



# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

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UALBANY ATHLETICS -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Gattuso Announces UAlbany Football Class Of 2015

**ALBANY, N.Y.** -- University at Albany head football coach Greg Gattuso has unveiled the 2015 recruiting class, announced Wednesday on National Signing Day. The Great Danes inked 13 players to National Letters of Intent; in addition to a midyear FBS transfer and three midyear freshmen.

UAlbany's class hails from eight states, including four from New York and New Jersey, three from Pennsylvania, two from Maryland, and one each from Massachusetts, Ohio, South Carolina, and Virginia.

The Great Danes bring in 11 on the offensive side of the ball and six on defense, broken down to three quarterbacks, three running backs, two wide receivers, three offensive linemen, three defensive linemen, and three defensive backs.

DJ Crook, a midyear transfer from Penn State, as well as midyear freshmen Nick Griffin (Loudonville, N.Y.), Zee Roberson (East Stroudsburg, Pa.), and Will Brunson (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) will join the Great Danes for the spring season.

Dione Alston (Salem, N.J.), Griffin Clancy (Saratoga Springs, N.Y.), Isaih Clarke (Alexandria, Va.), Mason Gray (Bladensburg, Md.), Dean Grogg (Watchung, N.J.), Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks (Newark, N.J.), Sean Kennedy (Staten Island, N.Y.), Zach Lucas (Old Tappan, N.J.), Eli Mencer (Altoona, Pa.), Neven Sussman (Sandy Springs, Md.), Donte Terry (Philadelphia, Pa.), Devin Williams (Massillon, Ohio), and Josh Wynn (Albany, N.Y.) will be incoming freshmen in the fall.

#### 2015 UAlbany Football Signing Day Class

Signee	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	Previous School
Dione Alston	RB	5-8	160	Salem, N.J.	Salem
Will Brunson	QB	6-4	185	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Carolina Forest
Griffin Clancy	OT	6-6	300	Saratoga Springs, N.Y.	Saratoga Springs
Isaih Clarke	WR	6-3	185	Alexandria, Va.	TC Williams
DJ Crook	QB	6-1	215	West Barnstable, Mass.	Penn State/Worcester Academy
Mason Gray	FS	6-0	180	Bladensburg, Md.	St. Johns College Prep
Nick Griffin	DE	6-7	260	Loudonville, N.Y.	Milford Academy/Shaker
Dean Grogg	DE	6-3	240	Watchung, N.J.	Morristown Beard
Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks	RB	5-9	195	Newark, N.J.	Avon Old Farms/Don Bosco
Sean Kennedy	OT	6-5	230	Staten Island, N.Y.	St. Peter's
Zach Lucas	DE	6-5	220	Old Tappan, N.J.	Old Tappan
Eli Mencer	RB	6-2	205	Altoona, Pa.	Altoona
Zee Roberson	WR	6-2	185	East Stroudsburg, Pa.	Milford Academy/East Stroudsburg South
Neven Sussman	QB	6-3	205	Sandy Spring, Md.	Sherwood
Donte Terry	CB	6-1	178	Philadelphia, Pa.	MLK
Devin Williams	OG	6-3	260	Massillon, Ohio	Washington
Josh Wynn	FS	6-3	198	Albany, N.Y.	CBA

**DIONE ALSTON****RB / 5-8 / 160 / Salem, N.J. / Salem HS**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year captain of the Rams' football team ... Totaled 3,677 rushing yards, 42 rushing touchdowns, six touchdown receptions, and four kickoff return touchdowns in his career ... As a senior, he posted 1,201 rushing yards, 12 rushing touchdowns, 353 receiving yards, two receiving touchdowns, and ran back two punts and a kickoff for scores ... Three-time all-conference selection and was named All-South Jersey as a junior and senior ... Named first-team all-state in 2015 and to the third team in 2014 ... Member of the U-18 USA National Football squad ... Two-year team MVP and receiver of the squad's Impact Player Award, Coaches Award, and Captain's Award.

**PERSONAL:** Born December 16, 1996 ... Son of Dione Alston Sr. and Stephanie Marshall ... Has two brothers (Dionetai and Omarion Alston) and three sisters (Saniqua Massengill, Shatifa Cooke, and Dazha Clayton) ... Intends to major in accounting.

**WILL BRUNSON****QB / 6-4 / 185 / Myrtle Beach, S.C. / Carolina Forest**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Three-year captain for the Panthers' football team ... Earned four varsity letters and played a starting role for three seasons ... Totaled 7,134 passing yards in those three seasons, completing 511-of-850 passes with 69 touchdowns ... In his senior season, he recorded 1,846 passing yards (132-235) and 16 touchdowns, while also carrying the ball 105 times for 314 yards and six rushing touchdowns ... Named to the Class 4A All-State Team in 2012 and 2013 and to the Region 6 4A All-Region Team three times ... Two-year team MVP ... Also played three seasons of varsity basketball and helped Carolina Forest win the 2012 regional championship.

**PERSONAL:** Born August 17, 1996 ... Son of Brian and Tanya Brunson ... Has one brother, TJay ... Intends to major in business administration.

**GRIFFIN CLANCY****OT / 6-6 / 300 / Saratoga Springs, N.Y. / Saratoga HS**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain for the Blue Streaks ... Earned two varsity letters ... Named All-Empire Division Offensive Line in 2013 and 2014 ... Participated in the Section 2 All-Star Game in 2014 and the NUC All-American Game in 2013 ... Named first-team All-Section 2 by the Times Union, Daily Gazette, Troy Record, Saratogian, and Post Star ... Awarded the Blue Streak Player of the Year Award, voted on by the team's players and coaches ... Helped the team to the Section 2 semifinal as a junior ... Did not allow a sack in his career and totaled 35 tackles, including five for a loss and a sack on the defensive side of the line ... National Honor Society member ... Eagle Scout in The Boy Scouts of

America.

**PERSONAL:** Born April 26, 1997 ... Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Clancy ... Has one brother, Thomas ... Intends to major in business administration.

**ISAIH CLARKE****WR / 6-3 / 185 / Alexandria, Va. / TC Williams**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain for the Titans' football team ... Recorded 35 receptions for 823 yards and nine touchdowns in his career ... Named Second-Team All-North District in football ... Was also a standout track athlete, earning all-district, all-region, and all-state honors in the 100m and long jump.

**PERSONAL:** Born May 2, 1997 ... Son of James and Tiffany Clarke ... Has three brothers (Jeremiah, Joshua, and Nick) and two sisters (Kendra and Christine) ... Intends to major in business.

**DJ CROOK****QB / 6-1 / 215 / West Barnstable, Mass. / Penn State/Worcester Academy**

**PENN STATE:** Served as the Nittany Lions' backup quarterback as a redshirt freshman in 2014 ... Completed 6-of-9 passes for 57 yards and a touchdown against Massachusetts on Sept. 20th ... He enrolled at Penn State in January 2013.

**WORCESTER ACADEMY:** Attended Worcester Academy in 2012 and was named a team captain under Coach Tony Johnson ... Shared Worcester Academy Athlete-of-the-Week honors after throwing 235 yards and three touchdowns in a 28-13 win over Northfield Mt. Hermon.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** A four-year starter at Barnstable HS on Cape Cod ... He broke the Massachusetts prep passing yardage record with 8,126 yards and 77 touchdowns ... Four-year All-Old Colony League selection ... Helped the Red Raiders to their first playoff berth in 10 years in 2011 ... Set the school record with 2,813 passing yards and 33 touchdown passes as a junior ... Selected team captain as a senior and took part in the Shriners All-Star game

**PERSONAL:** Born March 16, 1993 ... Son of Doug and Tina Crook ... Has two sisters, Kayla and Sydney.

**MASON GRAY****FS / 6-0 / 180 / Bladensburg, Md. / St. John's College Prep**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played three seasons of varsity football for St. John's ... Named Third-Team All-WCAC as a junior ... Also played three seasons of basketball.

**PERSONAL:** Born April 24, 1997 ... Son of Derek Grey and Patty Elliott-Gray ... Has one brother, Darien, and two sisters, Tyler and Shawntae ... Intends to major in criminal justice.

**NICK GRIFFIN****DE / 6-7 / 260 / Loudonville, N.Y. / Milford Academy/Shaker****MILFORD ACADEMY:** Played the 2014 season for Milford Academy ... Totaled 10 tackles for a loss, including four sacks, and recovered a fumble ... Helped the Falcons to an 8-3 record ... A teammate of fellow 2015 commit, Zee Roberson.**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played four years of football at Shaker HS and served as team captain his senior season ... Led the Blue Bison to a Section 2 Championship and an appearance in the Class AA Super Bowl his junior season ... Named the Class AA Liberty League Defensive Player of the Year ... Also named all-area and all-state defensive tackle and Shaker HS Lineman of the Year.**PERSONAL:** Born January 11, 1996 ... Son of Jennifer Griffin ... Has two sisters, Kendall and Payton ... Intends to major in human biology.**DEAN GROGG****DE / 6-3 / 240 / Watchung, N.J. / Morristown Beard****HIGH SCHOOL:** Played three seasons of football and baseball for the Crimson ... Totaled 30 sacks in his career, including 14 as a senior, good for top-6 in the state ... Also averaged 21 yards per catch at the tight end position ... Named Morris and Sussex County Tight End of the Year and first-team all-county as a senior ... Earned second-team all-county and MSG Varsity honorable mention all-state as a junior.**PERSONAL:** Born November 20, 1996 ... Son of Jerry and Kathy Grogg ... Has two brothers, Will and Steve, and a sister, Christina ... Intends to major in communications.**ELIJAH IBITOKUN-HANKS****RB / 5-9 / 195 / Newark, N.J. / Avon Old Farms/Don Bosco****HIGH SCHOOL:** Graduated from Don Bosco Prep in 2014 ... Played the 2014 season at Avon Old Farms ... Totaled 1,553 rushing yards and 24 rushing touchdowns on 240 carries as a senior ... Also recorded 135 receiving yards and three receiving touchdowns on 13 receptions ... Team captain ... Named first-team all-county, first-team All-New England, and first-team All-Erickson League ... Earned the team MVP and offensive MVP awards.**PERSONAL:** Born January 12, 1996 ... Son of Travis Hanks and Rotoimi Ibitokun ... Has three brothers and two sisters ... Intends to major in criminal justice.**SEAN KENNEDY****OT / 6-5 / 235 / Staten Island, N.Y. / St. Peter's****HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain for the Eagles' football team ... Named first-team all-city, second-team all-metro, and third-team all-state as a senior ... Awarded the Sal Somma Lineman of the Year on Staten Island ... Earned Staten Island Advance All-Star and All-CHSFL honors ... Two-time

winner of the team's Offensive Lineman of the Year Award.

**PERSONAL:** Born September 1, 1997 ... Son of Sean and Susan Kennedy ... Has one brother, Ryan ... Undecided on major.**ZACH LUCAS****DE / 6-5 / 220 / Old Tappan, N.J. / Old Tappan****HIGH SCHOOL:** Earned three varsity letters and helped the Knights to nine wins in both his junior and senior seasons ... Totaled 51 tackles and nine sacks as a senior despite missing four games to injury ... Named first-team all-league and third team-county.**PERSONAL:** Born April 7, 1997 ... Son of Michael and Maria Lucas ... Has one brother, Michael, and a sister, Madison ... Intends to study finance.**ELI MENCER****RB / 6-2 / 205 / Altoona, Pa. / Altoona****HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year captain for Altoona ... Totaled 1,280 rushing yards and scored 23 touchdowns as a senior ... Also recorded four interceptions ... Named all-county, all-city, and All-WPIAL ... Recipient of the team Cohen Blanket Award ... Also competed in track and field for four years.**PERSONAL:** Born November 14, 1996 ... Son of Lori Alderman ... Has two brothers, Reggie and Joey, and a sister, Jina ... Intends to major in criminal justice.**ZEE ROBERSON****WR / 6-2 / 185 / East Stroudsburg, Pa. / Milford Academy/ East Stroudsburg South****MILFORD ACADEMY:** Played the 2014 season at Milford Academy ... Recorded 28 receptions for 587 yards and seven touchdowns ... Helped the Falcons to an 8-3 record ... A teammate of fellow 2015 commit, Nick Griffin.**HIGH SCHOOL:** Earned three football and four track letters at East Stroudsburg South ... Led the Cavs to a Mountain Valley Conference championship with a perfect 10-0 record ... Earned first-team all-league and all-area honors as a junior and senior ... Named honorable mention all-state in 2012 ... Recorded 23 catches for 594 receiving yards and five touchdowns in 2013 ... Accrued 1,947 receiving yard and 21 touchdowns on 104 catches in his career ... Two-year team captain.**PERSONAL:** Born October 28, 1995 ... Son of Rebecca Willis ... Has one sister, Sophia ... Intends to major in communications.**NEVEN SUSSMAN****QB / 6-3 / 205 / Sandy Spring, Md. / Sherwood****HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain for the Warriors' football team ... Totaled 1,565 passing yards and 15 touchdowns, completing 109-of-197 passes as a senior ... Also rushed for 500 yards and five touchdowns on 99 carries ... Earned first-team all-county and All-Gazette honorable mention

honors ... A consensus all-state honorable mention ... Team MVP ... National Honor Society member.

**PERSONAL:** Born October 9, 1996 ... Son of Dr. Michael and Karen Sussman ... Has one brother, Noah, and a sister, Katish ... Intends to major in business.

#### **DONTE TERRY**

**CB / 6-1 / 178 / Philadelphia, Pa. / MLK**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Three-year captain for the Cougars' football team ... Recorded six interceptions in his career ... Named first-team All-Public as a senior ... Recipient of the Coaches Award as a freshman.

**PERSONAL:** Born May 20, 1997 ... Son of Rashidta Richardson ... Intends to study physical therapy.

#### **DEVIN WILLIAMS**

**OG / 6-3 / 260 / Massillon, Ohio / Washington**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain for the Tigers' football team ... Earned three varsity letters and helped Washington to a 12-2 record in 2012, 10-3 mark in 2013, and 7-4 record in 2014 ... Recipient of the Ducky Schorder Award, given to the team's top offensive lineman.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Devin and Kelly Williams ... Has two brothers, Deon and Darien, and a sister Kyden ... Intends to study marketing.

#### **JOSH WYNN**

**FS / 6-3 / 198 / Albany, N.Y. / CBA**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played three seasons of varsity football at CBA ... Helped the Brothers win the 2013 Section 2 Class AA Championship, played at Bob Ford Field ... Totaled 174 tackles, 11 interceptions, and two forced fumbles in his career ... Logged 84 tackles, four interceptions, and forced two fumbles as a senior ... Named first-team all-conference and selected to the Class AA Section 2 Coaches Team.

**PERSONAL:** Born March 31, 1996 ... Son of William and Eileen Wynn ... Has three brothers (Zach, Cam, and Michael) and three sisters (Sierra, Tyler, Alexis). Brother Cam is also a member of the UAlbany football team ... Undecided on major.

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