defensive lineman by the Alabama Sports Writers Association ... helped lead Daphne to a 13-2 record and advancement to the 6A state championship game ... a two-year starter at defensive end at Daphne ... totaled 65 tackles during his senior season including two caused fumbles, three fumble recoveries and an interception ... led the team with 15 sacks from the end position ... also contributed 11 tackles for loss ... earned all-county as a sophomore, junior and senior ... as a junior, Turner had 66 tackles, nine sacks and three forced fumbles ... was captain of team as senior ... was coached by Glenn Vickery ... also competed in shot put for the Daphne HS track and field team and finished second in 6A state meet in the event as a senior.

**Personal:** Born Nov. 25, 1987 at Mobile, Ala. ... son of Veronica and Bryant Turner ... major is physical education.

### Turner's Career Statistics

	G	UA	A	Tot	TFL	Yds	Sks	Yds	PBU	FF
2007	12	16	15	31	8	25	1	6	2	0
2008	12	15	5	20	7	31	4	25	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>



### 81 Joseph Waller

Tight End  
6-4 • 290  
Junior  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(Huntsville HS)

Was redshirted in 2006 as a true freshman but saw his first collegiate action in 2007 ... entered 2008 campaign as offensive guard, but was moved to tight end position during season.

**2008:** Saw action in 10 games, nine of those coming after he was switched to tight end ... was used as blocker primarily on extra points and field goals.

**2007:** Saw limited action for the Blazers, seeing playing time in four games during the season.

**2006:** Did not see any action as a true freshman and was redshirted.

**High School:** Attended Huntsville High



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School ... named to the Alabama Sports Writers Association All-State team as a 5A offensive lineman at Huntsville High School ... named to *The Birmingham News* and *The Huntsville Times* Super All-Metro team ... led Panthers to the 5A state playoffs ... finished senior season with a 7-5 record ... was coached by Kevin Wieseman.

**Personal:** Born Oct. 28, 1987 at Huntsville, Ala. ... son of Becky and Lane Waller ... major is communications management.



### 35 Lamanski Ware

Linebacker  
6-2 • 225  
Sophomore  
Lanett, Ala.  
(Lanett HS)

Set to play his second season for the Blazers after a good true freshman campaign ... listed as No. 2 "will" linebacker heading into preseason practice.

**2008:** Played in 11 games for the Blazers as a true freshman ... started five consecutive games at midseason ... finished season with 23 total tackles to rank No. 13 on the team ... had one tackle for loss (vs. South Carolina) and also recorded one interception (vs. Tulane) ... registered a season-high four tackles against both South Carolina and Memphis.

**High School:** Attended Lanett High School where he enjoyed outstanding career... was named first-team all-state by Alabama Sports Writers Association as a junior and senior, earning the honor as a tight end his junior season and as a linebacker as a senior ... named area Player-of-the-Year by the *Valley Times-News* and a three-year member of the publication's all-area team ... coached by Ronnie Sikes at Lanett ... as a senior he had 96 total tackles with four caused fumbles, four fumbles recovered, three sacks, eight tackles for loss and one interception ... also had four blocked punts during the season ... on the offensive side, he had 28 receptions for 461 yards and four touchdowns as a senior ... Wendy's Heisman nominee ... helped lead Lanett to first undefeated regular season for school since 1976 ... team reached state 2-A quarterfinals, losing to eventual state champion Leroy in overtime ... in earning all-state honors as a junior he had 32 receptions for 441 yards and two touchdowns on offense with 84 tackles, four caused fumbles, five

Lamanski Ware



fumble recoveries, one interception and one blocked punt ... missed three games his junior season due to injury ... was school's nominee for Heisman Award his senior year ... a four-year starter for Lanett ... also participated on basketball team.

**Personal:** Born March 13, 1990 at Lanett, Ala. ... son of Marschelle Trammell and Bernard Ware ... major is undeclared.

### Ware's Career Statistics

	G	UA	A	Tot	TFL	Yds	Sk	Yds	INT	Yds	FF
2008	11	14	9	23	1	0	0	0	1	27	1



### 57 Jarrell Watters

Linebacker  
6-0 • 225  
Sophomore  
Thomasville, Ala.  
(Thomasville HS)

Coming off true freshman season when injuries cut his campaign short,

**2008:** Saw action in three games as true freshman before injuries cut his season short

... finished fall with eight tackles, including one tackle for loss ... also contributed one pass breakup.

**High School:** Attended Thomasville High School ... was early commitment to UAB in August of 2007... tabbed first-team all state by the Alabama Sports Writers Association in the Class 4A division ... named as a second-team selection to the Southwest Alabama All-Region Football team by the Mobile Press Register... led the defense with 107 tackles and two fumble recoveries ... his team had a record of 11-3 overall and went 10-2 in their division in 2007... helped his team to a runner-up finish in the 2006 state championship and to the semifinals in 2007... was a part of a defense that only allowed 16.2 ppg in 2007... recorded 128 tackles in 13 games played as a junior in 2006 ... coached by Jack Hankins.

**Personal:** Born Aug. 12, 1990 at Thomasville, Ala. ... son of Judy Watters and Mike Pritchett ... twin brother of Blazer teammate Kattrell Watters ... major is undeclared.

### J. Watters' Career Statistics

	G	UA	A	Tot	TFL	Yds	Sk	Yds	INT	Yds	FF
2008	3	7	1	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0



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### 58 Katrell Watters

Linebacker  
6-0 • 230  
Sophomore  
Thomasville, Ala.  
(Thomasville HS)

Saw his first collegiate action last season as a true freshman ... listed No. 2 on the depth chart at "mike" linebacker entering fall practice.

**2008:** Saw action in five games for the Blazers as a true freshman ... finished season with 15 tackles, including a tackle for loss and a sack ... registered a season-best six tackles against Memphis and recorded five against South Carolina.

**High School:** Attended Thomasville High ... was an early commitment to UAB in August of 2007... was selected by the Alabama Sports Writers Association as a finalist in 2007 for Mr. Football in Alabama Class 4A lineman category ... tabbed first-team all-state by the ASWA in 2006 and 2007 in the 4A division ... named as a second team selection to the Southwest Alabama All-Region Football team by the *Mobile Press Register* ... recorded 105 tackles, two and a half sacks, three fumble recoveries and one interception in 2007... his team had a record of 11-3 overall and went 10-2 in their division in 2007... helped his team to a runner-up finish in the 2006 state championships and to the semifinals in 2007... was a part of a defense that only allowed 16.2 ppg in 2007... recorded 150 tackles in 15 games played as a junior in 2006 ... coached by Jack Hankins ... son of Judy Watters and Mike Pritchett.

**Personal:** Born Aug. 12, 1990 at Thomasville, Ala. ... son of Judy Watters and Mike Pritchett ... twin brother, Jarrell, is also member of UAB team ... major is undeclared.

#### K. Watters' Career Statistics

	G	UA	A	Tot	TFL	Yds	Sk	Yds	INT	Yds	FF
2008	5	7	8	15	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	0	0



### 5 Joe Webb

Quarterback  
6-4 • 220  
Senior  
Birmingham, Ala.  
(Wenonah HS)

Coming off outstanding season, his first as the

Blazers' full-time quarterback ... one of the best dual-threat signal-callers in the country, Webb passed for more than 2,000 yards and ran for more than a 1,000 in 2008 ... is one of only two returning quarterbacks in the country who passed for more than 2,000 yards and ran for more than 1,000 (other is Nevada's Colin Kaepernick) ... was named in July as a preseason candidate for 2009 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award ... had only started one game at quarterback collegiately prior to last season ... has connected on 58.7 percent of his passes during his career ... excellent size and arm strength ... expected to be one of the top quarterbacks in Conference USA this coming season.

**2008:** First full season as UAB's quarterback, starting all 12 contests ... finished the season ranked No. 15 nationally in total offense (282.3 avg.) ... passed for 2,367 yards and rushed for 1,021 ... ranked No. 48 in the country and sixth in C-USA in rushing (85.1 avg.) ... shattered the C-USA record for rushing yards by a quarterback in a single season with his 1,021 ... ranked fourth in the nation for rushing yards among QBs ... accounted for 21 touchdowns, rushing for 11 and passing 10 ... connected on 59 percent of his passes ... passed for more than 200 yards in six games ... season rushing total of 1,021 is only the second 1,000-plus performance in school history for a single

season ... passing total for yards is UAB's fifth-highest in school history ... rushed for more than 100 yards in four games ... established career-high for passing yards in a game with 326 against Florida Atlantic ... also set personal single-game high for rushing with 135 yards versus Marshall ... had a long run of 41 against Alabama State ... voted a permanent season team captain by his Blazer teammates at the end of the season ... had two punts during the season, averaging 44.5 yards per kick ... had long punt of 52 yards vs. Memphis.

**2007:** Saw extensive action on the field for the Blazers but most of it until late in the season came at wide receiver ... saw quarterback playing



Joe Webb



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time in seven contests ... was 43-of-71 passing in the final three games ... saw significant QB action in season finale at Marshall, hitting 14-of-26 for 200 yards with 1 TD pass) ... made nine starts overall in 2007 ... was 14-of-20 for 112 yards vs. Memphis in next-to-last game ... against UCF, he hit 15-of-25 passes for 156 yards with three touchdowns and one interception ... also was productive in action at receiver as he finished with 30 receptions for 459 yards with three touchdown catches ... recorded three games with six receptions ... season-high was 106-yard performance (and one touchdown) vs. Tulane ... had six catches for 98 yards and a touchdown in season-opener at Michigan State ... registered 288 rushing yards with one rushing touchdown ... had season-high of 81 yards on 18 rushing attempts.

**2006:** His first action of the season did not come until the 11th game at Southern Miss, but he made the most of his opportunity in his final two contests (both road games) ... started season finale at UCF and hit 25-of-39 passes for 289 yards in that contest ... connected on 33-of-51 passes (64.7 percent) for 426 yards with one touchdown pass for the season ... had quarterback rating of 141.3 in his limited action ... also rushed for 38 yards in two games ... came off the bench against Southern Miss and hit 8-of-12 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown ... his touchdown was a 19-yarder to Sylvester Mencer ... his 289-yard performance at UCF was a season-high for any Blazer quarterback ... had a long rush of 36 yards in Southern Miss game.

**2005:** Did not see any action during his true freshman season and was redshirted ... named to Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.

**High School:** Attended Wenonah High School ... was named honorable mention Class 5A all-state by *The Birmingham News* ... coached by Ronald Cheatham ... threw for more than 2,000 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior ... played with a broken left wrist to complete 14 of 24 passes for four touchdowns in one game ... set single-game record for Birmingham city schools ... led Wenonah to the first round of state play-offs...team finished third in its region ... set school record at Wenonah with a 415-yard passing performance with four touchdown passes ... served as team captain his senior season ... was selected his team Most Valuable Player ... also participated in basketball and baseball during prep career ... was member of National Honor Society.

**Personal:** Born Nov. 14, 1986 at Birmingham, Ala. ... son of Wanda and Joseph Webb (divorced) ... major is criminal justice.

Passing	G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int	LG	Avg/G	Eff.
2006	2	51	33	426	.647	1	0	39	213.0	141.3
2007	11	117	65	679	.556	5	1	31	61.7	116.7
2008	12	353	208	2367	.589	10	16	43	197.2	115.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>3472</b>	<b>.587</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>138.9</b>	<b>118.5</b>

Rushing	G	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2006	2	24	38	1.6	1	36
2007	11	67	288	4.3	1	23
2008	12	198	1021	5.2	11	41
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41</b>

Receiving	G	Rec	Yds	TD	Avg	LG
2006	2	0	0	0	0.0	0
2007	11	30	459	3	15.3	33
2008	12	0	0	0	0.0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>33</b>



### 92 Justin Wells

Defensive Tackle

6-4 • 280

Junior

Madison, Ala.

(Highland, Kan.. CC)

An early enrollee for the Blazers, Wells signed in December and entered UAB in January, 2009 ... one of seven UAB signees to enroll in January, 2009 ... joined the Blazers after spending two seasons at Highland (Kan.) Community College.

**Junior College:** Attended Highland Community College in Kansas ... finished 2008 season with 47 tackles in nine games, tying for third-best among Highland defenders ... had 27 solo hits and 20 assists ... tied for best on team in tackles for loss during season with 9.5 (-28 yards) ... also had 3.5 sacks (-21 yards) ... caused a pair of fumbles and blocked two kicks ... named second-team All-Jayhawk Conference following 2008 season ... attended Itawamba Junior College for 2007 season and recorded 47 total tackles (38 solos/9 assists) ... registered 14 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks ... also contributed one caused fumble ... helped lead Itawamba to 7-3 record, North Division MACJC title and No. 20 NJCAA final ranking.

**High School:** Attended Bob Jones High School ... helped team to unbeaten record as a freshman ... was named all-metro as a junior and senior ... coached by Shannon Brown ... also played basketball at Bob Jones as a senior ... was a three-year football starter.

**Personal:** Born Oct. 27, 1986 in Lansing, Mich. ... son of Sonja Andrews ... major is mass communications.



### 34 Daniel White

Linebacker

6-2 • 235

Freshman

Apopka, Fla.

(Hargrave Military

Institute)

Originally signed with UAB in February, 2008 but attended Hargrave Military Institute in Chatham, Va. last fall ... after signing again with the Blazers, White was an enrollee in January and participated in spring practice, 2009 ... will be looking to fill a void at position that has been thin for UAB the past couple seasons ... had productive spring and is listed No. 1 at "mike" linebacker position.

**High School:** Attended Hargrave Military Institute last year ... ranked as No. 43 "prep school" prospect on Rivals.com 2009 rankings ... attended Apopka High School where he played linebacker ... was a three-year starter for the Blue Darts ... recorded 60 tackles and one interception his senior season ... helped his team record a 12-2 record and reach the Florida Class 6A State semifinals his senior season ... was selected to play in the Central Florida All-Star Game and was named the game's defensive MVP ... was a member of a defense his senior season that held opponents to an average of 13.4 points per game ... his junior season the Blue Darts went 9-3, and 5-0 in conference ... coached by Rick Darlington ... former teammate at Apopka of current Blazer Tim Davis.

**Personal:** Born March 15, 1990 at Orlando, Fla. ... son of Lesa and Fred White ... major is undeclared.



### 33 Darrion Wilson

Linebacker

6-3 • 225

Junior

Crawfordville, Fla.

(Jones County,

Miss. JC)

Another of the December JUCO signees for the Blazers, Wilson enrolled at UAB in January ... is listed as No. 2 "sam" linebacker entering fall preseason practice.

**Junior College:** Was a standout performer last two seasons at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Miss. ... named first-team

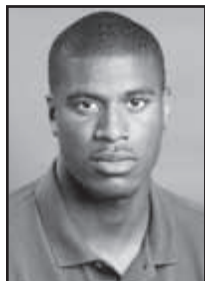


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All-MACJC South Division in 2008 ... ranked as No. 45 JUCO prospect in the country by Rivals.com ... played in eight games last fall and recorded 33 tackles (20 solos/13 assists) ... also registered four sacks for -22 yards ... returned an interception 18 yards for a touchdown against Pearl River ... helped lead JCJC to a 17-4 record in two seasons, including 8-2 mark in 2008 ... Bobcats finished 2008 season ranked No. 14 nationally after a No. 5 final ranking in 2007 ... selected as one of the team captains by his teammates for 2008 ... after '08 season, he was presented the Bobcat Award which is given to an athlete at Jones County who typifies leadership, dedication, hard work and commitment to excellence ... in 2007, he totaled 61 tackles (42 solos) and recorded three sacks ... also had a 38-yard interception return for a touchdown ... coached by Eddie Pierce at JCJC.

**High School:** Attended Wakulla High School in Crawfordville, Fla. ... earned Class 3A honorable mention all-state recognition as a prep senior by the Florida Sports Writers Association ... received school's "Best Linebacker" award for 2005-06 and 2006-07 ... also participated in basketball and track while at Wakulla ... coached by Scott Klees.

**Personal:** Born Jan. 6, 1989 at Tallahassee, Fla. ... son of Theresa Harley and Jimmie Wilson Jr. ... major is communications management.



### 11 Mario Wright

Wide Receiver  
6-5 • 210  
Junior  
Birmingham, Ala.  
(Minor HS)

Made an immediate impact among Blazers' receiving corps in 2007 and will be counted on more heavily again in 2009 ... a tall, rangy wideout who makes it difficult for undersized defensive backs.

**2008:** Coming off season in which he played in all 12 games and started 11 ... finished year with 20 receptions for 243 yards and one touchdown ... caught 12-yard touchdown pass against Southern Miss ... best game of season arguably came in Blazers' win vs. Marshall as he caught four passes for 60 yards ... had long reception of 38 yards vs. Marshall ... recorded three catches against Tulsa (46 yards) and Tulane (23 yards) ... had at least two receptions in seven different games last season.



Mario Wright

**2007:** Saw action in 10 games and started seven for the Blazers, including the final three of the season ... ranked third on the team in receptions with 27 (for 272 yards and four touchdowns) ... touchdown total was second on team ... became even more of a factor down the stretch, catching 13 passes for 138 yards and three touchdowns in final three games ... in season finale at Marshall, Wright had five receptions for 47 yards with a pair of touchdowns for 11 and 10 yards ... also had five catches against Memphis (57 yards) and Tulsa (51 yards) ... in addition to two TD receptions against Marshall, he also had scoring catches against Tulsa and UCF ... scored 14 points vs. the Thundering Herd as he also caught a two-point conversion pass from QB Sam Hunt ... his long reception (28 yards) came in season opener at Michigan State.

**High School:** A two-sport standout at Minor High School, he lettered in both football and

basketball for the Tigers ... played football just one season in high school, becoming a speedy offensive weapon at wide receiver for head coach Tony Lunceford as a senior ... had 36 receptions for 641 yards and eight trips to the endzone in 2006 ... helped his squad to a 6-6 season record, advancing to the 6A playoffs before falling to Pelham, 31-24, in the second round ... the Tigers finished the year ranked 15th overall in the state rankings ... hails from the same high school as current UAB running back Rashaud Slaughter.

**Personal:** Born May 6, 1989 at Birmingham, Ala. ... son of Mary and Earnest Wright ... major is communications management.

#### Wright's Career Statistics

	G	Rec	Yds	TD	Avg/C	LG
2007	10	27	272	4	10.1	28
2008	12	20	243	1	12.2	38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>38</b>



## 2009 Blazer Newcomers

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School or JC)
*Nick Adams	WR	6-2	195	Walterboro, S.C. (Ft. Scott, Kan., CC)
*Hiram Atwater	SAF	6-0	200	Decatur, Ga. (Garden City, Kan., CC)
Patrick Bastien	LB	6-3	200	Immokalee, Fla. (Immokalee HS)
Blake Bennett	OL	6-3	265	Buford, Ga. (Buford HS)
*Daniel Borne	RB	5-11	205	Avondale, La. (Jones County, Miss., JC)
Marvin Burdette	LB	5-11	225	Batesville, Miss. (South Panola HS)
Patrick Hearn	WR	6-1	180	Quitman, Miss. (Quitman HS)
Chris Hubbard	OL	6-3	240	Columbus, Ga. (Carver HS)
Kaycee Ike	OL	6-5	245	Lawrenceville, Ga. (Central Gwinnett HS)
Greg Irvin	LB	5-10	195	Demopolis, Ala. (Demopolis HS)
Caleb Lester	CB	5-10	170	Atlanta, Ga. (Douglass HS)
Jordan Longoria	TE	6-5	200	Atlanta, Ga. (St. Pius X HS)
Elliott McGaskin	SAF	6-1	200	Mobile, Ala. (Jones County, Miss., JC)
Freddie Moore	WR	6-3	190	Decatur, Ala. (Austin HS)
Jonathan Perry	QB	6-2	195	Baltimore, Md. (Dunbar HS)
Ed Pruitt	TE	6-3	230	Theodore, Ala. (Theodore HS)
Cornelius Richards	CB	6-1	175	Northport, Ala. (Tuscaloosa County HS)
*Derek Slaughter	DE	6-2	245	Jonesboro, Ga. (Coffeyville, Kan. CC)
*Justin Wells	DT	6-4	285	Madison, Ala. (Highland, Kan., CC)
*Daniel White	LB	6-2	230	Apopka, Fla. (Hargrave Military)
A.J. Wilson	SAF	6-0	180	Marshall, Texas (Trinity Valley, Texas CC)
*Darrion Wilson	LB	6-3	220	Crawfordville, Fla. (Jones County, Miss., JC)
Josh Zahn	K	6-0	190	Gilbert, Ariz. (Highland HS)

\*Early enrollee (bio can be found on pages 56-80)



## 2009 Newcomer Bios

NOTE: Bios for early enrollees can be found among returning player bios on pages 56-80.

### **Patrick Bastien, LB**

6-3, 200

Immokalee, Fla. (Immokalee HS)

Played tight end and defensive end under head coach Israel Gallegos at Immokalee High School ... is expected to make the transition to defensive end at UAB ... selected to the Collier County High School All-Star team ... lone touchdown reception last season came on a 17-yard catch in a 29-6 win over Golden Gate High School ... chose UAB over Florida Atlantic ... was the only player on his team to receive a scholarship to a Football Subdivision team ... excellent student who plans to major in chemistry.

### **Blake Bennett, OL**

6-3, 265

Buford, Ga. (Buford HS)

Will come to UAB from tradition-rich Class AA Buford High School in Georgia ... helped the Wolves to a 30-0 record and back-to-back state championships the past two years ... Buford has gone 54-2 over the previous four years and won four of the past eight Class AA state titles ... was moved to center from tight end for senior season to bolster Buford O-line ... invited to Hodges Lineman Camp last year and was selected a "2008 Top Lineman" ... had a blocking grade of over 90 percent as a senior ... coached by Jess Simpson at Buford ... led team in "knockdown" blocks in 2008.

### **Marvin Burdette, LB**

5-11, 225

Batesville, Miss. (South Panola HS)

Noted for his strong run-stopping ability ... played at Mississippi's South Panola High School, one of the nation's premier high school programs, for head coach Lance Pogue ... was a three-year starter at linebacker for a South Panola program that had an 89-game winning streak snapped in the 2008 state championship game ... helped the Tigers to undefeated seasons and state titles in 2006 and 2007 along with a *USA Today* national ranking of No. 9 in 2007 ... named first-team all-state by the *Clarion-Ledger* in 2008 after tallying more than 100 tackles as a senior ... also selected to the 2008 MaxPreps All-State Team for Mississippi ... chosen to play in the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star Game ... made 91 tackles with seven sacks as a junior in 2007 on his way to second-team Class 5A All-State honors from MAC/MagnoliaPreps.com ... carried a 3.7 GPA into his senior year at South Panola ... also ran the 200 meters on high school track team.

### **Patrick Hearn, WR**

6-1, 180

Quitman, Miss. (Quitman HS)

A late addition for the Blazers, Hearn signed with UAB in late May ... attended Quitman (Miss.) High School ... caught 65 passes for 930 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior last fall ... in 2008, he helped lead his team to a 10-2 record and a second-round finish in the Mississippi 4A state playoffs ... had three games during the season with more than 100 receiving yards, his best being a 122-yard performance against Wayne County when he also caught a season-high nine passes with two going for touchdowns ... chosen by the coaches as the Receiver MVP for Region 5-4A ... also rushed five times for 53 yards with one touchdown (45-yarder vs. South Jones HS) ... also saw action on defense in the secondary in 2008 and recorded four interceptions, one for a touchdown.

### **Chris Hubbard, OL**

6-5, 240

Columbus, Ga. (Carver HS)

A strong and agile offensive lineman who played under head coach Dell McGee ... rated as the No. 51 offensive lineman in the country and No. 62 on Georgia's top 75 players in the 2009 class ... rated as No. 21 OG prospect by Scout.com ... played left tackle during his junior and senior year for Carver teams that went 26-3 and won the 2007 Georgia High School Association Class AAA state championship ... recorded 77 pancake blocks and was selected to the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* All-City team and the Associated Press Class AAA first-team All-State squad ... chosen to compete in the annual Offense/Defense All-American game in Myrtle Beach, S.C. which features some of the top young talent in the nation ... has been timed with a 4.6 in the forty and bench presses 350 pounds and squats 395 pounds.

### **Kaycee Ike, OL**

6-5, 245

Lawrenceville, Ga. (Central Gwinnett HS)

Played for head coach Ed Stokes at Central Gwinnett ... graded out at 93 percent blocking as a senior in 2008 ... totaled 18 pancake blocks and allowed just one sack for the season ... named all-county honorable mention by the Touchdown Club of Gwinnett ... selected to play in the Rivalries of Gwinnett All-Star Football Game.



## 2009 Newcomer Bios

### **Greg Irvin, LB**

5-10, 195

Demopolis, Ala. (Demopolis HS)

Played for head coach Tom Causey at Demopolis High ... selected to the Class 5A All-State Team by the Alabama Sports Writers Association following his senior season in 2008 ... managed 87 total tackles with four sacks and three fumble recoveries ... named his team's defensive MVP ... selected Demopolis Times Player of the Week after returning two interceptions for touchdowns in a game against Wilcox-Central ... set a season-high with 15 tackles in a game against Selma ... helped Demopolis to an 8-5 record in 2008.

### **Caleb Lester, CB**

5-10, 170

Atlanta, Ga. (Douglass HS)

Played cornerback for head coach Ken Barrow at Frederick Douglass High School ... placed on the Atlanta Journal Constitution's The Georgia 150 list as one of the top high school recruits in the state ... had three interceptions returned for 25 yards, while also recording 28 tackles, including two tackles for loss, as a senior... also named to the 2-5A All-Region team and Score Prep's All-Fulton County team in 2008 ... was honored as the Region 2-5A Defensive Player of the Week after helping the Astros to a 27-16 victory over Washington on Sept. 12, 2008 ... attended same high school that former UAB quarterback Darrell Hackney attended.

### **Jordan Longoria, TE**

6-5, 200

Atlanta, Ga. (St. Pius X HS)

Was a late addition to recruiting class, signing with the Blazers in late March ... attended St. Pius X Catholic High School in Atlanta ... grew six inches and added 30 pounds between his junior and senior seasons ... saw action at tight end for St. Pius his senior season ... best game came against Cartersville as he caught three passes for 34 yards ... selected to participate in the DeKalb County Football Coaches Association All-Star Game ... helped lead his team to 9-2 finish and berth in the state class AAA playoffs ... brother Jacob plays football at Furman ... also participated in track and field for the Golden Lions.

### **Elliott McGaskin, SAF**

6-1, 200

Mobile, Ala. (Jones County, Miss., JC)

A two-year standout on the defense at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Miss. ... as a sophomore last fall, he registered 50 tackles (39 solos/11 assists) ... also had three interceptions for 63 yards with one returned for a touchdown ... contributed five tackles for loss and one caused fumble ... was named first-team All-MACJC South Division ... helped lead

JCJC to 7-2 record in 2008 and No. 14 NJCAA national ranking ... as a sophomore in 2007, he recorded 56 tackles (36 solos/20 assists) and had a pair of interceptions for 73 yards .... returned one interception for a touchdown ... was one of top defenders on 2007 Jones County team that finished with a 9-2 mark and a No. 5 national ranking among junior colleges ... JUCO teammate of recent UAB signees Daniel Borne and Darrion Wilson ... attended B.C. Rain High School in Mobile ... saw action on both sides of the ball as a prep standout ... as a senior at Rain, he rushed for 1,052 yards and 12 touchdowns while totaling 58 tackles with a pair of sacks and one interception ... his junior season, McGaskin tallied 1,110 yards and 10 touchdowns ... also recorded 97 tackles with one interception as a junior ... earned honorable mention all-state honors as running back for Class 5A.

### **Freddie Moore, WR**

6-3, 190

Decatur, Ala. (Austin HS)

Regarded among the top receivers in the state ... had 52 receptions for more than 900 yards as a senior ... registered 14 touchdowns ... earned first-team Class 6A all-state honors by Alabama Sports Writers Association (ASWA) ... also was a first-team Class 6A selection by Birmingham News and second-team Birmingham News choice for all classifications ... tabbed an all-area selection for Classes 4A-6A by Decatur Daily ... as a junior, he caught 41 passes for 583 yards with 11 touchdowns.

### **Jonathan Perry, QB**

6-2, 195

Baltimore, Md. (Dunbar HS)

Was rated among the top quarterbacks in Maryland last fall, throwing for nearly 1,800 yards with 19 touchdown passes ... helped lead Dunbar to three consecutive Class 1A state titles ... led Poets to 11-1 record en route to their state crown ... also played in the Maryland Crab Bowl, an event that draws the top senior football players throughout the state ... in 2008 state championship game, Perry engineered a game-winning, 89-yard drive in the final two minutes, culminating with his 34-yard touchdown pass with only two seconds remaining ... became the ninth Dunbar senior from last year's team to sign with a Division I program.



## 2009 Newcomer Bios

### **Ed Pruitt, TE**

6-3, 230

Theodore, Ala. (Theodore HS)

An excellent tight end prospect for the Blazers, Pruitt is known for his all-around ability as a pass catcher and blocker ... caught 20 passes for 225 yards as a senior in 2008 ... was a solid blocking tight end for a high school offense that focused on the run game ... selected first-team all-region by the *Mobile Press-Register* ... received Theodore's Coach's Award, given to the team's top player as voted on by the coaching staff ... an athletic player who also averages double-figures for his high school basketball team ... cousin of Etric Pruitt, a 2003 All-American at Southern Miss and a defensive back on the 2005 Seattle Seahawks team that played in the Super Bowl ... named honorable mention Class 6A all-state by ASWA following 2008 season ... helped lead team to second round of 2008 Class 6A state playoffs ... coached by Bill Meredith.

### **Cornelius Richards, CB**

6-1, 175

Northport, Ala. (Tuscaloosa County HS)

One of top defensive backs in the state and also one of the fastest ... made 83 tackles (62 solos/21 assists) as a senior as he helped lead Tuscaloosa County to a second consecutive Class 6A Region 5 championship ... named by *Tuscaloosa News* a member of the West Alabama Class 6A All-Stars ... recorded a season-high 14 tackles in second round of Class 6A state playoffs vs. Mountain Brook ... registered five interceptions and returned one for a touchdown against Hueytown ... also returned three kickoffs during the season for 49 yards ... coached by Robert Higginbotham ... a sprinter on the Tuscaloosa County track team, Richards won the Class 6A 100-meter title in 2008.

### **A.J. Wilson, SAF**

6-0, 180

Marshall, Texas (Trinity Valley, Texas, CC)

Late spring addition to Blazers' recruiting class ... was a standout on defense in 2008 while attending Trinity Valley Community College ... graduated from Marshall (Texas) High School in 2008 ... made an early impact in his one season on Trinity's defensive unit ... ranked third on the team in tackles as a freshman with 58 total stops, including 47 solo hits ... caused one fumble ... helped lead Trinity Valley to 6-4 record during 2008 season ... also participated on track and field team in high school.

### **Josh Zahn, K**

6-0, 190

Gilbert, Ariz. (Highland HS)

Another late addition to UAB's recruiting class, Zahn signed on with the Blazers in late February ... had outstanding senior season at Highland High School ... connected on 20 PATs and 11 field goals for Highland ... named first-team 5A-1 Fiesta All-Region ... had long field goal of 40 yards against Phoenix Desert Vista ... his three field goals helped Highland to 16-0 upset of state's No. 4-ranked team, Desert Vista ... was named to Top 12 Seniors/Junior College list at 7th Annual Kicking & Snapping event sponsored by Nike in Las Vegas ... event attracted more than 400 athletes from 40 states and four countries ... also was all-state soccer player as prep athlete.

