

Grand Valley State Sports Information

Tim Nott
Sports Information Director

DJ Foster
Assistant SID

GVSU Football News

Grand Valley State University • Sports Information Department • 174 Fieldhouse • Allendale, MI 49401 • (616) 331-3275

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014

Contact: Tim Nott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAKERS INK 22 RECRUITS IN CLASS OF 2014

Allendale, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University head football coach Matt Mitchell announced the signing of 22 student-athletes to attend and play football for the Lakers in the fall of 2014.

"Our coaches did an outstanding job of recruiting to our positional needs and finding kids that want to be a part of Grand Valley State University and our football program. We always recruit the state of Michigan first, but after that I feel our coaches did a great job of finding kids from the surrounding states," added Mitchell.

Grand Valley State's 2014 class consists of 22 total players from Michigan (15), Indiana (4), Illinois (1), Kentucky (1), Tennessee.

"Our name recognition and the success of our football program enables our coaching staff to get in on some players that are being recruited at the Division I level," said Mitchell. "It is important for us to continue to battle those Division I schools for those players if we want to continue to build our program," added Mitchell.

Grand Valley State will open the 2014 campaign at Azusa Pacific (Calif.), Sept. 6.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown/High School
Colin Beebe	FB	6-1	230	Allendale, Mich.
Rahju Blackmon	LB	6-0	212	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Snider
Jalen Bryant	RB	6-0	197	Livonia, Mich./Clarenceville
Collin Cribley	P	5-11	170	Fruitport, Mich.
Tyler Cuckovich	DL	6-4	260	Oxford, Mich./Detroit Jesuit
Ryan Egan	OL	6-4	270	Montrose, Mich.
James Fleming	LS	6-0	200	Jackson, Mich./Lumen Christi
Christian Harris	LB	6-2	240	Woodstock, Ga./Etowah/Tennessee*
Jacob Howe	DL	6-2	240	Grand Rapids, Mich./Forest Hills Northern
Spencer Hurst	PK	6-0	190	Wolverine Lake, Mich./Orchard Lake St. Mary's
Brandon Mable	RB	5-11	180	Kendallville, Ind./East Noble
Brendan McMahon	DB	6-3	200	Rochester Hills, Mich./Bishop Foley
Daigien Morgan	DB	6-0	200	South Bend, Ind./Riley
Brent Morris	WR	6-3	210	Warren, Mich./De La Salle
Conor Nally	TE	6-1	210	Plainfield, Ill./Oswego East
Marquon Sargent	WR	6-1	170	Muskegon, Mich./Mona Shores
Nelson Schrader	OL	6-2	265	Northville, Mich./Detroit Catholic Central
John Smutny	DL	6-2	255	Saline, Mich.
Mitch von Zittwitz	TE	6-3	232	Troy, Mich./Utica
Ben Walling	OL	6-5	280	Independence, Ky./Simon Kenton
Albert Williams	DL	6-1	260	Indianapolis, Ind./Ben Davis

*Enrolled at Grand Valley State in January.

Colin Beebe (Fullback, 6-1, 230, Allendale, Mich.)

High School: Prepped at Allendale High School...Played for Ben Burk...Earned three varsity letters in football...Notched 274 total tackles and 15 QB sacks...Tallied 96 tackles and four QB sacks as a senior...Caught 15 passes for 223 yards and one TD during senior campaign...Earned All-OK Conference honors, all-area and honorable mention all-state plaudits as a senior...Tallied 105 tackles and eight QB sacks during junior season, earning All-OK Conference, all-area and HM all-state honors...Recorded 73 tackles and earned all-league and all-area honors as a sophomore.

Rahju Blackmon (Linebacker, 6-0, 212, Ft. Wayne, Ind./Snider)

High School: Prepped at Ft. Wayne Snider High School...Played for Kurt Tippman...Three-year varsity letterman and a three-year starter...Tallied 119 total tackles, seven QB sacks and an interception as a senior...Associated Press Class 5A All-State...Earned All-SAC and News-Sentinel All-Area First-Team honors...Named Team MVP as a senior...Notched 86 tackles and five QB sacks as a junior...Junior all-state honoree and was named to the Junior Prime 25...Earned all-league and all-area following junior campaign.

Jalen Bryant (Running Back, 6-0, 197, Livonia, Mich./Clarenceville)

High School: Prepped at Livonia Clarenceville High School...Played for Ken Fry...Three-year varsity letterwinner...Rushed for 1,432 yards and 20 TDs on 139 carries...Averaged 10.3 yards per carry as a senior...Caught 15 passes for 175 yards and five TDs as a senior...Detroit Free Press Division 5 First-Team All-State as a DB...Detroit Free Press First-Team All-West RB...Associated Press Division 5-6 All-State Honorable Mention...All-area, all-conference, all-metro and team MVP as a senior...Tallied 956 rushing yards and 13 TDs on 150 carries as a junior...Caught eight passes for 122 yards and two TDs.

Collin Cribley (Punter, 5-11, 170, Fruitport, Mich.)

High School: Prepped at Fruitport High School...Played for Greg Vargas...Three-year varsity starter as a kicker...Averaged 39.3 yards per punt as a senior, dropping six inside the 10 yard line and three inside the five yard line...25-of-37 kickoffs were touchbacks and converted 31-of-34 PATs...Earned all-area and all-league honors as a senior...Tallied all-league and all-area honors as a junior.

Tyler Cuckovich (Defensive Line, 6-4, 260, Oxford, Mich./Detroit Jesuit)

High School: Prepped at Detroit Jesuit High School...Recorded 75 tackles, 15 tackles for loss and four QB sacks as a junior...Earned All-Catholic League honors and all-metro plaudits...Notched 50 tackles, 10 TFL and 2.5 QB sacks as junior...Named all-league and all-area.

Ryan Egan (Offensive Line, 6-4, 260, Montrose, Mich.)

High School: Prepped at Montrose High School...Played for Dennis Reinhart...Four-year letterwinner...Earned all-state plaudits as a senior...First-team all-district and all-league as a senior...Team advanced to Division 5 state semifinals as a junior and senior...All-area and all-league honors as a junior.

James Fleming (Long Snapper, 6-0, 200, Jackson, Mich./Lumen Christi)

High School: Prepped at Lumen Christi High School...Played for Herb Brogan...Two-year letterwinner...Recorded perfect snaps on all special teams units as a junior and senior...Earned All-CAAC honors...No. 2 rated long snapper in the State of Michigan per Rubio Long Snapping.

Christian Harris (LB, 6-2, 240, Woodstock, Ga./Etowah)

High School: Prepped at Etowah High School...Played in 22 games at the University of Tennessee...Reserve linebacker and played special teams...Rivals.com, Scout.com and ESPN.com 3-start recruit...Named Georgia 5A All-State honoree...Associated Press All-State performer...2010 Cherokee Tribune Defensive Player of the Year...UGASports.com All-State honoree...Tallied 127 tackles and 22 tackles for loss as a senior...Notched 108 tackles and 19 tackles for loss as a junior.

Jacob Howe (Defensive Line, 6-2, 240, Grand Rapids, Mich./Northern)

High School: Prepped at Forest Hills Northern High School...Played for head coach Jeff Rapelie...Four-year letter-winner on the gridiron...Tallied 92 total tackles, 25 tackles for loss, 11 QB sack and three forced fumbles as a senior...Associated Press First-Team All-State honoree...Detroit Free Press Division 3 First-Team All-State...Named to the Grand Rapids Press All-Area Dream Team as a senior...Earned First-Team All-OK Conference and all-area plaudits...Notched 78 tackles, 14 tackles for loss and three QB sacks as a junior...AP First-Team All-State and Grand Rapids Press Dream Team honoree as a junior...Earned all-area and all-region as a junior year.

Spencer Hurst (K, 6-0, 190, Wolverine Lake, Mich./Orchard Lake St. Mary's)

High School: Prepped at Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School...Played for George Porritt...Tallied a touchback on 91 percent of kickoffs as a senior...Averaged 40.3 yards per punt and was 4-for-4 in field goals as a senior...Earned all-league and all-area plaudits.

Brandon Mable (Running Back, 5-11, 180, Kendallville, Ind./East Nobel)

High School: Prepped at East Noble High School...Played for head coach Luke Amstutz...Rushed for 1,732 yards and 21 TDs as a senior...Hauled in 18 receptions for 350 yards and three TDs...Earned Indiana All-State honors as a senior...Named First-Team All-Northeast Hoosier Conference plaudits as a senior...Earned all-league and all-area honors...Rushed for 781 yards and 20 TDs as a junior...Caught 25 passes for 412 yards and five TDs...Earned all-league and all-area honors as a junior.

Brendan McMahon (DB, 6-3, 200, Rochester Hills, Mich./Bishop Foley)

High School: Prepped at Bishop Foley High School...Played for Sean Cobb...Earned two varsity letters as a two-way standout...Tallied 67 tackles and picked off three passes as a senior defensive back, while throwing for 1,953 yards and 22 TDs...Earned All-Catholic league, all-metro and honorable mention all-state honors as a senior...Named the All-Oakland County quarterback...Notched 40 tackles and picked off three passes as a junior, earning all-league honors.

Daigien Morgan (Defensive Back, 6-0, 200, South Bend, Ind./Riley)

High School: Prepped at South Bend Riley High School...Played for head coach Brian Stulte...Four-year varsity letterwinner on the football field who was a two-way performer...Notched 63 tackles, three interceptions and eight pass breakups as a senior on defense...Passed for 789 yards and rushed for 940 and 10 TDs senior year on offense...First-Team All-State defensive back as a senior...First-Team all-area and all-conference...Selected to play in Indiana High School All-Star game...Passed for 2,519 yards and 26 TDs, while rushing for 762 yards at South Bend Washington high school as a junior...Earned all-state, all-conference and all-area honors as a junior.

Brent Morris (Wide Receiver, 6-3, 210, Warren, Mich./De La Salle)

High School: Prepped at Warren De La Salle High School...Played for head coach Paul Verska...Three-year letter-winner...Caught 37 passes for 473 yards and six TDs as a senior...Associated Press Division 1-2 All-State honoree...Detroit Free Press All-East performer...Earned All-Detroit Catholic League honors as a senior...Named All-Macomb County and All-Metro East...Hauled in 31 receptions for 341 yards as a junior...Named All-Catholic league and All-Macomb County as a junior.

Conor Nally (Tight End, 6-1, 210, Plainfield, Ill./Oswego East)

High School: Prepped at Oswego East High School...Played for head coach Tyson LeBlanc...Three-year letterwinner...Caught 35 passes for 652 yards and four TDs, while rushing for 226 yards and four TDs on 28 carries as a senior...First-Team All-Southwest Prairie Conference honors as a senior...Beacon News First-Team All-Area performer and team MVP...Hauled in 22 receptions for 396 yards as a junior.

Marquon Sargent (Wide Receiver, 6-1, 170, Muskegon, Mich./Mona Shores)

High School: Prepped at Muskegon Mona Shores High School...Played for head coach Matt Koziak...Caught 39 passes for 668 yards and 10 TDs as a senior...Muskegon Chronicle All-Area performer...Earned All-OK Conference and all-area honors...Caught 25 passes for 552 yards and three TDs as a junior...Earned All-OK and all-area plaudits as a junior.

Nelson Schrader (Offensive Line, 6-2, 265, Northville, Mich./Detroit Catholic Central)

High School: Prepped at Detroit Catholic Central High School...Played for head coach Tom Mach...Started all 14 games at tackle as a senior...Named Most Improved Player as a senior...Team played in three consecutive Division 1 State Championship games.

John Smutny (Defensive Line, 6-2, 255, Saline, Mich.)

High School: Prepped at Saline High School...Played for head coach Joe Palka...Three-year letterwinner in football...Tallied 68 tackles, two QB sacks and five tackles for loss as a senior...Associated Press Division 1-2 All-State performer as a senior...AnnArbor.com Dream Team performer...SEC Red First-Team honoree...Earned MLive and DZone.net All-State plaudits as a senior...Recorded 61 stops and three QB sacks as a junior...AnnArbor.com All-Area Dream Team...Named to the Heritage All-Area team as a junior.

Mitch von Zittwitz (Tight End, 6-3, 232, Troy, Mich./Utica)

High School: Prepped at Utica High School...Played for head coach Tony Smith...Caught 26 passes for 448 yards and three TDs as a senior...Tallied 45 tackles and two QB sacks...All-state honoree...Earned All-County, All-Metro East and all-conference honors as a senior...All-MAC White performer...Hauled in 33 receptions for 478 yards as a junior...Earned all-state, all-conference, All-Metro East and all-county honors as a junior.

Ben Walling (Offensive Line, 6-5, 280, Independence, Ky./Simon Kenton)

High School: Prepped at Simon Kenton High School...Played for Jeff Marksberry...Named to the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference All-Star Team...Northern Kentucky Football Coaches Association All-State...Best of the Bluegrass All-Star...Courier Journal All-State performer...Academic All-State honoree.

Albert Williams (Defensive Line, 6-2, 260, Indianapolis, Ind./Ben Davis)

High School: Prepped at Indianapolis Ben Davis High School for coach Kirschner...Tallied 76 tackles, 21 QB sacks, 30 tackles for loss and five forced fumbles...Associated Press All-State honoree...IFCA All-State performer who was named one of the top 50 players in the State of Indiana...Indiana Mr. Football finalist...All-Metro Detroit Indiana Super Team honoree...All-MIC and All-Marion County...Led Indiana and ranked eighth nationally in QB sacks...Recorded 47 tackles, three QB sacks and five tackles for loss as a junior...Earned all-area and All-MIC honors as a junior.