

YOUNGSTOWN S T A T E

2008 PENGUINS FOOTBALL SIGNEES

List of National Letter-of-Intent Signees

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School (Previous Schools)
• Dana Brown	TB	5-10	206	Clairton, Pa.	Clairton (University of Iowa)
Bill Dugan	OL	6-5	300	Poland, Ohio	Poland
^ Andre Elliott	S	6-2	180	Maple Heights, Ohio	Maple Heights (Gardner Webb)
• Draye Ersery	LB	6-0	220	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Sierra (College of the Desert/Mesa State)
Warren Felton	DT	6-2	280	Baltimore, Md.	Cardinal Gibbons
David Fleming	S	5-11	205	Centerville, Ohio	Centerville
Bryan Gaiters	CB	5-9	175	Zanesville, Ohio	Zanesville
• Donald Jones	WR	6-0	200	Plainfield, N.J.	Plainfield (Lackawanna)
Andy Kowicki	OL	6-5	270	Parma, Ohio	Normandy
D.J. Main	OL	6-5	290	Strongsville, Ohio	Strongsville
Joe Marshall	DL	6-2	320	Clearwater, Fla.	Clearwater
Stephen Meadows	LB	6-3	230	Fredricksburg, Va.	James Monroe
• Brandon Summers	QB	6-0	208	Southfield, Mich.	Southfield (University of Toledo)
Deonta Tate	LB	6-1	215	Palmetto, Fla.	Palmetto
Noah Taylor	DE	6-3	235	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Woodland Hills
Marquel Thomas	WR	6-2	180	Virginia Beach, Va.	Bayside
Gary Thornton	S	5-9	190	Youngstown, Ohio	East (Rayen)
Mike Williams	DE	6-3	245	Richmond, Va.	Meadowbrook
Corbin Williamson	OL	6-4	281	Suwanee, Ga.	Greater Atlanta Christian (Hargrave Military)

• Will begin 2008 season as a junior | ^ Will begin 2008 season as a sophomore

The Class Breakdown

By Year

TOTAL: 19. FRESHMEN: 14 • Bill Dugan (OL), Warren Felton (DT), David Fleming (S), Bryan Gaiters (CB), Andy Kowicki (OL), D.J. Main (OL), Joe Marhsall (DL), Stephen Meadows (LB), Deonta Tate (LB), Noah Taylor (DE), Marquel Thomas (CB), Gary Thornton (S), Mike Williams (DE), Corbin Williamson (OL). **JUNIORS: 4** • Dana Brown (TB), Draye Ersery (LB), Donald Jones (WR), Brandon Summers (QB). **SOPHOMORES: 1** • Andre Elliott (CB).

By State

TOTAL: 19. OHIO (7): Bill Dugan (Poland), Andre Elliott (Maple Heights), David Fleming (Centerville), Bryan Gaiters (Zanesville), Andy Kowicki (Parma), D.J. Main (OL), Gary Thornton (Youngstown). **VIRGINIA (3)**: Stephen Meadows (Fredricksburg), Marquel Thomas (Virginia Beach), Mike Williams (Richmond). **PENNSYLVANIA (2)**: Dana Brown (Clairton), Noah Taylor (Pittsburgh). **FLORIDA (2)**: Joe Marshall (Clearwater), Deonta Tate (Palmetto). **COLORADO (1)**: Draye Ersery (Colorado Springs). **MICHIGAN (1)**: Brandon Summers (Southfield). **GEORGIA (1)**: Corbin Williamson (Suwanee). **MARYLAND (1)**: Warren Felton (Baltimore). **NEW JERSEY (1)**: Donald Jones (Plainsfield).

By Position

TOTAL: 19. OFFENSE (8) • *Offensive Line (4)*: Bill Dugan, Andy Kowicki, D.J. Main, Corbin Williamson. *Tailback (1)*: Dana Brown. *Wide Receiver (2)*: Donald Jones, Marquel Thomas. *Quarterback (1)*: Brandon Summers. **DEFENSE (11)** • *Defensive Line (4)*: Warren Felton, Joe Marshall, Noah Taylor, Mike Williams. *Linebacker (3)*: Draye Ersery, Stephen Meadows, Deonta Tate. *Secondary (4)*: Andre Elliott, David Fleming, Bryan Gaiters, Gary Thornton.

By Level

FBS TRANSFERS (2) • Dana Brown (Iowa), Brandon Summers (Toledo). **JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFERS (2)** • Draye Ersery (College of the Desert), Donald Jones (Lackawanna). **FCS TRANSFER (1)** • Andre Elliott (Gardner Webb). **PREP SCHOOL (1)** • Corbin Williamson (Hargrave Military). **HIGH SCHOOL (13)** • Bill Dugan (Poland), Warren Felton (Cardinal Gibbons), David Fleming (Centerville), Bryan Gaiters (Zanesville), Andy Kowicki (Normandy), D.J. Main (Strongsville), Joe Marshall (Clearwater), Stephen Meadows (James Monroe), Deonta Tate (Palmetto), Noah Taylor (Woodland Hills), Marquel Thomas (Bayside), Gary Thornton (East), Mike Williams (Meadowbrook).

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Dana Brown

Tailback

5-10 • 206

Clairton, Pa.

Clairton High School/Iowa

IOWA: Was a member of the Hawkeyes program from 2005 through 2007...redshirted in 2005 and did not play in 2007...played in two games as a redshirt freshman in 2006...saw action against Montana and Purdue...in two appearances, rushed for 16 yards on four carries and had a touchdown...nine yards on two carries and a score against the Grizzlies...seven yards on two attempts versus the Boilermakers...coach was Kirk Ferentz.

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a first-team all-state selection as a senior...rushed 222 times for single-season school-record 2,147 yards and 36 touchdowns...had five catches for 204 yards...collected 72 tackles on defense, with an interception...was first-team all-conference and a team captain as a senior...Bears posted an 11-2 mark...set school single-game record with 214 rushing yards and four TDs on six attempts in first round playoff game as a senior...as a junior, gained 844 yards rushing on 123 attempts, scoring 10 touchdowns...on defense compiled 76 tackles and an interception...Bears finished with 9-3 record...career totals include 465 rushing attempts for 3,491 yards and 52 touchdowns, along with 17 receptions for 534 yards...career totals on defense include 174 tackles and two interceptions...coach was Tom Nola...earned four letters in football as running back and defensive back and also earned two letters in basketball...member of National Honor Society.

PERSONAL: Parents are Darla and Dana Brown, Sr...born Jan. 8, 1987.

Bill Dugan

Offensive Line

6-5 • 300

Poland, Ohio

Poland High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Second-team Division III All-Ohio selection as an offensive lineman...first-team Division III All-Northeast Inland District pick...was a two-year starter at tackle...served as a team captain as a senior...Poland was 7-4 reaching the regional quarterfinals of the state playoffs...during his junior year, the Bulldogs were 7-4 and shared the MAC championship...coach was former Penguin Mark Brungard...also competed in track and field...threw the shot put...member of honor roll.

PERSONAL: Parents are Elaine Denofrio and Williams Dugan...has a brother (David) and a sister (Jen)...parents and sister attended YSU...born Nov. 29, 1989...academic interest is education.

Andre Elliott

Safety

6-2 • 180

Maple Heights, Ohio

Maple Heights High School/Gardner Webb

2007 AT YSU: Sat out the season after transferring from Gardner Webb.

GARDNER WEBB: Played in 10 games during 2006 campaign...recorded 21 total tackles, including 13 solo stops...also forced a fumble...had a high of six tackles, including four solos, against nationally-ranked Coastal Carolina...had five tackles and a forced fumble in season opener against Jacksonville...credited with four stops, three solos, at UT-Martin...had two tackles against Wofford and Charleston Southern...recorded one tackle against Tennessee Tech and Liberty...saw action against Appalachian State, Glenville State and VMI...did not play at Southeastern Louisiana...Runnin' Bulldogs were 6-5...coach was Steve Patton.

HIGH SCHOOL: Highly-regarded safety prospect who played at Maple Heights...helped Division II Mustangs to a 10-1 record in 2005, playing at receiver and safety...had 45 tackles, six pass break ups and an interception on defense...recovered a fumble for a touchdown...rated the No. 77 overall prospect in Ohio by CouchScout.com...Maple Heights was 10-0 in the regular season before losing to Archbishop Hoban in Regional Quarterfinals...Mustangs were 10-2 and reached the Regional Semifinals in 2004...coach was Jeff Rotsky...also competed in track and field.

PERSONAL: Mother is Carla Elliott...has two brothers and a sister...born June 5, 1988...major is psychology.

Draye Ersery

Linebacker

6-0 • 220

Colorado Spring, Colo.

Sierra High School/College of the Desert/Mesa St.

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Second-team Foothill All-Conference selection as sophomore in 2007...Roadrunners were 9-2 and shared the Foothill Conference championship...coach was Dean Dowty.

HIGH SCHOOL: Earned three letters as a linebacker...ranked third in school history in tackles...coach was Joe Roskam...also competed in track and field...two-time state champion in sprints...member of school-record 4x400 and 4x800-meter relay teams.

PERSONAL: Mother is Braye Ersery...has a sister (Sabrina)...born Sept. 25, 1986...academic interest is criminal justice.

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Warren Felton

Defensive Tackle

6-2 • 280

Baltimore, Md.

Cardinal Gibbons High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Played defensive end and defensive tackle at Cardinal Gibbons...as a senior, had 35 total tackles, including three sacks...coach was Daunte Carter...also played basketball...besides high school played on an AAU team.

PERSONAL: Parents are Warren Felton and Carol McCown-Felton...born March 4, 1990...academic interest is sports management.

David Fleming

Safety

5-11 • 205

Centerville, Ohio

Centerville High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Named the Great Western Ohio Conference Central Division Athlete of the Year as a senior...was a first-team all-conference selection as a quarterback...named second-team All-Area by the Dayton Daily News...was an honorable-mention All-Southwest District pick...led a triple-option attack...for the year, rushed 181 times for 1,225 yards and 15 touchdowns...completed 41-of-75 passes for 590 yards and six touchdowns...had a high of 186 yards rushing and three touchdowns in win over Fairmont...had only 11 carries in the game, averaging 16.9 yards per contest...finished with seven 100-yard rushing games...scored a touchdown in 10 of 11 games played...Elks were 9-3 losing to St. Xavier in the playoffs...named team MVP...as a junior was a first-team all-conference selection...Elks were 8-2 his junior campaign...rushed 116 times for 606 yards and scored eight touchdowns...selected as the team's most improved player...coach was Ron Ullery...also competed in track and field.

PERSONAL: Parents are Adrienne and David Fleming...has a brother (Davin)...born Jan. 23, 1990...academic interest is business.

Bryan Gaiters

Defensive Back

5-9 • 175

Zanesville, Ohio

Zanesville High School

HIGH SCHOOL: First-team All-Ohio Division II selection as a running back...named the co-Offensive Player of the Year in the Division II Northeast District...named the SEOAL Player of the Year...first-team all-district and all-conference selection...was

a 2007 Mr. Ohio Football finalist...as a senior, rushed for 1,825 yards on 190 attempts...averaged 9.6 yards per carry...scored 27 touchdowns...had a long run of 87 yards...ran for 327 yards and four touchdowns in 42-35 win over Ironton...had 320 yards and six touchdowns the previous week in win over Marietta...caught 12 passes for 180 yards and three scores...had 95 total tackles and three interceptions...also credited with five tackles for losses, three sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery...Blue Devils were 8-2 and reached the Division II playoffs...school's first postseason trip in 10 years...coach was Chad Grandstaff...had nearly 1,000 yards as a junior in five-plus games...was a four-year starter...played tailback and cornerback...set school rushing records for single game yards (327), season yards (1,825) and career yards (3,650)...also competed in track and field...competed in sprint relays...member of the honor roll.

PERSONAL: Parents are Elaina Keels and Howard Bailey...has four sisters...born Nov. 5, 1989...academic interest is business.

Donald Jones

Wide Receiver

6-0 • 200

Plainfield, N.J.

Plainfield High School/Lackawanna

JUNIOR COLLEGE: Led the team with 42 receptions for 748 yards...caught five touchdown passes...averaged 17.8 yards per catch...season-long grab was 75 yards...had six rushing attempts for 38 yards...also threw two passes...returned four punts for 45 yards...long was 19 yards...team was 7-3 his sophomore year...named team's Offensive MVP...team was 10-0 his freshman year...Falcons won the Valley of the Sun Bowl beating Glendale CC 17-16 to complete perfect season...coach was Mark Duda.

HIGH SCHOOL: As a senior, earned all-state, all-area, All-Group 4 and All-Watching Conference honors...was named as one of the Super 100...coach was Clinton Jones...also played baseball.

PERSONAL: Parents are Donald Jones III and Lesley Taylor...has two brothers and a sister...born Dec. 17, 1987...academic interest is communications.

Andy Kowicki

Offensive Lineman

6-5 • 270

Parma, Ohio

Normandy High School

HIGH SCHOOL: As a senior, was a second-team Division II All-Ohio selection as a defensive lineman...was a First-Team All-Pioneer Conference selection and a first-team all-district pick also as a defensive lineman...Normandy was 10-3 in 2007 losing 12-7 to Mayfield in the state quarterfinals...as a junior was an

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honorable-mention all-conference selection...team was 6-4 in 2006...coach was Rich Turner.

PERSONAL: Mother is Jennifer Kowicki...has a sister (Olivia)...born Feb. 9, 1990.

D.J. Main

Offensive Line

6-5 • 290

Strongsville, Ohio

Strongsville High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Second-team all-conference selection as a senior...honorable-mention Division I Northeast Lakes All-District selection...Strongsville was 6-4 in 2007...was a two-year starter at offensive tackle...Mustangs were 6-4 his junior year...coach was Russ Jacques...member of the honor roll.

PERSONAL: Parents are Missy and Don Main...has a brother (Jon)...born June 24, 1989...academic interest is exercise science.

Joe Marshall

Defensive Line

6-2 • 320

Clearwater, Fla.

Clearwater High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a three-year letterwinner as a defensive tackle...also played offense in goal-line situations and scored six touchdowns...set a school record with a 405-pound bench press...was named an all-conference performer...also competed in track and field...was a member of the honor roll.

PERSONAL: Parents are Renee and Joe Marshall...has a brother (Roshawn) and a sister (Breana)...born July 2, 1990...academic interest is business management.

Stephen Meadows

Linebacker

6-3 • 230

Fredericksburg, Md.

James Monroe High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Listed as the 48th-ranked senior in Virginia by The Roanoke Times as a middle linebacker...was a first-team Region I All-Star as a senior...set school career records for total tackles finishing with 766...had 510 solos and 256 assists...also credited with more than 100 tackles for losses...as a senior, was an honorable-mention Class AA All-State football selection...as a junior was a second-team all-state selection...was an all-district, all-area and all-region honoree three years...played four years on varsity and was a two-time captain...team reached the state

semifinals twice winning the regional championship each year...also played lacrosse.

PERSONAL: Parents are Julie and Mel Meadows...has a brother (Mike) and a sister (Lauren)...born Sept. 13, 1989...academic interests are business and engineering.

Brandon Summers

Quarterback

6-0 • 208

Southfield, Mich.

Southfield High School/Toledo

TOLEDO: Was a member of the program from 2005 through 2007...redshirted in 2005 and did not see action in 2007...in 2006, played in five games, making two starts...started against McNeese State and Pittsburgh...completed 14-of-23 passes (60.9 percent) for 125 yards and a touchdown...against McNeese was 11-of-17 for 121 yards and a score...completed 3-of-5 passes for 14 yards against Pitt...attempted two punts...averaged 43.5 yards per kick...had a 48-yard punt against Iowa State, pinning the Cyclones at the four-yard line...also saw action against Western Michigan...coach was Tom Amstutz.

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a special mention all-state Division II selection as a senior for the Bluejays...also a first-team all-conference and second-team all-county selection...threw for 1,428 yards and 16 touchdowns...ran for 450 yards on 40 carries and scored four touchdowns...team posted a 9-0 regular-season mark to win league championship...lost in the District 2, Region 3 semifinals...listed No. 14 on the Detroit Free Press' Fab 50 List...coach was David Reese...also played basketball.

PERSONAL: Parents are Derrick and Angela Summers...has a younger brother (Derrick)...Derrick is a linebacker at Toledo...born Aug. 22, 1986 in Kansas City, Mo.

Deonta Tate

Linebacker

6-1 • 215

Palmetto, Fla.

Palmetto High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Was a second-team Class 3A All-Florida selection...played on the South Team in the 2007 FACA North-South All-Star Classic...had a team-high 130 tackles his senior year...team posted a 9-3 mark his senior year...advanced to Regional Semifinals...Hurricanes recorded four shutouts...coach was Ray Woodie...also competed in weight lifting and track and field.

PERSONAL: Parents are Nefertiti and Brian Tate...has three brothers and a sister...born Oct. 27, 1989...academic interest is computer science.

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Noah Taylor

Defensive End

6-3 • 235

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Woodland Hills High School

HIGH SCHOOL: As a senior was an All-Quad East selection and earned East Elite honors...also a first-team WPIAL Class AAAA Big East selection by the Post Gazette as a tight end...suffered a broken left leg in the opener and missed five games...helped Wolverines qualify for the playoffs... played tight end and defensive end...coach was George Novak...also played basketball and competed in track and field.

PERSONAL: Mother is Georgia Taylor...has three sisters and a brother...brother Jason has played for the past 12 years with the Miami Dolphins...born Aug. 13, 1989...academic interest is civil engineering.

Marquel Thomas

Wide Receiver

6-2 • 180

Virginia Beach, Va.

Bayside High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Earned Virginia Group AAA second-team all-state honors as a defensive back...selected first-team All-Beach District as a defensive back...as a wide receiver, was named first-team All-Beach District and first-team All-Tidewater...was also tabbed a second-team All-Eastern Region selection as a wide out...caught 51 passes for 999 yards and scored 13 touchdowns...against First Colonial had 10 receptions for 192 yards...caught an 82-yard touchdown pass and returned an interception 20 yards for a score...caught two touchdowns against Chantilly...had four receptions for 160 yards and two scores against Kellam...caught two touchdown passes against Princess Anne...snared eight receptions in the game...tabbed the Bayside Defensive Player of the Year...as a junior, had eight receptions, three of which were for touchdowns...had 252 kickoff return yards and ran one back for a score...had a region-leading 10 interceptions...named all-region...coach was Darnell Moore...also played basketball and competed in track and field.

PERSONAL: Parents are Valentina and Douglas Lewis...has a sister (Val-zhane)...born June 5, 1990.

Gary Thornton

Safety

5-9 • 190

Youngstown, Ohio

East High School

HIGH SCHOOL: First-team Division II All-Ohio selection...was a Division II first-team All-Northeast Inland selection as a line-backer...attended East after spending three years at Rayen as Youngstown schools consolidated...Panthers were 8-2 in 2007... was a four-year starter throughout his career...as a junior was a second-team all-district selection as a running back...rushed for 950 yards and 10 touchdowns...Tigers were 7-3...as a freshman at Rayen had 103 tackles...coach all four years was Brian Shaner... was a member of three conference champion winning teams... also competed in track and field and played basketball.

PERSONAL: Parents are Yvette and Gary Thornton...has two sisters (Britney and Chanelle)...sisters attend YSU...born April 21, 1990...academic interest is communications.

Mike Williams

Defensive End

6-3 • 245

Richmond, Va.

Meadowbrook High School

HIGH SCHOOL: Set school mark for most sacks in a season... was a three-year letterwinner as a defensive end and also played middle linebacker...Monarchs were 9-3 in 2007 losing to Hermitage in the Group AAA Division 6 semifinals...team was co-District Champion...program was 6-4 in 2006 and 10-2 in 2005...coach was Bill Bowles...also competed in track and field and played basketball...named to all-academic team three times.

PERSONAL: Parents are Kris and Ben Williams...has two brothers (B.J. and Chris)...born May 12, 1990...academic interest is sociology...played with current Penguin Brandian Ross.

Corbin Williamson

Offensive Guard

6-4 • 281

Suwanee, Ga.

Greater Atlanta Christian H.S./Hargrave Military

HARGRAVE MILITARY: Was an offensive lineman for the prep school in 2007...coach was Robert Prunty.

HIGH SCHOOL: Played three seasons as an offensive guard and defensive tackle...coach was Jimmy Chupp...also played basketball.

PERSONAL: Parents are Sylvia and Donald Williamson...has a brother and three sisters...born May 12, 1989 in Columbus, Ohio...academic interest is public relations.