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Men's Cross Country

Women's Cross Country

Field Hockey

Football

Women's Golf

Men's Indoor Track & Field

Women's Indoor Track & Field

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Men's Outdoor Track & Field

Women's Outdoor Track & Field

Men's Soccer

Women's Soccer

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# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

February 3, 2016

UALBANY ATHLETICS -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### UAlbany Football Announces 2016 Recruiting Class

**ALBANY, N.Y.** -- University at Albany head football coach Greg Gattuso has unveiled the 2016 recruiting class, announced Wednesday on National Signing Day. The Great Danes inked 16 players to National Letters of Intent, in addition to two midyear transfers.

UAlbany's class hails from eight states, including five from Pennsylvania, four from Maryland, three from Florida, two from Ohio, and one apiece from Alabama, Arizona, New Jersey, and New York.

The Great Danes bring in 11 on the defensive side of the ball and seven on offense, broken down to four cornerbacks, three defensive linemen, two linebackers, two safeties, two wide receivers, three offensive linemen, a tight end, and a quarterback.

Kareem Brown (Daphne, Ala.), a midyear transfer from Coffeyville Community College, and Skylor Clinton (Prescott, Ariz.) a midyear transfer from the University of Wyoming will join the Great Danes for the spring season.

Tyler Carswell (Pittsburgh, Pa.), Corey Christian (Scranton, Pa.), Kassy Desir (Pembroke Pines, Fla.), Ibn Foster (Montvale, N.J.), Tre Hopkins (Columbia, Md.), Murad Hussain (Baltimore, Md.), Ryan Lape (Miami, Fla.), Rocco Marucci (Pembroke Pines, Fla.), Levi Metheny (Bethel Park, Pa.), Jerah Reeves (Williamsport, Pa.), Roberto Roena (Middleburg Heights, Ohio), Micah Royster (Largo, Md.), Hayden Specht (Cincinnati, Ohio), Jake Thompson (Johnson City, N.Y.), Ty Tobias (Oxon Hill, Md.), and LJ Wesneski (Plymouth, Pa.) will be incoming freshmen in the fall.

### 2016 UALBANY FOOTBALL SIGNING DAY CLASS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Previous School
Kareem Brown	CB	5-10	180	Daphne, Ala.	Coffeyville CC
Tyler Carswell	CB	5-11	170	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Montour
Corey Christian	OL	6-4	280	Scranton, Pa.	Scranton Prep
Skylor Clinton	LB	6-2	235	Prescott, Ariz.	University of Wyoming
Kassy Desir	OL	6-4	295	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	Flanagan
Ibn Foster	DL	6-3	300	Montvale, N.J.	St. Joseph Regional
Tre Hopkins	WR	6-0	175	Columbia, Md.	Oakland Mills
Murad Hussain	S	6-3	200	Baltimore, Md.	Franklin
Ryan Lape	DL	6-2	265	Miami, Fla.	Gulliver Prep
Rocco Marucci	CB	6-0	160	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	Flanagan
Levi Metheny	LB	6-1	205	Bethel Park, Pa.	Bethel Park
Jerah Reeves	WR	6-2	180	Williamsport, Pa.	Williamsport
Roberto Roena	DL	6-3	240	Middleburg Heights, Ohio	St. Edward
Micah Royster	OL	6-2	270	Largo, Md.	St. John's
Hayden Specht	S	5-9	180	Cincinnati, Ohio	St. Xavier
Jake Thompson	QB	6-3	190	Johnson City, N.Y.	Johnson City
Ty Tobias	CB	5-10	165	Oxon Hill, Md.	Potomac
LJ Wesneski	TE	6-3	235	Plymouth, Pa.	Wyoming Valley West



## **KAREEM BROWN**

**Coffeyville CC, Daphne HS, Daphne, Ala. 5'10, 180, Cornerback**

**COFFEYVILLE CC:** Played in 10 games in 2015 ... Recorded 61 tackles, including 30 solo, four tackles for a loss and three sacks ... Broke up nine passes and had a 43-yard interception ... Named to Vice President's Honor Roll ... Redshirted 2014.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year team captain ... Four-year all-county selection ... Totaled five interceptions, 10 pass breakups, and two touchdowns on fumble recoveries as a senior ... Also competed in basketball.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Almireo English and Farrow Sledge ... Has one brother, Jamerious, and two sisters Kayla and Sha ... Cousin, Wallace Gillberry, played football at Alabama and currently plays in the NFL for the Bengals ... Cousin, Anthony Mix, played football at Auburn and for the NY Giants in 2003-04 ... Intends to major in accounting.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Experienced, mature mid-year addition who started for JUCO powerhouse Coffeyville this past season. Has great man-to-man coverage skills."

## **TYLER CARSWELL**

**Montour HS, Pittsburgh, Pa. 5'11, 170, Cornerback**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Three-year letterwinner at Montour ... Also competed in track and field ... Named First-Team All-Parkway Conference for both offense and defense as a senior, as well as the Pennsylvania Football News Class 3A All-State Defensive First Team ... Earned defensive first-team all-conference, second-team All-State, and Pittsburgh Post Gazette Fabulous 22 East honors as a junior, helping the Spartans hold opponents to 17.9 points per game.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Troy Cotton and Richelle Carswell ... Has two sisters, Victoria and Nya ... Intends to major in communications.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Well coached, all-state cornerback who is an all-around athlete and will make an impact in the return game for us."

## **COREY CHRISTIAN**

**Scranton Prep, Scranton, Pa. 6'4, 280, Offensive Line**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Helped Scranton Prep to a district championship ... Totaled 80 tackles and eight sacks as a senior ... Named all-region offense and honorable mention all-state offense as a senior ... Earned all-region offense and defense honors as a junior ... Earned the team's Hookey Reap Award for offense and was the runner-up for the same award on defense ... Member of the German and Spirit Clubs ... Volunteered for a summer service trip in New Mexico.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Scott and Janine Christian ... Has one brother, Brody, and two sisters, Olivia and Sophia ... Intends to major in criminal justice.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Long, powerful lineman, who bursts of the line of scrimmage."

## **SKYLOR CLINTON**

**University of Wyoming, Prescott HS, Prescott, Arizona. 6'2, 235, LB**

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING:** Redshirted 2015 ... Midyear transfer to UAlbany.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Three-year team captain ... Four-year letterwinner at Prescott ... Named an Honorable Mention selection to the 2014 American Family Insurance All-Arizona Division II Football Team ... Was also selected the D-3, Section

4 Co-Offensive Player of the Year ... Rushed for 1,440 yards on 188 carries and scored 21 rushing touchdowns his senior season ... Averaged 144.0 yards per game and rushed for over 100 yards in seven games ... Also completed 8 of 16 passes for 204 yards and four passing TDs ... Accounted for 1,731 all-purpose yards, including 302 yards in kickoff returns and 97 yards in punt returns ... Scored two touchdowns on kickoff returns his senior season ... Also competed in basketball and baseball at Prescott High.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Brian Clinton and June Nanke ... Has two brothers, Tyler Adams and Landin Nanke, and three sisters, Meghan Adams, Kacie Clinton, and Samantha Nanke ... Intends to major in health.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Versatile, athletic, strong linebacker who brings experience as a transfer from the University of Wyoming."

## **KASSY DESIR**

**Flanagan, Pembroke Pines, Fla., 6'4, 295, Offensive Line**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Helped Flanagan win the 2016 8A State Championship ... Named to the All-Broward Team ... Also competed in basketball.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Maurice Desir and Diedonne Caty ... Has two brothers, Shawn Saintvil and Maurice Desir, and three sisters, Shana Saintvil, Sunsheba Saintvil, and Quita Desir ... Intends to major in business.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Good use of his hands, athletic for his size."

## **IBN FOSTER**

**St. Joseph Regional, Montvale, N.J., 6'3, 300, Defensive Line**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Earned three varsity letters at St. Joseph Regional ... Named first-team All-Big North United Conference, first-team All-Bergen County, and second-team all-metro ... Totaled 117 tackles, including 24 for a loss in his career ... Recorded 59 tackles, including 16 for a loss and six sacks, in addition to an interception, two fumble recoveries, and three forced fumbles as a senior.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Kelly Lyons ... Intends to major in finance.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Big strong space eater who will be a presence as an inside guy for us."

## **TRE HOPKINS**

**Oakland Mills, Columbia, Md., 6'0, 175, Wide Receiver**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year team captain ... Earned four varsity football letters ... 2015 Howard County Times Football Offensive Player of the Year ... Three-time first-team all-state, all-metro, and all-county ... Accounted for 23 total offensive touchdowns as a quarterback and wide receiver in his senior season ... Threw for 700 yards (69-for-95), rushed for 789 yards on 108 carries, and logged 19 receptions for 201 yards ... Totaled 1,000 passing yards (14 TDs), 1,530 rushing yards (20 TDs), and 1,500 receiving yards (14 TDs) in his career... Named the team's Offensive Player of the Year Award and MVP ... Also stars on the Scorpions' state title-winning basketball team and is a state champion in the high jump.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Andre and Toni Hopkins ... Has three brothers, Evan, AJ, and Jordan, and one sister, Aliyah ... Intends to major in business administration.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Explosive, fast athlete who is

dynamic with the ball in his hands and was named Baltimore Sun Howard County Player of the Year.”

### **MURAD HUSSAIN**

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**Franklin HS, Baltimore, Md. 6’3, 200, Safety**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year team captain ... Helped lead Franklin to back-to-back 3A State titles in 2013 and 2014 ... Totaled 334 receiving yards and three touchdowns on 23 receptions as a senior, while logging 31 tackles as a free safety ... Named all-county ... Also competed in basketball and track.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Mohammad Hussain and Farhana Ahmad ... Has one brother, Shahzib, and three sisters, Summer, Zayrish, and Mehwish ... Intends to major in engineering.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Long athletic versatile athlete who was a two-time state champ.”

### **RYAN LAPE**

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**Gulliver Prep, Miami, Fla., 6-2, 265, Defensive Line**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Earned four varsity letters, playing two years at Coral Reef HS and two at Gulliver Prep ... Named third-team All-Dade as a senior ... Totaled 50 pancakes in his career, including 25 in 2015 with no sacks allowed ... Named the team’s 2015 Most Improved Offensive Player ... Eagle Scout and active in community service.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Doug and Betsy Lape ... Has one brother, Connor Lape, and one sister, Banna Fakhoury ... Intends to major in accounting.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Versatile interior lineman, plays with a mean streak.”

### **ROCCO MARUCCI**

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**Flanagan, Pembroke Pines, Fla., 6’0, 160, Cornerback**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Helped Flanagan win the 2016 8A State Championship ... Named second-team all-county and All-Broward Team ... Named one of Miami Herald’s Top 50 in Broward for the Class of 2016.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Anthony Marucci and Marshan Mackey.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Long playmaker at corner who was a state champion in the 8A classification -- the highest level of football in the state of Florida.”

### **LEVI METHENY**

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**Bethel Park HS, Bethel Park, Pa., 6’1, 205, Linebacker**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year team captain ... Four-year letterwinner in football and basketball at Bethel Park ... Competed as a quarterback and outside linebacker for the Blackhawks ... Earned first-team all-conference linebacker and was named The Almanac’s MVP ... Recorded 1,712 passing yards (100-for-194) and threw for 20 touchdowns as a senior ... Also rushed 82 times for 231 yards and nine touchdowns ... On defense, he logged 79 tackles, including 15 for a loss and seven sacks, a fumble recovery and an interception in 2015 ... In his career, he totaled 4,862 passing yards, 45 passing touchdowns, 1,000 rushing yards, 34 rushing touchdowns, scoring 204 points on offense ... Defensively, he accrued 158 tackle, 11 sacks, 26 tackles for a loss, two fumble recoveries, an interception, and broke up three passes ... Member of Bethel Park’s Principal Advisory Council for Students President.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Jeff and Cindy Methany ... Has a sister, Kelsey

... Intends to major in business.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Strong, tough multitalented linebacker with very good feet who also was a quarterback in high school, starting both ways.”

### **JERAH REEVES**

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**Williamsport HS, Williamsport, Pa., 6’2, 180, Wide Receiver**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year team captain ... Earned four varsity football letters at Williamsport ... Named second-team all-state ... Two-time Sun-Gazette Receiver of the Year, first-team all-district, and first-team all-conference ... 2015 Super 16 Dream Team ... Totaled 129 receptions, 2,108 yards, and 22 touchdowns in his career ... Broke the school’s record with 56 catches, 922 yards, and nine touchdowns as a senior ... Also competed in basketball and baseball.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Marwin and Barbara Reeves ... Has one sister, Imani ... Father, Marwin, played football at Mansfield ... Cousin, Alfie Burch, played football at Michigan and for the NY Giants ... Intends to major in business.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Great ball skills, does an unbelievable job of using his strong hands to snatch the ball out of the air. This guy is a playmaker.”

### **ROBERTO ROENA**

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**St. Edward, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, 6’3, 240, Defensive End**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year varsity football letterwinner ... Helped the Eagles to back-to-back state championships at the division one level, compiling a 27-3 two-year record ... Recorded 65 tackles, 6.5 sacks, and 29 QB hurries, leading St. Edward to a 14-1 record as a senior ... Member of the school’s Student Ambassador and Diversity Retreat programs ... Active in a number of community service projects, helping raise money for children’s cancer and working a football camp for children with disabilities.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Roberto Roena and Lynnette Rosario ... Has one sister, Paloma Hsu ... Intends to major in business administration.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Strong, athletic edge-push rusher, who comes from a great program.”

### **MICAH ROYSTER**

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**St. John’s, Largo, Md., 6’2, 270, Offensive Line**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Named USA Today First-Team All-USA Washington D.C. ... All-DC State Athletic Association ... First-team All-WCAC.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Ronn and Arianna Royster ... Intends to major in business.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** “Quick lineman, who moves well in space and does a great job of finishing his blocks.”

### **HAYDEN SPECHT**

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**St. Xavier HS, Cincinnati, Ohio, 5’9, 180, Safety**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Two-year letterwinner at St. Xavier ... Named Greater Catholic League Defensive Back of the Year, first-team all-league and all-district, and second-team all-state ... Recorded 43 tackles as senior and 97 total tackles in his career, in addition to two interceptions, two forced fumbles, and 300 return yards ... Earned the team’s Doctor Konerman Spirit Award, and was the team’s leader of football community service.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Stephen and Becky Specht ... Father, Stephen, was Hayden's varsity football coach at St. Xavier ... Has one brother, Cameron, and one sister, Bailey ... Intends to major in business.  
**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "All-State safety from a traditional power in Ohio who is an intelligent football player that plays with great energy."

### JAKE THOMPSON

**Johnson City, Johnson City, N.Y., 6'3, 190, Quarterback**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two-year team captain ... Earned three varsity football letters ... Two-year all-section selection ... Ernie Davis All-Star Game participant ... Wildcat Award winner for leadership ... Member of National Honor Society ... Student Government Class President ... On the student council of a student run non-profit organization "Athletes 2 Athletes," which helps community members in need ... Also competed in basketball.

**PERSONAL:** Son of John and Laurie Thompson ... Intends to major in business.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Big dual sport athlete at quarterback who has demonstrated the ability to be a great leader."

### TY TOBIAS

**Potomac HS, Oxon Hill, Md. 5'10, 165, Cornerback**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Three-year team captain ... Earned four varsity football letters ... Helped the Wolverines win the 2A county and regional titles ... 2015 DMV Elite All-State second team and two-time All-Met honorable mention ... US Army All-American Combine Invitee and Rivals 250 Underclassmen Challenge Invitee ... Also competed in basketball ... Member of National Honor Society.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Thomas Tobias Jr. and Kimberly Bennett ... Has three brothers, Thomas Tobias III, Aiden Bennett, and Jordan Tobias, and two sisters, Kaylin and Zariah Tobias ... Intends to major in accounting.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Competitive and quick athlete who plays with attitude."

### LJ WESNESKI

**Wyoming Valley West HS, Plymouth, Pa. 6'3, 235, Tight End**

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Team captain ... Three-year varsity letterwinner ... Helped the Spartans win three straight Wyoming Valley Conference Championships, and District 2 Championships in 2013 and 2015 ... 2015 PIAA All-State AAAA tight end ... Named Coaches all-scholastic team, Times Leader first-team tight end, Citizen's Voice first-team, NEPA Football Wyoming Valley Conference Big School first-team, NEPA Football all-district first-team, and WNEP Super 16 Dream Team in 2014 and 2015 ... 2014 PIAA All-State AAAA honorable mention tight end ... Earned the team's Offensive MVP award as both a junior and senior ... Totaled 24 touchdowns, 78 receptions and 1,346 receiving yards in his career, including nine touchdowns, 498 yards and 27 receptions as a senior ... Member of the Future Business Leaders of America ... Also competed in baseball and hockey.

**PERSONAL:** Son of Larry and Barbara Wesneski ... Has one brother, Josh, and one sister, Alexandria ... Intends to major in business administration.

**COACHING STAFF REPORT:** "Physical playmaking all-state tight end who can block as well as catch. Has the ability to be a match up nightmare at this level."

### BY POSITION

#### **Quarterback**

Jake Thompson

#### **Wide Receiver**

Tre Hopkins

Jerah Reeves

#### **Tight End**

LJ Wesneski

#### **Offensive Line**

Corey Christian

Kassy Desir

Micah Royster

#### **Defensive Line**

Ibn Foster

Ryan Lape

Roberto Roena

#### **Linebacker**

Skylor Clinton

Levi Metheny

#### **Corner Back**

Kareem Brown

Tyler Carswell

Rocco Marucci

Ty Tobias

#### **Safety**

Murad Hussain

Hayden Specht

### BY STATE

#### **Alabama**

Kareem Brown

#### **Arizona**

Skylor Clinton

#### **Florida**

Kassy Desir

Ryan Lape

Rocco Marucci

#### **Maryland**

Murad Hussain

Ty Tobias

Tre Hopkins

Micah Royster

#### **New Jersey**

Ibn Foster

#### **New York**

Jake Thompson

#### **Ohio**

Roberto Roena

Hayden Specht

#### **Pennsylvania**

JR Reaves

LJ Wesneski

Tyler Carswell

Levi Metheny

Corey Christian