



HORNED FROG FOOTBALL

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2007 TCU Football Signees

Joseph Banyard
TB, 5-11, 195, Sweetwater

Sir Demarco Bledsoe
ATH, 6-2, 175, Piedmont (Okla.)

Logan Brock
TE, 6-3, 230, Copperas Cove

Braylon Broughton
DE, 6-6, 225, Dallas Hillcrest

Tank Carder
LB, 6-2, 215, Sweeny

Jai Cavness
TB, 5-8, 175, Houston Thurgood Marshall

Tekerrein Cuba
S, 6-3 1/2, 197, Tyler Lee

Jason Fitch
DE, 6-2, 230, Star Spencer (Okla.)

Johnny Fobbs
S, 6-0, 190, Everman

John Fonua
DT, 5-10, 270, L.A. Valley College

Jercell Fort
CB, 5-11, 175, Los Angeles Hamilton

Kris Gardner
TE, 6-1, 220, Arlington Martin

Chris Goodson
S, 6-0, 210, San Bernardino Valley College

Kelly Griffin
DT, 6-1, 280, Irving MacArthur

Tejay Johnson
S, 6-1, 195, South Garland

Jonathan Jones
WR, 6-3 1/2, 197, Everman

Anson Kelton
P, 6-4, 260, Aledo

Jeremy Kerley
WR, 5-10, 185, Hutto

Greg McCoy
CB, 5-10, 172, Dallas Woodrow Wilson

Jeff Olson
OT, 6-4, 253, McKinney North

Luke Shivers
LB, 6-0, 205, Whitehouse

Chez Thomas
S, 5-9 1/2, 180, Kennedale

Spencer Thompson
C, 6-3, 275, Plainview

TCU football announces 23 signings

FORT WORTH, Texas — There are many people who claim that success on National Signing Day is written in the stars – the subjective measuring stick put in place by most recruiting services.

TCU head football coach Gary Patterson and the rest of his coaching staff have taken a different – and very successful – approach to recruiting over the last few years.

It has everything to do with the evaluation process and nothing to do with “star gazing,” according to Patterson.

The result: TCU put together another “great recruiting class” for 2007 by signing 23 players on National Signing Day.

“Every player we actively recruit goes through the same evaluation process,” the sixth-year head coach said. “We target players who can be successful in our offensive and defensive schemes, we evaluate them together as a staff, and then we get to know them and their families to see if they are the right fit for our program.”

Patterson said it doesn’t matter if they are a one-star, four-star or blue-chip player.

“It’s easy to get caught up in everyone else’s evaluation of a player,” he said, “but we stick to our guns. I firmly believe that’s why we’ve been successful at TCU. We don’t care if we’re ranked in the top 25 in national recruiting classes. We would much rather be ranked in the top 25 at the end of the football season.”

Patterson was quick to point out that current TCU standout Tommy Blake was only considered a two-star player out of high school, and former cornerback Drew Coleman – who now plays for the New York Jets – was only a two-star prospect out of junior college.

“Those guys turned out to be great players for us and helped us win a lot of football games,” Patterson said. “And that’s just two examples. I could go on and on.”

The Horned Frogs – who finished the 2006 season with eight-straight wins, an 11-2 overall record, a dominating victory against Northern Illinois in the Poinsettia Bowl and No. 21 ranking in the *USA Today* poll – feel like they have once again laid the foundation for future success with this year’s signing class.

“We identified our needs early in the recruiting process and went after the players who are going to help us keep our winning tradition alive,” Patterson said.

The TCU staff put an emphasis on the defensive secondary in this year’s class and signed five safeties and two corners. Four of the seven defensive backs were from the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The safety signees from the Metroplex included Tejay Johnson (6-1, 195) from South Garland, Chez Thomas (5-9 1/2, 180) from Kennedale and Everman’s Johnny Fobbs (6-0, 190). Other safeties to sign were Chris Goodson (6-0, 210) from San Bernardino Valley College – one of the two junior college players signed by the Frogs – and Tekerrien Cuba (6-3 1/2, 197) from Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler.

At cornerback, TCU signed Woodrow Wilson’s Greg McCoy (5-10, 172) and Jercell Fort (5-11, 175) from Hamilton High School in Los Angeles.

“We signed a handful of guys to play corner and safety for us that could probably play anywhere on the field they want,” Patterson said. “They are extremely gifted play-makers who should provide an immediate impact in our secondary.”

TCU also signed athlete Sir Demarco Bledsoe (6-2, 175) from Piedmont, Okla., who could possibly end up playing in the defensive backfield.

The Frogs signed two linebackers – Sweeny’s Ricky “Tank” Carder (6-2, 215) and

Luke Shivers (6-0, 205) from Whitehouse.

On the defensive line, TCU inked four players: Defensive tackles Jason Fitch (6-2, 230) from Star Spencer High School in Oklahoma, Kelly Griffin (6-1, 280) from Irving MacArthur and John Fonua (5-10, 270) from Los Angeles Valley College. At defensive end, the Frogs signed Braylon Broughton (6-6, 225) from Dallas Hillcrest.

“Just like we have in the past, we focused on defensive speed and playmaking ability with this group of guys,” Patterson said.

Offensively, playmaking ability was also a top priority for the TCU coaching staff. The Frogs signed two explosive tailbacks and two “difference-makers” at wide receiver.

Leading the charge on offense were receivers Jeremy Kerley (5-10, 185) from Hutto, and Jonathan Jones (6-3 1/2, 197) from Everman. At tailback, Thurgood Marshall’s Jai Cavness (5-8, 175), and Sweetwater’s Joseph Banyard (5-11, 195) both signed National Letters of Intent.

At tight end, the Frogs signed Logan Brock (6-3, 230) from Copperas Cove and Kris Gardner (6-1, 220) from Arlington Martin.

TCU signed two offensive linemen, Jeff Olson (6-4, 253) from McKinney North and Spencer Thompson (6-3, 275) from Plainview. Thompson graduated from high school at midterm and joined the Horned Frog family this spring.

Rounding out the 2007 class was punter Anson Kelton (6-4, 260) from Aledo.

2007 TCU Football Signees

Joseph Banyard (TB, 5-11, 195, Sweetwater, Texas; Sweetwater HS)

An honorable-mention 3-A all-state defensive back as a senior ... was a second-team Texas High School Football selection and a third-team Texas Sports Writers Association pick ... rushed for 1,245 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior ... was on the receiving end of three scores.

Sir Demarco Bledsoe (ATH, 6-2, 175, Piedmont, Okla.; Piedmont HS)

Named the 1-4A player of the year as a senior ... a first-team all-state selection at wide receiver ... selected to the Oklahoma Coaches Digest West All-Star team ... averaged 10.0 yards per rushing attempt ... totaled 165 tackles, averaging 15 per game, on defense as a senior.

Logan Brock (TE, 6-3, 230, Copperas Cove, Texas; Copperas Cove HS)

All-state as a senior ... first-team all-district his junior and senior years ... selected to Max Emfinger’s 2007 All-American Bowl Game Classic in Shreveport ... a senior Copperas Cove captain and player representative ... totaled 35 receptions for 500 yards and six touchdowns in his prep career ... two-year letterman on the gridiron ... also lettered in baseball, basketball and track & field ... first-team all-district as a utility player in baseball ... his father, Reb Brock, was a standout linebacker (1982-85) at Indiana University.

Braylon Broughton (DE, 6-6, 225, Dallas, Texas; Hillcrest HS)

Ranked as the nation’s No. 59 defensive end in 2006 ... a Rivals 3-star recruit ... recorded 50 tackles and three sacks as a junior ... named all-district for two straight years.

Tank Carder (LB, 6-2, 215, Sweeny, Texas; Sweeny HS)

Named the most valuable player in district 24-3A and Brazoria County ... first-team all 24-3A and the Houston-area Defensive Player of the Year ... utilized at quarterback, fullback, linebacker, tailback, punter and kicker as a senior ... accounted for 1,200 yards of offense and 116 tackles on defense ... ran for nine touchdowns and caught two scoring passes ... converted 29 PATs and seven field goals ... scored 25 points (three touchdowns, four PATs and a field goal) in a 31-7 playoff victory over La Grange ... had the game-winning touchdown in a 35-28 overtime victory against Kirbyville in the area round.

Jai Cavness (TB, 5-8, 175, Houston, Texas; Thurgood Marshall HS)

First-team all-district as a junior and senior ... second-team All-Greater Houston Area and all-region ... a member of the Texas Prep Extra All-Area Top 60 team ... ranked in the top 60 for running backs in the nation by Rivals.com and Scout.com ... also ranked in the top 20 in the state and the top 10 in the Houston area ... made Scout.com’s Top Texas 100 Playmakers list and Dave Campbell’s Top 300 Playmakers Team ... nominated for the prestigious Houston

Touchdown Club Player of the Year award ... scored a touchdown in the East Meets West All-American Game ... a two-time region player of the week as well as being named an area player of the week ... team captain for three years at Thurgood Marshall ... named his school's offensive most valuable player after rushing for 1,205 yards and nine touchdowns on an 8.1 per carry average his senior year ... added two receptions for 54 yards and a score ... ran for 636 yards and five touchdowns as a junior ... closed his prep career as Thurgood Marshall's all-time leading rusher with 2,195 yards and 17 touchdowns, averaging 8.3 yards per attempt ... a three-year letterman in football and track & field ... holds the school record in the 40-yard dash and 100 meters ... voted Most Athletic at his school ... a cousin of Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Thurman Thomas.

Tekerrein Cuba (S, 6-3 1/2, 197, Tyler, Texas; Robert E. Lee HS)

First-team all-state and all-district as a senior ... second-team all-state his junior year ... the No. 61 recruit in the state by Scout.com ... recorded 87 tackles, five for a loss, with three interceptions, a forced fumble and a blocked field goal as a senior ... totaled 145 solo tackles and 78 assists in his prep career ... had six stops for a loss ... his other career marks included 11 pass break-ups, three interceptions, five fumble recoveries, one forced fumble, one blocked kick and three touchdowns ... a three-year starter in football who also lettered four years in track and field.

Jason Fitch (DE, 6-2, 230, Midwest City, Okla.; Star Spencer HS)

All-state defensive lineman as a senior ... younger brother of former TCU defensive lineman (2004-05) and current New York Jet Zarnell Fitch.

Johnny Fobbs (S, 6-0, 190, Fort Worth, Texas; Everman HS)

First-team all-district as a senior ... posted 44 tackles and an interception while adding 162 receiving yards and three touchdowns ... recorded 53 tackles, two for a loss, and six interceptions his junior year ... timed at 4.4 in the 40.

John Fonua (DT, 5-10, 270, Van Nuys, Calif.; Grant HS; Los Angeles Valley College)

A 2006 honorable-mention All-American by JCfootball.com ... was also an All-Western State Conference selection ... earned first-team 3-A All-City honors as a senior for Grant High School ... was also the Co-Defensive League Player of the Year ... totaled nine sacks among his 41 tackles ... Team Co-Captain and Defensive Player of the Year ... helped lead Grant to its fourth consecutive Sunset Six championship.

Jercell Fort (CB, 5-11, 175, Los Angeles, Calif.; Hamilton HS)

First-team All-Los Angeles City Section on offense by the Daily Breeze ... the Western League's second-leading rusher as a senior with 1,245 yards ... ran for 11 touchdowns while averaging 8.0 yards per carry ... added 24 receptions for 287 yards and two scores ... posted a quarterback rating of 152.0 as he completed 9-of-10 passes for 160 yards and a touchdown ... ran for a season-high 232 yards on 23 attempts with three receptions for 46 yards in a 35-0 win over South East ... had 16 carries for 167 yards while completing 7-of-8 passes for 132 yards and a touchdown in a 14-12 victory against Fairfax ... also had three receptions in that game ... totaled 63 tackles, 39 solo, with an interception at defensive back his senior year.

Kris Gardner (TE, 6-1, 220, Arlington, Texas; Arlington Martin HS)

A TAPPS All-State selection at Arlington Grace Prep before transferring to Arlington Martin for his senior year ... recorded the 11th-best SPARQ rating among several hundred prospects at the Baton Rouge NIKE Camp ... posted 75 tackles as a junior ... caught two passes for 88 yards and a touchdown while being used at tight end ... totaled 119 yards and a score on six rushing attempts ... his uncle, Tony Tadamy, is TCU's linebackers coach.

Chris Goodson (S, 6-0, 210, San Bernardino, Calif.; Redlands East Valley HS; San Bernardino Valley College)

Totaled 35 tackles, including 28 solo stops, in 2006 ... posted two interceptions, seven pass break-ups and two blocked kicks ... an honorable-mention All-Foothill Conference selection in both his seasons at San Bernardino Valley College.

Kelly Griffin (DT, 6-1, 280, Irving, Texas; MacArthur HS)

A first-team all-district selection and a second-team pick on the Reebok Super Team ... totaled 75 tackles, including 15 for a loss, with five sacks and five fumble recoveries as a junior ... named MacArthur's Defensive Sophomore of the Year ... recorded 62 stops his sophomore year with 10 of those tackles behind the line of scrimmage ... posted

two sacks and two recovered fumbles ... also a track & field standout ... won the district championship in the shot put ... a regional track qualifier.

Tejay Johnson (S, 6-1, 195, Garland, Texas; South Garland HS)

Honorable-mention all-state, first-team all-district and second-team all-area as a senior ... totaled 88 tackles, including two for a loss, to go with four interceptions, eight pass break-ups and a fumble recovery ... scored three defensive touchdowns as he reached the end zone with two picks and his fumble recovery ... the No. 55 recruit in the state by Scout.com ... named South Garland's Outstanding Defensive Player of the Year ... a second-team all-district selection his junior year when he recorded 94 stops, six tackles for a loss, five sacks, two interceptions and six pass break-ups ... lettered three years in both football and track & field ... placed first in the state in the 110 meter hurdles at a summer meet in Round Rock ... was fourth in the 300 hurdles at the same event.

Jonathan Jones (WR, 6-3 1/2, 197, Fort Worth, Texas; Everman HS)

A second-team defensive utility player on the Reebok Super Team ... the No. 61 recruit in the state by Scout.com ... totaled 26 receptions for 520 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior ... made over 40 stops on defense with two interceptions and a forced fumble ... blocked five extra-point attempts, four punts and two field goals ... helped lead Everman to a 9-3 record his senior year.

Anson Kelton (P, 6-4, 260, Fort Worth, Texas; Aledo HS)

All-state at punter his senior year in addition to being an all-district and all-region selection at defensive end and punter ... a member of the Dallas-Fort Worth Super Team at punter ... averaged 44 yards per attempt as a senior while totaling 45 tackles, including six sacks, and two fumble recoveries on defense ... added two pass receptions for 14 yards and a touchdown on offense ... was all-district, all-region and all-state at tight end his junior year ... also received district and regional honors at punter ... had 32 receptions for 440 yards and five touchdowns ... averaged 39 yards per punt ... all-district at tight end and punter as a sophomore ... three-year letterman

Jeremy Kerley (WR, 5-10, 185, Hutto, Texas; Hutto HS)

Played quarterback as a senior and was selected as his district's most valuable player for the second consecutive year ... rushed for over 800 yards while adding an interception on defense ... ranked as the No. 31 recruit in Texas by Scout.com ... a Rivals 4-star recruit and member of the Fab 55 and Texas 100 ... second-team all-state as a junior and senior ... also named All-Central Texas ... named to the All-Centex team four consecutive seasons ... Hutto's Newcomer of the Year as a freshman in 2003 ... a four-year letterman in football, baseball, basketball and track & field.

Greg McCoy (CB, 5-10, 172, Dallas, Texas; Woodrow Wilson HS)

Received 4-A Most Valuable Player honors as a senior ... was also first-team all-area at wide receiver ... totaled 37 receptions for 834 yards and 10 touchdowns ... ranked 37th on SportsDay's Area Top 100 ... named Woodrow Wilson's team MVP ... first-team all-district at defensive back his junior year and a second-team selection at wide receiver ... recorded three interceptions and scored over 10 touchdowns.

Jeff Olson (OT, 6-4, 253, McKinney, Texas; McKinney North HS)

A unanimous first-team all-district and All-Collin County selection as a junior and senior ... second-team all-region his senior year ... started at tight end and on the defensive line ... had 16 receptions for 160 yards and a touchdown as a senior ... totaled 22 catches for 300 yards in his prep career ... recorded 20 tackles with 4.5 sacks and three forced fumbles on defense his senior year ... lettered three seasons in both football and basketball ... a three-year starter on the gridiron ... an academic all-district selection as a post player in basketball ... named McKinney North's Most Improved Player in that sport ... has an older brother, Jarred Olson, who played lacrosse at Ohio State.

Luke Shivers (LB, 6-0, 205, Whitehouse, Texas; Whitehouse HS)

District Most Valuable Player as a senior ... honorable-mention all-state at linebacker ... totaled 87 tackles, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and a defensive touchdown his senior year ... rushed for nearly 2,000 yards as a running back his junior and senior years combined ... totaled 4,460 all-purpose yards in his prep career ... first-team all-district as a sophomore and junior ... led the district in rushing and all-purpose yards his junior year ... was the District Newcomer of the Year his freshman season ... also lettered in basketball and track & field ... first-team all-

district in basketball as he led Whitehouse in scoring his junior year ... named his team's Sophomore of the Year ... a member of the National Honor Society and an honorable-mention academic all-state selection.

Chez Thomas (S, 5-9 1/2, 180, Kennedale, Texas; Kennedale HS)

All-state and all-area as a senior ... all-district his junior and senior year ... received Kennedale's Most Inspirational Award as a senior ... team captain ... recorded 70 tackles as a junior ... a four-year letterman on the gridiron ... a cousin of former TCU football players Chad McCarty (1998-01) and Chance McCarty (1993, 1995-97).

Spencer Thompson (C, 6-3, 275, Plainview, Texas; Plainview HS)

Graduated from Plainview in December and has already enrolled at TCU ... first-team all-state as a junior and senior ... a three-time all-district selection ... named most valuable player on the Amarillo Globe Super Team his senior year ... also named to the squad as a junior ... started 36 games in his prep career and blocked for three straight 2,000-yard rushers ... a three-year letterman.