



IOWA STATE ANNOUNCES 2025 RECRUITING CLASS

AMES, Iowa - Iowa State head football coach Matt Campbell announced the addition of 19 early signees from the high school ranks during the early signing period on Wednesday.

The class features 10 offensive players and nine defensive players who will join Iowa State from nine different states.

For the third-straight year, Iowa State signed the top quarterback in the state of Iowa, adding Algona High School's Alex Manske to the roster.

A priority for Campbell and his staff has always been recruiting players from winning programs and this year was no different.

"We're really excited about the class coming in," Campbell said. "The staples, and what we've always believed in, we didn't waiver from those. This class has guys that are winners, that come from great high school football programs and our coaches did a great job recruiting within a six hour radius of our doorstep. We wanted to continue to find guys that fit what Iowa State is about and I think we did that."

The Cyclones signed six of the top-10 players in Iowa, led by Will Hawthorne, a four-star linebacker from Gilbert, Iowa. Manske is a four-star recruit by On3 and is ranked No. 42 nationally, the highest-ranked Big 12 recruit by that outlet.

Other recruits from the state of Iowa include Spirit Lake's athlete Ethan Stecker, Cedar Falls' offensive lineman Will Tompkins, Des Moines' wide receiver Zay Robinson, Manske's Algona teammate Jack Limbaugh, a defensive lineman and three-time state champion wide receiver Sam Zelenovich from Southeast Polk.

The class is well balanced with four wide receivers and four defensive backs, in addition to four players on both the offensive and defensive line.



Student-Athletes That Signed With Iowa State (19)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|-------------------|------|------|-----|-----|---|
| Karon Brookins | WR | 6-5 | 195 | Fr. | Sicklerville, N.J. (Timber Creek HS) <i>Three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and On3; seven receiving TDs in 2023.</i> |
| Mason Ellens | DB | 6-0 | 170 | Fr. | Glen Ellyn, Ill. (Glenbard West HS) <i>Three-star and Top-50 safety nationally; rated as a top-50 athlete by ESPN.</i> |
| Will Hawthorne | LB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Ames, Iowa (Gilbert HS) <i>Four-star recruit; 2024 MaxPreps Iowa High School Football Player of the Year; No. 4 player in Iowa by 247Sports.</i> |
| LaMarcus Hicks II | DB | 6-2 | 175 | Fr. | Des Plaines, Ill. (Maine West HS) <i>Three-star prospect helped team finish 8-2 as a senior; son of former Cyclone LaMarcus Hicks.</i> |
| Vaea Ikakoula | OL | 6-4 | 325 | Fr. | Laie, Hawaii (West HS (Utah)) <i>Three-star prospect; ranked as a top-115 interior offensive lineman by 247Sports.</i> |
| Kuol Kuol | OL | 6-6 | 260 | Fr. | Centerville, Ohio (Centerville HS) <i>Three-star prospect; rated as the No. 24 player in Ohio and a top-50 offensive tackle.</i> |
| Jack Limbaugh | DL | 6-4 | 225 | Fr. | Algona, Iowa (Algona HS) <i>Top-60 edge nationally by ESPN, 247Sports and On3; Des Moines Register's All-Iowa elite team.</i> |
| Dyllan Malone | WR | 6-3 | 175 | Fr. | Montgomery, Ill. (Yorkville HS) <i>Three-star wideout and top-50 player in state of Illinois; had 59 receptions for 824 yards and five TDs last two seasons.</i> |
| Alex Manske | QB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Algona, Iowa (Algona HS) <i>On3's No. 42 prospect nationally, top player in Iowa and highest-rated recruit by a Big 12 team.</i> |
| Ka'Mori Moore | DL | 6-2 | 295 | Fr. | Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit North HS) <i>Three-star recruit and top-10 player in Missouri by 247Sports and ESPN; team finished 11-1 in 2024.</i> |
| Joshua Patterson | DB | 6-0 | 180 | Fr. | Jacksonville, Fla. (Ed White HS) <i>Three-star recruit and rated as a top-100 safety nationally by Rivals and 247Sports.</i> |
| Ryver Peppers | RB | 5-11 | 190 | Fr. | Independence, Mo. (Fort Osage HS) <i>Two-time MFCA All-State Second-Team Selection; rushed for 1,600-plus yards in both 2022 and 2023.</i> |
| Sione Perkins | OL | 6-9 | 300 | Fr. | Eagle, Idaho (Eagle HS) <i>Three-star prospect and No. 2 player in Idaho by 247Sports.com; team finished Class 6A state runner-up.</i> |
| Zay Robinson | WR | 6-1 | 185 | Fr. | Des Moines, Iowa (Valley HS) <i>Des Moines Register's All-Iowa elite team; had 48 receptions and 14 touchdowns as a senior.</i> |
| Ethan Stecker | DB | 6-4 | 205 | Fr. | Spirit Lake, Iowa (Spirit Lake HS) <i>Three-star recruit and No. 2 player in the State of Iowa by 247Sports.</i> |
| Will Tompkins | OL | 6-5 | 290 | Fr. | Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls HS) <i>Top-five player in Iowa by all major recruiting outlets; Des Moines Register's All-Iowa elite team.</i> |
| Trey Verdon | DL | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. | Hamilton, Ohio (Hamilton HS) <i>Rated as No. 22 player in Ohio by ESPN and a three-star prospect; brother of current Cyclone Malik Verdon.</i> |
| Charlie Woleben | DL | 6-5 | 225 | Fr. | Lenexa, Kan. (DeSoto HS) <i>2024 United Kansas Conference Defensive Player of the Year; nine sacks as a senior; Three-star recruit.</i> |
| Sam Zelenovich | WR | 6-2 | 185 | Fr. | Altoona, Iowa (Southeast Polk HS) <i>Class 5A All-State selection by Des Moines Register; had 61 receptions and six TDs in 2024.</i> |



2025 CYCLONE SIGNEES (BY POSITION)



Offense (10)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Karon Brookins | WR | 6-5 | 195 | Fr. | Sicklerville, N.J. (Timber Creek HS) |
| Vaea Ikakoula | OL | 6-4 | 325 | Fr. | Laie, Hawaii (West HS (Utah)) |
| Kuol Kuol | OL | 6-6 | 260 | Fr. | Centerville, Ohio (Centerville HS) |
| Dyllan Malone | WR | 6-3 | 175 | Fr. | Montgomery, Ill. (Yorkville HS) |
| Alex Manske | QB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Algona, Iowa (Algona HS) |
| Ryver Peppers | RB | 5-11 | 190 | Fr. | Independence, Mo. (Fort Osage HS) |
| Sione Perkins | OL | 6-9 | 300 | Fr. | Eagle, Idaho (Eagle HS) |
| Zay Robinson | WR | 6-1 | 185 | Fr. | Des Moines, Iowa (Valley HS) |
| Will Tompkins | OL | 6-5 | 290 | Fr. | Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls HS) |
| Sam Zelenovich | WR | 6-2 | 185 | Fr. | Altoona, Iowa (Southeast Polk HS) |

Defense (9)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| Mason Ellens | DB | 6-0 | 170 | Fr. | Glen Ellyn, Ill. (Glenbard West HS) |
| Will Hawthorne | LB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Ames, Iowa (Gilbert HS) |
| LaMarcus Hicks II | DB | 6-2 | 175 | Fr. | Des Plaines, Ill. (Maine West HS) |
| Jack Limbaugh | DL | 6-4 | 225 | Fr. | Algona, Iowa (Algona HS) |
| Ka'Mori Moore | DL | 6-2 | 295 | Fr. | Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit North HS) |
| Joshua Patterson | DB | 6-0 | 180 | Fr. | Jacksonville, Fla. (Ed White HS) |
| Ethan Stecker | DB | 6-4 | 205 | Fr. | Spirit Lake, Iowa (Spirit Lake HS) |
| Trey Verdon | DL | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. | Hamilton, Ohio (Hamilton HS) |
| Charlie Woleben | DL | 6-5 | 225 | Fr. | Lenexa, Kan. (DeSoto HS) |



2025 CYCLONE SIGNEES (BY STATE)



Iowa (7)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|
| Will Hawthorne | LB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Ames, Iowa (Gilbert HS) |
| Jack Limbaugh | DL | 6-4 | 225 | Fr. | Algona, Iowa (Algona HS) |
| Alex Manske | QB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. | Algona, Iowa (Algona HS) |
| Zay Robinson | WR | 6-1 | 185 | Fr. | Des Moines, Iowa (Valley HS) |
| Ethan Stecker | DB | 6-4 | 205 | Fr. | Spirit Lake, Iowa (Spirit Lake HS) |
| Will Tompkins | OL | 6-5 | 290 | Fr. | Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls HS) |
| Sam Zelenovich | WR | 6-2 | 185 | Fr. | Altoona, Iowa (Southeast Polk HS) |

Illinois (3)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Mason Ellens | DB | 6-0 | 170 | Fr. | Glen Ellyn, Ill. (Glenbard West HS) |
| LaMarcus Hicks II | DB | 6-2 | 175 | Fr. | Des Plaines, Ill. (Maine West HS) |
| Dyllan Malone | WR | 6-3 | 175 | Fr. | Montgomery, Ill. (Yorkville HS) |

Florida (1)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------------|
| Joshua Patterson | DB | 6-0 | 180 | Fr. | Jacksonville, Fla. (Ed White HS) |

Hawaii (1)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| Vaea Ikakoula | OL | 6-4 | 325 | Fr. | Laie, Hawaii (West HS (Utah)) |

Missouri (2)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|---------------|------|------|-----|-----|---|
| Ka'Mori Moore | DL | 6-2 | 295 | Fr. | Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit North HS) |
| Ryver Peppers | RB | 5-11 | 190 | Fr. | Independence, Mo. (Fort Osage HS) |

Idaho (1)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| Sione Perkins | OL | 6-9 | 300 | Fr. | Eagle, Idaho (Eagle HS) |

Kansas (1)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Charlie Woleben | DL | 6-5 | 225 | Fr. | Lenexa, Kan. (DeSoto HS) |

New Jersey (1)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| Karon Brookins | WR | 6-5 | 195 | Fr. | Sicklerville, N.J. (Timber Creek HS) |

Ohio (2)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | Hometown (School) |
|-------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|
| Kuol Kuol | OL | 6-6 | 260 | Fr. | Centerville, Ohio (Centerville HS) |
| Trey Verdon | DL | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. | Hamilton, Ohio (Hamilton HS) |

**Karon
BROOKINS**Wide Receiver
6-5 ▪ 195 ▪ Fr.

Sicklerville, N.J. (Timber Creek HS)

Prepped at Timber Creek High School for Brian Wright ... three-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and On3 ... top-30 player in New Jersey by 247Sports ... hauled in 32 receptions for 575 yards and a team-high seven touchdowns for Timber Creek in 2023 ... also had eight tackles and a fumble recovery on the defensive side of the ball ... finished career with 46 receptions for 779 yards and nine touchdowns ... helped the Chargers to a 9-1 record and a playoff appearance ... also participated in track & field ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Pittsburgh and West Virginia.

**Mason
ELLENS**Defensive Back
6-0 ▪ 170 ▪ Fr.

Glen Ellyn, Ill. (Glenbard West HS)

Prepped at Glenbard West for head coach Chad Hetlet ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... tabbed as the No. 13 player in the state of Illinois and a top-50 safety nationally by On3 ... rated as a top-50 athlete by ESPN ... two-time IHSA Class 8A All-State selection (2023, '24) and All-County team member (2023, '24) ... registered 56 tackles, two interceptions and three PBUs in his senior season ... also participated in track & field, qualifying for state in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay ... picked Iowa State over Iowa, Minnesota and Boston College.

**Will
HAWTHORNE**Linebacker
6-3 ▪ 220 ▪ Fr.

Ames, Iowa (Gilbert HS)

Prepped at Gilbert High School for head coach Graham Lundt ... four-star prospect by 247Sports ... No. 2 player in the state of Iowa by 247Sports and a top-60 inside linebacker nationally by ESPN ... 2024 MaxPreps Iowa High School Football Player of the Year ... member of Des Moines Register's All-Iowa Elite Team ... two-time District 4 MVP (2023, '24) ... helped bring Gilbert football back to success, going from just one win in his first two seasons to a 9-2 record and playoff quarterfinal appearance as a senior ... played on both sides of the ball ... fourth in the state, across all classes, with 2,263 rushing yards in his final season ... led Class 4A with 28 rushing touchdowns and averaged 6.9 yards per carry ... finished with 44.5 tackles, 10.0 TFL, two sacks and three forced fumbles on the defensive side of the ball ... 2023 Des Moines Register All-Iowa Team honorable mention ... as a junior, led the Tigers with 63 tackles, including 10 for a loss and 4.5 sacks ... added 774 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground and averaged 5.9 yards per carry ... finished career with 177 tackles and 28.5 TFL to go along with 3,482 yards rushing and 46 touchdowns ... also played basketball and participated in track & field ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Nebraska, Kansas and Kansas State ... comes from an athletic family ... grandfather played college football at Navy and father, Greg, was a tight end at UNI from 1992-96 ... brother, Drew, was a swimmer at Cincinnati and sister, Ava, plays basketball at Drake.

**LaMarcus
HICKS II**Defensive Back
6-2 ▪ 175 ▪ Fr.

Des Plaines, Ill. (Maine West HS)

Prepped at Maine West High School for head coach George Klupchak ... previously played at Clarksdale High School in Clarksdale, Miss. for head coach Curtis Kemp prior to his senior season ... three-star prospect and a top-50 player in the state of Illinois by ESPN and On3 ... led Maine West to an 8-2 record and a playoff berth in his senior season ... played on both sides of the ball ... registered 39 tackles, two TFL, two interceptions and a forced fumble in 2024 ... also had 40 catches for 619 yards and eight touchdowns ... played basketball as well ... son of LaMarcus Hicks, who played two seasons for the Cyclones as a defensive back and was an All-Big 12 selection before a stint with the NFL's Detroit Lions in the mid-2000s and is now the cornerbacks coach at Northwestern.

Vaea IKAKOULA

Offensive Line
6-4 ▪ 325 ▪ Fr.

Laie, Hawaii (West HS (Utah))

Played at West High School (Utah) for head coach Olosaa Solovi ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... top-15 player in Utah and a top-115 interior offensive lineman by 247Sports Composite ... led West to a 2024 second-round state playoff appearance ... helped the offense average 610 yards per game on the offensive line ... won a Hawaii state championship in 2022 at Kahuku High School ... also participated in track & field ... picked Iowa State over Arkansas, Arizona State, Boston College, California, Colorado, Oklahoma State and Stanford.

Kuol KUOL

Offensive Line
6-6 ▪ 260 ▪ Fr.

Centerville, Ohio (Centerville HS)

Prepped at Centerville High School for head coach Brent Ullery ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... rated as the No. 24 player in Ohio and a top-50 offensive tackle nationally by On3 ... helped Centerville to a 12-4 record and 2024 state semifinal appearance ... First Team All-Greater Western Ohio Conference selection ... helped the Elks throw for more than 1,456 yards and rush for 2,483 in his senior season ... also participated in track & field ... picked the Cyclones over Boston College and Purdue.

Jack LIMBAUGH

Defensive Line
6-4 ▪ 225 ▪ Fr.

Algona, Iowa (Algona HS)

Played at Algona for head coach Andy Jacobson ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... top-60 edge nationally by ESPN, 247Sports and On3 ... top-five player in the state of Iowa by ESPN and On3 ... member of Des Moines Register's All-Iowa elite team ... helped Algona to a 9-2 record and Class 3A quarterfinal appearance in 2024 ... finished his senior season with 42.5 tackles, including 13 for a loss and six sacks ... also tallied 13 receptions for 274 yards and a touchdown ... 2023 IPSWA Class 3A Second Team All-State selection and two-time All-District honoree ... as a junior, registered 33 tackles, including four for a loss and three sacks ... also had six receptions for 101 yards and two touchdowns ... finished career with 109.5 tackles, 29 TFL and 11 sacks ... also played basketball and participated in track & field ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State, Nebraska, Northwestern, Missouri and Duke ... teammate of fellow ISU signee Alex Manske.

Dyllan MALONE

Wide Receiver
6-3 ▪ 175 ▪ Fr.

Montgomery, Ill. (Yorkville HS)

Prepped at Yorkville for head coach Dan McGuire ... three-star wide receiver and a top-50 player in Illinois by 247Sports, ESPN and On3 ... hauled in 31 receptions for 474 yards and four touchdowns in his senior season ... averaged 15.3 yards per reception ... as a junior, hauled in 28 receptions for 350 yards and a touchdown ... averaged 12.5 yards per catch in 2023 ... finished career with 67 receptions for 895 yards and five touchdowns ... also played basketball and participated in track & field ... member of the 2024 state-qualifying 4x400 relay team.

Alex MANSKE

Quarterback
6-3 ▪ 220 ▪ Fr.

Algona, Iowa (Algona HS)

Played at Algona for head coach Andy Jacobson ... On3's No. 42 prospect nationally, top player in Iowa and highest rated recruit by a Big 12 team ... rated as the No. 8 quarterback nationally by On3 ... four-star prospect and the No. 2 player in the state of Iowa by 247Sports Composite ... made the 2024 Elite II finals roster ... three-time IPSWA All-State selection ... 2024 Class 3A All-Iowa Team by the Des Moines Register ... threw for 1,456 yards, 18 touchdowns with no interceptions, completing 68.5% of his passes, in seven games in 2024 ... also rushed for 319 yards and eight touchdowns ... added 17.5 tackles, including one for a loss, on the defensive side of the ball ... missed final portion of his senior season due to injury ... as a junior, completed 60.7% of his passes for 1,787 yards and 17 touchdowns ... added 714 yards and 12 scores on the ground ... finished career with 4,933 passing yards, 49 touchdowns and 10 interceptions along with 1,414 rushing yards and 27 touchdowns on the ground ... also played baseball, basketball, golf and participated in track & field ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Iowa, Kansas State, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pittsburgh, Texas A&M and Wisconsin ... teammate of fellow ISU signee Jack Limbaugh.

**Ka'Mori
MOORE**

Defensive Line
6-2 ▪ 295 ▪ Fr.

Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit North HS)

Prepped at Lee's Summit North for head coach Jason Rogers ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... top 10 player in Missouri by 247Sports and ESPN ... No. 60 defensive tackle nationally by ESPN ... helped the Broncos to an 11-1 record and a 2024 Missouri Class 6 quarterfinal appearance ... finished senior season with 38 tackles, including 10 for loss and four sacks ... also blocked a punt ... helped Lee's Summit to a third round playoff appearance in 2023 ... as a junior, recorded 42 tackles, including 12 for a loss and two sacks ... also recovered a fumble ... finished career with 118 tackles, 25 TFL and eight sacks ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Nebraska, Michigan State and Oklahoma.

**Joshua
PATTERSON**

Defensive Back
6-0 ▪ 180 ▪ Fr.

Jacksonville, Fla. (Ed White HS)

Prepped at Ed White High School for head coach Lawrence Johnson ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... rated as a top-70 safety nationally and a top-105 player in the state of Florida by 247Sports ... 2024 all-conference selection ... played on both sides of the ball for the Commanders, helping them to a 2024 playoff appearance ... tallied 53 tackles, 11 PBUs, four interceptions, forced two fumbles and allowed only one reception in his senior season ... as a junior, recorded 19 tackles, four PBUs, three interceptions, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery ... added seven receptions for 172 yards and three touchdowns on the offensive side of the ball ... also participated in track & field ... comes from an athletic family ... brother, Jaison, is a running back at Bowling Green and other brother, Davaughn, is a defensive back at Wake Forest ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Cincinnati, Indiana, Maryland, Pittsburgh and Wake Forest.

**Ryver
PEPPERS**

Running Back
5-11 ▪ 190 ▪ Fr.

Independence, Mo. (Fort Osage HS)

Played at Fort Osage High School for head coach Brock Bult ... three-star prospect, top-15 player in the state of Missouri and a top-75 running back nationally by all major recruiting outlets ... played in only five games of his senior season due to injury ... rushed for 621 yards and eight touchdowns while averaging 6.0 yards per carry ... also had a touchdown reception ... 2023 MFCA Academic All-State Football Team ... two-time MFCA All-State Second Team selection (2022, '23) ... back-to-back 1,600-plus yard rushing seasons as a junior and sophomore ... as a junior, ran for 1,642 yards and 31 touchdowns ... totaled 1,634 rushing yards and 28 touchdowns as a sophomore ... finished career with 3,897 yards and 60 rushing touchdowns as well as 10 touchdown receptions ... also played basketball and was an All-State track & field athlete in the long jump ... picked Iowa State over offers from Army, Kansas State, Northwestern and Utah.

**Sione
PERKINS**

Offensive Line
6-9 ▪ 300 ▪ Fr.

Eagle, Idaho (Eagle HS)

Prepped at Eagle High School for head coach James Cluphf ... three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports ... rated as the No. 2 player in Idaho by 247Sports ... led the Mustangs to a 9-3 record and a 2024 Idaho Class 6A state runner-up finish ... 2024 First Team all-conference selection ... helped the Eagle offense average 159 passing yards and 147 rushing yards per game ... also played basketball.

Zay ROBINSON

Wide Receiver

6-1 ▪ 185 ▪ Fr.

Des Moines, Iowa (Valley HS)

Played at West Des Moines Valley for head coach Gary Swenson ... three-star prospect and top-10 player in the state of Iowa by all major recruiting outlets ... top-125 wide receiver nationally by ESPN ... member of Des Moines Register's 2024 All-Iowa Elite Team ... helped the Tigers to a 2024 Class 5A state runner-up finish ... led Valley with 48 receptions for 661 yards and 14 touchdowns in his senior season ... made an impact at wide receiver and on special teams with three touchdowns on kick returns in his final season ... averaged 33.1 yards per return ... missed junior football season due to injury, but recorded 409 receiving yards and two touchdowns on 36 receptions as a sophomore ... compiled 84 receptions for 1,070 yards and 16 touchdowns in his career ... also played basketball and participated in track & field ... helped Valley earn back-to-back Class 4A state basketball championships in 2023 and 2024 ... picked Iowa State over offers from Iowa, Colorado, Kansas State, Missouri and Vanderbilt.

Ethan STECKER

Defensive Back

6-4 ▪ 205 ▪ Fr.

Spirit Lake, Iowa (Spirit Lake HS)

Prepped at Spirit Lake for head coach Josh Bolluyt ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... No. 3 player in the state of Iowa by 247Sports ... tabbed as a top-30 athlete nationally by 247Sports ... Class 2A All-State selection by the Des Moines Register ... helped Spirit Lake to a Class 2A state runner-up finish in 2024 ... registered 74.5 tackles, including 22 for a loss and six sacks, in his senior season ... also had 43 catches for 644 yards and 10 touchdowns on the offensive side of the ball ... 2023 IPSWA Class 2A Second Team All-State selection as a wide receiver/tight end ... recorded 18.5 tackles, two tackles for loss and two interceptions, including a pick-six, as a junior ... also one of the top pass catchers on his team, finishing his junior season with 31 receptions, 636 yards and seven touchdowns ... compiled 97 tackles, 24 TFL and six sacks in his career ... also played basketball and participated in track & field, winning 2024 Class 2A state titles in the 110 hurdles with the state's fourth-fastest time ever ... also finished in the top four in the state on two relay teams to earn a spot on the Des Moines Register's 2024 All-Iowa boys track & field team.

Will TOMPKINS

Offensive Line

6-5 ▪ 290 ▪ Fr.

Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls HS)

Prepped at Cedar Falls for head coach Brad Remmert ... three-star offensive lineman and top-10 player in the state by all major recruiting outlets ... rated as the nation's No. 25 offensive tackle by On3 ... member of Des Moines Register's All-Iowa Elite Team ... helped the Tigers to the Class 5A playoffs in back-to-back seasons, including a quarterfinal appearance as a junior ... blocked for a Cedar Falls offense that produced over 1,900 rush yards and 1,600 pass yards in 2024 ... as a junior, Cedar Falls amassed 1,206 passing yards and 2,250 rushing yards with Tompkins on the offensive line ... also participated in track & field ... picked Iowa State over offers from Northwestern, Duke, Illinois, Kansas, Kansas State, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Penn State, Tennessee, USC and Wisconsin.

Trey VERDON

Defensive Line

6-2 ▪ 225 ▪ Fr.

Hamilton, Ohio (Hamilton HS)

Brother of current Cyclone defensive back, Malik Verdon ... prepped at Hamilton for head coach Arvie Crouch ... three-star prospect by all major recruiting outlets ... rated as the No. 22 player in Ohio and the No. 62 edge nationally by ESPN ... helped Hamilton to a 9-3 record and a second round state playoff appearance ... 2024 First Team All-Conference selection ... 60 tackles, including 25 for a loss, and 11 sacks in nine games as a senior ... also had three PBUs, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries ... 2023 OPSWA All-Ohio Division I Second Team selection ... as a junior, finished with 77 total tackles (14 for loss), 8 sacks and 2 forced fumbles ... compiled 53 TFL and 30 sacks in his career ... also wrestled in high school ... chose the Cyclones over offers from Louisville and Pittsburgh.



Charlie WOLEBEN

Defensive Line
6-5 ▪ 225 ▪ Fr.

Lenexa, Kan. (DeSoto HS)

Played for head coach Brian King at DeSoto High School ... three-star prospect and top-15 player in the state of Kansas by all major recruiting outlets ... 2024 United Kansas Conference Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference selection ... helped DeSoto to a 7-2 record and a playoff appearance as a senior ... 46 tackles, including 12 for a loss and nine sacks in his senior season ... blocked two punts and forced two fumbles ... 2023 All-Conference First Team Selection ... as a junior, recorded 43 tackles, including 7.5 for loss, and 2.5 sacks ... also blocked two punts and a PAT ... finished career with 25 TFL and 19 sacks ... also played basketball and participated in track & field ... state qualifier in the discus ... picked the Cyclones over offers from Kansas, Kansas State, Minnesota and Nebraska.

Sam ZELENOVICH

Wide Receiver
6-2 ▪ 185 ▪ Fr.

Altoona, Iowa (Southeast Polk HS)

Played at Southeast Polk High School for his father and head coach Brad Zelenovich ... Class 5A All-State selection by the Des Moines Register ... helped the Rams to three-consecutive Class 5A state titles ... recorded 61 receptions for 779 yards and six touchdowns in 2024 despite missing the later part of his senior season due to injury ... First Team Class 5A IPSWA All-State selection as a junior ... logged 891 receiving yards and nine touchdowns while averaging 13.1 yards per catch in 2023 ... finished career with 130 receptions for 1,678 yards and 15 touchdowns ... also played basketball and participated in track & field ... picked Iowa State over offers from Air Force, Army, Northern Iowa and South Dakota.