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## University of Wyoming Announces 2008 Football Recruiting Class Highlighted by Several Impact Players

**Laramie, Wyo. (Feb. 6, 2008)** -- University of Wyoming head football coach **Joe Glenn** announced his sixth recruiting class at Wyoming on Wednesday. The 2008 Cowboy recruiting class features a number of future impact players for the Cowboys led by:

- One of the top junior college quarterbacks in the nation in **Dax Crum** from Mesa Community College in Arizona, as well as one of the top ranked high school quarterbacks from the state of California in **Adam Barry** of Simi Valley, Calif.;

- A tandem of talented tight end/h-back prospects in **Orlando Arnold**, a junior college transfer from Contra Costa Community College in California, and **Brandon Ribble**, an All-Colorado selection at Ralston Valley High School in Arvada, Colo.;

- The No. 1 ranked linebacker and No. 9 ranked overall recruit from the state of Iowa in linebacker **Ben Durbin** from Gilbert, Iowa;

- And a group of six young offensive linemen highlighted by the top recruit at any position in the state of Wyoming in **Jim Downs** from Glenrock, Wyo., and one of the best high school linemen from the state of Colorado in All-Colorado honoree **Nick Williams** from Highlands Ranch, Colo.

"With the addition of Dax Crum and Orlando Arnold, we're going to bring instant competition that I think will energize our team and put a buzz into the program," said Glenn. "I also believe we have a couple of grayshirts and a transfer on campus right now that have a chance to impact this team. Donate Morgan will be one of the fastest players on our team at wide receiver, and he showed that in practice this past year as he sat out to satisfy NCAA transfer rules. We need some help at the cornerback position with the graduation of Julius Stinson and Mike Medina, and we hope that Ryan Handford, with his speed and quickness, is a young man who will compete for playing time at that position.

"I will tell you that Orlando Arnold is one of the most athletic tight ends that I've ever had the opportunity to coach. He's big, fast, athletic and can catch the ball. He also starts on his junior college basketball team, and from talking to his junior college coaches has a great work ethic on the practice field. He has a presence unlike few players that I've ever been around.

"The young men that we are bringing in from the high school ranks will give us as much speed as we've ever had in a recruiting class since we've been here at Wyoming. Josh Birmingham was the state 100-meter dash champion in his classification in the state of Oklahoma. James Caraway from Topeka, Kan., and Tashaun Gipson from Dallas both have great speed. Then you have Brandon Ribble, who is one of the best high hurdlers in the state of Colorado.

"Not only do we have athletes who can run, but we're bringing in some good size in Jim Downs from Glenrock, Wyoming; Nick Williams, one of the top linemen in Colorado; and Kyle Magnuson, who has been one of the best offensive linemen in the state of Indiana the last couple of seasons. I also like the toughness of this group. We had several of them in our summer camps, and have had an eye on a number of them for a long time."

All total, Wyoming announced the signing of 25 recruits. Of the 25 signees, 14 are projected as offensive players for the Pokes, 10 on defense and one punter/place-kicker. Offensive linemen led all positions in number of signees with six recruits. On the defensive side of the ball, four secondary signees were the most at any position, but the defense was very balanced with three defensive linemen and three linebackers being signed.

The state of Colorado led the way with eight signees, followed by California and Illinois with three each and Arizona and Oklahoma with two signees.

This year's recruiting class includes players from 12 different states.

The national letter-of-intent signing period began Wednesday, Feb. 6 and ends April 1, 2008.

Wyoming has one remaining scholarship to give.

University of Wyoming Cowboys  
 2008 Football Signings  
 (Alphabetical, As of Feb. 6, 2008)

**Breakdown:**

Junior-College Signees Already Enrolled at UW	( 1)
Junior-College Signees Who Will Enroll at UW in the Fall of 2008	( 1)
Transfers From Four-Year Colleges	( 1)
Grayshirt Signees From 2007	( 2)
Grayshirt Signees in the Spring of 2008	( 3)
High-School Signees	(17)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(25)</b>

**Junior-College Signees (Who Enrolled at UW in the Spring of 2008) (1)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Dax Crum*	QB	6-4	210	So.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Mesa CC, Ariz.)

**Junior-College Signees (Who Will Enroll at UW in the Fall of 2008) (1)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Orlando Arnold	TE	6-4	255	Jr.	Richmond, Calif. (Contra Costa CC, Calif.)

**Transfers From Four-Year Colleges (Who Went on Scholarship in the Fall of 2008) (1)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Donate Morgan	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. (St. Joseph's College, Ind.)

**Grayshirt Signees From February 2007 (Who Enrolled at UW in the Spring of 2008) (2)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Ryan Handford* #	CB	5-9	175	Fr.	Corona, Calif. (Santiago)
Levi Salmans* #	OL	6-7	275	Fr.	Lafayette, Colo. (Monarch)

**Grayshirt Signees From February 2008 (Who Will Not Enroll at UW Until the Spring of 2009) (3)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Josh Birmingham%	RB	5-9	177	Fr.	Luther, Okla. (Luther)
Nick Carlson%	OL	6-4	235	Fr.	Arlington Heights, Ill. (Prospect)
Josh Leonard%	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	Helena, Mont. (Helena)

**High-School Signees (17)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Adam Barry	QB	6-1	210	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif. (Moorpark)
Eric Benson	S	6-2	182	Fr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Corona Del Sol)
Matt Birkeness	LB	6-4	215	Fr.	Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)
James Caraway	WR/RB	5-11	170	Fr.	Topeka, Kan. (Highland Park)
Chance Crawford	LB	6-3	215	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Fort Collins)
Jim Downs	OL	6-7	265	Fr.	Glenrock, Wyo. (Glenrock)
Ben Durbin	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Gilbert, Iowa (Gilbert)
Tashaun Gipson	CB	6-0	180	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (Kimball)
David James	CB	5-11	175	Fr.	Edmond, Okla. (Edmond Memorial)
Dylan Kildahl*	DE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ault, Colo. (Highland)
Kyle Magnuson	OL	6-6	305	Fr.	Elkhart, Ind. (Concord)
Austin McCoy	P/K	6-3	190	Fr.	Winter Haven, Fla. (Winter Haven)
Justin Morgan	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Mt. Carmel)
Corey Orth*	DL	6-5	240	Fr.	Buena Vista, Colo. (Buena Vista)
Brandon Ribble	H-Back	6-5	210	Fr.	Arvada, Colo. (Ralston Valley)
Trevor Shaw	DE	6-4	230	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Poudre)
Nick Williams	OL	6-5	265	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Highlands Ranch)

\*Enrolled at the University of Wyoming and on scholarship starting January of 2008.

#Grayshirts who went on scholarship in January of 2008. These grayshirts were originally signed in 2007, but count toward the 2008 recruiting class total.

%First-time grayshirt signees, who won't enroll nor go on scholarship until January of 2009. These grayshirts don't count toward the 2008 recruiting class total.

**University of Wyoming  
2008 Football Signees  
(Alphabetical, As of Feb. 6, 2008)**

**Junior-College Signees**

**(Who Enrolled at the University of Wyoming in the Spring of 2008)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Dax Crum</b>	QB	6-4	210	So.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Mesa CC, Ariz.)

Dax Crum enrolled at the University of Wyoming after an outstanding 2007 season at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz.

Crum earned Honorable Mention National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-America honors while leading Mesa to a 9-2 record and a No. 8 national ranking in the Final 2007 NJCAA/JC Football.com Poll. He was named the NJCAA Co-Region I Offensive Player of the Year, and also was selected First Team All-Western States Football League.

Mesa defeated Fort Scott Community College of Kansas by a score of 47-31 in the Valley of the Sun Bowl to conclude the 2007 season. That bowl appearance marked the first for Mesa in 11 seasons. Crum helped turnaround a team that was 2-7 in 2006.

As a team, Mesa was fifth in the country in passing yards (230.7 yards per game) and was 10th in total offense (391.3 yards per game).

Crum averaged 227.6 yards passing per game to rank No. 6 in the nation in passing. He averaged 222.8 yards of total offense, which placed him No. 11 in the nation individually. He completed 149 of 244 passes (61.1 percent) for 2,807 yards, 23 touchdowns and only six interceptions. In the bowl victory over Fort Scott, he completed 22 of 29 pass attempts (75.9 percent) for 386 yards, four touchdowns and only one interception, while earning the game's Most Valuable Player honors. He played for head coach Dan Dunn at Mesa.

Coming out of Horizon High School in Scottsdale, Ariz., Crum was an outstanding student. He continued that at Mesa Community College, earning a 3.8 grade-point average in junior college.

His senior year at Horizon High School, he completed 168 of 322 passes (52.2 percent) for 2,460 yards and 23 TDs. The Horizon Huskies posted a 10-2 record his senior season as Crum was named First Team All-State and the Desert Valley Region Player of the Year. He concluded his high school career throwing for 4,009 yards and 41 touchdowns.

Coming out of high school, he was recruited by Arizona State, California, New Mexico and UNLV. He ended up walking on at Arizona State and redshirting his freshman year of 2006, before transferring to Mesa Community College for the 2007 season.

The son of Kim and Bob Crum, he plans on majoring in engineering at Wyoming. After his outstanding season at Mesa, he was recruited by Colorado State, Louisville, Pittsburgh and Washington State. He will come to Wyoming with three years of eligibility remaining.

**Junior-College Signees**

**(Who Will Enroll at the University of Wyoming in the Fall of 2008)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Orlando Arnold</b>	TE	6-4	255	Jr.	Richmond, Calif. (Contra Costa CC, Calif.)

Orlando Arnold is a very athletic tight end with good hands and good size. He earned First Team All-Bay Valley Conference and All State among California community colleges in 2007. Arnold caught 49 passes for 620 yards and 10 touchdowns his sophomore season at Contra Costa Community College. He has been timed at 4.7 seconds in the 40-yard dash. His junior college coach was John McDermott. Arnold was elected a team captain at Contra Costa, and he also starts on the Contra Costa basketball team.

His athletic ability is also evidenced by the fact that he was a three-sport star in high school -- playing football, basketball and baseball at Richmond High School in the Bay Area. He earned First Team All-Conference honors three years in high school, and was an All-Metro selection as a senior. Arnold played tight end and defensive end in football, was a forward/center in basketball and was an outstanding center fielder on the baseball diamond.

The son of Tia and Ronnie Arnold, he plans on majoring in sociology at UW. Other schools that recruited Arnold coming out of junior college were: Arizona State, California, Mississippi State, San Diego State, UNLV and Washington.

## **Transfers From Four-Year Colleges (Who Went on Scholarship in the Spring of 2008)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Donate Morgan</b>	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. (St. Joseph's College, Ind.)

Donate Morgan earned a scholarship this spring after walking on to the Wyoming Football program a year ago from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind. Morgan practiced with the Cowboys last season, but had to sit out of competition to satisfy NCAA transfer rules.

As a true freshman at St. Joseph's College in 2005, Morgan played in 10 of his team's 11 games, catching 13 passes for 221 yards and one touchdown. He averaged 22.1 yards per reception as a freshman. In 2006, he played in only two games at St. Joseph's College.

He played his high school football at Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago, Ill. He joins current Cowboys and former Mt. Carmel High players Keith Lewis (So., CB) and Mark Oliver (RFr., LB) on the Cowboy roster. A fourth Mt. Carmel alumni is also joining the Cowboy squad in this signing class -- freshman wide receiver Justin Morgan, no relation.

Donate Morgan is the son of Annette and Carey Wright.

## **Grayshirt Signees From 2007 (Who Enrolled at UW in the Spring of 2008)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Ryan Handford</b>	CB	5-9	175	Fr.	Corona, Calif. (Santiago)

Ryan Handford originally signed with the Wyoming Cowboys as a grayshirt during the spring of 2007. He enrolled at Wyoming in January of 2008, and will be available to go through spring practice with the Cowboys.

A versatile two-way player in high school, Handford was an outstanding defensive back and wide receiver at Santiago High School in Corona, Calif. He earned First Team All-Conference, All-County and All-CIF honors as a junior in 2005. That year, he also received All-West Coast recognition from Prep Star Magazine. His senior season, he made the switch from cornerback to safety.

As a high school senior at Santiago High, he was credited with 69 total tackles, 33 solos and 36 assists. Handford had a season high 18 tackles against Temescal Canyon High. He also intercepted two passes and recovered two fumbles from his safety position, returning those two fumbles for a total of 70 yards. On offense, he caught 20 passes for 158 yards and one touchdown. He was also an outstanding punt returner and kickoff returner, returning 11 punts for an average of 6.27 yards per return, and bringing back eight kickoffs for a 13.38-yard average. He concluded his senior season with 334 all-purpose yards -- 158 receiving yards and 176 in return yards.

As a junior, Handford led his team with 26 receptions for 424 yards and four TD receptions. He accounted for 742 all-purpose yards as a junior -- 424 receiving, 289 yards in punt and kickoff returns, 15 yards in interception returns and 14 rushing yards. On defense, he was credited with 89 total tackles, 42 solos and 47 assists. He intercepted one pass for 15 yards. Handford returned 11 punts for a 12.36-yard average, and had seven kickoff returns for a 21.86 average.

He is the son of Kimberly and Megellan Handford. Coming out of high school, Handford was also recruited by Boise State, Fresno State and San Diego State.

<b>Levi Salmans</b>	OL	6-7	275	Fr.	Lafayette, Colo. (Monarch)
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Levi Salmans, like Ryan Handford, originally signed as a grayshirt with Wyoming in 2007, and didn't enroll at UW until January of 2008. Salmans will be available to practice with the Cowboys in the spring of 2008. Salmans was an outstanding lineman at Monarch High School in Lafayette, Colo. The Denver Post named him to its All-Colorado team for all classifications as a defensive lineman at the conclusion of the 2006 season. The Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News both named him First Team All-State Class 4A as an offensive lineman his senior season. He is projected as an offensive lineman for the Cowboys. Rivals.com ranked Salmans as the No. 21 overall recruit in the state of Colorado in its Colorado Top 25 Prospects as of January 2007. Salmans helped lead Monarch High to an 11-1 record and the Skyline Conference Championship. Monarch advanced to the second round of the 4A state playoffs before losing to Ralston Valley. He played for head coach Phil Bravo at Monarch High School.

The son of Leigh and David Salmans, he was also recruited by Colorado State, Iowa State, Kansas State and San Diego State.

## **Grayshirt Signees From February 2008 (Who Will Not Enroll at UW Until the Spring of 2009)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Josh Birmingham</b>	RB	5-9	177	Fr.	Luther, Okla. (Luther)

Josh Birmingham is another speedster that has been added to the 2008 Wyoming recruiting class. He has been timed at 4.37 seconds in the 40-yard dash. Birmingham is signing as a grayshirt, meaning he won't join the Cowboy Football program until January of 2009, and he won't go on scholarship until then.

Birmingham earned Honorable Mention All-State honors in Oklahoma in 2007, and was also named his District MVP. He carried the ball 211 times for 2,144 yards and 29 touchdowns his senior season at Luther High School. Birmingham ranked No. 2 in the entire state of Oklahoma in total rushing yards in 2007. He also averaged 10.2 yards per carry, and his 29 touchdowns ranked him No. 7 in the state in scoring. His Luther High School team ranked No. 6 in the state in rushing yards, averaging 316.3 yards per game. As a junior, he ranked No. 13 in the state in total rushing yards, with 1,675 yards on 158 carries, rushing for 19 touchdowns.

An outstanding all-around athlete, as a junior he won state championships in the 100 meters (10.67 seconds) and long jump (22'2") in Class A.

The son of Vanessa Birmingham, he was also recruited by Iowa State, Northern Illinois and Ohio.

<b>Nick Carlson</b>	OL	6-4	235	Fr.	Arlington Heights, Ill. (Prospect)
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Nick Carlson will give Wyoming another young prospect on the offensive line. Carlson is signing as a grayshirt, meaning he won't join the Cowboy Football program until January of 2009, and he won't go on scholarship until then. An athletic center, he earned First Team All-Mid Suburban League honors as a senior.

A multi-sport athlete at Prospect High School, he also played basketball and volleyball in high school. Carlson played for head coach Brent Pearlman at Prospect High School.

The son of Lauren and Craig Carlson. He was also recruited by Northern Illinois and Western Michigan.

<b>Josh Leonard</b>	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	Helena, Mont. (Helena)
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Josh Leonard will come to Wyoming from the neighboring state of Montana, where he played at Helena High School in Helena, Mont. Leonard is signing as a grayshirt, meaning he won't join the Cowboy Football program until January of 2009, and he won't go on scholarship until then. He earned All-Conference honors as both an offensive lineman and defensive end his junior and senior seasons. As a team captain, Leonard helped lead Helena High to the semifinals of both the 2006 and 2007 Class AA State Playoffs, the largest classification in the state in Montana. He played for head coach Tony Arnston at Helena High School.

Leonard was a three-sport standout in high school, competing in wrestling and track in addition to football. He qualified for the state tournament in wrestling on two occasions, including this, his senior season. He is one of the top seeds in heavyweight division entering the 2008 Montana state championships.

His guardians are Katie and Dustin Temple. He was also recruited by Montana and Montana State.

## **High-School Signees**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Adam Barry</b>	QB	6-1	210	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif. (Moorpark)

Adam Barry comes to Wyoming from Moorpark High School and Simi Valley, Calif. Barry was a three-year starter at quarterback in high school. Barry is the No. 37 ranked quarterback in the nation by Scouts, Inc. He completed 390 of 747 passes (52.2 percent) during his career for 5,572 yards and 47 touchdowns in 39 career starts. As a senior, Barry threw for 2,459 yards and 16 TDs, while completing 52.6 percent of his passes (185 of 352). He led Moorpark High to the first round of the California State Playoffs in the fall of 2007. He also threw for 1,553 yards and 16 touchdowns as a junior and 1,560 yards and 15 TDs his sophomore season.

His senior year, his high school team switched to the spread offense, so he has experience running different offensive schemes. He played for head coach Tim Lins at Moorpark High.

The son of Kristin and Mike Barry, he was also recruited by Arizona, Boise State, Montana, Nevada and Oregon State.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Eric Benson</b>	S	6-2	182	Fr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Corona Del Sol)

Eric Benson earned Honorable Mention All-Class 5A All-State honors his senior season at Corona Del Sol High School in Tempe, Ariz. Benson was an outstanding two-way player at wide receiver and defensive back. He also earned First Team Class 5A All-Region honors as a wide receiver and Second Team All-Region as a defensive back. Class 5A is the largest classification in the state of Arizona.

Benson helped lead Corona Del Sol High to a 9-3 record his senior season, including a nine-game winning streak. Corona Del Sol captured the Arizona Class 5A Central Region Championship, and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Class 5A State Playoffs before losing to eventual state champion Brophy Prep.

His senior season, he led his team in receptions (38 catches), receiving yards (618) and touchdowns (four). He averaged 51.5 yards receiving per game and 16.3 yards per reception. He also added one rushing touchdown on a 61-yard scamper. He accounted for 717 yards of all-purpose yardage, including 42 yards on four interceptions, which also led his squad. In addition to his four interceptions, he was credited with 10 pass breakups, three fumble recoveries and 50 total tackles (38 solos and 12 assists). Benson was also his team's punter. He punted 29 times on the season for a 34.4 yard average and a long of 50 yards. An outstanding hurdler and high jumper. Benson has run a career best 15.1 in the 110-meter high hurdles, and has cleared 6'4" in the high jump. He played for head coach Gary Venturo at Corona Del Sol.

The son of Andrea and Shawn Benson, he was also recruited by Fresno State, Northern Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

<b>Matt Birkeness</b>	LB	6-4	215	Fr.	Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)
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Matt Birkeness was named First Team All-State in Class 5A by the Rocky Mountain News as a tight end following his senior season of 2007. He also earned Honorable Mention All-State by the Denver Post. Birkeness was ranked by Scouts.com as the No. 89 best tight end prospect in the nation. He also earned All-State honors his junior season.

As a tight end and outside linebacker, he helped lead Columbine High School to the 2006 Class 5A State Championship. In 2007, Birkeness was part of a Columbine team that entered the state playoffs as the No. 1 seed, and advanced to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. He played for head coach Andy Lowry at Columbine High.

He will conclude his high school career in the Colorado High School Coaches' Association All-Star game to be played in Greeley, Colo., this summer.

The son of Stacy and Arne Birkeness, he was also recruited by Air Force, Boise State, Colorado, Colorado State and Utah.

<b>James Caraway</b>	WR/RB	5-11	170	Fr.	Topeka, Kan. (Highland Park)
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James Caraway will be one of the fastest members of the 2008 Wyoming recruiting class. Caraway has been timed at 4.38 seconds in the 40-yard dash. He earned All-City honors as a senior from the Topeka Capital-Journal. His position with the Cowboys has not yet been decided. He played multiple positions in high school at Topeka's Highland Park High. Caraway was the Scots leading rusher, played cornerback on defense and was his team's top return specialist. At the conclusion of his senior season, he played in the Scout.com Bowl, a national high school all-star game.

His senior season, he rushed for 838 yards on 108 carries, averaging 7.8 yards per carry. Caraway added 22 receptions for 200-plus yards. On defense, he was credited with 59 total tackles, and was an explosive kickoff returner. Played for head coach Tony Canacari.

The son of Annette and James Caraway Sr., he was also recruited by Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri

<b>Chance Crawford</b>	LB	6-3	215	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Fort Collins)
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Chance Crawford will come to Wyoming from Fort Collins, Colo., the home of archrival Colorado State University. He was named First Team All-State Class 5A by the Rocky Mountain News his senior season, and earned Honorable Mention All-State Class 5A by the Denver Post. As a junior in 2006, Crawford helped lead Fort Collins High to the Colorado 5A State Semifinals. He will conclude his high school football career in the Colorado High School Coaches' Association All-Star game to be played in Greeley, Colo., this summer. Crawford played for head coach Eric Rice at Fort Collins High School.

The son of Kathy and Paul Crawford, his mother is a 1987 graduate of the University of Wyoming. He was also recruited by Colorado State and Washington State.

**University of Wyoming**  
**2008 Football Signees**  
**Page Seven**  
**(Alphabetical, As of Feb. 6, 2008)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Jim Downs</b>	OL	6-7	265	Fr.	Glenrock, Wyo. (Glenrock)

Jim Downs was the top college prospect from the state of Wyoming in 2007, and he will remain in his home state to play football for the University of Wyoming. He earned Casper Star-Tribune Super 25 honors in 2007, and was also an All-State selection by the Wyoming Coaches' Association as an offensive lineman as a senior after leading Glenrock High School to the 3A State Championship game this past fall. Glenrock finished with a record of 9-2 in 2007. As a junior, Downs was named Honorable Mention All-State and was a First Team All-Conference performer. He is a multi-sport star at Glenrock and is on pace to earn 11 letter awards. Aside from football, he has been a three-year starter in basketball and has also excelled in track and field. On the hardwood, he was a First Team All-Conference selection as a junior and is currently completing his senior season. In track and field, he placed fifth in the discus throw in Wyoming last spring with a distance of 132'8".

Downs' high school football coach was Ray Kumpula. He is the son of Sally and Brooke Downs. He was also recruited by Colorado State.

<b>Ben Durbin</b>	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Gilbert, Iowa (Gilbert)
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Ben Durbin, one of the top linebackers in the state of Iowa, brings a very impressive resume to the University of Wyoming football program. He has been named First Team All-District three times, First Team All-State twice and was also selected as a District MVP. He is currently ranked as the best linebacker and the ninth best overall prospect out of the state of Iowa by Rivals.com. He is also the 81st ranked inside linebacker in the nation by Scouts, Inc. His senior season, he recorded 130 tackles, 20 tackles for loss and nine sacks. As a junior, he recorded 107 tackles, 19 of which were for a loss. He had seven sacks and intercepted two passes. Besides playing linebacker on defense, he contributed to the offense as a running back, tight end and offensive lineman. Durbin played for head coach Scott Auderer at Gilbert High School.

Durbin is a four sport standout as he runs the 400 and 800-meters track, is an All-District soccer goalie and a two-time state qualifying wrestler. As a junior, he compiled a 35-3 record in the 205 pound weight class. Durbin is the son of Jinjer and Gregg. He was also recruited by Iowa, Iowa State and Kansas State.

<b>Tashaun Gipson</b>	CB	6-0	180	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (Kimball)
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Tashaun Gipson has decided to keep Wyoming football a part of the family as he will join his older brother Marcel, who will be a sophomore next fall, at UW.

Gipson is a three-sport star at Kimball High School in Dallas, playing football and basketball while also running track. He had an outstanding career and especially an outstanding senior year on the gridiron. This past fall, he was named the Most Valuable Player of the 4A District 14 Dallas City League and also earned First Team All-District honors both as a cornerback and as a returner. On defense, Gipson made 35 tackles, broke up nine passes and recovered two fumbles. On offense and special teams, he accumulated more than 1,400 all-purpose yards and scored 14 touchdowns while serving as an offensive team captain. During his career, he played quarterback, wide receiver, free safety and returned punts and kicks.

Gipson was coached in high school by Darrell Jordan. He was also recruited by Baylor, Louisville, Fresno State and Idaho. He is the son of Kimberly and Mike Gipson.

<b>David James</b>	CB	5-11	175	Fr.	Edmond, Okla. (Edmond Memorial)
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David James comes to Laramie by way of Edmond Memorial High School in Edmond, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City. James excelled in all three facets of the game, playing free safety on defensive, wide receiver on offense and returning punts and kicks. His senior season, he recorded 44 tackles and had an interception on the defensive side of the ball. On offense, he caught 29 passes for 432 yards (14.9 yards per catch) and caught five touchdown passes. He also rushed for 183 yards and a touchdown and had 245 return yards.

James has exceptional speed and boasts a 100-meter time of 10.65. He was also recruited by Iowa State, Tulsa, Rice and the Citadel. He played high school football for head coach Mark Walker. He is the son of Barbara and David James.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Dylan Kildahl</b>	DE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ault, Colo. (Highland)

After a very successful high school career at Highland High School in Ault, Colo., Dylan Kildahl graduated high school early and is currently enrolled and on scholarship at UW. He was a standout on both offense and defense at Highland High School. He was selected as a 1A First Team All-State defensive lineman by both the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post. He also earned First Team All-Conference and All-Weld County honors throughout high school. As a senior, he had 86 tackles and nine sacks on defense and had five catches for 76 yards as a tight end. He led Highland to a 7-4 record and to the second round of the Colorado 1A State Playoffs in 2007. This marked Highland's first trip to the state playoffs in 32 years. His junior season, he rushed for 239 yards and a pair of touchdowns while averaging 6.1 yards per carry. Defensively, he had 30 tackles and four quarterback sacks. As a sophomore, he rushed for 900 yards despite splitting carries with two other backs. Kildahl is the first Highland football player to ever earn a scholarship to a Division I program.

Kildahl has also excelled in track and field as both a thrower and sprinter. He has a personal best shot put throw of 46-feet and a best 100-meters time of 11.06. He was also recruited by Kansas State, Colorado State and Iowa. His high school football coach was Todd Matkin. He is the son of Lori and Don.

<b>Kyle Magnuson</b>	OL	6-6	305	Fr.	Elkhart, Ind. (Concord)
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Kyle Magnuson helped lead Concord High School to the Indiana 4A State Championship game his junior season. They finished with a record of 14-1, losing only the state championship game. That year, he was named to the Junior All-State team by the state's coaches and to the Tremendous 26 (the top 26 prep players in Indiana) prior to his senior year. He was also selected as a member of the Bloomington Herald-Times Top 33, which is awarded to the top 33 players in the state. He was featured on the cover of the Indiana Football Digest's preseason publication. As a senior in 2007, he again led Concord to the state playoffs where they won two games and fell just short of a second straight final four appearance with an 8-4 record. He was a 4A All-State and All-Conference selection. He played on both the offensive and defensive line in high school but is projected to play on the offensive side at UW. His high school coach was Tim Dawson.

He was also recruited by Bowling Green, Toledo, Marshall, Indiana, Illinois, Purdue, Penn State, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan and Cincinnati. He is the son of Kim and Tom.

<b>Austin McCoy</b>	K/P	6-3	190	Fr.	Winter Haven, Fla. (Winter Haven)
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McCoy is a very talented kicker and punter who will contribute to both positions as a Cowboy. He was the leading punter in his county as a junior and senior, carrying respective averages of 41.6 and 43.7 yards per punt. As a senior, he also excelled as a place kicker and converted five of six field goals and 35/36 PATs. He earned All-County honors as both a punter and place kicker. He was also the Winter Haven High School special teams MVP as both a junior and senior. His high school coach was Charlie Tate.

McCoy is also a very accomplished race car driver and has done many notable things in the sport. In 2006, he was an Eastern Regional Champion in shifter cart racing and also won the 2006 USA Road America shifter cart national championship race. He has raced in many prestigious raceways including Daytona, Seabring and Homestead-Miami Raceway.

McCoy is the son of Dawn and Eric. He was also recruited by Florida Atlantic and Western Kentucky.

<b>Justin Morgan</b>	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Mt. Carmel)
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Justin Morgan joins Mt. Carmel High School teammates Donate Morgan, Mark Oliver and Keith Lewis at the University of Wyoming. With Oliver and Lewis, Morgan helped lead Mt. Carmel to the Illinois Class 8A State Championship game in 2006, Morgan's junior season.

Justin Morgan was forced to miss his entire senior season after breaking his collar bone during fall camp. As a leader from the sidelines, he watched Mt. Carmel advance to semifinal game of the Illinois State Playoffs. Being forced to the sidelines, Morgan was able to concentrate on improving in the weight room and has gained a great deal of size and strength over the past months.

Morgan's high school coach was Frank Lenti. His parents are Lynne Madden and Michael Morgan. He was recruited by Northern Illinois and Western Michigan.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b>Corey Orth</b>	DL	6-5	240	Fr.	Buena Vista, Colo. (Buena Vista)

Corey Orth graduated from high school early and is currently enrolled in classes and on scholarship at the University of Wyoming. Following his senior year, he was selected as a 2A All-State defensive lineman by both the [Rocky Mountain News](#) and [Denver Post](#). As a junior, he was an Honorable Mention All-State selection, earned All-Conference accolades and was selected as his conference's defensive MVP. He recorded 100 tackles, 12 sacks and three fumble recoveries as a junior. As a senior, he made 140 tackles, 121 of which were solo tackles. He also had 16 sacks, recovered nine fumbles and also blocked six field goals and four punts. He was chosen to participate in the 2008 Colorado Coaches All-State Game which will be held this summer in Greeley, Colo. His high school coach is Robert Marken.

He is the son of Tammy and Ken Orth. He was also recruited by Colorado, Colorado State and Kansas State.

<b>Brandon Ribble</b>	H-Back	6-5	210	Fr.	Arvada, Colo. (Ralston Valley)
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Brandon Ribble was selected as the First Team All-Colorado tight end by the [Rocky Mountain News](#) following his senior season. He was also named 4A First Team All-State by both the [Rocky Mountain News](#) and [Denver Post](#). Standing 6-5 and weighing 210 pounds, Ribble was clocked at 4.55 seconds in the 40-yard dash. As a senior at Ralston Valley High School, he caught 39 passes for 895 yards (22.95 yards per catch) and scored 14 touchdowns. Impressively, he did not drop a pass that touched his hands during his senior year. Ralston Valley rattled off 11 consecutive wins in 2007 before falling in the second round of the 4A State Playoffs. Ribble was selected to play in the 2008 Colorado Coaches All-State Game which will be held this summer in Greeley, Colo.

Ribble is also an exceptional track athlete and basketball player. In track, he holds a personal best time of 14.8 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles and placed third at the Colorado State Championships in the event his junior year. He also helped lead Ralston Valley to a second place finish at the 2007 Colorado State Basketball Championships.

Ribble was also recruited by Colorado State, Colorado and Northern Colorado. His high school football coach is Matt Loyd. He is the son of Gay and Glenn Ribble.

<b>Trevor Shaw</b>	DE	6-4	230	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Poudre)
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Trevor Shaw is a very talented football and basketball player who will continue his football career with the Cowboys. Following his senior season, he was selected as a 4A Second Team All-State linebacker by the [Rocky Mountain News](#). He was also selected as a First Team Front Range League Linebacker by the [Denver Post](#). Last fall, he recorded 81 tackles, had nine sacks and recovered a fumble. He also contributed offensively, catching two passes for 26 yards. He was an All-Conference selection following both his junior and senior seasons. Shaw was chosen to participate in the 2008 Colorado Coaches All-State Game which will be held this summer in Greeley, Colo.

On the hardwood, Shaw is currently enjoying a great senior season. Poudre is currently ranked seventh in Colorado Class 5A with a 14-2 overall record. Shaw is ranked 37th in the state in rebounding at 8.5 rebounds per game. He recorded a pair of double-doubles this January including 24 points, 17 rebounds and four steals against Rocky Mountain High School on Jan. 15 and 17 points, 11 rebounds and four steals against Legacy on Jan. 18.

His high school football coach is Rich Yonker. He was born in Laramie, Wyo. but moved to Fort Collins as a youth. He is the son of Rachel Gish and Neal Shaw. Shaw was also recruited by Colorado State and Washington State.

<b>Nick Williams</b>	OL	6-5	265	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Highlands Ranch)
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Nick Williams enjoyed an outstanding career on both the offensive and defensive line, which was highlighted by being named to the All-Colorado football team, as an offensive lineman, for all-classifications by both [The Denver Post](#) and [Rocky Mountain News](#). He was also ranked as the 15th best prospect out of the state of Colorado by [Rivals.com](#). He attended Highlands Ranch High School as a freshman, then moved to Springfield, Mo. where he was a part-time starter at tight end and defensive end as a sophomore at Glendale High School. He then returned to Highlands Ranch for his final two years of high school. As a senior, he was named 5A First Team All-State by [The Denver Post](#) and [Rocky Mountain News](#) in addition to his All-Colorado honors. He was also named All-Continental League as both a junior and senior. His senior year, he led Highlands Ranch to the second round of the Colorado 5A State Playoffs and to a final record of 8-3. He is ranked as the 102nd best offensive tackle in the nation by [Scouts, Inc.](#) He was chosen to participate in the 2008 Colorado Coaches All-State Game which will be held this summer in Greeley, Colo. He also played basketball and rugby in high school. His high school coach is Darrel Gorman.

Williams joins his former high school teammate Eric Mitchell who is a redshirt freshman for the Cowboys. He is the son of Susan Honore and Todd Williams. He was also recruited by Colorado State, Kansas, Arizona State and Idaho.

University of Wyoming Cowboys  
 2008 Football Signings  
 Broken Down By State  
 (As of Feb. 6, 2008)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
<b><u>Arizona (2)</u></b>					
Eric Benson	S	6-2	182	Fr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Corona Del Sol)
Dax Crum	QB	6-4	210	So.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Mesa CC, Ariz.)
<b><u>California (3)</u></b>					
Orlando Arnold	TE	6-4	255	Jr.	Richmond, Calif. (Contra Costa CC, Calif.)
Adam Barry	QB	6-1	210	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif. (Moorpark)
Ryan Handford* #	CB	5-9	175	Fr.	Corona, Calif. (Santiago)
<b><u>Colorado (8)</u></b>					
Matt Birkeness	LB	6-4	215	Fr.	Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)
Chance Crawford	LB	6-3	215	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Fort Collins)
Dylan Kildahl*	DE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ault, Colo. (Highland)
Corey Orth*	DL	6-5	240	Fr.	Buena Vista, Colo. (Buena Vista)
Brandon Ribble	H-Back	6-5	210	Fr.	Arvada, Colo. (Ralston Valley)
Levi Salmans* #	OL	6-7	275	Fr.	Lafayette, Colo. (Monarch)
Trevor Shaw	DE	6-4	230	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Poudre)
Nick Williams	OL	6-5	265	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Highlands Ranch)
<b><u>Florida (1)</u></b>					
Austin McCoy	P/K	6-3	190	Fr.	Winter Haven, Fla. (Winter Haven)
<b><u>Illinois (3)</u></b>					
Nick Carlson%	OL	6-4	235	Fr.	Arlington Heights, Ill. (Prospect)
Donate Morgan	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. (St. Joseph's College, Ind.)
Justin Morgan	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Mt. Carmel)
<b><u>Indiana (1)</u></b>					
Kyle Magnuson	OL	6-6	305	Fr.	Elkhart, Ind. (Concord)
<b><u>Iowa (1)</u></b>					
Ben Durbin	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Gilbert, Iowa (Gilbert)
<b><u>Kansas (1)</u></b>					
James Caraway	WR/RB	5-11	170	Fr.	Topeka, Kan. (Highland Park)
<b><u>Montana (1)</u></b>					
Josh Leonard%	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	Helena, Mont. (Helena)
<b><u>Oklahoma (2)</u></b>					
Josh Birmingham%	RB	5-9	177	Fr.	Luther, Okla. (Luther)
David James	CB	5-11	175	Fr.	Edmond, Okla. (Edmond Memorial)
<b><u>Texas (1)</u></b>					
Tashaun Gipson	CB	6-0	180	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (Kimball)
<b><u>Wyoming (1)</u></b>					
Jim Downs	OL	6-7	265	Fr.	Glenrock, Wyo. (Glenrock)

\*Enrolled at the University of Wyoming and on scholarship starting January of 2008.

#Grayshirts who went on scholarship in January of 2008. These grayshirts were originally signed in 2007, but count toward the 2008 recruiting class total.

%First-time grayshirt signees, who won't enroll nor go on scholarship until January of 2009. These grayshirts don't count toward the 2008 recruiting class total.

**University of Wyoming  
2008 Football Signees  
Page Eleven  
(As of Feb. 6, 2008)**

**University of Wyoming Cowboys  
2008 Football Signings  
Broken Down By Position  
(As of Feb. 6, 2008)**

**Offense (14)**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Ht.</u></b>	<b><u>Wt.</u></b>	<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown (Last School)</u></b>
<b><u>Quarterbacks (2)</u></b>					
Adam Barry	QB	6-1	210	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif. (Moorpark)
Dax Crum	QB	6-4	210	So.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Mesa CC, Ariz.)
<b><u>Running Backs (1)</u></b>					
Josh Birmingham%	RB	5-9	177	Fr.	Luther, Okla. (Luther)
<b><u>Wide Receivers (3)</u></b>					
James Caraway	WR/RB	5-11	170	Fr.	Topeka, Kan. (Highland Park)
Donate Morgan	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. (St. Joseph's College, Ind.)
Justin Morgan	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Mt. Carmel)
<b><u>Tight Ends/H-Backs (2)</u></b>					
Orlando Arnold	TE	6-4	255	Jr.	Richmond, Calif. (Contra Costa CC, Calif.)
Brandon Ribble	H-Back	6-5	210	Fr.	Arvada, Colo. (Ralston Valley)
<b><u>Offensive Line (6)</u></b>					
Nick Carlson%	OL	6-4	235	Fr.	Arlington Heights, Ill. (Prospect)
Jim Downs	OL	6-7	265	Fr.	Glenrock, Wyo. (Glenrock)
Josh Leonard%	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	Helena, Mont. (Helena)
Kyle Magnuson	OL	6-6	305	Fr.	Elkhart, Ind. (Concord)
Levi Salmans* #	OL	6-7	275	Fr.	Lafayette, Colo. (Monarch)
Nick Williams	OL	6-5	265	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Highlands Ranch)

**Defense (10)**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Ht.</u></b>	<b><u>Wt.</u></b>	<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown (Last School)</u></b>
<b><u>Defensive Line (3)</u></b>					
Dylan Kildahl*	DE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ault, Colo. (Highland)
Corey Orth*	DL	6-5	240	Fr.	Buena Vista, Colo. (Buena Vista)
Trevor Shaw	DE	6-4	230	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Poudre)
<b><u>Linebackers (3)</u></b>					
Matt Birkeness	LB	6-4	215	Fr.	Littleton, Colo. (Columbine)
Chance Crawford	LB	6-3	215	Fr.	Fort Collins, Colo. (Fort Collins)
Ben Durbin	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Gilbert, Iowa (Gilbert)
<b><u>Secondary (4)</u></b>					
Eric Benson	S	6-2	182	Fr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Corona Del Sol)
Tashaun Gipson	CB	6-0	180	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (Kimball)
Ryan Handford* #	CB	5-9	175	Fr.	Corona, Calif. (Santiago)
David James	CB	5-11	175	Fr.	Edmond, Okla. (Edmond Memorial)

**Place-kickers and Punters (1)**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Pos.</u></b>	<b><u>Ht.</u></b>	<b><u>Wt.</u></b>	<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown (Last School)</u></b>
Austin McCoy	P/K	6-3	190	Fr.	Winter Haven, Fla. (Winter Haven)

\*Enrolled at the University of Wyoming and on scholarship starting January of 2008.

#Grayshirts who went on scholarship in January of 2008. These grayshirts were originally signed in 2007, but count toward the 2008 recruiting class total.

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