

# CENTRAL WASHINGTON FOOTBALL ANNOUNCES RECORD SIGNING CLASS

## *Wildcats Sign 36 High School Seniors to National Letters of Intent*

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ELLENSBURG (Feb. 4) -- The Central Washington University football program has signed a school-record 36 high school seniors to National Letters of Intent, second-year head coach **Blaine Bennett** announced Wednesday.

Among the Wildcats' 36 newcomers are 14 *Seattle Times* "White Chip" prospects, who are deemed to be among the top 100 high school football prospects in the state of Washington.

The signing class of 36 surpasses Central's signing-day record class of 19 from 2008. The class encompasses virtually every corner of the state, with the highest concentration of recruits coming from the Seattle and Tacoma metropolitan areas. All 36 played their high school football in the state of Washington, and a total of 13 Washington counties are represented in the Wildcats' recruiting class.

From a positional standpoint, Bennett and his coaching staff signed six each at wide receiver, defensive back, linebacker, and offensive line. The Wildcats also inked three defensive linemen, three running backs, two tight ends, and two long snappers.

"(Assistant coach) **Peter Sirmon** did an excellent job recruiting his area," Bennett said, "and we were able to sign seven quality student-athletes from the east side of the state."

Five of the Wildcats' signees earned first-team all-state honors from their respective classifications by the *Associated Press*. **Jordan Durbin** of Prosser was a first-team Class 2A all-state quarterback for the state runner-up Mustangs. **Grant Cisneros** of Sumner and **Mike Nelson** of Mount Si were both Class 3A all-state offensive linemen, **Riley Wall** of Capital was a first-team Class 3A all-state defensive back, and **Blair Collins** of Royal was a first-team all-state selection at the Class 1A level on both offense (wide receiver) and defense (defensive back).

"We feel that the offensive line is the strongest position group of our recruiting class," Bennett explained. "We have expectations for several of them to come in and play right away, including Grant Cisneros and **Justin Taylor** (of Hoquiam). We are very excited to be able to sign that duo, plus two others (linebacker **Tony Heard** of Edmonds-Woodway and tight end **Sean Stuby** of Issaquah), all of whom were being offered full-ride scholarships by Big Sky schools."

In addition to the talented group of football players signed by the Wildcats on Wednesday, Bennett was very impressed by the academic credentials of his recruiting class.

"Seven of our signees will also receive academic scholarship money in addition to their football financial aid," Bennett said, "which reiterates our true focus on recruiting the student-athlete."

Central Washington, which is the only NCAA Division II institution in the state of Washington to sponsor football, finished the 2008 season with a 10-2 overall record and completed a perfect Great Northwest Athletic Conference season. The Wildcats also made their second consecutive NCAA Division II playoff appearance, falling to West Texas A&M in the first round.

*Below is a list of the 36 high school seniors who signed National Letters of Intent to play football at Central Washington University beginning this fall. Additional signees may be announced in the coming days as additional letters of intent are completed and received.*

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POS</b>	<b>HT</b>	<b>WT</b>	<b>HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)</b>
Jerod Baker	DL	6-3	232	Arlington, WA (Arlington HS)
Billy Brice	WR	6-3	174	Moses Lake, WA (Moses Lake HS)
A.J. Carroll*	LB	6-3	200	Lynnwood, WA (Meadowdale HS)
D'Mario Carter*	LB	5-11	199	Seattle, WA (John F. Kennedy HS)
Grant Cisneros*	OL	6-4	272	Sumner, WA (Sumner HS)
Blair Collins	WR	5-10	150	Royal City, WA (Royal HS)
Jordan Crim*	DB	6-0	165	Ferndale, WA (Ferndale HS)
Jordan Durbin	QB	5-10	180	Prosser, WA (Prosser HS)
Oscar Eason	RB/DB	5-10	179	Kent, WA (Mount Tahoma HS)
Jordan Gaut*	WR	6-1	185	Yakima, WA (Eisenhower HS)
Tony Heard*	LB	5-10	220	Edmonds, WA (Edmonds-Woodway HS)
Donnie Johnson*	DL	6-2	235	Olympia, WA (Capital HS)
Devin Jones	WR	6-2	170	Kennewick, WA (Southridge HS)
Vaughn Kapiko*	DB	6-0	200	Spokane, WA (Lewis & Clark HS)
Jeff King	OL	6-3	290	Tacoma, WA (Bellarmine Prep)
Turner Lee*	LB	6-2	224	Sammamish, WA (Eastlake HS)
J.D. Melton	WR	6-2	206	Lake Forest Park, WA (Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy HS)
Mike Nelson*	OL	6-3	240	Carnation, WA (Mount Si HS)
J.J. Quinlan*	LB	6-0	225	Everett, WA (Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy HS)
Tyson Riley	DB	6-0	185	Snoqualmie, WA (Mount Si HS)
Kevin Rowe	LS	6-3	220	Olympia, WA (Olympia HS)
Courtney Sanders*	DL	6-0	255	Newcastle, WA (Hazen HS)
Luke Schindele	ATH	6-1	196	Tacoma, WA (Bellarmine Prep)
Stetson Shearer*	DB	6-1	184	Burlington, WA (Burlington-Edison HS)
Scott Shelton	OL	6-6	242	Longview, WA (R.A. Long HS)
Ishmael Stinson	RB	5-10	190	Steilacoom, WA (Charles Wright Academy)
Sean Stuby	TE	6-3	219	Issaquah, WA (Issaquah HS)
John Taufua	RB	5-8	175	Lakewood, WA (Lakes HS)
Josh Taylor	WR	5-8	175	Lacey, WA (Timberline HS)
Justin Taylor	OL	6-4	247	Hoquiam, WA (Hoquiam HS)
Ryan Taylor	OL	6-4	275	Anacortes, WA (Anacortes HS)
Evan Tidball	LS	6-4	197	Poulsbo, WA (North Kitsap HS)
Kyle Wagar	DB	6-0	190	Richland, WA (Hanford HS)
Riley Wall*	RB	5-8	185	Olympia, WA (Capital HS)
Leonard Wolfork	LB	5-9	245	Clyde Hill, WA (Bellevue HS)
Anthony Wright	DB	5-11	140	Lakewood, WA (Lakes HS)

\* Seattle Times "White Chip" prospect

**Breakdown by position:** QB – 1, RB – 3, WR – 6, ATH – 1, TE – 1, OL – 6, LS – 2, DB – 6, DL – 3, LB – 6, RB/DB – 1

**Breakdown by county:** Benton – 3, Cowlitz – 1, Grant – 2, Grays Harbor – 1, King – 9, Kitsap – 1, Pierce – 6, Skagit – 2, Snohomish – 4, Spokane – 1, Thurston – 4, Whatcom – 1, Yakima – 1

**Breakdown by WIAA classification:** 4A – 12, 3A – 15, 2A – 7, 1A – 2