

HOUSTON COUGARS CLASS OF 2003

QUARTERBACKS

Kevin Kolb

6-3, 230, Stephenville, Texas (Stephenville HS)

- A member of the *Dallas Morning News* Top Area 100 squad, ranked #59.
- Ranked #54 by *TheInsiders.com* recruiting site.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram State Top 100.
- Rated #20 player in Big 12 Region by Heartland Recruiting.
- Rated #104 player in state by *Websider.com*.
- A member of the Max Emfinger Texas Super All-State Team
- *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* State Fab 44.
- Two-time District 8-4A Offensive MVP.
- Also picked First Team All-Big County by *Abilene Reporter News*
- Selected Honorable Mention All-State in 2002.
- Picked Second Team Academic All-State.
- Completed 206 of 321 attempts for 3,357 yards and 29 touchdowns.
- Also tacked on an additional 197 yards rushing.

RUNNING BACKS

Anthony Alridge

5-10, 165, Denton, Texas (Denton HS)

- Selected to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* State Top 100
- Rated #49 in area by *Dallas Morning News*.
- Rated #19 all-purpose back in nation by Rivals 100.
- Named honorable mention AP 4A All-State.
- Selected to the Max Emfinger Texas Super All-State Team.
- Also picked 3rd Team Texas Sports Writers Association All-State
- Named District 6-4A Offensive Player of the Year.
- Rushed for 1,626-yards on 9.3 yards per carry and scored 27 TDs.
- Also caught 32 passes for 506-yards and had 189 yards on kickoff returns.

Harold Taylor

5-11, 185, Houston, Texas (Smiley HS)

- First Team All-District selection in 2002.
- Rushed for 1,037 yards and 10 TDs on 172 carries.
- Also had 11 receptions for 260 yards.
- Is an all-district triple jumper.
- Claimed fourth place at Regionals with a leap of 46-4 1/2.
- Cousin, Elijah Alexander, played for 10 years in the NFL.
- Also recruited by New Mexico.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Donnie Avery

6-0, 180, Alief, Texas (Hastings HS)

- Ranked #89 by *TheInsiders.com* recruiting site.
- Was a unanimous First Team, All-District selection as both a wide receiver and return specialist last season.
- Helped lead Hastings High School to a district championship and an 11-3 record.
- Hauled in 36 passes for 502 yards and two TDs to lead District 19-5A.
- Also returned 13 punts for 399 yards and three scores, as well as seven kickoffs for 345 yards and one TD.
- Had 16 rushes for 175 yards and two scores.

Jeff Fillmore

6-1, 170, Brenham, Texas (Brenham HS)

- Member of the All-State Second Team.
- Also a unanimous selection to the First Team, All-District squad.
- Picked First Team, All-Brazos Valley.
- Played for state finalist.
- Caught at least 1 TD and intercepted at least one pass in every playoff game
- Returned a kickoff for TD in playoffs
- For the season caught 48 passes for 746 yards and 7 TDs.
- Averaged 22 yards per punt return.
- Tied for first in district with five INTs.

Perry McDaniel

5-8, 170, Lubbock, Texas (Frenship HS)

- Selected 2nd Team Texas Sports Writers Association All-State as DB and Honorable Mention as KR.
- Garnered Super Team honors from *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.
- Picked both 1st Team All-South Plains and 1st Team All-City.
- Named Honorable Mention Associated Press 5A All-State.
- Was the District 4-4A Defensive MVP at cornerback.
- Garnered 1st Team All-District honors at wide receiver.
- Caught 28 passes for 759 yards and 7 TDs, rushed for 293 yards and 1 TD.
- Posted 24.9 on kick returns and 19.6 on punt returns, with 1 TD on each.

Bennie Swain

6-1, 175, Houston, Texas (Madison HS)

- Ranked #43 in Lone Star Recruiting Texas Hot 100.
- Ranked #71 in the State of Texas by *Lone Star Recruiting*.
- Ranked #67 by *TheInsiders.com* recruiting site.
- Ranked #88 by *Rivals.com* recruiting site.
- A member of the *Dallas Morning News* Top State 100 squad, ranked #65.
- Rated #81 in state by *Websider.com*
- Selected to both the *Houston Chronicle* State Top 100 and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* State Top 100 teams
- Was a preseason 1st Team All-Greater Houston.
- A member of the 2002 Texas Top 100 squad.
- Also a 2002 ESPN High School All-American.
- First Team All-District as a senior.
- Had 23 receptions for 480 yards and two TDs.
- Also First Team All-District as a junior in 2001.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jeff Akeroyd

6-3, 270, Lubbock, Texas (Monterey HS)

- Selected a First Team, All-District standout after senior season.
- Recorded 113 total tackles, including 76 unassisted and 13 for losses.
- Also registered 10 sacks, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.
- Was selected to the All-South Plains and All-City squads as well.
- Named to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* Super Team, as well as the *Avalanche-Journal* City Player of the Week during the season.
- Selected honorable mention, all-state by Texas Sports Writers Association.
- Picked as honorable mention, all-state selection after senior campaign.
- A member of the Academic All-State team.
- An officer in the National Honor Society.

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Byron Alfred

6-3, 275, Port Arthur, Texas (Memorial HS)

- Selected First Team All-Southeast Texas Super Team in 2002.
- Named to the Max Emfinger Texas Super All-State team.
- Also honorable mention, all-state by the Texas Sports Writers Association.
- Was a District 22-5A First Team, All-District offensive lineman.
- Graded out over 90 percent in every game as a senior.
- Nominated for the Academic All-State squad.

Dustin Dickinson

6-4, 270, Springtown, Texas (Springtown HS)

- Selected First Team, All-District 5-4A.
- One of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram's* Area Top 75 recruits.
- Also selected All-Parker County and All-Tarrant County.
- Helped offense generate over 450 yards per game.
- Also picked up Second Team, All-District honors as a junior in 2001.

Beau Tuft

6-6, 285, Houston, Texas (Westside HS)

- Rated #116 player in Texas by Websider.com.
- Rated #86 on Lone Star Recruiting Texas Hot 100.
- Selected First Team, All-District after 2002 season.
- Was named the District Offensive Lineman of the Year.
- Is also a member of the Academic All-District squad.

Jason Wagner

6-6, 290, Keller, Texas (Keller HS)

- Selected all-district as an offensive tackle.
- Graded out the highest of any lineman at Keller High School.
- Was also recruited by Kansas, Central Florida and Tulsa.
- Offense generated over 400 yards per game in total offense.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

John Harrell

6-2, 285, Stephenville, Texas (Stephenville HS)

- A member of the *Dallas Morning News* Top Area 100 squad, ranked #36.
- Ranked #44 by *TheInsiders.com* recruiting site.
- Selected First Team, All-State by the *Associated Press*.
- Was the State 4A Defensive Player of the Year.
- Texas Sports Writers' Association 4A Defensive Player of the Year.
- Selected 1st Team Texas Sports Writers' Association 4A All-State.
- A member of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* State Top 100 squad.
- Rated #94 in Texas by Websider.com.
- A member of the Max Emfinger Texas Super All-State Team
- Had over 20 tackles for losses and nine sacks with 23 QB pressures.
- Also recorded close to 100 tackles and two forced fumbles.
- Named First Team All-District.
- Selected First Team All-Area by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.
- Also picked First Team All-Big County by *Abilene Reporter News*.
- A member of the 2002 Texas Football Super Team.

Da Vell Lauder

6-3, 225, Houston, Texas (Smiley HS)

- Preseason All-America by Nike.
- A member of the *Dallas Morning News* Top State 100 squad, ranked #91.
- Ranked #60 by *TheInsiders.com* recruiting site.
- Selected to the Houston Chronicle State Top 100.
- Rated #96 player in Texas by Rivals100.
- Rated #107 in state by Websider.com.
- Two-time unanimous all-district selection in both football and basketball.
- Recorded 83 tackles as a junior.

Marquay Love

6-2, 295, Fort Worth, Texas (Crowley HS)

- Three-time 1st Team All-District 8-4A as offensive tackle.
- Also rated as one of the top linemen in the Dallas Metroplex, ranking in the top 50.
- Selected to play in the 2003 Coca-Cola High School All-Star game.
- Also played defense where he racked up 52 tackles, four sacks, two interceptions and 1 pass breakup.
- Was also a first-team, all-district selection in basketball.
- Set school records for rebounds in a game with 23.
- Named MVP of Crowley High School.

Eddie McCray

6-3, 225, Baytown, Texas (Lee HS)

- Was a First Team, All-District selection in 2002.
- Was the Defensive MVP.
- Rated as one of the Top Five defensive ends in the State of Texas.
- Finished fourth on his team with 71 total tackles.
- Also racked up three sacks and both a forced fumble and fumble recovery.
- Selected an Honorable Mention, All-District defensive end in 2001.

LINEBACKERS

Trent Allen

6-2, 210, Longview, Texas (Spring Hill HS)

- Ranked #63 by *TheInsiders.com* recruiting site.
- Collin Street Bakery/Texas Sports Writers 3A Defensive Player of the Year.
- AP 1st Team All-State as a senior.
- Also named 1st Team Texas Sports Writers' Association 3A All-State.
- Texas Prep Extra 3A 1st Team linebacker.
- 2002 All-East Texas Defensive Player of the Year.
- District 15AAA 1st Team linebacker
- Finished with 213 tackles, including 133 solo, as well as three sacks, three blocked kicks, three forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and three INTs.
- Was also 2001 First Team All-District.
- Named to the All-East Texas 1st Team as a junior and honorable mention as a sophomore.
- Was the District Newcomer of the Year in 2000.

Austin Griffith

6-1, 190, Huffman, Texas (Hargrave HS)

- Named Honorable Mention Texas High School Coaches' Association 3A Academic All-State.
- Took over at tailback after the fifth game of the season in 2002.
- As a running back rushed for 471 yards on 76 carries with four TDs.
- Also had two catches for 53 yards and a score.
- Is the younger brother of current Cougar linebacker, Travis Griffith.

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Wade Koehl

6-2, 210, Midland, Texas (Midland HS)

- Named 2nd Team Texas High School Coaches Association 5A Academic All-State.
- Also picked 1st Team All-District 3-5A at linebacker.
- Also played fullback for state finalist.
- Scored once on offense and once on defense in state championship versus Converse Judson.
- Is ranked 15th in his graduating class.

Jason Price

6-3, 195, Sanger, Texas (Sanger HS)

- 2002 Honorable Mention All-District.
- Top 50 prospect in the Dallas Area.
- Nominee for Dallas Area All-Star games.
- Rushed for 1394 yards and 18 TDs as a junior.
- Injured majority of senior season.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Gerard Price

5-10, 175, League City, Texas (Clear Creek HS)

- Unanimous First Team All-District defensive back and return specialist.
- Was the County MVP.
- Also selected to the All-County First Team.
- 2002 Clear Creek Player of the Year.
- Selected as the 2002 Team MVP.
- A member of the Texas Top 100.
- Also selected honorable mention all-district in 2000.
- District MVP as QB.
- Carried the ball 43 times for 238 yards (5.5 avg) and 5 TDs.
- Also returned 13 punts for 223 yards (17.2 avg) and 1 TD.

Marcus Ross

5-11, 170, Houston, Texas (Sterling HS)

- Named to the *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* Top 300 college prospects list.
- Played both free safety and cornerback at Sterling High School.
- Named by the *Houston Forward-Times* as All-Houston Area Second Team.
- Was a First Team All-District selection.
- Nominated for the Houston Touchdown Club's Defensive Player of the Year.
- Finished his senior season with 78 total tackles, including 53 solo and one for a loss...also had two interceptions and 10 pass break-ups.
- A 2001 Nike Camp invite.
- Selected Second Team All-District as a junior.
- Recorded 61 tackles, five INTs and two fumble recoveries in 2001.

Ricky Wilson

5-10, 180, Port Arthur, Texas (Lincoln HS)

- Rated #42 player in Texas by Max Emfinger.
- Rated #26 in Texas by TexasPrep Super 60.
- A member of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Top 100 team.
- Rated as the No. 21 prospect in the state by recruiting analyst David Garvin.
- Rated as the No. 16 DB in the country by Superprep recruiting magazine.
- Is the 75th best cornerback in the country (Couchscout.com).
- 69th best athlete in the country according to Rivals100.com.
- On the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Top 100 team.
- Three-year First-Team All-District.
- Also a three-year member of Port Arthur and Beaumont super teams.
- Newcomer of the year and a three-year All-State defensive back.
- Caught 13 passes for 405 yards (31.2 ypr) and five touchdowns.
- Returned 18 punts for 218 yards and two TDs while logging 63 tackles , 21 pass breakups, four interceptions and a fumble recovery.
- Helped lead high school to the Class 4A Division II playoffs.
- Finished fourth in the 2001 Class 4A state track meet in the long jump (23'5.25") and fifth with the LHS 400M relay team (41.06).
- Took 2nd in the long jump as a sophomore (24'2.5") and 4th in the 400 relay.
- An All-American long jumper.

ATHLETES

Roderick Schwartz

5-11, 180, Bradenton, Fla. (Lakewood Ranch HS)

- Was selected 3rd Team Florida Sports Writers Association All-State.
- Also selected First Team, All-District as a quarterback.
- Helped lead team to a 9-3 overall mark.
- Passed for 850 yards and five TDs, while rushing for 822 yards and 16 scores.
- Also had three punt returns for TDs.
- Was an all-district QB as a junior as well.
- Plays baseball, runs track and is a two-time state qualifier in wrestling.