



Northwest Missouri State University

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Football Release

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Bearcat Football Signs 18

MARYVILLE, Mo.—Northwest Missouri State head football coach Mel Tjeerdsma has released the names of 17 high school seniors and one junior college transfer who signed national letters of intent to become Bearcats in the fall of 2010. Of the signees, 10 hail from outside the Missouri border, six are linemen and four are defensive backs. Thirteen of the signees are multi-sport stars in high school including two who've won individual state titles in track and field.

The 18 student-athletes join a program that recently won its third national championship in 12 years and has played for the title in each of the last five seasons. Northwest has won 37 consecutive games in MIAA play and has won the last four conference crowns with unblemished 9-0 records.

"We had to prioritize our needs this offseason and our staff did a great job of filling those priorities," said Tjeerdsma. "We strove for three quality offensive linemen and that's what we got. We were hopeful of adding four defensive linemen. We have three right now and we'll continue to work to get a fourth.

"We don't have a quarterback or running back on the list. When we looked at who we were returning, those positions fell further on our priorities as far as this year's class. We took two linebackers – one inside and one outside – and they're outstanding. We added a safety and were searching for two corners, but found three. For the most part, we really stayed with our plan."

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

"The exposure we received this season through three nationally televised games and winning a national championship really makes a difference," said Tjeerdsma. "These athletes want to identify with a winner and that's why we were able to recruit in places we normally couldn't reach."

Northwest has played before a nation-wide audience 11 times in the last five seasons, including nine games which were broadcast by ESPN and two which aired live on CBS College Sports. In addition to the television exposure, the Bearcats will continue to play their annual game with Pittsburg State at Arrowhead Stadium – the home of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs.

"Our coaches did a terrific job of blending in-state and out-of-state talent," said Tjeerdsma. "In addition, we're impressed with what this class has accomplished in the classroom. Last year's freshmen class had a 2.9 grade point average last fall, which is incredible. This year's class will challenge that mark."

Listed on the following pages is an alphabetical listing of all 18 recruits, some information about the signees and some of coach Tjeerdsma's comments on the student-athlete.

In addition to the 18 signees, Tjeerdsma has released the names of four players who have been admitted to the University, have chosen to walk on and have committed to play for the Bearcat football team next season. Those student-athletes are:

Cody Best, K, Blue Springs HS
Gage Rosier, RB, Mound City HS

Ty Griffin, OL, Orrick HS
Jake Bolin, QB, St. Joseph Central HS

BREAKDOWN

States:

Missouri	8
Nebraska	5
Iowa	2
Illinois.....	1
Kansas.....	1
Wisconsin	1

Position:

Defensive Back	4
Offensive Line.....	3
Defensive Line.....	3
Tight End	3
Linebacker	2
Wide Receiver	2
Fullback	1

♦ **KEVIN ARNOLD** (Iowa City, Iowa) – Defensive End, 6-4, 220 lbs.

High School: Iowa City Regina

Head Coach: Marv Cook

Parents: Mark and Ana Arnold

Notes: Second-team all-state selection, who played a number of positions for the Regals ... led 10-2 Iowa City Regina with 99 tackles and had six tackles-for-loss, three interceptions and three fumble recoveries ... ran for 307 yards on 69 carries and scored four touchdowns and caught 28 passes for 386 yards and a score ... also plays basketball

Coach Tjeerdsma: "Kevin was an outstanding linebacker at Iowa City Regina, but we project him as a defensive end. We like his speed and ability to play physical. We've had success with ends who possess those qualities and think he'll mature into that role."

♦ **SAVONTAE BROWN** (Lincoln, Neb.) – Defensive Line, 6-3, 275 lbs.

High School: Lincoln North Star

Head Coach: Mark Waller

Mother: Vera Hunt

Notes: Played both offensive and defensive line for the Gators ... team captain ... earned honorable mention all-state honors ... named to Lincoln's all-city team

Coach Tjeerdsma: "We had a chance to see Savontae when his team attended our camp and we were impressed by what we saw. He has great size for what we're looking for on the defensive line. He played at the highest level in Nebraska and had an outstanding high school career. He'll get better as time goes by and could develop into a great collegiate player."

♦ **BRIAN BUTTRY** (Omaha, Neb.) – Tight End / Wide Receiver, 6-3, 190 lbs.

High School: Millard West

Head Coach: Kirk Petersen

Parents: Ernest and Lori Buttry

Notes: Earned class A honorable mention all-state honors at wide receiver ... was an all-district choice and a second-team all-metro selection ... also competed in basketball and track and field ... competed mainly in the triple jump and long jump ... posted a long jump of 22-feet-6-inches

Coach Tjeerdsma: "Brian has great athleticism and runs well for a big kid. He blocks extremely well on the perimeter and for that reason could grow into a solid tight end. He's also a terrific track prospect and had one of the best long jumps in the state before he hurt his knee."

♦ **COLE CHEVALIER** (Lee's Summit, Mo.) – Offensive Line, 6-1, 283 lbs.

High School: Lee's Summit West

Head Coach: Royce Boehm

Parents: Jerry and Lori Chevalier

Notes: Earned all-state, all-district and all-conference awards for the Titans ... also selected to the all-metro team ... appeared on the principal's honor roll all eight semesters ...

Coach Tjeerdsma: "Cole attended coach Adam Dorrel's offensive linemen camp and impressed us right away. He had a successful high school career as an offensive guard and tackle, but we also see him in a center role at Northwest. He plays physical and gets the job done in the classroom as well."

♦ **JOSEPH CHINN** (Monroe City, Mo.) – Safety, 5-11, 190 lbs.

High School: Monroe City

Head Coach: Tony DeGrave

Parents: Mike and Sydney Chinn

Notes: Earned first-team all-state honors as a defensive back after recording 134 tackles, including 17 for loss, and forcing seven fumbles ... was a first-team all-district choice as a defensive back and as an all-purpose back ... earned first-team all-conference honors as a defensive back and as a wide receiver ... totaled nearly 1,000 yards of total offense and 10 touchdowns ... national honor society member ... member of the science club ... FBLA state qualifier ... brother, Jason, played for Northwest from 2001-04 ... also competed in track and basketball

Coach Tjeerdsma: "We're excited that Joe followed in his brother, Jason's, footsteps to become a Bearcat. He had an outstanding career at Monroe City. He's physical, runs well and is a terrific student."

♦ **BRYCE ENYARD** (Huntsville, Mo.) – Cornerback, 6-0, 180 lbs.

High School: Westran

Head Coach: Curtis Jasper

Parents: Guy and Regina Enyard

Notes: Earned all-state honors at running back as a senior after being named an all-state linebacker as a junior ... averaged 11.4 yards per carry and totaled 2,080 yards rushing as a senior ... scored 36 touchdowns as a senior ... had 128 tackles as a junior and 88 stops as a senior ... earned all-Lewis and Clark Conference honors all four seasons ... also competed in basketball and track and was a state champion high jumper after leaping 6-feet-8-inches

Coach Tjeerdsma: "Bryce is an outstanding high school athlete, who's probably more known for his offensive abilities as a running back as he put up some unbelievable numbers. He could play offense or defense here, but we like the physicality and size he could bring as a cornerback. We're trying to make a transition from smaller corners to some guys with better size and Bryce fits the build. He's also a state champion high jumper who reached 6-feet-8-inches."

♦ **MARTIN HILL** (St. Louis, Mo.) – Cornerback, 5-11, 170 lbs.

High School: Lutheran North

Head Coach: Troy Fehrs

Father: Michael Hill

Notes: 2009 team captain for the Crusaders ... played both wide receiver and defensive back ... was a two-time, first-team all-conference choice ... also competed in track and field and placed seventh in the 110-meter hurdles at state ... FCA member

Coach Tjeerdsma: "Martin did it all at Lutheran North and is probably more known for his offensive skills though we see him as being a talented cornerback. His hurdle times are impressive and we know he has great speed and athletic ability. He follows Tyler Shaw and Previn Perry, who've been terrific players for us here in Maryville."

♦ **JASON JOZAITES** (Westmont, Ill.) – Wide Receiver, 6-3, 190 lbs.

High School: Downers Grove South Head Coach: John Belskis Parents: Ronald and Kim Jozaites

Notes: Two-year team captain for the Bulldogs ... was an all-state wide receiver and a two-time all-West Suburban Gold Conference choice ... was also an all-state hockey player and earned all-conference honors in the high hurdles in track and field

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Jason is a talented receiver who had some highlight-reel catches in high school. He’s a little more physical than most receivers and we like that. He runs well and was an outstanding returner who has the ability to make people miss. We were impressed when we saw film on him and we’re thrilled he chose to become a Bearcat.”

♦ **MATT LONGACRE** (Omaha, Neb.) – Defensive End, 6-3, 230 lbs.

High School: Millard West Head Coach: Kirk Peterson Parents: Mark and Kathy Longacre

Notes: Honorary captain of the 2009 Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team ... earned first-team all-state honors by the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star ... helped lead the Wildcats to a state title in 2008 and a runner-up finish in 2009 ... also wrestles at 215 pounds

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Matt is a terrific player who excelled in a top-notch program. He knows how to win. He’s built well at 6-3, but had to cut some weight to wrestle at 215. He’ll add strength and probably a few pounds when he gets here. His body type reminds me a lot of Josh Lorensen’s when Josh first arrived on campus.”

♦ **TIM MARTINEZ** (Bettendorf, Iowa) – Kick Return/Punt Return/Cornerback, 5-11, 185 lbs.

High School: Pleasant Valley Head Coach: Sterling Jackson Father: Mike Martinez

Notes: Earned first-team all-conference honors at running back and defensive back for the Spartans ... was a first-team all-metro defensive back ... also competed in basketball and track and field and earned all-conference honors in the 4x200- and 4x400-meter relays and the long jump ... nephew of Curtis and Roger Craig from the University of Nebraska and the NFL

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Tim is a physical corner who’s molded from the same high school as Sean Paddock. He shines on the track and is the point guard on the basketball team. He’s had a terrific high school career and we’ll be excited when he dons Bearcat green.”

♦ **LARRY NUNN** (Chesterfield, Mo.) – Offensive Line, 6-3, 277 lbs.

High School: Parkway West Head Coach: Jeff Duncan Houseparents: Aaron and Ana Manwill Guardian: Venita Robinson

Notes: Played on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball for the Longhorns

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Larry is a solid football player whose best days are ahead of him. He shined in a strong high school program and he’s performed well against talented competition. He’s had to overcome some adversity, but we’re impressed by his solid frame and long arms and believe he stands a good chance of excelling here in Maryville.”

♦ **ERIC REIMER** (Menomonee Falls, Wis.) – Linebacker, 6-2, 225 lbs.

High School: Sussex Hamilton Head Coach: John Damato Parents: Dennis and Kathline Reimer

Notes: Earned first-team all-state honors at inside linebacker for the Chargers as a senior and was the top vote getter in the state ... two-year team captain ... started in 34 consecutive games spanning three seasons ... had more than 250 career tackles ... also competed in baseball and basketball

Coach Tjeerdsma: “It’s tough for us to reach Wisconsin on the recruiting trail, but we were certainly impressed with the film we received from Eric. He has the size we’re looking for in an inside linebacker. He runs well, plays physical, has a long wingspan and on top of that he’s a terrific student. He was recruited pretty highly by some of the northern conferences, but we’re glad he liked it here. He enjoyed his visit and felt Northwest was the place for him.”

♦ **JAYRON ROBINSON** (Kansas City, Mo.) – Linebacker, 6-1, 225 lbs.

High School: Staley Head Coach: Fred Bouchard Parents: James and Kenisha Robinson

Notes: Earned first-team all-state and all-metro honors for the Falcons ... was the co-defensive player of the year in the Suburban Small Six Conference after totaling 144 tackles and 12 sacks and forcing four fumbles ... helped lead the Falcons to an 11-1 record which included a conference title ... two-time finalist for the Bobby Bell award, given annually to the top small-class most outstanding defensive lineman or linebacker

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Jayron stood out in our team camp and the more we learned about him, the more impressed we became. He’s instinctive and seems to have a sense for where the football is. On top of that he runs well, has leadership qualities that can’t be taught and is an outstanding student. Coach Bouchard, one of our alums, offers nothing but praise for Jayron.”

♦ **EZRA SCHANTZ** (Laurel, Neb.) – Tight End, 6-3, 220 lbs.

High School: Laurel-Concord Head Coach: Terry Bear Parents: Brian and Jerry Schantz

Notes: Is a three-sport star for the Bears ... all-conference and all-area choice on the gridiron ... caught 27 passes for 487 yards and three touchdowns as a junior ... also competed in track and field and has thrown the discus 176 feet ... state champion shot putter (54-feet-6-inches) and has a runner-up finish in the discus ... is averaging 15 points and 13 rebounds on the basketball squad

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Ezra can play a number of positions, but we project him as a tight end. He’s a three-sport athlete and the numbers he’s posted in track and field are just as impressive as his skills on the football field. He’s a state champion shot putter and can throw the discus 176 feet. He explodes out of that big frame and could end up being an outstanding collegiate football player.”

♦ **CLINT THOMPSON** (Maryville, Mo.) – Fullback, 6-0, 201 lbs.

High School: Maryville

Head Coach: Chris Holt

Parents: Tim and Tammy Thompson

Notes: Played offensive guard and defensive tackle for the state champion Spoofhounds ... was a two-time all-state choice, a two-year all-district selection and a three-time all-conference honoree ... also competes in track and field

Coach Tjeerdsma: “We’ve had a great history with local talent and Clint looks to continue that tradition. He had a solid high school career and was a terrific lineman for Coach Holt. We think he could develop as a fullback. Clint has a great work ethic and is a hard-nosed athlete.”

♦ **BRYCE YOUNG** (Chillicothe, Mo.) – Wide Receiver, 5-10, 170 lbs.

High School: Chillicothe

Head Coach: Phil Willard

Parents: Brent and Karen Young

Notes: Earned first-team all-state honors as a running back and was a third-team all-state choice for defensive back ... named St. Joseph News-Press 2009 Defensive Player of the Year ... had five takeaways and tied the school record for career interceptions ... had more than 2,500 yards from scrimmage and 25 touchdowns as a junior while leading the Hornets to a Midland Empire Conference title ... ran for 1,100 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior ... also plays basketball and track and field

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Bryce is a three-sport athlete who’s done it all at Chillicothe. In addition, he’s a great student and could end up being a presidential scholar. Bryce has outstanding track times and we see him as an inside receiver. He doesn’t just have great speed, he’s a real talent on the football field.”

♦ **ZACH VIE** (Fremont, Neb.) – Offensive Line, 6-9, 295 lbs., So.

High School: Fremont

Previous School: Fullerton College

Parents: Troy and Donna

Notes: Helped lead the Hornets to a 10-2 record in 2009

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Zach has great possibilities. You don’t see an athlete with his height and weight combination often. He’s a talented football player who has the ability to get a lot better.”

♦ **ALEX VISK** (Overland Park, Kan.) – Tight End, 6-3, 200 lbs.

High School: Blue Valley West

Head Coach: Scott Wright

Parents: Larry and Kathy Visk

Notes: Three-year letterwinner for the Jaguars who was a second-team Eastern Kansas League selection for wide receiver as a senior ... earned honorable mention honors in 2008 ... helped the Jaguars win the Kansas 5A state championship in 2007 ... also plays basketball ... national honor society member ... scholar athlete award winner

Coach Tjeerdsma: “Alex is a terrific prospect who runs good routes, has solid hands and catches the ball extremely well. His versatility allows us to line him up at a number of positions, but we think he’ll be a solid tight end. He blocks well, but his talent on the basketball court probably takes away from his time in the weight room. He’ll improve his size here which will only add to his abilities.”