



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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UTSA adds five to class on National Signing Day

SAN ANTONIO — UTSA head football coach Jeff Traylor on Wednesday announced that five student-athletes have signed National Letters of Intent to join the Roadrunners, bringing the total number to 18 in the 2022 class.

Kaleb Brown (Austin, Texas/LBJ HS), Camron Cooper (Dayton, Texas/Dayton HS), Zah Frazier (Cedartown, Ga./Coffeyville [Kan.] CC), Tai Leonard (Houston, Texas/North Shore HS) and Venly Tatafu (Portland, Ore./Independence [Kan.] CC) all have inked with the Roadrunners.

These five will join 13 other student-athletes — Chris Carpenter, Zach Causey, Chace Davis, Tye Edwards, Payne He’ Bert, Deandre Marshall, Owen Pewee, Ben Rios, Jared Sackett, Diego Tello, Brandon Tennison, Houston Thomas and Jace Wilson — who already signed with the program beginning with the early signing period in December.

The class now features eight transfers and 10 who are coming from the high school ranks. Of the transfers, three are moving to San Antonio from an FBS program while the other five last played at a junior college.

Of the 18 signees, 13 hail from the state of Texas with four from the Greater Houston Area, three from Central Texas and two each from San Antonio, the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and East Texas. The out-of-state signees are from California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Oregon.

Ten members of the class are offensive players, six are pegged for the defensive side of the ball, one is a specialist and one is classified as an athlete.

2022 UTSA Football Signing Class

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown/Previous School[s] |
|------------------|-------------|------------|------------|--|
| Kaleb Brown | LB | 6-2 | 210 | Austin, Texas/LBJ HS |
| Chris Carpenter | WR | 6-1 | 160 | Jacksonville, Texas/Jacksonville HS/Colorado |
| Zach Causey | DL | 6-1 | 275 | Madison, Miss./Madison Central HS/Jones College |
| Camron Cooper | ATH | 6-2 | 240 | Dayton, Texas/Dayton HS |
| Chace Davis | DL | 6-5 | 265 | Whittier, Calif./La Serna HS/Nevada/East Los Angeles College |
| Tye Edwards | RB | 6-3 | 230 | Palatka, Fla./Menendez HS/Hutchinson [Kan.] CC |
| Zah Frazier | CB | 6-4 | 180 | Cedartown, Ga./Cedartown HS/Coffeyville [Kan.] CC |
| Payne He’ Bert | OL | 6-4 | 310 | Pearland, Texas/Dawson HS/Northwestern |
| Tai Leonard | DL | 6-5 | 240 | Houston, Texas/North Shore HS |
| Deandre Marshall | OL | 6-6 | 310 | San Antonio, Texas/Central Catholic HS |
| Owen Pewee | OLB | 6-3 | 190 | Katy, Texas/Cypress Park HS |
| Ben Rios | OL | 6-5 | 270 | San Antonio, Texas/Central Catholic HS |
| Jared Sackett | PK | 6-1 | 190 | Keller, Texas/Timber Creek HS/UTSA/Arkansas/USF |
| Venly Tatafu | OL | 6-4 | 320 | Portland, Ore./Cleveland HS/Independence [Kan.] CC |
| Diego Tello | QB | 6-1 | 195 | Austin, Texas/Bowie HS |
| Brandon Tennison | QB | 5-10 | 175 | Gilmer, Texas/Gilmer HS |
| Houston Thomas | TE | 6-5 | 220 | College Station, Texas/College Station HS |
| Jace Wilson | WR | 6-4 | 210 | Denton, Texas/Guyer HS |



Kaleb Brown

LB • 6-2 • 210

Austin, Texas (LBJ HS)

Standout linebacker for head coach Jahmal Fenner at LBJ High School in Austin, Texas ... earned first-team all-district honors as a senior ... registered 125 tackles, 14 tackles for a loss and a pair of interceptions in 2021 ... helped lead the Jaguars to a 15-1 record, the district title and the school's first appearance in the Class 4A Division I state championship game ... starred at Del Valle High School near Austin before moving to LBJ ... three-star prospect according to 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN.

Chris Carpenter

WR • 6-1 • 160

Jacksonville, Texas (Jacksonville HS/Colorado)

Transfer wide receiver from Colorado who will have three years of eligibility remaining ... caught seven passes for 45 yards in 2021 ... had a 19-yard reception in a win over Arizona and a 15-yard catch against Washington ... posted two receptions against both Oregon and Oregon State ... appeared in two games in his true freshman season in 2020 ... four-year letterman at Jacksonville High School under head coach Wayne Coleman ... caught 97 passes for 1,448 yards and nine touchdowns, ran the ball 43 times for 323 yards and three touchdowns and completed his only pass attempt, which went 29 yards for a touchdown, during his prep career ... also recorded a pair of interceptions, 12 kick returns for 275 yards and a touchdown and five punt returns for 63 yards ... caught 47 passes for 657 yards and six touchdowns and rushed 12 times for 33 yards in eight games as a senior ... also registered 10 tackles and an interception in 2019 ... caught 13 passes for 275 yards and two TDs in a 49-48 win over Palestine ... named first-team All-District 16-5A as a junior after catching 31 passes for 501 yards and two TDs while rushing 24 times for 255 yards and three scores ... carried six times for 153 yards and three touchdowns and logged two catches for 41 yards in a 43-27 win over Mt. Pleasant ... added two kick returns for 112 yards and a touchdown in 2018 ... had 19 receptions for 290 yards and a TD as a sophomore ... registered seven catches for 101 yards versus Lindale ... consensus three-star prospect coming out of high school ... also competed in soccer, basketball and track & field in high school ... prep personal bests included 21.0 seconds in the 200 meters, 6-0 in the high jump and 44-4.75 in the triple jump.

Zach Causey

DL • 6-1 • 275

Madison, Miss. (Madison Central HS/Jones College)

All-conference performer at Jones College, where he was named defensive line MVP as a sophomore ... helped Jones to the playoffs in each season ... had 24 tackles, 1.5 sacks, 3.5 tackles for a loss, six QB hurries and two pass breakups as a freshman in 2019 ... totaled 13 tackles, including 3.5 for a loss and half a sack, to go with a pair of quarterback hurries in a 2020 campaign that was limited to just five games due to COVID-19 ... was on the JCGridiron.com Preseason Defensive Tackle of the Year Watch List ... three-star player who was rated as the 44th-best prospect in junior college by 247Sports ... prepped at Madison Central High School, where he played for Anthony Hart ... helped lead the Tigers to a 10-4 record and the 6A North/South State Championship as a senior ... had 55 tackles, seven tackles for a loss and three sacks as a senior ... two-time academic honor roll selection.

Camron Cooper

ATH • 6-2 • 240

Dayton, Texas (Dayton HS)

Two-way star for head coach Blake Ware at Dayton High School ... first-team all-district selection at both defensive line and tight end as a senior ... had 73 tackles, 17 tackles for a loss, seven sacks, 15 quarterback hurries and a pair of forced fumbles in 2021 ... totaled six catches for 225 yards, with three receiving touchdowns and one rushing TD as a senior ... first-team all-district performer as a junior ... three-star prospect according to 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN ... earned academic all-district honors ... also a member of the basketball team.



Chace Davis

DL • 6-5 • 265

Whittier, Calif. (La Serna HS/East Los Angeles College)

Transfer defensive lineman from East Los Angeles College ... played in 10 games for the Huskies as a sophomore ... recorded 25 tackles, five tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks and a forced fumble in 2021 ... had six tackles, including a sack at Long Beach ... had 1.5 sacks in a win over Canyons ... recorded four tackles for loss, two pass breakups and a fumble recovery in five games in 2019 ... three-star defensive line prospect by 247Sports and ESPN ... prepped at La Serna High School in California ... all-league selection ... was twice named to the academic honor roll.

Tye Edwards

RB • 6-3 • 230

Palatka, Fla. (Menendez HS/Georgia Military College/Hutchinson [Kan.] CC)

First-team NJCAA All-American at Hutchinson [Kan.] Community College who helped lead the Blue Dragons to the 2020-21 national title ... rushed for 713 yards and eight TDs in eight contests as a sophomore ... named the NJCAA Championship Game MVP after he posted 139 rushing yards and a pair of scores on 20 carries in the win over Snow College ... went for 132 yards and three TDs on 21 carries in a win over Butler CC ... had 21 carries and 157 yards versus Garden City ... rushed for 461 yards and four touchdowns on 78 carries in eight games in 2021 ... carried 74 times for 442 yards and six TDs in 10 games in 2019 at Georgia Military College ... also had six catches for 79 yards and a score ... rushed for more than 2,600 yards and 36 touchdowns as a prepster at Menendez High School ... racked up more than 1,900 yards and 26 TDs as a senior ... also played basketball in high school ... three-star prep prospect by 247Sports and Rivals.

Zah Frazier

CB • 6-4 • 180

Cedartown, Ga. (Cedartown HS/Southern Illinois/Coffeyville [Kan.] CC)

JUCO All-American and first-team all-conference cornerback for head coach Jeff Leiker at Coffeyville [Kan.] Community College ... four-star prospect and the nation's No. 3 overall JUCO recruit by Rivals ... three-star prospect according to 247Sports and ESPN ... ranked 10th in the NJCAA with 11 pass breakups and totaled 26 tackles, one forced fumble and a fumble recovery in 2021 ... helped the Red Ravens win the conference championship and to a national ranking as high as No. 11 ... recorded three interceptions, two PBUs and nine tackles as a freshman in 2020 and was named second-team all-conference ... played the 2019 season at Southern Illinois, where he saw action in four games with one tackle ... prepped at Cedartown High School in Georgia ... two-time all-region performer ... had 93 tackles and 10 interceptions during his prep career ... returned one of two interceptions for a score against LaGrange High School ... named honorable mention all-area by the Rome News-Tribune in 2018 ... was a team captain ... also played basketball and ran track.

Payne He'Bert

OL • 6-4 • 310

Pearland, Texas (Dawson HS/Northwestern)

Transfer from Northwestern, where he was a veteran of the offensive line ... redshirted the 2018 season and made his NCAA debut with an appearance in a win over UMass in 2019 ... did not see game action during the COVID-impacted 2020 season ... saw action in four games in 2021 ... prepped at Pearland Dawson High School ... rated a three-star prep prospect by 247Sports ... three-year letterman and 2017 team captain ... first-team all-district selection as a senior ... 2017 Houston Chronicle and VYPE Top 100 honoree ... helped lead Dawson to a district championship in 2016 ... two-year letterman in basketball ... also participated in power lifting and in track & field ... honor roll student ... last name is pronounced HAY-bear.



Tai Leonard

DL • 6-5 • 240

Houston, Texas (North Shore HS)

Standout defensive lineman for head coach Jon Kay at Galena Park North Shore High School ... racked up 54 tackles, including 24 solo stops, 11 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks, as a senior ... also registered nine quarterback pressures and four pass breakups en route to second-team all-district accolades in 2021 ... helped the Mustangs win the Class 6A D1 state championship as a senior ... posted 41 tackles, five tackles for loss, three sacks and eight QB pressures as a junior ... played at Cy Falls High School as a sophomore ... three-star prospect by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN.

Deandre Marshall

OL • 6-6 • 310

San Antonio, Texas (Central Catholic HS)

Two-time first-team all-state offensive lineman for Central Catholic High School under head coach Mike Santiago ... played in the 2022 U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome ... named second-team all-state as a sophomore ... three-time all-district selection ... led the Buttons to the playoffs in each of his final three years, including a semifinal appearance as a senior ... three-star prospect according to 247Sports and ESPN ... also competed in the discus and shot put for the track & field program.

Owen Pewee

OLB • 6-3 • 190

Katy, Texas (Cypress Park HS)

First-team all-district linebacker at Cy Park High School for head coach Greg Rogers ... helped lead the Tigers to the first round of the Class 6A Division II playoffs as a junior ... credited with 50 tackles, 30 solo stops, four tackles for loss, four pass breakups and an interception in 2020 ... consensus, three-star prospect by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN ... rated by Dave Campbell's Texas Football as the ninth-best linebacker and in the top 50 overall prospects in the state ... also played basketball and helped lead the team to the fourth round of the playoffs in 2021 ... member of the honor roll ... originally from Liberia.

Ben Rios

OL • 6-5 • 270

San Antonio, Texas (Central Catholic HS)

2022 All-American offensive lineman at Central Catholic High School ... three-year starter who also saw time at defensive end under head coach Mike Santiago ... played in the 2022 U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome ... two-time all-state selection ... first-team all-district performer as a senior and second-team all-district as a junior ... led the Buttons to the playoffs in each of his final three years, including a semifinal appearance as a senior ... three-star prospect according to 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN ... also played basketball and was a member of the debate team.



Jared Sackett

PK • 6-1 • 190

Keller, Texas (Timber Creek HS/UTSA/Arkansas/USF)

2017 Freshman All-American and two-time Lou Groza Award semifinalist in 2017-18 at UTSA who is returning to the Roadrunners as a graduate transfer ... made 5 of 7 field goals in 2020 at USF ... was 10 of 10 in extra-point tries ... split the uprights from 39 and 25 yards against Tulsa ... named to the American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team ... earned his bachelor's degree in economics from USF ... sat out the 2019 season at Arkansas after transferring from UTSA ... Lou Groza Award semifinalist and honorable mention All-Conference USA performer for the Roadrunners in 2017 and '18 ... connected on 14-of-19 field goals (73.7%), including nine of 40-plus yards as a sophomore ... ranked fourth in the C-USA and 30th nationally in field goals per game (1.27) ... hit a career-long 51-yard field goal versus UTEP ... became UTSA's second Freshman All-American when he was honored by USA TODAY in 2017 ... voted to the C-USA All-Freshman Team ... set a then-school-record with 19 field goals (22 attempts) ... ranked third in the nation in field goals per game (1.9) and ninth in field-goal percentage (.864) ... named C-USA Special Teams Player of the Week after making all three field goal attempts, including the game-winner with two seconds left, in the 9-7 victory against Marshall ... made his first eight field goal attempts of the season ... was 3-for-3 with a long of 43 in the 44-14 rout of Texas State ... also made all three attempts, including a season-long 44-yarder, against Southern Miss ... also made 23 extra points and booted three kickoffs, including one that went for a touchback. ... first-team all-district pick at Timber Creek High School ... made 8-of-10 field goals with a long of 46 yards ... named the team's special teams player of the year following his senior season ... three-year letterwinner for the Falcons ... also a three-year starter for the soccer team.

Venly Tatafu

OL • 6-4 • 320

Portland, Ore. (Cleveland HS/Independence [Kan.] CC)

Standout on the offensive line for head coach Jason Martin at Independence [Kan.] Community College ... named to the All-Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Second Team Offense at guard in 2021 ... three-star prospect by 247Sports and Rivals ... No. 3-ranked JUCO interior offensive line recruit according to 247Sports ... ranked 18th among all JUCO prospects by Rivals ... starred at Cleveland High School in Portland, Ore. ... 2019 Class 5A Northwest Oregon Conference West Lineman of the Year and first-team all-league selection on both sides of the ball as a senior ... honorable mention all-state at both center and defensive tackle ... second-team Portland Interscholastic League performer on the defensive line as a sophomore.

Diego Tello

QB • 6-1 • 195

Austin, Texas (Bowie HS)

Star quarterback at Bowie High School in Austin for head coach Jeff Ables ... voted to the 2021 Whataburger Super Team — Fan's Choice ... three-star prospect according to 247Sports and ESPN ... suffered a season-ending injury in the first game of his senior season ... tossed 26 TDs and threw 2,119 yards while completing 65% of his passes as a junior ... passed for 1,500 yards and 16 TDs as a sophomore ... earned academic all-district honors in 2019 and 2020.



Brandon Tennison

QB • 5-10 • 175

Gilmer, Texas (Gilmer HS)

District MVP and all-district quarterback for prep powerhouse Gilmer High School under head coach Alan Metzel ... three-year starter for the Buckeyes who has passed for 8,139 yards and 78 touchdowns during his career ... threw for 3,877 yards and 36 TDs and rushed for 468 yards as a senior, leading Gilmer to a 14-2 record and the 2021 Class 4A Division II State Championship Game ... named to the 2021 Whataburger Super Team ... threw for 3,866 yards and 40 TDs and rushed for 985 yards and 10 scores in 2020 ... led the Buckeyes to a 14-2 record and a state runner-up finish as a junior ... played on both sides of the ball as a sophomore and helped Gilmer to an 11-3 mark and a quarterfinal-round appearance in the playoffs ... three-star recruit by 247Sports ... also competed in track & field.

Houston Thomas

TE • 6-5 • 220

College Station, Texas (College Station HS)

Standout tight end at College Station High School under head coach Steve Huff ... posted 1,551 yards and 13 touchdowns on 107 catches during his three-year prep career ... had 39 receptions for 650 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior ... named first-team all-district ... helped the Cougars to a 15-1 record and an appearance in the 2021 Class 5A Division I Championship Game ... caught 39 passes for 498 yards and three touchdowns as a junior ... helped lead College Station to a 10-2 record and the second round of the playoffs in 2020 ... three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN ... also competed in track & field.

Jace Wilson

WR • 6-4 • 210

Denton, Texas (Guyer HS)

Star wide receiver for prep powerhouse Denton Guyer High School under head coach Rodney Webb ... grabbed 32 passes for 343 yards in 10 games as a senior ... helped lead the Wildcats to a 14-2 record and an appearance in the 2021 Class 6A Division II State Championship Game ... named third-team all-district despite missing numerous regular season contests ... had a team-high 53 catches for 604 yards and six TDs to help Guyer to an 11-3 record and an appearance in the Class 6A Division II semifinal round as a junior ... first-team all-district selection in 2020 ... rated as a three-star prospect by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN ... also played basketball and baseball.
