

# 2011 UAB FOOTBALL SIGNEES



<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Hometown (High School or Junior College)</b>
Dequindre Adams	CB	5-10	175	Columbus, Ga. (Carver HS)
Colin Anderson	K	5-10	170	Stone Mountain, Ga. (Stephenson HS)
Kennard Backman	TE	6-3	225	Austell, Ga. (Whitefield Academy)
Austin Brown	QB	6-1	195	Flowery Branch, Ga. (Flowery Branch HS)
Wesley Carter	OL	6-4	280	Purvis, Miss. (Purvis HS)
Jewel Christian	DT	6-2	290	Osyka, Miss. (SW Mississippi CC)
Bashr Coles	RB	5-11	180	Tucker, Ga. (Tucker HS)
** Johnny Cockrell	SAF/CB	6-0	200	Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC)
Keenen Crenshaw	OL	6-2	295	Lewisburg, Tenn. (Ensworth Academy)
Uneik Crumbley	OL	6-3	340	Americus, Ga. (Americus-Sumter HS)
Trey Grissett	DE	6-5	230	Warner Robins, Ga. (Houston County HS)
Mickey Jackson	DT	6-1	308	Piedmont, Ala. (Piedmont HS)
** Lamar Johnson	SAF	6-2	195	Pascagoula, Miss. (Mississippi Gulf Coast CC)
** Calvin Jones	SAF	5-10	175	Petal, Miss. (Copiah Lincoln JC)
Ty Long	K	6-2	180	Roswell, Ga. (Roswell HS)
Hayden Naumann	OL	6-5	275	Decatur, Ala. (Decatur HS)
Tyler Peppers	DE	6-5	230	Opelika, Ala. (Opelika HS)
Kardeem Poole	WR	6-1	180	Prattville, Ala. (Prattville HS)
Darius Powell	WR	5-10	180	Foley, Ala. (Foley HS)
Darrin Reaves	RB	5-10	190	Pinson, Ala. (Clay-Chalkville HS)
Shaquille Roberson	LB	6-4	220	Camp Hill, Ala. (Reeltown HS)
Diaheem Watkins	DE	6-4	230	Brent, Ala. (Bibb County HS)
Tevin Wells	DT	6-2	285	Haines City, Fla. (Mississippi Delta CC)
Desmond Wills	LB	6-0	215	Lincoln, Ala. (Lincoln HS)
Daron Wright	DT	6-2	255	Atlanta, Ga. (Grady HS)
Teddy Wright	WR	6-0	165	Lakeland, Fla. (Lakeland HS)

\*\* Signed in December and enrolled at UAB in January

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**Dequindre Adams • DB • 5-10 • 175**  
**Columbus, Ga. • Carver HS**

A three-year starter for head coach Dell McGee at Carver High School ... was tabbed a first-team all-city and all-region performer as a senior by the *Columbus Ledger Enquirer* ... also earned second-team all-city honors as a junior ... a standout in the classroom, he carries a 3.5 GPA and earned a spot on the first-team all-state academic team ... was rated as the No. 104 cornerback in the country and No. 8 in the state of Georgia by ESPN.com ... also one of the top wide receivers in his region, he averaged 19.9 yards a catch (22/438) and grabbed five touchdowns during senior season ... helped lead team to a 13-1 record and a final ranking of No. 14 in the state of Georgia ... team captured the 2010 5AA Region Championship.

**Colin Anderson • K • 5-10 • 170**  
**Stone Mountain, Ga. • Stephenson HS**

A 2-AAAAA first-team all-region placekicker and a second-team performer as a punter, as chosen by the region's head coaches ... helped team to a 9-0 start to the season before finishing 9-2 overall and 6-1 in the region ... closed the 2010 season with 51 points ... hit seven field goals during senior year, four of which were 40 or more yards ... averaged over 38 yards per punt ... competed for the West Team as a placekicker/punter in DeKalb County Coaches Association All-Star football game on Dec. 18 ... played under head coach Ron Gartrell.

**Kennard Backman, TE, 6-3, 225**  
**Austell, Ga. (Whitefield Academy)**

A versatile athlete who was standout on both sides of the ball for Whitefield Academy ... two-time all-state performer ... earned second-team honors by Associated Press as a senior tight end ... also listed honorable mention all-state as a defensive lineman by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* ... finished the 2010 season with 39 receptions for 494 yards and five touchdowns on offense ... on the defensive side, Backman had 73 tackles with seven sacks ... ranked as the No. 36 prospect in Georgia by Scout.com ... was nominated for U.S. Army All-American Team, one of 21 nominees from state of Georgia ... was a first-team all-state selection as a junior in 2009, earning accolades at tight end by AP and as a defensive lineman by the *Journal-Constitution* ... also earned all-state honors as a junior by Georgia Sports Writers Association ... registered 33 receptions for 487 yards with three touchdowns as a junior ... coached by Jimmy Fields at Whitefield Academy.

**Austin Brown, QB, 6-1, 195**  
**Flowery Branch, Ga. (Flowery Branch HS)**

An honorable mention AAAA all-state selection by the Georgia Sports Writers Association in 2010 ... chosen as the 8-AAAA all-region first-team quarterback ... helped Flowery Branch to a 10-2 record, a top 10 state ranking and a Region 8-AAAA runner-up finish as a senior ... played for coach Lee Shaw ... threw for 2,588 yards, the 11th-highest total in the state of Georgia in 2010 ... completed 174 of 272 passes (64 percent) with 24 touchdowns ... began his prep career at Habersham Central High School ... a *Gainesville Times* second-team all-area selection as a sophomore in 2008 ... also a second-team 8-AAAA all-region selection ... threw for 1,341 yards and nine touchdowns in nine games that year, guiding Habersham Central to a 6-4

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finish ... topped 1,000 yards passing again as a junior in 2009 before making the move to Flowery Branch.

**Wesley Carter, OL, 6-4, 270**

**Purvis, Miss. (Purvis HS)**

Mississippi Association of Coaches Class 4A All-State First Team honoree ... named to the 2010 *Hattiesburg American* All-Area First Team ... earned WDAM 7 All-Area Team honors in 2010 ... graded out at 80 percent as a senior ... registered 30 pancake blocks in 2010 ... played for coach Perry Wheat ... helped the Tornadoes to four straight 4A state playoff appearances, including a 10-2 record and the second round of the playoffs as a senior ... earned the Lamar County Humanitarian Leadership Award in 2010.

**Jewel Christian, OL, 6-2, 290**

**Osyka, Miss. (SW Mississippi CC)**

A two-year starter at SW Mississippi coached by Charles Anthony ... earned second-team all-state honors as a sophomore ... second on team with 28 knockdowns at the offensive line during his sophomore season ... four-year letterwinner at South Pike HS under head coach Randall Huffman ... a three-year starter on the offensive line ... earned a spot on the South team in the Bernard Blackwell All-Star Football Classic ... was named to the All-Pike County first team as a senior ... also earned first-team all-district honors during his junior and senior seasons and earned honorable mention honors as a sophomore ... was named the Most Valuable Lineman by coaching staff ... also started at the defensive end position as a senior ... won the state powerlifting title in the 308-pound weight class as a senior ... was named MVP of powerlifting team during his senior year.

**\*\*Johnny Cockrell, SAF/CB, 6-0, 200**

**Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC)**

One of three December junior college signees who enrolled at UAB in January ... was a starter at cornerback this past season at EMCC and was credited with 46 tackles (35 solos) ... recorded a season-high eight tackles in games against Northwest Mississippi and Pearl River ... returned an interception 56 yards for a touchdown against Itawamba and also ranked second on the team in pass breakups with six ... in reserve duty as a freshman in 2009, Cockrell had 13 total tackles (10 solo hits) ... was a member of back-to-back state playoff teams at EMCC ... Lions finished 5-5 in 2010 after going 11-1 and winning the school's first-ever MACJA state championship a year earlier ... attended Columbus (Miss.) High School and played for coach Bubba Davis as senior ... was high school and junior college teammate of Billy Autrey, now a teammate at UAB.

**Bashr Coles, RB, 6-0, 180**

**Tucker, Ga. (Tucker HS)**

An all-state honorable mention selection by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as a senior in 2010 ... also tabbed all-area and All-DeKalb County ... named the 2010 *DeKalb Neighbor* Football All-Area Player of the Year ... ran for 1,301 yards on 142 carries (9.2 yards per carry) and 20 touchdowns as a senior ... finished second on his run-first team with 11 catches for 203 yards and two scores ... helped Tucker to a undefeated regular season, a 13-1 overall record and a Region 6-AAAA championship in 2010 ... Tucker also advanced

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to the program's third state semifinal in four years ... played for coach Franklin Stephens.

**Keenen Crenshaw, OL, 6-2, 295**  
**Lewisburg, Tenn. (Ensworth Academy)**

Helped lead Ensworth to Tennessee Division II-Class AA state championship as a senior ... regarded as one of the top private school linemen in Tennessee ... was one of three finalists for Division II-Class AA Mr. Football ... saw action on both offensive and defensive lines for Tigers ... registered 44 tackles, including 30 solo stops as a senior in 2010 ... was named first-team all-state by Tennessee Sports Writers Association as a defensive lineman ... tabbed to All-Midstate team by *The Tennessean* ... also selected to play in Tennessee East/West All-Star Classic.

**Uneik Crumbley, OL, 6-3, 340**  
**Americus, Ga. (Americus-Sumter HS)**

A Class AAA all-state selection by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 2010 ... chosen second-team all-state by the Georgia Sports Writers Association ... tabbed first-team all-region for Region 1-AAA ... helped Americus-Sumter to a 7-5 record in his senior year ... coached by Michael Pollock as a senior... blocked for an offense that ran for more than 2,000 yards ... selected for the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association's North-South Football Classic ... named offensive line MVP at the 2010 Atlanta National Underclassmen Combine.

**Trey Grissett, DE, 6-5, 235**  
**Warner Robins, Ga. (Houston County HS)**

A top middle Georgia prospect, Grissett earned second-team All-1AAAA region honors following 2010 season in vote of region coaches ... tabbed first-team All-Houston County by *Macon Telegraph* ... also tabbed All-Middle Georgia by *Telegraph* ... recorded 64 tackles as a senior with 33 solo hits ... also had six tackles for loss with one fumble recovery and one pass break-up ... had one reception on offense, a 9-yard touchdown catch ... named his school's "Best Defensive Lineman" for 2010 and also was voted team captain ... played varsity three years (freshman, junior and senior years) ... played for coach Greg Robinson ... also plays on Houston County basketball team.

**Mickey Jackson, DT, 6-1, 308**  
**Piedmont, Ala. (Piedmont HS)**

One of top linemen in state ... tabbed first-team all-state Class 3A by Alabama Sports Writers Association ... selected to participate in the Alabama/Mississippi All-Star Classic ... finished the 2010 season with 77 total tackles with 17 tackles for loss and 12 sacks ... helped lead his team to Class 3A semifinal finish last season and 12-2 record ... as a junior Jackson was named first-team all-state as Piedmont won the Class 3A state title ... also was tabbed to *Gadsden Times All-Area* first team in 2009 as defensive lineman.

**\*\*Lamar Johnson, SAF, 6-2, 195**  
**Pascagoula, Miss. (Mississippi Gulf Coast CC)**

Another December signee for the Blazers who enrolled at UAB in January, 2011 ... ranked No. 2 in the nation in interceptions with eight during the 2010 season, including seven in the final four games ... ranked as

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No. 15 junior college prospect in Mississippi by *Jackson Clarion-Ledger* ... recorded 38 tackles as he helped Mississippi Gulf Coast CC to a 10-2 record and a final national ranking of No. 3 ... earned NJCAA Academic All-America recognition in 2009 ... attended Pascagoula (Miss.) High School.

**Calvin Jones, SAF, 5-10, 175**

**Petal, Miss. (Copiah Lincoln JC)**

Will have three years of eligibility after an outstanding season at Copiah Lincoln JC ... enrolled at UAB in January after signing with the Blazers in December ... finished with 105 tackles this fall as Co-Lin finished with a 9-2 record and No. 13 national junior college ranking ... registered a pair of interceptions and also had three tackles for loss and one sack ... had a season-high 17 tackles against Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Ty Long, K, 6-2, 180**

**Roswell Ga. (Roswell HS)**

One of top kickers in Georgia, Long was named to 2010 High School All-American Team by Kohl's Professional Kicking Camp ... was outstanding as a placekicker and punter at Roswell ... connected on 14-of-21 field goals with a long of 52 yards ... his 52-yarder came on the final play of 29-27 victory over Parkview in first round of Class 6-AAAAA state playoffs ... averaged 45 yards on 38 punts ... recorded an impressive 61 touchbacks on 65 kickoffs ... had field goals of 44 and 50 yards against West Forsyth ... was named first-team All-Region 6-AAAAA by Georgia High School Football Daily ... also tabbed to All-North Fulton Team by *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

**Hayden Naumann, OL, 6-4, 280**

**Decatur, Ala. (Decatur HS)**

A first-team Class 6A All-State selection by Alabama Sports Writers Association ... prior to senior season, named by Friday Night Football Alabama as No. 4 offensive tackle prospect in the state ... earned all-area honors twice by *Decatur Daily* ... played in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic ... helped lead Decatur to 9-3 record in 2010 ... also earned a spot on Reebok All-Alabama third team and was All-Rocket City first team ... coached by Jere Adcock ... his father, Kevin Naumann, played at North Alabama.

**Tyler Peppers, DE, 6-4, 240**

**Opelika, Ala. (Opelika HS)**

A three-year letterwinner at Opelika for coach Brian Blackmon ... served as Opelika's defensive captain as a senior ... a preseason second-team all-area selection by the Opelika-Auburn News in 2010 ... finished his senior year with 39 tackles, four sacks and seven quarterback hurries ... helped Opelika to a 5-5 record and a playoff berth in 2010 ... also a member of Opelika's 2008 team that finished 10-2 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs and the 2009 team that finished 6-3 ... played defensive end for the first time as a junior in 2009 after making the switch from tight end.

**Kardeem Poole, WR, 6-1, 180**

**Prattville, Ala. (Prattville HS)**

A *Montgomery Advertiser* Class 5A-6A all-metro honorable mention selection as a senior in 2010 ... also

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named all-county ... selected for the 2010 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic ... tallied 53 catches for 976 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior ... ranked No. 39 on the Scout.com "Alabama's Most Wanted" list ... helped Prattville to a 36-7 record during his prep career, including an 8-4 mark in 2010 ... played on Prattville's 2008 state championship team ... played for a Prattville program that has made 11 consecutive state playoff appearances ... a high school teammate of fellow UAB signee Lance Schuffert ... coached by Jamey DuBose at Prattville.

**Darius Powell, WR, 5-10, 180**

**Foley, Ala. (Foley HS)**

Helped his team finish with an 8-4 record and rank first in the 6A Region 2 in total offensive rankings ... a three-year starter at quarterback ... passed for 1,780 yards and ran for another 756 yards in 2008 ... as a senior, he passed for 364 yards and 4 touchdowns ... he also ran for 7 additional touchdowns ... led his team to the first round of the playoffs in 2008, 2009, and 2010 ... runs a 4.46 ... team finished third place in division with a 5-2 divisional record ... named Optimist Player of the Week three times in the 2010 season ... All-Baldwin County selection in 2010.

**Darrin Reaves, RB, 5-10, 190**

**Pinson, Ala. (Clay-Chalkville HS)**

Named to the 2010 *Birmingham News* All-Metro Team ... rushed for 1,223 yards with a 5.9 yards per rush average and 17 touchdowns in 2010 ... also had 21 receptions for 287 yards, averaging 13.7 yards per catch, and one touchdown as a senior ... compiled 214 kick return yards and 119 punt return yards in 2010 ... also returned a 70-yard punt for a touchdown, giving him a total of 19 touchdowns during his senior campaign ... led Clay-Chalkville to a 9-4 record and the Class 6A quarterfinals as a senior ... earned the *Birmingham News*' and ABC 33/40 Player of the Week honors on Nov. 21 after raking in 107 receiving yards, 129 rushing yards and two touchdowns ... played under coach Jerry Hood ... his father, Darrin, lettered at UAB in 1991 as a tailback, making the duo the first father/son legacy for UAB football.

**Shaquille Roberson, LB, 6-4, 220**

**Camp Hill, Ala. (Reeltown HS)**

Two-time Class 2A Lineman of the Year (2009, 2010) ... named to the 2010 All-State Defensive Team by the Alabama Sports Writers Association (ASWA) ... featured on Scout.com's Alabama's Most Wanted Top 50 list at No. 45 ... recorded 101 total tackles and five sacks last season ... missed three games due to a shoulder injury ... had 152 tackles and 12 sacks in 2009 ... helped lead Reeltown to its first state championship since 2001 ... coached by Jackie O'Neal.

**Diaheem Watkins, DE, 6-4, 230**

**Brent, Ala. (Bibb County HS)**

Named the Class 4A Lineman of the Year in 2010 by the Alabama Sports Writers Association (ASWA) ... also tabbed to the All-State Defensive First Team by the ASWA ... selected to the ASWA's Super 12 Team ... led a Bibb County defense that held opponents to 10 points or less in 11 of 14 games in 2010 and recorded six shutouts ... featured on Scout.com's Alabama's Most Wanted Top 50 players list at No. 46 ... named a

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Class 4A West Alabama All-Star by the Tuscaloosa News ... recorded 52 tackles, 8.5 sacks, seven forced fumbles and one fumble recovery in 2009 ... coached by Mike Battles, ASWA's 2010 Class 4A Coach of the Year.

**Tevin Wells, DT, 6-2, 285**

**Haines City, Fla. (Mississippi Delta CC)**

Participated in the 2010 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) All-Star Football Classic ... recorded six sacks, 55 tackles and 12 quarterback hurries last season ... registered five sacks, 40 tackles and six quarterback hurries as a freshman in 2009 ... played for coach Jay Miller at Mississippi Delta ... will have two years of eligibility remaining at UAB ... attended Haines City High School and played under coach Pete Barber.

**Desmond Wills, LB, 6-0, 215**

**Lincoln, Ala. (Lincoln HS)**

An honorable mention Class 4A all-state selection by the Alabama Sports Writers Association ... was named to Anniston Star preseason "Daily Dozen" ... ranked No. 32 on Scout's Alabama Top 50 list ... compiled 89 tackles as a senior with five tackles for loss and one sack ... as a junior he had 113 tackles (76 solo stops and three sacks ... coached by Chad Martin ... also was member of Lincoln track and field team.

**Daron Wright, DT, 6-2, 255**

**Atlanta, Ga. (Grady HS)**

Class 3A All-State Honorable Mention in 2010 ... named to the Atlanta Public Schools' All-City Defensive Second Team ... had 11 tackles and three quarterback pressures in Grady's 17-6 win over Cedar Grove, which was held to 35 yards rushing ... helped lead the Knights to the 5-AAA region title ... named his team's Defensive MVP ... coached by Ronnie Millen.

**Teddy Wright, WR, 6-0, 165**

**Lakeland, Fla. (Lakeland HS)**

A late signee for the Blazers in summer of 2011 ... caught 38 passes for 852 yards and 10 touchdowns (county-best for TDs) as a senior ... earned second-team All-Polk County honors by PolkPreps.com ... started as a senior at wide receiver ... helped Lakeland to Class 5A state semifinal appearance.