



2007 FOOTBALL SIGNEES (19)

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Junior College)
Chase Carter	DB	5-11	180	Jr.	Wichita, Kansas (Wichita East/Coffeyville)
Landon Cox	WR	6-3	195	Fr.	Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North)
Patrick George	DB	5-11	180	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Gordon Tech)
DeMarcus Grady	QB	6-1	195	Fr.	Grand Rapids, Mich. (East Grand Rapids)
Chandler Harnish	QB	6-3	205	Fr.	Bluffton, Ind. (Norwell)
Dan Hilbert	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	Plainfield, Ill. (Plainfield South)
John Hopkins	DL	6-3	230	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. (Oakville)
Adam Kiel	OL	6-6	273	Fr.	Wentzville, Mo. (St. Dominic)
Ron Newcomb	DL	6-3	229	Fr.	Wheatfield, Ind. (Mt. Carmel [Chicago])
Trevor Olson	OL	6-6	260	Fr.	Richfield, Minn. (Richfield)
Keith Otis	OL	6-4	305	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Hubbard)
Nathan Palmer	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	Elkhart, Ind. (Elkhart Central)
D.J. Pirkle	DL	6-1	295	Fr.	Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)
Pat Schiller	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Geneva, Ill. (Geneva)
Kyle Skarb	LB	6-0	210	Fr.	Hawthorn Woods, Ill. (Lake Zurich)
Alan Smith	TB	5-10	190	Fr.	Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)
Boone Thorgesen	QB	6-0	180	Fr.	Elburn, Ill. (Kaneland)
Scott Wedige	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	Elkhorn, Wisc. (Elkhorn Area)
Tracy Wilson	DB	5-11	205	Fr.	Harvey, Ill. (St. Francis DeSales)

CLASS BREAKDOWN

By Position

Offensive Line	4
Defensive Back.....	3
Quarterback.....	3
Linebacker.....	3
Defensive Line.....	3
Wide Receiver	2
Running Back.....	1

By State

Illinois	10
Indiana	3
Missouri	2
Kansas.....	1
Michigan.....	1
Minnesota	1
Wisconsin	1

2007 NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOTBALL SIGNEES BIOS

CHASE CARTER DB 5-11 180 Jr. Wichita, Kansas (Coffeyville CC)

Enrolled at NIU in January and will participate in 2007 spring drills. **Coffeyville Community College:** Named to the Honorable Mention KJCCC All-Conference Team in 2006. Helped lead Coffeyville to a berth in the Zions Bank Top of the Mountain Bowl in 2006. Made 33 tackles and grabbed two interceptions as a sophomore.

High School: An honorable mention All-City choice as a senior. Credited with 75 tackles and picked off six passes as a senior to tie the Wichita Heights High single season record for interceptions. Also played wide receiver and caught 12 passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns his senior season. Named Wichita Heights' Most Improved Player. Helped lead his prep team to a GWAL City League championship and a sectional title as a senior. Team finished 10-1 overall and was a perfect 6-0 in the conference.

LANDON COX WR 6-3 195 Fr. Calumet City, Ill. (Thornton Fractional North)

Named to the second team All-State squad by the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association as a senior. Earned honorable mention recognition on the *Chicago Tribune's* All-State list as a senior. A first team all-area choice by the *Daily Southtown* and the *Chicago Sun-Times* in 2006. Member of the *Sun-Times'* Area Top 100 list. Recognized as a first team all-conference selection. Led the Meteors to the conference title and Class 6A playoffs as a senior. Picked up all-conference and all-area honors as a junior. Caught 43 passes for 723 yards and eight touchdowns in 2006. Grabbed 42 passes for 805 yards, a 19.1-yard average, with 10 TDs as a junior. In his final two seasons, caught 85 passes for 1,528 yards and 18 touchdowns. Blocked six kicks and returned three of those for scores. A three-year starter at receiver for T.F. North. Also lettered in basketball and track and field.

PATRICK GEORGE DB 5-11 180 Fr. Chicago, Ill. (Gordon Tech)

Named to first team all-conference squad his senior year. Made six career interceptions. Three-year letterwinner. Named team MVP and team captain as a senior in 2006 and won the team leadership award. Also a three-time letterwinner in track and a two-time basketball letterwinner. Qualified for the state track meet both his sophomore and junior years. As a sophomore, advanced to the state finals in the 100 meters. His junior season, advanced to the state finals in the 200 meters. Career best in the 100 meters is a 10.4. Parents were both scholarship track and field athletes at Wichita State University.

DeMARCUS GRADY QB 6-1 195 Fr. Grand Rapids, Mich. (East Grand Rapids)

An honorable mention choice to the *Grand Rapids Press* All-Area Dream Team. Completed 40-of-80 passes for 610 yards and seven touchdowns, and collected 357 rushing yards on 60 carries with nine touchdowns on the ground in 2006. Led East Grand Rapids to a Division III Michigan state championship his senior year. Earned all-league and all-area honors as a junior. Also a four-year starter in basketball. Earned all-state honorable mention honors in basketball and was a second team all-area and first team all-conference selection. Basketball team advanced to the state finals in 2006. Older brother, Kevin, was a running back at the University of Michigan.

CHANDLER HARNISH QB 6-3 205 Fr. Bluffton, Ind. (Norwell)

An all-state honoree as a senior after earning honorable mention notice his junior year. One of the *Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette's* Gamenight Fantastic 50 as a junior and senior. Twice selected to the first team all-conference and all-area squads. Earned the Northeast Hoosier Conference Player of the Year award in 2005. Named the *Ft. Wayne News Sentinel* Athlete of the Year as a senior. Participated in the Indiana North/South All-Star game. Career prep totals include 4,760 passing yards and 48 touchdown passes while completing 300-of-565 passes to go with 2,343 rushing yards on 354 carries with 35 touchdowns on the ground. Also played safety where he tallied 129 tackles, seven fumble recoveries, five interceptions, and 13 pass deflections in his career. Holds Norwell High records for career passing touchdowns, passing yards, completions and attempts, as well as all-purpose yards (7,103). Led Norwell to a 14-1 record and the runner-up spot in the Indiana state championship as a senior. Named team MVP as a junior and senior. Four-year letterwinner in football who also started all four years in basketball. Earned first team all-conference honors on the basketball court as a junior. Has scored over 747 points and grabbed over 400 rebounds in his career to date. Placed sixth in the discus at the Indiana state championships as a junior. Conference, sectional and regional discus champion who finished sixth in the State finals as a junior.

2007 NIU Football Signees Bios --- 2-2-2

DAN HILBERT LB 6-2 200 Fr. Plainfield, Ill. (Plainfield South)

Earned honorable mention All-State honors from the *Chicago Tribune* as a senior. A two-time first team all-area and all-conference selection his junior and senior seasons. Selected to the second team all-conference squad as a sophomore. Member of the 2006 All-State Academic team. Named the 2005 Plainfield Athlete of the Year. Served as football team captain his junior and senior years and was named team MVP as a junior. Tallied 100 tackles, five fumbles caused, and nine pass deflections in his last two years. Played running back as a senior where he ran for 41 yards on 14 carries and scored five touchdowns. Three-year letterwinner in football who also played baseball for three years. Holds the Plainfield South and district records for most home runs in a season (13) and most RBI for a season (52) as well as single season batting average (.482). Offensive MVP of the baseball team as a junior. Garnered all-conference honors in baseball in each of the last three seasons and was an all-area selection the past two seasons.

JOHN HOPKINS DL 6-3 230 Fr. St. Louis, Mo. (Oakville)

Earned first team all-state honors as a senior. Two-time first team all-conference selection as a junior and senior. Named to the St. Louis All-Metro team as a senior. Named to the Missouri Top 30 by rivals.com, coming in with a No. 18 ranking. Credited with 127 tackles, 15 sacks, two fumbles caused, four pass deflections, and one blocked kick in his last two years at Oakville High. Caught 16 passes for 87 yards and a TD as a tight end, including 11 grabs his senior year. Set the school single season record for tackles for loss with 15. Helped lead his team to a 9-1 record his senior season. Three-year letterwinner on the defensive line and named the squad's top defensive lineman.

ADAM KIEL OL 6-6 273 Fr. Wentzville, Mo. (St. Dominic)

Named to the Missouri Top 30 by rivals.com, coming in with a No. 22 ranking. An honorable mention All-Metro choice as a senior. Earned first team all-conference honors in 2006 and was a second team all-league selection his junior year. Helped lead St. Dominic to back-to-back Archdiocese Athletic Association championships as a junior and senior. Also played tight end where he compiled 311 receiving yards and five touchdowns on 29 catches. Caught 12 passes for 111 yards his senior season and made 17 grabs his junior year. Four-year letterwinner. Also played basketball and holds St. Dominic school record for career rebounds and is third in career points. Nominated for the McDonald's All-American team in basketball, qualifying him as one of the top 1,500 players in the country. Two-time all-conference honoree and All-Metro selection in basketball. Also a state qualifier in the shot put and won the conference title in the discus his junior year in track and field.

RON NEWCOMB DL 6-3 229 Fr. Wheatfield, Ind. (Mt. Carmel [Chicago, Ill.])

Picked up second team All-State recognition from the *Chicago Tribune*. Named the *Northwest Indiana Times* Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. The *Sports Illustrated* Prep Player of the Week for the week of Nov. 18, 2006. Earned first team all-conference honors as a senior after being a second team choice as a junior. Selected to the first team All-Area squad by the *Northwest Indiana Times*, *the Daily Southtown*, *the Sun-Times* and the *Tribune* as a senior. Member of the *Sun-Times*' Area Top 100 list at tight end. Honorable mention All-Area his junior year. In his final two seasons, tallied 91 tackles, 27 tackles for loss, 11 sacks and 16 pass deflections. Scored five career touchdowns as a tight end with 23 catches and three TDs as a senior. Compiled a career average of 34.5 yards as a punter. Three-year letterwinner. Won team award for Most Valuable Defensive Lineman as a senior. Named team defensive captain his senior year. Helped lead Mt. Carmel to back-to-back runner-up finishes in the Illinois State Championship game in 2005 and 2006.

TREVOR OLSON OL 6-6 260 Fr. Richfield, Minn. (Richfield)

Earned first team all-conference honors as a junior and senior. Named to the All-Area first team his senior year by the *Richfield Sun-Current*. Selected to MinnesotaPreps.com All-State second team as a senior. Nominated for the Minnesota High School Football Coaches All-Star Game. Played offensive tackle, defensive tackle, and kicker at Richfield High. Elected a team captain as a senior. His grandfather, Warren Olson, is in the Minnesota Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Three-year football letterwinner who also played three years of golf and two years of hockey at the varsity level.

2007 NIU Football Signees Bios --- 3-3-3

KEITH OTIS **OL** **6-4** **305** **Fr.** **Chicago, Ill. (Hubbard)**

Earned all-state honorable mention honors from the *Chicago Tribune* as a senior. Named to the All-City team by both the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune* in 2006. A three-time first team all-conference selection. Garnered honorable mention All-Area recognition as a senior. Member of the *Sun-Times*' Area Top 100 list. Participated in the East versus West All-American game in Orlando, Fla. Credited with 182 pancake blocks in his career, including 87 as a senior. Team claimed the city championship and advanced to the second round of the playoffs in 2006 and was 31-11 in his three years. Honored as the Academic Scholar of the Class of 2007 as the player with the highest G.P.A. on the team. Also lettered in basketball.

NATHAN PALMER **WR** **5-11** **170** **Fr.** **Elkhart, Ind. (Elkhart Central)**

A first team All-State choice as a senior after picking up All-State honorable mention recognition his junior year. Named to the first team all-conference list as a senior and picked up second team all-conference honors as a junior. Listed as one of the top 50 5A players in Indiana. Earned Offensive Player of the Year honors for Elkhart Central. In his last two seasons, totaled 85 catches for 1,302 yards and 17 touchdowns. Caught 51 passes for 676 yards and six TDs as a senior with 34 catches for 626 yards and nine scores in 2005. Had four pass deflections and three interceptions as a defensive back his senior year. Holds Elkhart Central records for most receiving yards in a game (234) and longest touchdown reception (93). Three-year letterwinner. Also participated in track and basketball at the varsity level for two years.

D.J. PIRKLE **DL** **6-1** **295** **Fr.** **Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln Way East)**

Garnered first team All-State honors from *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Champaign News-Gazette*, the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association and Rivals.com as a senior. Named Illinois Defensive Player of the Year as a senior by the *Joliet Herald News* and *Star Newspapers*. Earned first team All-Area honors from *Star Newspapers* (junior and senior years), *Joliet Herald News* (junior and senior years), *Chicago Tribune* (senior year), *Chicago Sun-Times* (senior year), *Daily Southtown* (senior year), and NCSA Prep Football (senior year). Member of the *Sun-Times*' Area Top 100 list. In three years at the varsity level, made 183 tackles and tallied 17 sacks, 42 tackles for a loss, seven fumbles caused, one fumble recovery, one interception, and three blocked kicks. Rushed for 67 yards on 31 carries, scored 20 rushing touchdowns, and had one receiving touchdown as a fullback in his career. His senior season, credited with 75 tackles, 41 solo and tallied eight sacks. Also scored seven TDs on 13 carries. Helped lead Lincoln Way East to a 44-1 (28-0 in conference play) record in his career, including a win in the 8A IHSA State Championship game as a junior and four straight league titles. Was a team captain as a junior and senior. Holds Lincoln Way East records for bench, squat, and career tackles for a loss (42).

PAT SCHILLER **LB** **6-2** **210** **Fr.** **Geneva, Ill. (Geneva)**

Named to the first team All-State squad as a senior. Two-time first team all-conference and all-area selection. Totalled 190 tackles, eight sacks, six forced fumbles, six pass deflections, and two blocked kicks in his two-plus years as a varsity player. Also played running back and ran for 1,169 yards and 25 touchdowns, while catching four touchdown passes. As a senior, ran 65 times for 487 yards and 12 scores. Led the Vikings to an 11-2 record his senior season, when he served as team captain. Member of the 2004 state semifinalist squad at Geneva and his team won Western Sun league titles in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Lifelong Huskie fan.

KYLE SKARB **LB** **6-0** **210** **Fr.** **Hawthorn Woods, Ill. (Lake Zurich)**

A second team All-State selection as a senior. Earned first team all-conference honors as a senior and second team all-league honors his junior year. Selected to the *Daily Herald's* first team All-Area squad in 2006. Credited with 109 tackles, 11 sacks, four fumbles caused, four fumbles recovered, and two pass deflections in his career with a season-high 63 stops and six sacks as a junior. As a running back, he gained 1,322 career yards on 175 carries, scored 24 rushing touchdowns, and added two receiving TDs on just four catches in 2006. His senior season, rushed for 810 yards on 102 carries with 14 TDs. Set Lake Zurich records for career punt return and kickoff return averages at 22.4 and 35.5, respectively. Led Lake Zurich to a 12-2 record and the State Championship game his senior year, when he served as team captain and was named team MVP. Three-year letterwinner in football who also lettered in basketball and track.

2007 NIU Football Signees Bios --- 4-4-4

ALAN SMITH TB 5-10 190 Fr. Naperville, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)

A second team All-State running back as a junior who missed most of his senior season due to injury. Also earned first team all-conference and all-area honors as a junior. Picked up second-team all-conference recognition his senior season. Named Upstate Eight Conference Offensive MVP in 2005. Member of the *Sun-Times*' Area Top 100 list. Gained 1,402 rushing yards with 19 touchdowns in 11 games as a junior. Averaged just over seven yards per carry. Ranks second on the Neuqua Valley all-time rushing list with 2,007 career yards. Team won three straight conference titles during his tenure. Three-year letterwinner in football who also lettered in track and field. Former Duke All-American Shane Battier (NBA's Houston Rockets) and former University of Miami receiver/punt returner Demetrius Smith are his cousins. Mother is an alumna of NIU.

BOONE THORGESEN QB 6-0 180 Fr. Elburn, Ill. (Kaneland)

Earned first team 5A All-State honors from the *Chicago Tribune*, Illinois High School Football Coaches Association and *Champaign News-Gazette* in 2006. Named the *Chicago Tribune's* 2006 Offensive Player of the Year. Offensive MVP of the Western Sun Conference in 2006. Honored as the Walter Payton Roundhouse Player of the Year as a senior. Picked up first team All-Area and Player of the Year honors from the *Aurora Beacon News*, *Daily Herald*, *Kane County Chronicle* and *DeKalb Chronicle*. The *Chicago Sun-Times* named him to its All-Area squad and he was a member of the *Sun-Times*' Area Top 100 list. Two-time first team all-conference honoree in 2005 and 2006. An honorable mention All-State selection as a junior. Named team captain and team MVP his senior year. Threw for 3,719 yards on 244-of-421 passing with 43 touchdowns and ran for 1,048 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2006. As a junior, collected 610 rushing yards on 112 carries and 10 scores and completed 123-of-190 passes for 1,563 yards and 16 TDs. Career numbers include 5,784 passing yards with 63 touchdowns, and 1,829 rushing yards with 24 scores. Holds Kaneland records for passing yards in a season (3,719), touchdown passes in a season (43), total yards in a season (4,767), passing yards in a game (437), career passing yards (5,784), career touchdown passes (63), and career total yards (7,613). Ranks second all-time in IHSA record books for total yards in a single season (4,767) and is third on the IHSA career total offense list (7,613). Kaneland advanced to the 5A state semifinals in 2006 and finished 11-2. Three-year letterwinner in football who also participated in track and basketball for three years each and captained the Kaneland basketball team as a junior and senior. Also served as captain of the track team as a junior, when he earned first team all-conference honors.

SCOTT WEDIGE OL 6-4 275 Fr. Elkhorn, Wisc. (Elkhorn Area)

Garnered first team all-Southern Lakes Conference and all-county honors as a senior at offensive tackle. As a junior, earned first team all-league and all-county recognition at both offensive and defensive tackle. Earned first team all-area recognition as a senior on the offensive line. Served as team captain and was selected team MVP as a senior. As a defensive tackle, tallied 142 tackles, four sacks, two fumbles caused, two pass deflections, and one blocked kick in his career. Team went 11-3 and advanced to the state semifinals his sophomore season. Three-year letterwinner in both football and basketball. A second team all-conference choice in basketball as a junior and picked up honorable mention all-league honors as a sophomore on the basketball court.

TRACY WILSON DB 5-11 205 Fr. Harvey, Ill. (St. Francis DeSales)

Earned honorable mention All-State honors as a senior and as a junior. Named the *Northwest Indiana Times* 2006 Offensive Player of the Year as a quarterback. Selected to first team all-area squad following his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons and was named team MVP all three seasons. Picked up the team Offensive Player of the Year Award following his junior and senior seasons and was the Pioneers' Defensive Player of the Year as a safety as a sophomore and junior. Helped lead St. Francis DeSales to their first playoff appearance in school history in 2006. Tallied 106 tackles, a pair of quarterback sacks and two interceptions as a senior while throwing for 1,825 yards and 25 TDs and rushing for 1,575 yards and 19 scores. Recorded 326 tackles, 16 sacks, five forced fumbles, four recovered fumbles, 11 interceptions, and one blocked kick in his career. As a quarterback, threw for 4,030 yards and 47 touchdowns and ran for 3,565 yards and 38 touchdowns in his career. A four-year letterwinner in football who also played basketball (four years) and baseball (two years) and was an all-league choice in hoops.