

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **BAYLOR FOOTBALL UNVEILS 2008 SIGNEES**

**WACO, Texas** -- First-year Baylor University football head coach Art Briles announced Wednesday the signing of 20 players to National Letters of Intent for the 2008-09 academic year. Briles' first Baylor recruiting class is comprised of 17 high school standouts and three junior college transfers.

"We are extremely proud of this class," Briles said. "I'd like to congratulate and compliment our coaches that have been out on the road representing and recruiting for Baylor football and our University.

"What we looked for were visionary people, just like I looked for visionary coaches when putting our staff together," he added. "I wanted people who were willing to start a new path and not follow an old one. We found student-athletes who are self-disciplined, self-confident and that share the vision we have for Baylor football, which is to make Baylor football a dominant factor in the college football world."

Quarterback Kirby Freeman (Brownwood, Texas), who graduated early from the University of Miami [Fla.] and transferred into the Baylor program at semester, will have one year of eligibility remaining. Inside receiver Romie Blaylock (Cedar Hill, Texas) and quarterback Robert Griffin (Copperas Cove, Texas), also enrolled at semester and will go through spring practice with the Bears along with Freeman.

"I'm proud of this class and excited that we were able to cover some needs across the board," Briles said. "We hit some really quality big-time players that were all multiple-offer guys. We were able to hold off some people and pull in some guys that a lot of people across the nation wanted them to come play for. The name of Baylor University, the direction of Baylor football, influenced these young student-athletes to come be a part of what we have going on here."

The Bears' 2008 newcomers include:

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Ht.</u></b>	<b><u>Wt.</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown (Previous School)</u></b>
Romie Blaylock#	IR	5-10	170	Cedar Hill, Texas (Cedar Hill)
Rodney Brisbon	OL	6-6	330	Wetumpka, Ala. (Robert E. Lee/Northwest Mississippi CC)
Rodney Chadwick	LB	6-2	190	Carthage, Texas (Carthage)
Jared Edwards	DT/DE	6-4	250	Mansfield, Texas (Timberview)
Nick Florence	QB	6-2	175	Garland, Texas (South Garland)
Kirby Freeman#	QB	6-3	214	Brownwood, Texas (Brownwood/Miami, Fla.)
Brandon Garrett	OL	6-7	290	La Marque, Texas (La Marque)
Robert Griffin#	QB	6-3	195	Copperas Cove, Texas (Copperas Cove)
Trentson Hill	DB	6-0	175	Mount Pleasant, Texas (Mount Pleasant)
Jake Jackson	OL	6-4	280	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)
Kaeron Johnson	DT	6-2	265	Cuero, Texas (Cuero)
Cameron Kaufhold	OL	6-5	275	Friendswood, Texas (Friendswood)
Gary Mason Jr.	DE	6-5	211	Waxahachie, Texas (Waxahachie)
Ben Parks	PK	6-2	195	Argyle, Texas (Argyle)
Fredric Plesius	LB	6-2	230	Lennoxville, Quebec (Champlain Prep School)
Tracy Robertson	DL	6-4	230	Houston, Texas (Lamar)
Jarred Salubi	RB	5-10	191	Waco, Texas (Waco)
Lanear Sampson	WR	6-0	190	Mesquite, Texas (North Mesquite)
Jeremy Sanders	QB	6-2	210	Marlin, Texas (Marlin/Navarro College)
T.J. Scranton	WR	5-10	180	Hitchcock, Texas (Hitchcock/Kilgore College)
Michael Williams	CB	6-1	180	Beaumont, Texas (West Brook)
Terrance Williams	WR	6-3	190	Dallas, Texas (W.T. White)
Kendall Wright	ATH	6-0	180	Pittsburg, Texas (Pittsburg)

#-Enrolled at Baylor in January 2008.



## 2008 Baylor Football Class Breakdown:

### By State:

**Texas (21):** IR Romie Blaylock, LB Rodney Chadwick, DL Jared Edwards, QB Nick Florence, QB Kirby Freeman, OL Brandon Garrett, QB Robert Griffin, DB Trentson Hill, OL Jake Jackson, DL Kaeron Johnson, OL Cameron Kaufhold, DE Gary Mason Jr., PK Ben Parks, DL Tracy Robertson, RB Jarred Salubi, WR Lanear Sampson, QB Jeremy Sanders, WR T.J. Scranton, WR Terrance Williams, CB Michael Williams, ATH Kendall Wright

**Alabama (1):** OL Rodney Brisbon

**Canada (1):** LB Fredric Plesius

### By Position (First Position Listed):

**Offense (13):** IR Romie Blaylock, OL Rodney Brisbon, QB Nick Florence, QB Kirby Freeman, OL Brandon Garrett, QB Robert Griffin, OL Jake Jackson, OL Cameron Kaufhold, RB Jarred Salubi, WR Lanear Sampson, QB Jeremy Sanders, WR T.J. Scranton, WR Terrance Williams

**Defense (8):** LB Rodney Chadwick, DL Jared Edwards, DB Trentson Hill, DL Kaeron Johnson, DE Gary Mason Jr., LB Fredric Plesius, DL Tracy Robertson, CB Michael Williams

**Athlete (1):** ATH Kendall Wright

**Kicker (1):** PK Ben Parks

## Romie Blaylock

### IR • 5-10 • 170 • Cedar Hill, Texas (Cedar Hill)

One of three Cedar Hill [Texas] High School standouts to sign with Baylor in 2007, joining LB Chris Francis and OT John Jones, inside receiver **Romie Blaylock** enrolled at Baylor in January 2008 and will go through spring ball with the Bears ... Ranked 43rd on the 2007 *Dallas Morning News*' Area Top 100 list ... 2006 *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* Texas Top 300 member ... 3-star [Rivals.com](#) ranking ... Helped coach Joey McGuire's 2006 Longhorns to the Class 5A Division II state championship and a 16-0 record ... Totaled 34 receptions for 629 yards and seven touchdowns in final prep season to earn second-team all-district honors .. Also played cornerback as a senior and registered a pair of interceptions, four tackles and one PBU ... As a junior, caught 13 passes for 177 yards and one touchdown en route to second-team all-district honors for the 7-4, Division II bi-district finalists ... Helped Longhorns to first district title in some 25 years in 2005 ... Caught 33 passes for 500 yards en route to 2004 District 7-5A sophomore of the year honors ... Anchored Cedar Hill's silver-medal winning 4x400-meter relay at 2007 state meet ... Placed third in the 2006 Class 5A 400-meter dash in a personal-best 47.39 ... 2006 *Dallas Morning News* All-Area track and field team selection ... Placed third in the 2005 Junior Olympics 400 ... Selected Baylor over Kansas State, Colorado, Purdue, UTEP, Houston, SMU, Tulane and Boise State ... Son of Romie S. Blaylock Sr. and Niki Blaylock ... Enjoys dancing, singing, dominos and shooting pool ... Cousin of former Baylor CB C.J. Wilson ... B-Honor Roll ... FCA member who has volunteered for duty at the food pantry and clothing store ... Received 2005-06 Achievement Academy Award and 2005-06 Who's Who American High School Award ... Romie S. Blaylock Jr. was born Aug. 23, 1989, in Dallas ... "He's so unselfish, he doesn't care who gets the credit, he just wants to win," McGuire said of Blaylock. "That's why we like him on defense, because he has absolutely no concern for his body. His teammates are more important."

**Briles on Blaylock:** "He's on campus and working very hard. Romie has a dynamic personality and is very self-driven. He epitomizes a lot of the intangibles we are looking for (in our student-athletes)."

## Rodney Brisbon

### OL • 6-6 • 330 • Wetumpka, Ala. (Robert E. Lee/Northwest Mississippi Community College)

**Rodney Brisbon**, the first signee of the Art Briles era at Baylor, was an All-American junior college offensive lineman at Northwest Mississippi Community College ... 3-star [Rivals.com](#) and [Scout.com](#) ranking ... Brisbon signed with the Bears in December 2007, will enroll at Baylor in the summer of 2008 with two years of eligibility remaining ... Earned first-team All-America honors as an offensive tackle in 2006 at Northwest Mississippi Community College and second-team recognition from *JC Gridwire* ... Helped Northwest Mississippi Community College to a 6-4 record and the 2006 North Division title ... Also received All-Region XXIII accolades for coach Randy Pippin ... Was a first-team Mississippi Association Community/Junior College all-state selection as well as the MACJC's most valuable offensive lineman ... Originally signed a National Letter of Intent in 2007 to attend the University of Houston and play for Briles' Cougars, but never enrolled at the school ... Selected as team's offensive MVP as a senior at Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Ala., Brisbon earned first-team all-state and all-metro honors for the Generals ... He was also selected as a team captain and was tabbed to play in the state all-star game ... Was recruited by Alabama, Oklahoma State, Kansas State, Miami [Fla.], and Ole Miss coming out of high school.

**Briles on Brisbon:** "R.J. Brisbon has a huge body, a great attitude and really good feet. He has the potential to be a big-time player for us."

## Rodney Chadwick

### LB • 6-2 • 190 • Carthage, Texas (Carthage)

The 2007 District 20-3A defensive MVP as a senior at Carthage [Texas] High School, **Rodney Chadwick** registered 132 tackles, three forced fumbles and one interception in his final prep season ... Credited with more than 100 tackles and five sacks as a junior en route to first-team all-district honors ... District sophomore of the year ... Also lettered in basketball and track ... Selected Baylor over Louisiana-Monroe ... Coached by Scott Surratt at the District 20-3A school ... Rodney Elton Chadwick was born Feb. 9, 1990.

**Briles on Chadwick:** "Rodney is a talented outside linebacker. He's extremely fast. Once he specializes (in football), we really believe he has a great upside. He's a real diamond in the rough and we are glad that he's a Baylor Bear."

## Jared Edwards

### DT/DE • 6-4 • 250 • Mansfield, Texas (Timberview)

Defensive lineman **Jared Edwards** was a two-way starter at Mansfield [Texas] Timberview High School ... Earned 2007 first-team all-district honors as a defensive end and was runner-up in District 4-5A defensive player of the year voting ... Also a 2007 second-team all-district pick as an offensive tackle for the Wolves ... Registered 54 pancakes, 67 knockdowns and one touchdown on the offensive side of the ball in 2007 ... Also had 52 tackles in final prep season, including seven for loss, four sacks, five forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries ... Coached by Terry Cron at the District 4-5A school ... Older brother, Lonnie, is a redshirt freshman offensive lineman at Texas Tech who originally committed to Baylor before switching his pledge to the Red Raiders ... Selected Baylor over Georgia Tech, Iowa State, Houston, Tulsa and Utah ... Jared Loyd Edwards was born Jan. 3, 1990.

**Briles on Edwards:** "Jared is a big, strong, physical defensive end that possess the mentality and physicalness that we are looking for at that position. We think he has the potential to develop more physically over the next few years."

## Nick Florence

### QB • 6-2 • 175 • Garland, Texas (South Garland)

One of four Metroplex preps to throw for 3,000 yards in 2007, **Nick Florence** was the area's fourth-leading passer as a senior at South Garland [Texas] High School ... Ranked No. 22 on [Rivals.com's](#) dual-threat quarterbacks list ... 3-star ranking from both [Rivals.com](#) and [Scout.com](#) ... Rated as the nation's 66th-best prep signal caller by [Scout.com](#) ... *Houston Chronicle* Texas Top 100 member ... Ranked No. 62 on the *San Antonio Express-News'* Texas Top 100 and No. 46 on *The Dallas Morning News* Area Top 100 list ... 2007 *Texas Football* Texas Top 300 honoree was also tabbed one of the state's top 20 quarterbacks in the preseason ... 2007 District 10-5A MVP ... Selected to the 2007 *Dallas Morning News'* All-Area first-team ... Also earned first-team 10-5A all-district honors in final prep season ... Passed for over 8,000 yards in three-year prep career and established 10 Garland ISD records ... Holds Garland ISD career marks for passing yards (8,001), total offense yards (9,131) and total-offense touchdowns (87) ... As a senior, set Garland ISD records for passing yards (3,047), total-offense yards (3,495), touchdown passes (30) and total-offense touchdowns (39) ... Completed 212-of-357 passes for 3,047 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior with just four interceptions ... Also rushed 138 times for 448 yards and nine touchdowns .... Threw a school single-game record five touchdown passes vs. arch-rival Garland as a senior ... Led coach Mickey Moss' 2007 Colonels to a 10-2 overall record and the District 10-5A title with a 7-0 record ... As a junior, he completed 211-of-366 passes for 2,910 yards and 23 touchdowns with 14 picks en route to second-team all-district honors ... Also rushed for 431 yards and six touchdowns on 111 carries ... Ranked No. 4 in the Metroplex in passing yards as a junior, when he established Garland ISD single-game records for passing (450) and total-offense (472) yards vs. Plano West ... Completed 145-of-264 passes as a sophomore for 2,295 yards and 12 TDs, while rushing 88 times for 251 and seven scores ... District newcomer of the year as a sophomore ... Also lettered in track as a sophomore ... Twin brother, Luke, played safety for South Garland ... "He's going to be an outstanding quarterback," Moss said. "Nick's just a unique kid. He's such a fierce competitor, but he's also the best leader that I've ever been around as a young man." ... The son of Joe and Tina Florence, Nicolas Daryl Florence was born June 21, 1989, Dallas, Texas ... Parents are both Baylor graduates ... Has four brothers: Matt, Josh, Zach and Luke ... Honors student currently ranks second in his 467-member senior class academically and scored over 1,200 on his SAT the first time he took it ... Selected Baylor over Purdue ... Committed to Baylor in March 2007.

**Briles on Florence:** "Nick is very energetic and has a lively arm. He keeps the play alive a lot of times with his feet and is a very intelligent player. Nick is self-motivated and self-confidant. We believe he's going to be a good player here at Baylor."

## **Kirby Freeman**

**QB • 6-3 • 214 • Brownwood, Texas (Brownwood/Miami, Fla.)**

A transfer from the University of Miami [Fla.], **Kirby Freeman** transferred into the Baylor program in January 2008 and will have one season of eligibility remaining ... He earned undergraduate degree in sports administration from Miami and has been granted a waiver from the NCAA to play immediately without having to sit out a year in residence ... The Brownwood, Texas, native made seven career starts under center for the Hurricanes — the final four games of the 2006 campaign and three in 2007 ... In 24 career games over three seasons at Miami, he completed 92-of-197 passes (46.7 percent) for 1,311 yards with 12 touchdowns and 16 interceptions ... Also rushed 71 times for 192 yards and one TD in his three-year career ... As a junior, his 13-yard TD pass to Dedrick Epps with 1:15 remaining in the fourth quarter put Miami ahead for good in the Hurricanes' 37-29 victory over arch-rival Florida State ... Threw for a career-high 272 yards and two touchdowns while also running for another score in Miami's 21-20 win over Nevada on New Year's Eve at the 2006 MPC Computers Bowl in Boise, Idaho ... Also directed Miami's 17-14 victory over 18th-ranked Boston College as a sophomore ... Selected Miami's offensive rookie of the year as a redshirt freshman in 2005 ... Saw action in nine games as a redshirt freshman for a Hurricane team which earned a Peach Bowl invite ... Graduated early from high school and enrolled at Miami, where he redshirted as a true freshman in 2004 ... At Brownwood High School, Freeman played four seasons on the varsity for his father, Steve, and was a *SuperPrep* All-American who was rated among the nation's top preps following his senior season ... Was rated the nation's No. 12 quarterback and the No. 13 overall prospect in Texas by *SuperPrep*, while *Rivals.com* ranked him as the No. 16 player in the Lone Star state ... *Rivals.com* also ranked him the nation's No. 6 dual-threat quarterback ... Nation's No. 42 prospect and the nation's No. 10 quarterback by *Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report* ... Rated the No. 19 player in Texas on the *Austin American-Statesman's* Feb 55 ... In final two seasons of high school ball, the younger Freeman passed for 2,941 yards and 24 touchdowns while also rushing for 2,091 yards and 32 scores ... Was named the 2003 Class 4A-5A All-Big Country defensive player of the year as a punter (43.7-yard average) by the *Amarillo Reporter-News* ... As a senior in 2003, passed for 1,454 yards and 10 touchdowns with four interceptions on 71-of-123 passing...Also ran for 956 yards and 14 touchdowns on 128 carries ... As a punter, averaged 43.7 yards ... Helped lead Brownwood to an 11-1 season in 2003, reaching the Class 4A Area round (missed four games with injuries) .. As a junior in 2002, passed for 1,487 yards while completing 87-of-150 passes, 14 touchdowns and eight interceptions, for a team that advanced to the Class 4A Division I state semifinals ... Rushed for 1,135 yards on 173 carries, averaging 6.56 yards per carry, and scoring 18 TDs ... Has played football since age four ... The son of Steve and Jani Freeman, Kirby Lyn Freeman was born March 28, 1985, in Abilene, Texas.

**Briles on Freeman:** "Kirby brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table. We are pleased that he chose Baylor. It is good that he got to come back home to Texas. It's a situation where I know he's hungry to make a statement, just like Baylor football is."

## **Brandon Garrett**

**OL • 6-7 • 290 • La Marque, Texas (La Marque)**

The tallest recruit in Baylor's 2008 class, **Brandon Garrett** was a standout offensive and defensive lineman at La Marque [Texas] High School ... Could not play in 2007 due to UIL age rules ... As a junior, earned first-team District 23-4A honors as a defensive lineman for coach Chris Jones' Cougars ... Selected Baylor over Nebraska, Kansas State, Houston, Colorado, Southern Miss and Oklahoma State ... Brandon Trent Garrett was born July 23, 1988.

**Briles on Garrett:** "When you are 6-7, 290 and you can play, that's a pretty good starting base. He's going to be a great addition for us. Brandon is a big-time player from a big-time program in La Marque, Texas, and he's coming to a big-time place in Baylor."

## **Robert Griffin**

### **QB • 6-3 • 195 • Copperas Cove, Texas (Copperas Cove)**

Quarterback **Robert Griffin** graduated from Copperas Cove [Texas] High School in December 2007, enrolled at Baylor in January 2008 and will go through spring ball with the Bears ... No. 3 on [Rivals.com](#)'s dual-threat quarterbacks list ... The 4-star [Rivals.com](#) recruit ranks No. 42 on that recruiting service's Texas Top 100 list and No. 50 on the Lone Star Recruiting Texas 100 ... Listed 62nd on *SuperPrep's* Texas 110 list ... Also a 4-star [Scout.com](#) recruit who was rated the state's 67-best player overall and the nation's 12th-best prep signal caller ... *Houston Chronicle* Texas Top 100 recruit ... No. 54 on the *San Antonio Express-News* Texas Top 100 ... *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* Feb 44 ... No. 55 on *Austin American-Statesman's* Feb 55 ... *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Texas Top 100 member ... *Waco Tribune-Herald* Top 100 selection ranks No. 2 on publication's Central Texas Top 25 list and among its Top 50 recruits overall ... In two seasons as the Bulldogs' starting quarterback, posted a 25-4 record ... Earned first-team 2007 *Waco Tribune-Herald* Super Centex honors as a utility player and honorable mention Class 4A all-state honors from The Associated Press ... Was the first-team All-District 16-4A quarterback ... A member of the 2007 Texas Top 300, selected by *Texas Football Magazine*, was ranked among the state's top 20 quarterbacks prior to his senior season by the same publication ... Rushed for 1,285 yards and 24 touchdowns while passing for 1,356 yards and 16 touchdowns with seven interceptions in leading coach Jack Welch's 2007 Bulldogs to a 13-2 record and a runner-up finish in the Class 4A Division I playoffs ... Averaged 7.3 yards per rush as a senior ... As a junior, passed for 2,001 yards and 25 TDs with just two interceptions, while rushing 876 times and eight TDs en route to first-team All-District 16-4A honors ... All-told in final two prep seasons, rushed for 2,161 yards and 32 touchdowns and threw for 3,357 yards and 41 scores with just nine picks ... One of the nation's top high school sprinters,, received the 2007 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award after setting state records in both the 110-meter (13.55 seconds with a personal best of 13.3) and the 300-meter (35.33 seconds) hurdles ... His 300 hurdles time was one-hundredth of a second off the national prep record ... Also owns a 46.9 400 meter PR ... Graduated seventh in his senior class ... The son of Robert Sr. and Jacqueline Griffin, Robert Lee Griffin was born Feb. 12, 1990 in Japan ... Father is retired U.S. military ... Selected Baylor over Houston, Kansas, Nebraska, Tennessee and Stanford.

**Briles on Griffin:** "Robert is a dynamic football player. He's the No. 3 dual-threat quarterback in the nation, but aside from all of that, he's very motivated, disciplined and driven. Once again, he has all the characteristics we look for in a great football and a great person."

## **Trentson Hill**

### **DB • 6-0 • 175 • Mount Pleasant, Texas (Mount Pleasant)**

A three-sport standout at Mount Pleasant [Texas] High School, cornerback **Trenston Hill** is expected to give the Bears immediate help in the secondary ... Earned first-team 2007 Class 4A All-State honors from The Associated Press and second-team recognition from the Texas Sports Writers Association as a cornerback ... *Tyler Morning Telegraph* and *Longview News-Journal* first-team All-East Texas honoree ... 2007 District 11-4A offensive MVP ... Registered 72 tackles, five interceptions, three fumble recoveries, two sacks and 11 pass breakups as a senior, while scoring two defensive touchdowns ... As a wide receiver, he had 22 receptions for 396 yards and nine touchdowns ... Also rushed 12 times for 85 yards ... Selected Baylor over TCU, UTEP and Tulsa ... Played for coach Jimmy Thompson at the District 11-4A school ... "The first year (in our program), he was a great athlete out there on the field, but he wasn't that good of a player," Thompson said. "This year, he became a great player. He played pretty much every down for us. I think the only time he wasn't on the field was on our punt and kickoff teams." ... Also a standout basketball player for the Tigers and as a junior was a region triple jump qualifier ... Trentson Hill was born Dec. 12, 1989.

**Briles on Hill:** "He's an outstanding athlete, possibly as athletic as anyone in this class. Trentson could play a variety of positions for us, but he'll play at defensive back. He's an extremely explosive player who is eager to get on campus and help us win football games."

## **Jake Jackson**

### **OL • 6-4 • 280 • Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)**

Offensive lineman **Jake Jackson** did not allow a sack while playing guard or tackle as a senior for perennial Texas 5A power Southlake Carroll [Texas] High School ... *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Texas Top 100 member was also an Area Top 50 performer by the same publication ... No. 52 on the *Dallas Morning News*' Area Top 100 list ... [Scout.com](http://Scout.com) lists him as the nation's 67th-best offensive guard ... Earned 2007 first-team *Dallas Morning News* All-Area honors and was a first-team All-District 5-5A performer as a senior ... 2007 second-team Class 5A Texas Sports Writers Association all-state pick ... 2007 Texas Top 300 selection by *Texas Football* magazine ... Recorded 143 pins/pancake blocks and graded out at 98 percent in final prep season for the Dragons ... Was the starting left guard for Southlake's 2006 16-0 state 5A and national championship team as a junior ... Had 132 pins/pancake blocks as a junior and yielded just one sack ... Also a member of the Dragons' 2005 squad which won the Texas 5A title and was crowned national champions ... In three seasons on the Southlake Carroll varsity, the Dragons fashioned a 43-2 record ... Has only played football since the seventh grade; prior to that was a hockey player ... Family lived in Canada during Jake's childhood ... Coached as a senior by Hal Wasson at the District 5-5A school, prior to that was coached by Todd Dodge ... "So many times people think the spread offense is more a finesse offense," Wasson said. "But, Jake is a real physical football player. He's a great run blocker. And he's athletic enough to do things on counters and traps. He's the complete package." ... The son of Charles and Cathy Jackson, Jacob Odell Jackson was born Oct. 2, 1989, in Bedford, Texas ... Parents are both Baylor graduates ... His father, Charles, was a basketball letterwinner (1980) for the Bears ... Ranks in Top 10 percent of senior class ... Selected Baylor over Georgia Tech, Louisville, Colorado State, Houston, Tulsa and New Mexico ... Has two brothers and plans to major in business at Baylor.

**Briles on Jackson:** "Jake has Baylor blood that runs deep. He comes out of an outstanding high school program and is a very intelligent and structured individual. He's a big, strong player who is only going to get better and become a very good player for us."

## **Kaeron Johnson**

### **DT • 6-2 • 265 • Cuero, Texas (Cuero)**

A two-way standout at Cuero [Texas] High School, **Kaeron Johnson** will play defensive tackle for the Bears after a standout prep career for the Gobblers that saw him play offensive guard, defensive end and tight end ... Earned third-team 2007 Texas Sports Writers Association Class 3A all-state honors as both a tight end and defensive end ... Also a second-team Class 3A Associated Press all-state defensive tackle and honorable mention pick as a tight end ... Garnered unanimous first-team All-District 29-3A honors as both a tight end and defensive end in final prep season for second consecutive year ... First-team *Victoria Advocate* all-area tight end ... Totaled 58 tackles and nine sacks as a senior ... Member of the 2007 *Texas Football's* Texas Top 300 ... As a junior, registered 60 tackles en route to second-team Class 3A all-state honors from both The Associated Press and the Texas Sports Writers Association ... Earned unanimous first-team All-District 29-3A honors as both a defensive end and offensive lineman as a junior ... Coached by Mark Reeve at the District 29-3A school ... Also a standout discus thrower ... Selected Baylor over Arizona, Missouri, Colorado State, Houston and Rice ... Kaeron DeShaud Johnson was born March 10, 1990.

**Briles on Johnson:** "He's a big, strong, physical kid who has played tight end and defensive end. We are projecting him as an inside d-linemen. He's another guy that once he specializes, he'll weigh 287 pounds and be very athletic. We think he's a steal. He's a great fit for what we are looking for on the inside of our defensive line. He comes out of a great program at Cuero."

## **Cameron Kaufhold**

### **OL • 6-5 • 275 • Friendswood, Texas (Friendswood)**

One of four offensive linemen in Baylor's 2008 recruiting class, **Cameron Kaufhold** was a standout at Friendswood [Texas] High School ... *Houston Chronicle* Area Top 110 member ... First-team District 23-4A selection in final two prep seasons ... Coached by Steve Van Meter at the District 23-4A school ... The son of Kent and Tammy Kaufhold, Cameron Kent Kaufhold was born Dec. 25, 1989 ... Selected Baylor over Arizona State, TCU, Colorado State, Houston, Rice and North Texas.

**Briles on Kaufhold:** "Cameron is going to be a great addition to our program. He's another big, strong, physical football player who is very intelligent. He comes out of a great high school program and we are excited to have him."

## **Gary Mason Jr.**

**DE • 6-5 • 211 • Waxahachie, Texas (Waxahachie)**

**Gary Mason Jr.** is ranked as the nation's 21st-best weakside defensive end by [Rivals.com](#) after a standout prep career at Waxahachie [Texas] High School ... No. 45 on the Lone Star Recruiting Texas Top 100 list ... 3-star [Rivals.com](#) and [Scout.com](#) signee ... Ranked No. 43 on *The Dallas Morning News*' Area Top 100 and No. 78 on the publication's Texas State Top 100 list ... [Scout.com](#) lists Mason as the nation's 30th-best strongside linebacker ... *Waco Tribune-Herald* and *Houston Chronicle* Top 100 member ... Was rated 54th on the *Austin American-Statesman*'s preseason Feb 55 list ... 2007 Texas Top 300 pick by *Texas Football* magazine ... Earned 2007 second-team Texas Sports Writers Association Class 4A all-state honors ... Co-2007 District 15-4A defensive MVP after helping the Indians to a 10-2 record and a district title ... Had 86 tackles, including 24 for loss and 14 sacks as a senior ... Missed sophomore season on the gridiron with a torn ACL, which slowed play as a junior ... Totaled 21 tackles, including three for loss and two sacks, as a junior ... Caught 10 passes for 74 yards and rushed four times for 28 yards in 2006 ... Also a standout basketball player for the Indians, he earned all-region honors as a junior after averaging a double-double ... District newcomer of the year on the hardwood as a sophomore ... Captured district long jump crown as a junior and went on to finish third at regionals ... "He's got all the tools," Waxahachie football head coach David Ream said. "He runs a 4.7 (in the 40-yard dash), high jumps 6-7, he's got a big wingspan, everything everybody's looking for." ... Selected Baylor in July 2007 over offers from Kansas, New Mexico, SMU and Louisiana-Monroe ... The son of Gary Mason Sr. and Lisa Allen, Gary Lynn Mason Jr. was born April 18, 1990, in Waxahachie ... His cousin is former Oklahoma State hoops standout and current Milwaukee Buck Desmond Mason.

**Briles on Mason:** "Gary is very athletic, who has real good body control and a quick twitch. He's an explosive player and we are very excited about his future. He will be a very dynamic player for us down the line."

## **Ben Parks**

**PK • 6-2 • 195 • Argyle, Texas (Argyle)**

A two-time, first-team Texas Sports Writers Association Class 3A all-state place-kicker, **Ben Parks** also punted and played linebacker as a senior at Argyle [Texas] High School ... Rated the nation's 26th-best place-kicker by [Scout.com](#) ... Hit 11-of-17 field goals and 57-of-60 PATs as a senior for the 10-3 District 8-3A champion Eagles ... Also earned 2007 second-team Texas Sports Writers Association Class 3A all-state honors as a punter after averaging 37.8 yards per kick and placing 16 of 31 punts inside the 20 ... Was a unanimous all-district pick as a kicker in final prep season and also earned 2007 first-team all-district recognition as a punter ... Also earned first-team all-area honors as a senior ... As a junior, earned first-team Class 3A all-state honors from both The Associated Press and the Texas Sports Writers Association after making 34 PATs and connecting on 6-of-8 field goals with a long of 49 yards ... "The amazing thing is he did all the stuff at kicker while also being a full-time position player for us," Argyle coach Todd Rodgers said. "This is a kid that knows a lot about winning and what it takes to compete on a winning football team. And I think that's exactly what Baylor was looking for. They recruited a kid that knows how to win." ... Also considered Wyoming and Air Force ... Benjamin Andrew Parks was born Sept. 26, 1989.

**Briles on Parks:** "Ben Parks is coming in here to challenge for the kicking duties (as a freshman). He has a very strong leg and a smooth motion. He gets the ball up fast and that's critical. He's an athlete and if it breaks down in front of him, he can make a play."

## **Fredric Plesius**

**LB • 6-2 • 247 • Champlain Prep School, Lennoxville, Quebec**

Believed to be Baylor's first-ever Canadian recruit, Fredric Plesius was a standout linebacker at Champlain Prep School in Lennoxville, Quebec ... Totaled 77 tackles, five sacks and two interceptions as a senior ... Team MVP ... All-Star CEGEP AAA ... Coached by Jean Francois Joncas.

**Briles on Plesius:** "Fredric is extremely athletic and can dunk a basketball with two hands. He is a physical, intense defensive football player, which is what we are looking for. He brings a lot to the table that we are very excited about."

## Tracy Robertson

**DL • 6-4 • 230 • Houston, Texas (Lamar)**

A standout defensive end at Houston's Lamar High School, **Tracy Robertson** earned first-team All-District 20-5A honors as a senior after totaling 83 tackles, 11 sacks and two fumble recoveries ... *Houston Chronicle* Area 110 member ... Helped coach Tom Nolen's 2007 Redskins to a 10-2 record and the district title ... Tabbed one of the state's Top 25 defensive linemen by *Texas Football* magazine and was a member of that publication's 2007 Top 300 ... Second-team all-district pick as a junior after registering eight sacks ... Played three seasons of varsity football and two years of varsity basketball ... Selected Baylor over Minnesota and Houston ... The son of Urita Emanuel, Tracy Floyd Robertson was born Sept. 26, 1989, in Houston.

**Briles on Robertson:** "Tracy had multiple offers from BCS schools. He has a very explosive first step and a very energetic personality. He's a student-athlete that is on the upswing of being a very dominate football player. We are extremely proud and excited to have Tracy on board."

## Jarred Salubi

**RB • 5-10 • 191 • Waco, Texas (Waco)**

A second-team 2007 *Waco Tribune-Herald* Super Centex honoree, **Jarred Salubi** also earned honorable mention Class 4A all-state honors from The Associated Press in his final prep campaign at Waco [Texas] High School ... Ranked No. 4 on the *Waco Tribune-Herald's* Central Texas Top 25 ... Named to *Texas Football* magazine's 2007 Texas Top 300 ... Rushed 168 times for 1,306 yards and 15 touchdowns for the district champion Lions as a senior ... Also caught four passes for 24 yards ... As a junior, earned District 16-4A MVP honors after running for 1,544 yards and 17 touchdowns for Coach Johnny Tusa's 13-3, Class 4A state runner-up team ... 2006 first-team *Waco Tribune-Herald* Super Centex selection ... Honorable mention Class 4A 2006 all-state pick by The Associated Press ... "He was a very productive player and had the ability to get us of a jam with his running or pass-catching ability," Tusa said. "The main thing Jarred brings to the table is a tremendous team attitude and work ethic to go along with being one of the fastest guys in the state of Texas." ... Ran a leg on Waco High's 2007 Class 4A state championship 4x100-meter relay team ... The son of Oba Salubi and Denise Salubi, Jarred Allen Salubi was born Sept. 10, 1989, in Dallas, Texas ... Selected Baylor over Missouri, Texas Tech, Iowa State and Rice.

**Briles on Salubi:** "Jarred is a great fit for us offensively and a great fit for the style of offense we are going to run. We like a guy who can move sideways as fast as he can move forward and Jarred can do that. He has some top end speed which is really good. Plus, he's tough and has good hands. He'll be a great back for the Baylor Bears. Jarred is a local product that the people of Waco will enjoy watching for the next four years."

## Lanear Sampson

**WR • 6-0 • 190 • Mesquite, Texas (North Mesquite)**

Ranked 50th nationally among all wide receivers by [Rivals.com](http://Rivals.com), **Lanear Sampson** caught 49 passes for 886 yards and six touchdowns as a senior at North Mesquite [Texas] High School ... 3-star [Rivals.com](http://Rivals.com) and [Scout.com](http://Scout.com) recruit ... Ranks 57th on the [Rivals.com](http://Rivals.com) Texas Top 100 list and is No. 74 on *SuperPrep's* Texas 110 list ... No. 25 on *The Dallas Morning News's* Area Top 100 ... Ranked 83rd in the state by [Scout.com](http://Scout.com) and is listed as the nation's 92nd-best receiver by the same service ... Earned honorable mention 2007 Class 5A all-state honors from both The Associated Press and the Texas Sports Writers Association ... *Houston Chronicle* Texas Top 100, *Waco Tribune-Herald* Texas Top 100 and *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* Top 100 member ... Ranked No. 87 on the *San Antonio Express-News* Texas Top 100 ... No. 25 on *The Dallas Morning News's* Area Top 100 and No. 62 on the Lone Star Recruiting Texas Top 100 ... Named one of the state's top 20 receivers on *Texas Football* magazine's 2007 Texas Top 300 list ... Earned second-team District 12-5A honors as a senior ... Registered 24 catches for 425 yards and four touchdowns as a junior en route to first-team District 12-5A recognition ... Caught 10 passes, one for a touchdown, as a sophomore ... Played for coach Mike Robinson at the District 12-5A school ... Committed to Baylor in June 2007 after receiving offers from Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Arizona, Duke, Virginia, Wisconsin, North Texas and Rice ... The son of Bryan and Debra Sampson, Emmanuel Lanear Sampson was born July 17, 1990, in Dallas, Texas ... Participated in North Mesquite's PALS (Positive Assistance For Live Time Skills) program.

**Briles on Sampson:** "Lanear is a strong, physical receiver who is very unselfish. He runs precision routes, has soft hands and a tough mind. He fits the characteristics we look for in a wide receiver."

## **Jeremy Sanders**

**QB • 6-2 • 210 • Marlin, Texas (Marlin/Navarro College)**

**Jeremy Sanders** originally signed with Baylor following his senior year at Marlin [Texas] High School and renewed his Baylor pledge following a highly successful two-year career at Navarro [Texas] College ... 3-star ranking by both [Rivals.com](#) and [Scout.com](#) ... Will enroll at Baylor in May 2008 ... In two seasons at Navarro, completed 183-of-361 passes for 2,252 yards with 11 touchdowns and 12 interceptions ... Ranks third all-time in pass completions, attempts and completion percentage (.507), fifth in career passing yards ... Also rushed 155 times in career for 827 yards and 12 touchdowns ... Accounted for 3,079 total-offense yards and 23 touchdowns in two-year Navarro career ... As a sophomore, completed 123-of-224 passes for 1,624 yards and 10 touchdowns with eight interceptions ... Ranks fifth on Navarro's single-season list for pass completions, sixth in both passing yards and attempts ... Produced four, 200-yard passing games as a sophomore ... Also rushed 95 times for 483 yards and five touchdowns in final season at Navarro ... Earned honorable mention All-Southwest Junior College Football Conference (SWJCFC) honors as a sophomore ... Led coach Ray Woodward's Bulldogs to a 9-3 record, the 2007 SWJCFC title and a No. 4 final national ranking ... Tabbed MVP of Pilgrim's Pride Bowl after leading Navarro to a 24-21 victory over Georgia Military Academy ... Navarro finished No. 2 nationally in total offense in 2007 (428 yards per game) and produced the highest-scoring offense in school history (42.8 ppg) ... Selected Baylor for the second time after receiving offers from Missouri, Oklahoma State, Arkansas, Tulsa and Utah State ... The three-year starter at quarterback for Marlin High School earned first-team 2005 *Waco Tribune-Herald* Super Centex honors ... Rated one of the state's top 15 signal callers in *Dave Campbell's 2005 Texas Football* Texas Top 300 ... Completed 148-of-217 passes for 2,540 yards and 27 touchdowns with only one interception as a senior while leading the Bulldogs to an 8-2-1 record and the playoffs ... Also rushed 126 times for 882 yards and 16 touchdowns ... Earned 2005 District 18-3A offensive MVP honors ... Honorable mention 2005 all-state selection by the Texas Sports Writers Association ... As a junior, received first-team *Tribune-Herald* Super Centex honors after totaling more than 3,000 total-offense yards ... Rushed for 1,391 yards and 21 touchdowns while throwing for 1,954 yards and 14 more scores ... Runs a 4.6 40 ... Played for coach Jerry Malone at the District 18-3A school ... "He's got the athletic ability to go in there and play this fall," Malone said. "I think you'll see him playing in the NFL one day. He's got that kind of ability." ... The son of Genail Sanders, Jeremy R. Sanders was born Nov. 30, 1987 ... Nicknamed J-Mo.

**Briles on Sanders:** "Jeremy is an outstanding athlete. He's big and strong. He's proven himself over the years at both the high school and junior college levels, so we see him stepping in and having the opportunity to prove himself at Baylor. We are excited that he's on board."

## **T.J. Scranton**

**WR • 5-10 • 180 • Hitchcock, Texas (Hitchcock/Kilgore College)**

One of four wide receivers in Baylor's 2008 signing class, **T.J. Scranton** joins the Baylor program from Kilgore [Texas] College ... Slated to enroll at Baylor in May 2008 ... 3-star ranking by [Scout.com](#) ... Caught 57 passes for 796 yards and 13 touchdowns for a 2007 Kilgore team which finished 8-4 and earned a Heart of Texas bowl bid ... Originally signed with Coach Briles' Houston Cougar program in 2005, enrolled at Houston and did not play before transferring to Ranger [Texas] College where he played as a freshman in 2006 ... At Hitchcock [Texas] High School, Scranton earned Class 2A all-state honors ... The two-time All-Greater Houston team member earned 2004 all-county and all-district recognition ... Also played basketball and was a regional qualifier in both the 400 meters and the triple jump as a prep ... Played for Bulldogs' coach Gary Carney at the District 26-2A school ... The son of Anthony and Willie Washington, Truman J. Scranton was born Nov. 30, 1986, in Galveston, Texas ... Selected Baylor over Houston, Syracuse, South Carolina and Illinois ... "Actually, when he was still at (Houston), I was going to go back," Scranton said. "Because he was the only one that really gave me a chance coming out of high school. And now I had all these schools wanting to come back in on me, but I want to play for coach Briles. I know he's a winner, and I know he's going to go in there and turn that program around."

**Briles on Scranton:** "T.J. is an extremely fast receiver. He blends in with a tremendous amount of confidence, self-discipline, drive and is anxious to come here and win football games at Baylor."

## Michael Williams

**CB • 6-1 • 180 • Beaumont, Texas (West Brook)**

[Scout.com](#) rates West Brook [Texas] High School standout **Michael Williams** as the nation's 54th-best cornerback, while [Rivals.com](#) places him 55th nationally ... Rated the state's 66th-best player by [Scout.com](#) ... No. 95 on the Lone Star Recruiting Texas Top 100 list ... 3-star recruit from both [Rivals.com](#) and [Scout.com](#) ... *Houston Chronicle* Area Top 100 selection ... Port Arthur Super Gold Team member ... 2007 *Texas Football* magazine Texas Top 300 selection ... As a senior, tallied 55 tackles, one tackle for loss, one interception, 13 pass breakups and two fumble recoveries ... Also had a school-record long kickoff return TD ... Helped coach Craig Stump's team to an 11-1 record and the 2007 District 21-5A title ... As a junior, totaled 65 tackles, four interceptions, 13 pass breakups and two blocked kicks for a 9-4 squad ... Also a track standout ... Selected Baylor in June 2007 over Florida, Houston, Iowa, Texas A&M, Utah and Boise State ... Received Algebra II and chemistry academic awards ... The son of Michael Williams and Angela Williams, Michael A. Williams was born May 31, 1990, in Beaumont, Texas.

**Briles on Michael Williams:** "Michael is extremely fast and a very talented, genuine individual who will be a great ambassador for Baylor University and our football program. He's going to come in here and have a chance to play immediately."

## Terrance Williams

**WR • 6-3 • 190 • Dallas, Texas (W.T. White)**

Ranked 78th on *The Dallas Morning News*' Area Top 100 list, **Terrance Williams** earned first-team District 11-5A honors as both a wide receiver and a defensive back as a senior at Dallas' W.T. White High School ... Honorable mention 2007 Class 5A all-state selection as a wide receiver by the Texas Sports Writers Association ... Caught 59 passes for 972 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior ... Received first-team District 11-5A honors after a junior season in which he caught 30 balls for 615 yards and five touchdowns ... Played for coach Joel Evans at the District 11-5A school ... Also a member of the Longhorns' basketball team ... Drew recruiting interest from Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Colorado State, Kansas and Kansas State ... Terrance Williams was born Sept. 18, 1989.

**Briles on Terrance Williams:** "Terrance is another big, strong receiver who is a great kid with great instincts. He has a good, tough mind. We believe he has a great upside and will really flourish once he has the opportunity to specialize."

## Kendall Wright

**ATH • 6-0 • 180 • Pittsburg, Texas (Pittsburg)**

Three-sport standout athlete **Kendall Wright** earned all-state honors in football, basketball and track at Pittsburg [Texas] High School ... 3-star [Rivals.com](#) and [Scout.com](#) recruit is projected to play inside receiver for the Bears ... No. 47 on the *SuperPrep*'s Texas 110 list ... Ranked 81st on *The Dallas Morning News*' State Top 100 list, Wright also is among the top 50 recruits on the *Waco Tribune-Herald*'s Top 100 list ... Also listed on both the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*'s and *Houston Chronicle*'s Texas Top 100 ... Ranked 35th on the *San Antonio Express-News* Texas Top 100 ... No. 48 on the *Austin American-Statesman*'s Fab 55 list ... Rated the nation's 64th-best athlete by [Rivals.com](#) and is listed 67th by [Scout.com](#) ... Listed among the state's Top 20 receivers on *Texas Football* magazine's Texas Top 300 ... 2007 second-team Class 3A all-state cornerback selection by the Texas Sports Writers Association and honorable mention by The Associated Press after registering 33 tackles, five interceptions, four fumble recoveries and a pair of defensive touchdowns ... *Tyler Morning Telegram* first-team All-East Texas selection as a utility player after leading Pittsburg to its first playoff win in some 20 years as a senior ... Also earned first-team 2007 All-East Texas honors from the *Longview News Journal* as a cornerback ... As the Pirates' quarterback in 2007, rushed for 1,069 yards and 15 touchdowns while throwing for 1,170 yards and nine scores ... In both 2006 and 2007, was a second-team All-District 16-3A performer as both a quarterback and cornerback ... As a junior, accounted for 26 total touchdowns and passed for 850 yards ... Produced a quadruple-double on the basketball court as a senior and averages 24 points a game ... All-state basketball selection as a junior ... 2007 Texas Class 3A state long jump (24-0 3/4) and triple jump (48-5 1/4) champion ... The son of Kelvin McCain and Tameika Wright, Kendall Wright was born on Nov. 12, 1989, in Mount Pleasant, Texas ... Named to Pittsburg's A-B Honor Roll ... Has served as a youth basketball coach in the Pittsburg community ... Owns a 40-inch vertical jump ... Selected Baylor over Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Arkansas and Clemson.

**Briles on Wright:** "Kendall is an impact person and player. He's a guy that you devise schemes to get him the ball because he's a dynamic player. We are excited that he's a Baylor Bear."

