



MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

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GRIFFON FOOTBALL INKS 23 ON SIGNING DAY

Western stays in region with recruiting class

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. - Missouri Western State University head football coach Jerry Partridge has announced the signing of 23 football student-athletes to the 2010 National Letter of Intent.

The Missouri Western Griffons had yet another successful football season in 2009 as they finished the season with a 9-3 overall record and a 6-3 MIAA record. The Griffons won a season best nine games for the fifth time in the last seven seasons. Western played in a post season game for the seventh consecutive season defeating the Augustana College (S.D.) Vikings 34-21 in the 2009 Mineral Water Bowl held in Excelsior Springs, Mo. on December 5, 2009.

Western signed six linebackers, five defensive backs, four wide receivers, two offensive linemen, two running backs, two defensive linemen, a kicker and a quarterback. Defensive back Jared Fox from Central High School is the local player the Griffons signed.

Western recruited Missouri and Kansas very well as 21 of their signees are from those two states. Of the two other signees, one is from Iowa and one is from Oklahoma.

The 2010 Missouri Western football schedule will be released at a later date.

2010 Missouri Western football signees

Keith Ringler

6-1, 180, Kicker

(Kearney, Missouri / Kearney High School)

"Ringler kicked on the Missouri Class 4A Championship team. Has a very good leg and we are excited to get to work with him," commented Partridge.

2009 First Team All-Conference...2009 First Team All-Northland...2009 Second Team All-State...2008 First Team All-Conference...2008 First Team All-Area...2008 Detroit Free Press...First Team All-State...made 11-of-20 field goals in two years with a long of 49 yards...connected on 106 of 107 extra point attempts in two years...majoring in conservation management.

Ahmad Hicks

6-0, 185, Defensive Back

(St. Louis, Missouri / Kirkwood High School)

"Hicks had a tremendous highlight film," Partridge stated. "He has very good ball skills and we are very excited to have him."

First Team All-Conference DB...Second Team All-Conference WR...Defensive Player of the Week one time...lettered in baseball and track...had 23 catches for 341 yards and three touchdowns his senior season...had five interceptions to go with one pass break up and 14 solo tackles...majoring in mass communications.

Stephen Juergens

5-11, 210, Linebacker

(Kearney, Missouri / Kearney High School)

"Juergens played for a State Championship football team where he was one of the better defensive players," stated Partridge. "He is a very active linebacker who runs to the ball effectively."

Two time All-Conference...Honorable Mention All-Northland in 2008...2009 First Team All-Northland...2009 First Team All-Metro...2009 First Team All-KC Star...2009 AP First Team All-State...2009 Coaches Poll First Team All-State...2009 Team Captain...2009 Defensive Player of the Year...during his senior season he accumulated 105 tackles with 25 for a loss...9 sacks...2009 Academic All-State...undecided on a major.

Josh Williams

6-1, 215, Linebacker

(Columbia, Missouri / Hickman High School)

"Williams is a solid linebacker who runs well and takes very good angles to the ball," commented Partridge.

Two year captain...2009 First Team All-State linebacker...2009 First Team All-District linebacker...as a senior her had 96 tackles with 66 being solo...4.5 sacks...85 carries for 305 yards and 6 TD's...majoring in marketing.

Kyle Green

5-10, 195, Running Back

(St. Louis, Missouri / Lafayette High School)

"Green is a very balanced runner who is able to change directions quickly," commented Partridge.

All-State Honorable Mention...First Team All-Conference running back...Second Team All-Conference kick returner...in three seasons he had 31 touchdowns...second in school history with 2,281 career yards rushing...second in school history with 1,030 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns in a season...majoring in sports management.

Okoye West

6-1, 275, Defensive Line

(Columbia, Missouri / Rockbridge High School)

"Okoye ran one of the fastest pro agility ever for a defensive lineman at Western," said Partridge. "He has great feet and is physical. We are excited about what he is going to become. He is originally from St. Joseph, Mo."

Second Team All-State...First Team All-District...majoring in sports management.

Joe Dahman

6-1, 235, Linebacker

(Harrisonville, Missouri / Harrisonville High School)

"Joe is a physical mike linebacker who runs well and has good athletic ability," said Partridge.

2009 Bobby Bell Finalist (Best Small Class Defensive Player in KC Metro Area)...three time Second Team All-State linebacker...three time All-District linebacker...three time All-Conference linebacker...three time All-Metro...2008 member of the KMZU Missouri Dream Team...played on two State Championship football teams...two time Most Valuable Defensive Player on his team...three year Scholar-Athlete...2009 team Co-Captain...three time defensive team captain...during his senior season he had 121 tackles with 58 being solo...one interception and two fumble recoveries...majoring in biology and health science.

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Matt Buford

6-0, 190, Defensive Back
(Marshall, Missouri / Marshall High School)
"Matt is a very fast athlete with great leaping ability," commented Partridge. He is the second cousin of defensive coordinator Regi Trotter...majoring in electrical engineering.

Jerrin Walton

6-2, 190, Wide Receiver / Quarterback
(Kansas City, Missouri / Hickman Mills High School)
"Walton is a very good athlete with long arms and good hands. He has the ability to play on either side of the ball," commented Partridge.

Marc Harrison

5-11, 185, Wide Receiver / Defensive Back
(Raymore, Missouri / Raymore-Peculiar High School)
"Harrison was the best skill athlete on a very good high school team," commented Partridge. "He can play any where on the field and we are excited to have a kid with his talent."
2009 Team MVP...2009 Team Captain...two time All-State...2008 All-District...2008 All-Conference...played both ways in high school at DB and WR...had over 1,300 yards rushing and receiving combined...majoring in secondary education.

Abayomi Alli

6-1, 210, Linebacker
(St. Louis, Missouri / Hazelwood Central High School)
"Alli was one of the best players on the Missouri 6A State Championship team," stated Partridge. "He is an extremely athletic and physical player."
Two time All-State...two time All-Conference...two time All-American...two time All-Metro...three year team captain...in three years he had 337 tackles, 15 sacks, 4 interceptions, 8 forced fumbles, 6 fumble recoveries, 7 blocked kicks and one defensive touchdown...majoring in mechanical engineering.

Clifford "Nathan" Cato III

6-5, 290, Offensive Line
(Marshall, Missouri / Marshall High School)
"Cato is a physical player with a lot of ability. We are looking forward to working with him as he has great athleticism for his size" commented Partridge.
Majoring in education.

Cale Grauer

6-2, 185, Quarterback
(Tulsa, Oklahoma / Lincoln Christian High School)
"Grauer helped lead his team to a State Championship," stated Partridge. "He has a good arm and throws a nice accurate ball."
Led his team to a State Championship...Vype Magazine First Team All-State...Tulsa World - Athlete of the Week...Tulsa World Football - Top 10 QB...All-State Honorable Mention QB...football team was the State Academic Champions two years in a row...in 2009 he completed 182-of-290 passes for 2,702 yards and 33 touchdowns with just 8 interceptions.

Kirk Resseguie

6-0, 210, Linebacker
(Lawrence, Kansas / Free State High School)
"Has great speed and was one of the best overall testers during our recruiting visits," stated Partridge.

Jeremy Jacobsen

6-5, 300, Offensive Line
(Bettendorf, Iowa / Bettendorf High School)
"Jacobsen is a very big and physical kid.," stated Partridge. "He has great athletic ability for his size and he comes from a very good high school program."

Tyson Liston

6-1, 200, Linebacker
(Derby, Kansas / Derby High School)
"Tyson is the best linebacker on a very good high school team," commented Partridge. "He is also a extremely good long snapper."
2009 Second Team All-League at LB...2009 had 68 tackles with 37 being solo...2008 he had 89 tackles with 48 being solo...majoring in education.

Garrett Mangrum

6-0, 260, Defensive Line
(Winfield, Kansas / Winfield High School)
"Mangrum is a Daniel Atkinson type kid. He is high energy and has a great motor," stated Partridge.
2008 First Team All-Conference...2009 First Team All-Conference defensive line...2009 Second Team All-Conference offensive line...State Qualifier in the shot put...undecided on a major.

Courtney Green

6-1, 185, Wide Receiver
(Raytown, Missouri / Raytown South High School)
"This kid is a diamond in the rough, he tore his ACL last fall and fell off everyone's map. We are fortunate to get a talented player like him," Partridge commented.
2008 Team Captain...2008 All-Conference...All-State performer in the 4 X100 relay in track...majoring in biology.

Richard Chungong

6-0, 180, Defensive Back
(Lee's Summit, Missouri / Lee's Summit High School)
"Richard is a very long limbed player who can tackle and cover receivers very well" stated Partridge.
First Team All-Conference...in 2009 he had 73 tackles, 18 pass break-ups, 5 interceptions and 4 forced fumbles...undecided on a major.

Jared Fox

5-11, 190, Defensive Back
(St. Joseph, Missouri / Central High School)
"Fox is a very physical secondary player. We are glad he has decided to stay at home to help Western continue being successful," stated Partridge.

Meshach Kennedy

5-11, 180, Defensive Back
(Derby, Kansas / Derby High School)
"Has a lot of speed as he was a Kansas State Champion in the hurdles," Partridge commented.
All-League and All-State safety...majoring in social work.

Justice Berry

6-2, 200, Wide Receiver
(Gardner, Kansas / Gardner-Edgerton High School)
"Berry is a very big wide receiver who has good hands and deceptive speed," commented Partridge. "He will be a solid possession receiver for the Griffons."
First Team KFBFA...First Team All-League receiver...Honorable Mention All-Metro...Honorable Mention Wichita Eagle and Topeka Capitol Journal...2009 caught 36 passes for 850 yards and 7 touchdowns...2009 rushed for 280 yards on 27 carries and 3 touchdowns...in his career he caught 76 passes for 1,676 yards and 13 touchdowns...rushed for 488 yards on 62 carries and 6 touchdowns...majoring in business management.

Dominic Thomas

5-8, 175, Running Back
(Montgomery City, Missouri / Montgomery County High School)
"He is a very quick back that will make you miss. Has very good lateral movement and a good burst," stated Partridge.