



Southern Illinois University Football

2009 Recruiting Class



Position Breakdown

DEFENSIVE BACKS (3)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Brandon Burley	DB	5-11	170	New Castle, Pa./New Castle H.S.
E.J. Clark	DB	5-10	195	St. Louis, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit H.S.
Luke Thuston	DB	5-11	185	Wildwood, Mo./Eureka H.S.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Derrick Nsubuga	NG	6-0	255	Scottsdale, Ariz./Chaparral H.S.

LINEBACKERS (4)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Dathan Deisher	LB	6-3	225	Mt. Carmel, Ill./Mt. Carmel H.S.
Rodney Reagans	LB	6-1	230	Chandler, Ariz./Chandler H.S.
Robert Spann	LB	6-2	240	St. Petersburg, Fla./Northeast Oklahoma A&M
Houston Walker	LB	6-0	220	Homewood, Ala./Homewood H.S.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN (3)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Terrence Isaiah	OL	6-3	260	East St. Louis, Ill./East St. Louis H.S.
Ryan Miller	OL	6-4	320	Stilwell, Kan./Blue Valley H.S.
Ryan Wood	OL	6-4	265	W. Des Moines, Iowa/Valley H.S.

QUARTERBACKS (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Kory Faulkner	QB	6-4	205	Bloomdsdale, Mo./Ste. Genevieve H.S.

RUNNING BACKS (4)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Ray Agnew, III*	FB	5-11	225	Chesterfield, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit H.S.
Rik Hicks	FB	6-2	220	Anna, Ill./Anna-Jonesboro H.S.
John Hughes	RB	5-6	170	Peoria, Ariz./Centennial H.S.
Steve Strother	RB	5-8	173	Culpepper, Va./Eastern View H.S.

TIGHT ENDS (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Philip Schumacher	TE	6-4	255	Evansville, Ind./Central H.S.

WIDE RECEIVERS (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
John Lantz	WR	6-2	190	Springfield, Ill./Sacred Heart-Griffin H.S.

* - Walk-On

Geographic Breakdown

ALABAMA (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Houston Walker	LB	6-0	220	Homewood, Ala./Homewood H.S.

ARIZONA (3)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
John Hughes	RB	5-6	170	Peoria, Ariz./Centennial H.S.
Derrick Nsubuga	NG	6-0	255	Scottsdale, Ariz./Chaparral H.S.
Rodney Reagans	LB	6-1	230	Chandler, Ariz./Chandler H.S.

FLORIDA (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Robert Spann	LB	6-2	240	St. Petersburg, Fla./Northeast Oklahoma A&M

ILLINOIS (4)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Dathan Deisher	LB	6-4	225	Mt. Carmel, Ill./Mt. Carmel H.S.
Rik Hicks	FB	6-2	220	Anna, Ill./Anna-Jonesboro H.S.
Terrence Isaiah	OL	6-3	260	East St. Louis, Ill./East St. Louis H.S.
John Lantz	WR	6-2	190	Springfield, Ill./Sacred Heart-Griffin H.S.

IOWA (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Ryan Wood	OL	6-4	265	W. Des Moines, Iowa/Valley H.S.

INDIANA (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Philip Schumacher	TE	6-4	255	Evansville, Ind./Central H.S.

KANSAS (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Ryan Miller	OL	6-4	320	Stilwell, Kan./Blue Valley H.S.

MISSOURI (4)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Ray Agnew, III*	FB	5-11	225	Chesterfield, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit H.S.
E.J. Clark	DB	5-10	195	St. Louis, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit H.S.
Kory Faulkner	QB	6-4	205	Bloomdsdale, Mo./Ste. Genevieve H.S.
Luke Thuston	DB	5-11	185	Wildwood, Mo./Eureka H.S.

PENNSYLVANIA (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Brandon Burley	DB	5-11	170	New Castle, Pa./New Castle H.S.

VIRGINIA (1)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/Previous School
Steve Strother	RB	5-8	173	Culpepper, Va./Eastern View H.S.

* - Walk-On

Missouri Valley Football
Conference Champions
2003 • 2004 • 2005 • 2008

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE
DeisherDasher
NsubugaZoo-BAH-guh
SchumacherShoe-maker

NCAA Playoffs
1983 • 2003 • 2004 • 2005
2006 • 2007 • 2008
National Champions
1983



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Biographical Sketches (in alphabetical order)

Ray Agnew, III, FB, 5-11, 225, Chesterfield, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit H.S.

Career Notes: Three-year starter at running back and two-year starter at linebacker...Two-time first-team all-Metro Catholic Conference linebacker...Led DeSmet Jesuit to a combined 16-6 record and had 135 tackles in his last two prep seasons. **2008:** Metro Catholic Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year...Registered 60 tackles and nine sacks...Second-team all-conference running back...Team captain...Holds a 3.2 GPA. **Coach's Comments:** "Ray brings a physical presence to the Saluki backfield. He has the toughness to become a great blocker and has the skills to run and catch the football."

Brandon Burley, DB, 5-11, 170, New Castle, Pa./New Castle H.S.

Career Notes: Led the team with a combined 14 interceptions in his final two prep seasons. **2008:** First-team all-Parkway Conference as a defensive back...Ranked third on the team in tackles...Top-22 ranking as a DB and multi-purpose back. **2007:** Earned second-team all-conference honors. **2006:** Honorable mention all-conference as a defensive back. **Coach's Comments:** "Brandon is an athletic defensive back, who brings an aggressive, physical presence to the cornerback position."

E.J. Clark, DB, 5-10, 195, St. Louis, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit H.S.

2008: First-team all-Metro and all-Catholic Conference pick...Named second-team all-state by the Missouri Coaches Association...Rated as the 29th-best player in Missouri, according to *rivals.com*...Senior captain, who holds a 3.44 cumulative grade point average...Registered 81 tackles, recovered two fumbles, forced three fumbles and had one interception. **Coach's Comments:** "E.J. has the ability to become an excellent player in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. His size, speed and physical play are a natural fit for the SIU secondary."

Dathan Deisher, LB, 6-3, 225, Mt. Carmel, Ill./Mt. Carmel H.S.

Career Notes: Two-time first-team all-Big Eight Conference selection (2007, 2008)...Two-time Illinois all-state academic team Class 4A (2007, 2008). **2008:** Three-year starter on both sides of the ball, playing as an offensive line-man and inside linebacker...Named Kiwanis Defensive Player of the Year and earned honorable mention Class 4A all-state honors...Most Valuable Player and team captain for the Golden Aces...Posted 76 tackles on the year...Sports a 4.0 GPA. **2007:** Had 51 tackles, helping lead his team to a 12-1 record, Big Eight Conference Championship and IHSAA Class 4A Quarterfinal appearance. **2006:** Led the Golden Aces to a 10-2 record, a Big Eight Conference title and IHSAA Class 4A Quarterfinal berth. **Coach's Comments:** "Dathan's size, strength and athleticism, combined with his great work ethic, give him the potential to be a productive defensive player in the Saluki program."

Kory Faulkner, QB, 6-4, 205, Bloomsdale, Mo./Ste. Genevieve H.S.

Career Notes: Three-time first-team all-region and all-conference honoree...Threw for 8,637 yards and 102 touchdowns. **2008:** Missouri Class 3A Offensive Player-of-the-Year...First-team all-state by both the coaches and media...Was his conference's Most Valuable Player...Ranked among the Old Spice Red Zone Top-50 Players of the Year and was rated the 30th-best player in the state by *rivals.com*...Completed 318-of-442 passes for 3,899 yards and 47 touchdowns...Also rushed for 1,055 yards and 15 TDs on 149 carries. **Coach's Comments:** "Kory has all the qualities we look for in a quarterback. He has a great understanding of football and is a natural leader. He had an outstanding career for one of the best programs in eastern Missouri."

Rik Hicks, FB, 6-2, 220, Anna, Ill./Anna-Jonesboro H.S.

Career Notes: Played four different positions in his high school career, including running back, kicker, linebacker and defensive end...Three-time Southern Illinois Coaches Association all-South pick...Two-time all-conference as a running back, kicker and linebacker (2007, 2008)...Earned all-conference honors as a defensive end in 2007...Was part of two conference championship teams at AJHS (2006, 2007)...Those teams went undefeated during the regular-season, with the 2006 team advancing to the state semi-finals...Ran for 2,051 yards and 30 touchdowns on 247 carries...Made 69-of-85 PATs...Registered 218 tackles on defense. **2008:** Ran for 1,209 yards and 21 touchdowns on 131 carries, averaging 9.2 yards per attempt...Kicked off 48 times for 2,678 yards (55.8 avg.) with 30 touchbacks...Was 28-of-39 on PATs...Registered 93 tackles, including 12 for loss...Also forced three fumbles. **2007:** Piled up 842 yards and scored nine TDs on 116 carries...Averaged 7.3 yards per carry...Made 41-of-46 PATs, while kicking off 57 times for 3,053 yards (53.6 avg.) and 23 touchbacks...Had 68 tackles and four tackles for loss. **2006:** Posted 57 tackles, 11 sacks and three tackles for loss in his only season as a defensive end...Forced four fumbles and recovered two others, one of which he returned 35 yards for a touchdown. **Coach's Comments:** "Rik is a talented, blue collar athlete that plays the game with the physical toughness you like to see as a coach."

John Hughes, RB, 5-6, 170, Peoria, Ariz./Centennial H.S.

Career Notes: Scored 64 touchdowns...Member of three state championship teams at Centennial High School. **2008:** Named all-state and was the West Valley Player-of-the-Year...Rated as the 12th-best player in Arizona by AZCentral...One of five finalists for the Ed Doherty Award, which is given to the top player in the state...Ran for 1,606 yards and 31 touchdowns...Caught 19 passes for 298 yards and four TDs...Returned two kickoffs for touchdowns...Also made 48 tackles, had four sacks and posted three interceptions...Scored a total of 38 TDs on the year. **2007:** Caught 22 passes for 356 yards and five touchdowns...Ran the ball 82 times for 520 yards and six TDs...Registered 62 tackles, two sacks and three picks at cornerback. **Coach's Comments:** "John is a fast and elusive running back. His versatility will allow him to be a threat as a ball carrier, receiver and return man on special teams."

Terrence Isaiah, OL, 6-3, 260, East St. Louis, Ill./East St. Louis H.S.

2008: Team captain, who led his team to a 7A state championship...First-team all-conference and honorable mention all-state pick...Was a key fixture of one of the top offensive units in the state which averaged 40 points a game, rushed for over 2,500 yards and threw for over 2,700 yards. **Coach's Comments:** "Terrence is an extremely athletic lineman. His physical style of play will allow him to be successful in our offensive schemes."



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Biographical Sketches (in alphabetical order)

John Lantz, WR, 6-2, 190, Springfield, Ill./Sacred Heart-Griffin H.S.

Career Notes: Sacred Heart-Griffin High School's all-time career leader in receptions...Two-time first-team all-conference and all-state Max Preps. **2008:** First-team *Chicago Tribune*, *Champaign News Gazette* and Illinois Football Coaches Association all-state...Central State 8 Conference Player-of-the-Year...Led the conference and set a SHG single-season record with 1,259 receiving yards...Finished second in the state with 18 yards per catch...Led the conference with 71 catches...Led the team to a 6A state championship...Returned four kickoffs and three punts for touchdowns...Scored 142 points...Had six interceptions, including one which he returned 104 yards for a TD...Also posted 54 solo tackles and assisted on 36. **2007:** Led the conference in catches (41) and receiving yards (886)...His 886 receiving yards were fourth-best in school history...Averaged 21.6 yards per catch and finished with 11 TD receptions...Ranked first on the team with 78 points, four interceptions and 94 all-purpose yards, leading SHG to a state championship. **Coach's Comments:** "John is a dynamic receiver who possesses the ability to be a precise route-runner with good hands while being an effective blocker."

Ryan Miller, OL, 6-4, 320, Stilwell, Kan./Blue Valley H.S.

Career Notes: Two-year starter...Two-time first-team all-East Kansas League pick. **2008:** First-team *Topeka Capital Journal* 6A all-state, Sun Country and Johnson County...Garnered second-team *Kansas City Star* and Metro Sports all-Metro honors...Second-team *Wichita Eagle Beacon* 6A all-state...Ranked 54th in the nation as an offensive tackle, according to *ESPN*...Team captain...Helped lead Blue Valley to a 10-2 record and state semi-final appearance. **2007:** Second-team Sun Country and honorable mention all-Johnson County. **Coach's Comments:** "Ryan has the ability to play a couple of positions on our offensive line. He plays with a very physical style and moves his feet well in pass protection."

Derrick Nsubuga, NG, 6-0, 255, Scottsdale, Ariz./Chaparral H.S.

Career Notes: Three-year letterman and team captain. **2008:** Second-team all-region and all-state pick...Registered 104 tackles and six sacks in 14 games on a team which finished runner-up in the state (Class 4A)...Had 14 tackles and one sack in the state title game...Earned his team's defensive MVP award. **Other Notes:** Also lettered on the wrestling team. **Coach's Comments:** "Derrick is a powerful and explosive player who has a knack for being around the football. He has a good combination of strength and athleticism, which makes him an impact player against the run and in pass rush situations."

Rodney Reagans, LB, 6-1, 230, Chandler, Ariz./Chandler H.S.

Career Notes: Played three different positions throughout his prep career, including cornerback, linebacker and defensive end...Was part of two state championship teams at Coolidge High School (2005, 2006). **2008:** Transferred to Chandler High School, where he was named first-team Arizona Football Coaches Association all-region and 24-7football.com all-state...Earned the team's Defensive Player-of-the-Year award after finishing the season with 153 tackles and five sacks. **2007:** First-team all-region and second-team all-state pick at Coolidge H.S...Recorded 107 tackles and six picks. **2006:** First-team all-region and second-team all-state pick at Coolidge H.S...Recorded 107 tackles and six picks. **Coach's Comments:** "Rodney is a physical and aggressive linebacker who plays at a high level. His great instincts and competitive nature

will allow him to excel as a playmaker on the field."

Philip Schumacher, TE, 6-4, 255, Evansville, Ind./Central H.S.

Career Notes: Two-time first-team all-conference (2007, 2008) and Indiana Football Coaches Association all-state (2007, 2008). **2008:** Caught eight passes for 94 yards...Made 106 tackles, had six sacks and posted one interception. **2007:** Had six receptions for 78 yards...Recorded 88 tackles and eight sacks. **2006:** Registered 76 tackles, nine sacks, one interception and scored a touchdown. **Coach's Comments:** "Philip is a physical and aggressive player, who has the size and strength to maintain blocks. In addition, he has demonstrated the athleticism to become a quality receiver from the tight end position."

Robert Spann, LB, 6-2, 240, St. Petersburg, Fla./Northeast Oklahoma A&M

Transfers to SIU from Northeast Oklahoma A&M. **2008:** Second-team all-Southwest Conference linebacker, who ranked second on the team in tackles in one season at Northeast Oklahoma A&M...Two-time Southwest Conference Player-of-the-Week. **Coach's Comments:** "Robert is an athletic linebacker, who has played at a high junior college level. He will add to our athleticism on the defensive side of the ball."

Steve Strother, RB, 5-8, 173, Culpepper, Va./Eastern View H.S.

Career Notes: Three-time first-team all-conference selection as both a running back and defensive back...Rushed for 3,988 yards and 45 touchdowns...Also earned second-team all-state honors as a running back and was team captain and MVP in his prep career. **2008:** First-team all-region running back...Ran for 1,970 yards and 26 touchdowns on 191 carries, averaging 10.3 yards per attempt...Scored 18 TDs of 50 or more yards. **2007:** Rushed for 1,010 yards and 12 touchdowns, while intercepting six passes. **Coach's Comments:** "Steve has shown the ability to be a playmaker. His speed will be an explosive weapon in our offensive system."

Luke Thuston, DB, 5-11, 185, Wildwood, Mo./Eureka H.S.

Career Notes: Three-year starter on offense and defense...Two-time first-team all-South Suburban Conference as a defensive back (2007, 2008). **2008:** South Suburban Conference Offensive Player of the Year as a quarterback...Earned first-team all-conference honors at QB, DB and punter...First-team all-Metro as a DB...Earned second-team Class 5A all-state accolades...Rushed and passed for over 1,000 yards...Accumulated 2,570 yards of total offense...Had 84 tackles, two sacks and one interception. **Coach's Comments:** "Luke is an intelligent player who understands the game of football. His competitive nature and play-making abilities make him a good fit for the Saluki defense."

Houston Walker, LB, 6-0, 220, Homewood, Ala./Homewood H.S.

Career Notes: Four-year letterman in football (1 year at Evangel Christian School, 3 years at Homewood High School). **2008:** Team captain and first-team all-Metro linebacker...Had 91 tackles, four interceptions and 4.5 sacks...Made the Over the Mountain All-Star Team as a first-team linebacker. **2007:** Homewood High School's Most Valuable Offensive Back...Ran for 783 yards on 142 carries, averaging 5.5 yards per attempt. **Other Notes:** Lettered three years in track and field at Homewood H.S. and one at Evangel Christian. **Coach's Comments:** "Houston moved from offense to defense his senior year and made an immediate impact on the defensive side of the ball. He has the size and speed to be a big play man at the inside linebacker position."



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Biographical Sketches (in alphabetical order)

Ryan Wood, OL, 6-4, 265, W. Des Moines, Iowa/Valley H.S.

Career Notes: Two-year starter and three-year letterwinner...Two-time, first-team all-Iowa Conference performer...2009 Iowa Shrine Bowl participant...Led his team to a combined 25-1 record and one Class 4A state title in his last two high school seasons...Recorded a 3.8 cumulative GPA. **2008:** Second-team all-state pick, who helped lead his team to a state championship...Team Captain... Was a major part of an offense that piled up 3,000 yards on the ground and had two 1,000-yard rushers. **2007:** Led his team to an 11-1 record and state semi-final appearance. **Coach's Comments:** "Ryan has the size and speed to become an outstanding offensive tackle. He has a great desire to succeed both on the field and in the classroom."