



# Northwest Missouri State University

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Football Release

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Feb. 4, 2009

## Bearcat Football Adds 27 on Signing Day

MARYVILLE, Mo.—Northwest Missouri State head football coach Mel Tjeerdsma has released the names of 27 high school seniors who signed national letters of intent to become Bearcats in the fall of 2009. Of the signees, 17 hail from outside the Missouri border, 11 are linemen and two are quarterbacks. Eight have competed in championship games and four have won the crown.

The 27 student-athletes join a program that has played for a national championship in each of the last four seasons, has won 28 straight MIAA games and won the last three conference titles with unblemished 9-0 records.

“Things worked out well at a couple of positions and we ended up bringing in a class larger than I originally expected,” said Northwest head coach Mel Tjeerdsma. “We were thrilled to find six offensive linemen since that’s a position we’re a little short on right now.

“We didn’t recruit as many skill kids this year, but our goal was to recruit two quality quarterbacks and we did that in Permian’s Trevor Adams and Bellevue West’s Tyler Seals.”

Northwest successfully recruited in the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Texas and Kansas in addition to Missouri.

The team also added three Maryville Spoofhounds in running back Adam Mattson, linebacker John Schreck and defensive lineman Zach Sherry. Maryville was 13-2 in 2008 and was the Missouri Class 2 runner-up.

“Maryville athletes have been successful here,” said Tjeerdsma. “Four of our 22 starters from a year ago were Spoofhounds. These three have the ability to contribute. It’s a matter of how they develop and Maryville athletes have always grown at Northwest. They have a passion to play here and that’s been a reason why they’ve been successful.”

Northwest has played before a nation-wide audience on ESPN eight times in the last four years and Tjeerdsma says that more than anything has contributed to the large percentage of out-of-state athletes.

“ESPN and a game each season at Arrowhead Stadium play a huge role in out-of-state recruiting,” said Tjeerdsma. “We get quality athletes from a distance who send us tapes and we’ve found many talented individuals in taking the time to evaluate them. We don’t have the budget to recruit in Illinois and Texas, but these players have seen us on ESPN and they introduce themselves to us.”

Of the 27 players, 13 also play basketball and 13 compete on track and field teams. One (Kohlman Adema-Schulte) has been named the Nebraska Male Track Athlete of the Year, another (Clint Utter) has been named to his high school’s Hall of Fame and a third (Matt Sterup) was part of a team that outscored its opponents by 400 points.

The following is an alphabetical listing of all 27 recruits, some information about the signees and some of coach Tjeerdsma’s comments on the student-athlete:

### BREAKDOWN

#### States:

Missouri .....	10
Iowa .....	5
Nebraska .....	4
Illinois.....	3
Texas .....	3
Kansas.....	2

#### Position:

Offensive Line.....	6
Defensive Line.....	5
Defensive Back .....	3
Running Back .....	3
Linebacker .....	3
Wide Receiver .....	2
Kicker/Punter .....	2
Quarterback.....	2
Tight End .....	1

♦ **TREVOR ADAMS** (Odessa, Texas) – Quarterback, 6-1, 192 lbs.

High School: Permian

Head Coach: Darren Allman

Parents: Jeff and Sherry Adams

**Notes:** Led his team to a 12-1 record and was undefeated district champions ... completed 191-of-280 passes for 2,683 yards and 22 touchdowns in 2008 ... carried 100 times for 528 yards and six scores ... set program records for single-season passing yards and single-season completions ... is the only player in school history to pass for 200 yards and rush for 100 in a single game ... earned all-district honors and was a first-team academic all-district and all-state choice ... voted team's best offensive back as a senior ... also competed in baseball

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Trevor is an outstanding student and an outstanding quarterback. He played at the highest level in Texas. His team lost in the quarterfinals by the eventual state champion in a close game. Trevor's very productive and he's going to be a tremendous leader. He has great values and character - all the things you're looking for in a quarterback. He not only has all the physical things we're looking for, but all those intrinsic things you want in a quarterback."

♦ **KOHLMAN ADEMA-SCHULTE** (Omaha, Neb.) – Running Back, 5-9, 185 lbs.

High School: Millard West

Head Coach: Kirk Peterson

Parents: Mike and Kristi Schulte

**Notes:** Ran for 96 yards and a touchdown in leading Millard West to a win against Millard South in the 2008 Class A title game ... the win completed a 13-0 season for the Wildcats ... carried 172 times for 1,340 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2008 ... also caught eight passes for 68 yards ... earned all-state honors ... also competed in track ... 2008 state champion in the 100-meter dash (10.67s) and 200-meter dash (21.84s) ... Nebraska Male Track Athlete of the Year

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Kohlman may be on the small side at 5-9, but he's extremely fast. He's the gold medalist in the 100- and 200-meter dashes in the state of Nebraska. He was at our camp last year and we were impressed with his ability, work ethic and desire to be a good football player. Millard West was state champions this year in football so he's competed in a good program. He's going to run track here and that'll be a good combination."

♦ **TODD ADOLF** (Omaha, Neb.) – Punter/Kicker, 6-0, 160 lbs.

High School: Millard North

Head Coach: Fred Petito

Parents: Dave and Pam Adolf

**Notes:** 2007 football state runner-up ... earned second-team all-metro honors ... honorable mention all-state pick ... led class A in punting with a 40.1 average ... also competed in basketball and soccer ... won the 2007 soccer state title ... had 10 goals and two assists in 2008 (20th leading scorer in the state)

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Todd's an outstanding student and Millard North is a great program year after year. He's played at the highest level. In addition, he's a solid point guard on the basketball team and a proven leader on the court. We needed to bring in two kickers this year and in my opinion we have one of the best out of Nebraska and one of the best out of Missouri."

♦ **RICKY BAILEY** (Wentzville, Mo.) – Defensive End, 6-3, 230 lbs.

High School: Holt

Head Coach: Chris Shields

Parents: Richard and Mi Bailey

**Notes:** Earned all-conference, all-district and all-state honors for his play at defensive end ... also earned first-team all-conference honors as a tight end, where he caught 36 passes for 564 yards and four touchdowns as a senior ... also competed in basketball

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "We looked at Ricky not just as a defensive end, but also as a tight end. He really was an outstanding player at Holt and was productive on both sides of the ball. Size wise, he's going to have to grow some, but he's going to develop well here."

♦ **JAKE BAUMGARTNER** (Granger, Iowa) – Defensive End, 6-3, 230 lbs.

High School: Johnston

Head Coach: Brian Woodley

Parents: Craig and Pam Baumgartner

**Notes:** Played linebacker and defensive end ... earned first-team all-conference honors in 2007 ... was a second-team pick in 2008 despite missing much of the season due to injury ... member of the National Honor Society ... also played basketball

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Jake's been a player who's stood out at our team camp the last two years. It gave us the opportunity to spend two-and-a-half days with him and to get to know the type of person he is. Jake's a very intense football player, he loves the game and he plays and practices hard. He has a real upside in terms of development."

♦ **CODY CARLSON** (Eudora, Kansas) – Offensive Guard, 6-2, 265 lbs.

High School: Eudora

Head Coach: Greg Webb

Parents: Alan and Kathy Carlson

**Notes:** All-conference lineman who was also named team MVP ... earned all-area honors and was a nominee for the Shrine Bowl ... also competed in basketball and track and field

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Cody has been at our team camp the last two years, and though he doesn't quite have the height as some of our other offensive linemen, he's a solid football player, a hard worker and a guy who will go out and give you everything he's got on every snap. He's from a smaller school where he's played both sides of the ball so he can develop well in our system."

♦ **DANNY CARLSON** (Troy, Ill.) –Defensive Line, 6-2, 250 lbs.

High School: Triad

Head Coach: Paul Bassler

Parents: Jim and Julie Carlson

**Notes:** Two-year team captain who compiled 87 tackles and 11 sacks in his junior and senior seasons ... was a 2008 all-state defensive lineman ... invited to the 2008 national junior combine ... named the school's 2006 special teams player of the year ... also competed in basketball and track and field ... member of the national honors society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Danny is a defensive lineman, an inside player, and one of the best that we saw on film. Triad had one of the best teams in the history of their school and made the playoffs for the first time in a long time and because of that, both he and Philip (Carter) wanted to go somewhere where they knew they were going to win and that was a neat thing to have."

♦ **PHILIP CARTER** (Marine, Ill.) – Offensive Line, 6-4, 285 lbs.

High School: Triad

Head Coach: Paul Bassler

Mother: Wendy Rettle

**Notes:** First-team all-conference and all-metro and was an honorable mention all-state pick ... helped lead Troy to a Mississippi Valley Conference Championship (5-0) and a 7-3 overall record ... paced an offense that posted 40 points or more five times ... also competed in basketball

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Philip is athletic and has tremendous upside. He plays on a basketball team that's leading the conference right now and Triad hasn't won the conference in years. Both he and Danny (Carlson) are solid athletes, very competitive and they understand what it means to win and how to be a winner."

♦ **COLE DAFFT** (Prosper, Texas) – Center, 6-3, 260 lbs.

High School: Prosper

Head Coach: Kent Scott

Parents: Scott and Jennifer Dafft

**Notes:** District Lineman of the Year who helped lead Prosper to a 14-1 record and the 2008 Class 3A Division I Texas State Championship ... became the first team to beat Celina since 1984 ... 2008 team captain ... Texas Sportswriters Class 3A first-team all-state choice ... also an academic all-state selection

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Cole is an outstanding lineman and one of the best we've seen on film in a long time. He's a center, which is a plus because you don't get too many centers. Right now we see Cole as a center, but he could end up playing anywhere along the offensive line. He comes from a great family and has a great work ethic. Cole's going to play an awful lot of football for us in the upcoming years."

♦ **JUSTIN EIKEN** (Jefferson City, Mo.) – Wide Receiver, 6-0, 175 lbs.

High School: Blair Oaks

Head Coach: Brad Drehle

Parents: Dennis and Judy Eiken

**Notes:** Was a starting receiver before becoming an all-state quarterback in his junior and senior seasons ... had 125 yards receiving and two touchdowns in the 2006 championship game to lead Blair Oaks to the Class 2 title ... passed for 1,981 yards and 24 touchdowns during the regular season of 2008 ... added another 1,183 yards and 21 touchdowns rushing where he averaged 7.8 yards per carry ... first-team all-state in 2007 (all-purpose) and 2008 (quarterback) ... was named the 2007 Class 2 Defensive Player of the Year

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "We looked at Justin as a quarterback, but as you look at his honors, you see that he was defensive back of the year a year ago and a starting receiver as a sophomore. Justin's a great athlete who plays basketball and really struggled with maybe playing college baseball instead of football or try to do both. He's a competitor and a winner and he'll find a place to play."

♦ **JOEL GANTZ** (Perry, Kan.) – Tight End, 6-5, 225 lbs.

High School: Perry-Lecompton

Head Coach: Mike Paramore

Parents: Neil and Nancy Gantz

**Notes:** All-conference tight end and defensive lineman for the Kaws, who won the 2008 district title and were Kansas 4A State Runner-Ups ... first-team all-state defensive lineman and earned honorable mention all-state honors as a tight end ... selected to play in the 2009 Shrine Bowl ... in 14 games his senior year, had 43 receptions for 722 yards and seven touchdowns ... defensively, had 78 solo tackles, five sacks and an interception ... also competed in basketball and track and field

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Joel's been at camp the last two years. A tight end, a defensive end, we thought that losing (Josh) Gannan we had to bring in at least one tight end and Joel was the player we had pegged all along as the athlete we really wanted because of the association we had with him at camp. Joel runs incredibly well for a guy his size and has a tremendous upside for us."

♦ **BRIAN GERAGHTY** (Lee's Summit, Mo.) – Kicker, 6-0, 190 lbs.

High School: Blue Springs South

Head Coach: Greg Oder

Parents: Shawn and Debbie Geraghty

**Notes:** Three-time all-conference, three-time all-area, two-time all-district and 2007 all-state kicker ... scored 62 points in 2008, including 47 extra points and five field goals ... was 7-of-7 in field goals in 2006 and 4-for-4 with a long of 43 yards in 2007 ... National Honor Society and student senate member

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Brian has all kinds of honors as a kicker. The neat thing about Brian is that both of his parents are Northwest alums and his dad, Shawn, was a kicker here. He has what it takes to be a guy who can compete for our kicking spot and that competition is what we want."

♦ **D.J. GNADER** (Council Bluffs, Iowa) – Linebacker, 6-2, 224 lbs.

High School: Lewis Central

Head Coach: Larry Storbick

Parents: Don and Jodi Gnader

**Notes:** All-state linebacker and fullback for the Titans ... finished with 123 tackles, 90 solo, and an interception on defense ... rushed for 531 yards ... returned two kickoffs and a punt for touchdowns ... selected to play in the 2009 Shrine Bowl

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "D.J. is one of the fastest linebackers we've ever recruited. He ran under 11 seconds last year in the 100-meters. He's a big kid at 6-2, 220, and is an explosive football player. He can play anywhere on the field as a linebacker - inside or outside. Coach (Scott) Bostwick's comment on him was if you play him inside he can go to either side of the field and make plays and that's exactly what he does."

♦ **DARIUS HICKS** (Kansas City, Mo.) – Defensive Back, 5-10, 180 lbs.

High School: Central

Head Coach: Henry Newell

Parents: Ricky Sr. and Tina Hicks

**Notes:** Brother of Northwest freshman football player, Ricky Hicks, who redshirted the 2008 season ... four-year varsity starter at quarterback and cornerback ... was a two-time all-district pick at quarterback and was an all-conference cornerback ... also competed in track

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Darius is an athletic young man, who actually played quarterback this year. That's not what we recruited him as, though, and I think his future is going to be at corner. Darius comes from a great family and has outstanding character and like his brother, Ricky, is very competitive and has a great work ethic."

♦ **JEFF HOWETH** (Dallas, Texas) – Safety, 6-0, 200 lbs.

High School: Highland Park

Head Coach: Randy Allen

Parents: Mark and Penney Howeth

**Notes:** Leading tackler on a team that went a combined 26-3 during the 2007 and 2008 seasons ... two-time all-district pick ... had 119 tackles as a junior and 137 stops as a senior ... finished with nine career interceptions and scored three defensive touchdowns ... also competed in track and powerlifting

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Highland Park was the 4A state champs Jeff's sophomore year, they got beat in the championship game his junior year and this year I believe they got to the quarterfinals, but is one of the greatest football programs ever in the state of Texas. Jeff's father, Mark, is the defensive coordinator there. Jeff's grown up with football and as a safety is instinctive and has the ability to cover a lot of ground. He'll fit into the same mold as some of the safeties we have now."

♦ **KASEY JUHL** (Lewis, Iowa) – Offensive Line, 6-6, 290 lbs.

High School: Atlantic

Head Coach: Gaylord Schelling

Parents: Richard and Jamie Juhl

**Notes:** First-team all-district and all-state offensive lineman for the Trojans ... helped Atlantic to a 5-4 mark in 2008 with averages of 19 points and 155 yards rushing per game ... also competed in wrestling where he placed seventh at the state meet and in track, where he placed fourth in the 2008 state outdoor meet in the shot put (54') and fifth in the discus (161' 5")

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Kasey is an outstanding three-sport athlete at Atlantic. He's ranked in the top five in the state in wrestling, placed in the state meet last year and is an excellent track and field athlete. Kasey has a big frame and he'll develop well here at Northwest."

♦ **C.J. KEENEY** (Smithville, Mo.) – Offensive Line, 6-6, 275 lbs.

High School: Smithville

Head Coach: Greg Smith

Mother: Patty Keeney

**Notes:** Earned first-team honors on both the offensive (unan.) and defensive lines ... was voted to the Class 3 all-state team by the coaches' association and by the Missouri Sportswriters and Sportscasters ... was selected to the KMZU and KKWK Dream Teams ... also competed in basketball and track

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "C.J. is a big-frame offensive lineman, who played both ways at Smithville. Once he gets here and gets into our program, he's going to develop quickly."

♦ **TRAVIS MANNING** (Bellefonte, Ill.) – Cornerback, 6-0, 185 lbs.

High School: Belleville West

Head Coach: Ric Johns

Parents: Theodore Whitehead and Barbara Rodriguez

**Notes:** Special teams most valuable player ... also competed in basketball and track, where he placed fifth in the triple jump at the 2008 Illinois State Meet ... was also a state qualifier and school record holder in the 110-meter high hurdles (14.2s) ... named basketball MVP of the 2009 Denver Miller Basketball Tournament

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Travis is an outstanding athlete who will be a two-sport athlete here. He ran a 14.2 high-hurdles last year, which is an outstanding time. He played safety in high school, but we project him to be a tremendously talented corner here at Northwest."

♦ **CODY MATTHEWSON** (Madrid, Iowa) – Linebacker, 6-2, 210 lbs.

High School: Madrid

Head Coach: Randy Hinkel

Parents: Kurt and Michelle

**Notes:** Helped lead the Tigers to an 11-2 record in 2008 and an appearance in the state semifinals ... Madrid was 40-6 in his four seasons ... was a first-team choice on the elite all-state team ... rushed for 4,508 yards and scored 51 touchdowns at Madrid ... led the state of Iowa in average yards per carry in 2007 and 2008 (12.0 ypc and 13.6 ypc, respectively) ... was a five-sport athlete who also competed in powerlifting, track and field, baseball and golf

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Cody is a talented football and track and field athlete. Physically, he's extremely developed strength wise and speed wise is one of the top 100-meter runners in Iowa. The level of competition may have held Cody back a little bit, but we've had great success with athletes from small schools."

♦ **ADAM MATTSON** (Maryville, Mo.) – Running Back, 5-10, 180 lbs.

High School: Maryville

Head Coach: Chris Holt

Parents: Rick and Lana Mattson

**Notes:** Carried 207 times for 1,826 yards and 21 touchdowns in leading the Spoofhounds to a runner-up finish in the Class 2A State Title game ... it was the school's first trip to the championship game since 1996 ... rushed for a school-record 259 yards and three touchdowns in a sectional playoff win against Trenton ... school's career rushing leader (4,245 yards) ... two-time all-state selection ... three-time all-conference performer

**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Adam is Mr. Everything here in Maryville. He's had a great offensive career and led the Spoofhounds to the championship game. He's a three-sport star and has posted excellent times on the track. He's going to have to grow a little bit, but he has some special abilities."

- ♦ **JOHN SCHRECK** (Maryville, Mo.) – Linebacker, 6-2, 180 lbs.  
High School: Maryville                      Head Coach: Chris Holt                      Parents: Lou and Renee Schreck  
**Notes:** Team captain for the Spoofhounds, who went 13-2 and was the runner-up in the 2008 Class 2A State Title game ... it was the school's first trip to the championship game since 1996 ... the team didn't allow a point in the third quarter of any game ... earned first-team all-conference (unan.) and all-district honors and was a second-team all-state pick ... also competed in track and field and was a 1,600-meter relay state qualifier  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "John has a real big frame and we believe he's going to fill out and that all of his best football is ahead of him. John's been an integral part of Maryville's defense and was a tight end on offense. As he grows and develops he's going to be a real good player for us."
  
- ♦ **TYLER SEALS** (Bellevue, Neb.) – Quarterback, 6-2, 190 lbs.  
High School: Bellevue West                      Head Coach: John Faiman                      Parents: Erik and Heidi Seals  
**Notes:** Two-time all-state quarterback for the Thunderbirds ... in just two seasons, broke Class A career marks for passing yards and touchdowns ... as a senior, passed for 2,909 yards, a Class A record, and 29 touchdowns in 11 games (7-4) ... in 10 games as a junior, threw for 2,424 yards and had 31 TD tosses ... also competed in basketball  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Tyler had a great senior year and is one of the all-time leading passers in the state of Nebraska. He has excellent leadership skills and led Bellevue to a playoff berth. Tyler is a good student and is a player we're really excited have."
  
- ♦ **ZACH SHERRY** (Conception Mo.) – Defensive Line, 6-0, 210 lbs.  
High School: Maryville                      Head Coach: Chris Holt                      Parents: Doug and Barb Sherry  
**Notes:** Missouri Class 2 Defensive Player of the Year ... was a two-time all-conference (unan.), all-district and all-state player for the Spoofhounds, who went 13-2 and was the runner-up in the 2008 Class 2A State Title game ... the team didn't allow a point in the third quarter of any game ... it was the school's first trip to the championship game since 1996 ... finished 2008 with 69 tackles and 5.5 sacks ... also competed in track and field  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "What Adam Mattson has been on offense at Maryville, Zach Sherry has been on defense. He's been an all-state player the last two years, has a great motor and plays very hard. He's an intense individual and gives great effort on every snap."
  
- ♦ **MATT STERUP** (Hastings, Neb.) – Offensive Line, 6-6, 270 lbs.  
High School: St. Cecilia                      Head Coach: Carl Tesmer                      Parents: Doug and Mary Sterup  
**Notes:** Was a two-time all-state performer for the Bluehawks ... helped lead St. Cecilia to a 10-1 record in 2008, a season in which the Bluehawks outscored their opponents by 400 points (446-46) ... also competed in basketball where the Bluehawks won the 2008 C-1 state championship  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Matt is a big body and because of the level of play, could develop into a really good player. We've had success with players from small schools. In addition, he's an outstanding student and a candidate for a presidential scholarship and that's what we're looking for."
  
- ♦ **CLINT UTTER** (Bloomfield, Iowa) – Wide Receiver, 6-4, 190 lbs.  
High School: Ottumwa                      Head Coach: Zach Wigle                      Parents: John and Stacy Utter  
**Notes:** Second-team all-state performer for the conference champion Bulldogs ... caught 28 passes for 817 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior (29.2 ypr) ... had 15 catches for 285 yards and four TDs as a junior ... also had 54 tackles and an interception in 2007 ... also competed in basketball, baseball and track and field ... inducted into the Ottumwa High School Track Hall of Fame for his 1600-meter relay and 400-meter performances  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Clint is an outstanding receiver who played on a pretty good team even though they didn't throw the ball very well. We were fortunate to see Clint play in the playoffs and he has some good qualities about him. We like his size, his speed and he catches the ball well. Clint's a two-sport star and he starts on their basketball team."
  
- ♦ **QUINCY WILLIAMS** (Lee's Summit Mo.) – Running Back, 5-10, 180 lbs.  
High School: Lee's Summit North                      Head Coach: Harold Wambsgans                      Parents: Quincy and Kimberly Williams  
**Notes:** First-team all-conference, all-metro and all-state running back ... averaged better than 10 yards per carry in 2008, gaining 1,737 yards on 171 carries ... also scored 22 touchdowns in leading the Broncos to the Missouri Class 6 playoffs  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Quincy is a talented running back and defensive back who can do anything. He's an outstanding athlete. He runs track, he was here at our camps last summer and the very first practice he caught our eye. We've been following him ever since."
  
- ♦ **ZACH WILLIAMS** (Kansas City, Mo.) – Defensive End, 6-2, 225 lbs.  
High School: KC Center                      Head Coach: Corey Phillips                      Parents: Dan and Pam Williams  
**Notes:** Earned all-conference honors on both the offensive and defensive lines ... also competed in wrestling  
**Coach Tjeerdsma:** "Zach is a diamond in the rough. He played on a mediocre football team this year and played many different positions. He spent a good amount of time at linebacker, but we think he'll be a terrific defensive end. He has tremendous upside. One of his coaches, Kevin Singletary, played for us back when we were first here and Kevin thinks the world of Zach."

In addition to these 27, the following players have been accepted for admission at Northwest Missouri State and been granted an invitation to play football: Cole Rosier (Mound City, Mo.), James Cairney (Harlan, Iowa), Kyler Hiatt (Worth County HS) and Bryant Hummel (Clarinda, Iowa).