

## CWU FOOTBALL ANNOUNCES ADDITION OF 28 STUDENT-ATHLETES TO WILDCAT PROGRAM

### *Entire 2012 Signing Class Comprised of Washington Prep Standouts, Includes Five Quarterbacks*

ELLENSBURG, Wash. (Feb. 1) -- A total of 28 high school seniors, all from the state of Washington, have signed National Letters of Intent to join the football program at Central Washington University, fifth-year head coach **Blaine Bennett** announced on Wednesday.

The signing class represents a geographically-diverse group from the Evergreen State, with players coming from up and down the I-5 corridor as well as eastern Washington. The school with greatest representation in the signing class is Lake Stevens High School, which had four Vikings -- three on the offensive side of the ball -- while Kentlake High School (Kent, Wash.), Lakes High School (Lakewood, Wash.), and Union High School (Camas, Wash.) had two signees each.

"We are very excited to get everybody we wanted from the state of Washington," Bennett said. "Being able to sign players from the state of Washington was a goal for us, and we were able to accomplish that goal by signing a very talented class of 28 in-state players."

From a positional standpoint, Central Washington's greatest pursuit was for quarterbacks and wide receivers in the class of 2012. Nearly half of the Wildcats' 28 signees were recruited to play either the quarterback or wide receiver position, as CWU signed five quarterbacks and nine wide receivers to National Letters of Intent.

"We felt that the quarterback position was the highest need for us," Bennett added, "especially since we signed just one quarterback last year. The dynamic of offense has changed over the past few years and we needed to bring in some athletic players at the quarterback position who can run and throw well, and I think we did that.

"This may be the fastest group we have signed (since 2008)," Bennett continued. "We have players that have great potential for the future, including several playmakers in our group, but we were able to address needs we had at every position."

The Wildcats' most accomplished signee, at least according to the *Seattle Times'* list of top 100 prep players in the state of Washington, was tight end **David Fontenette** of Bethel High School in Spanaway. Fontenette was a "Red Chip" prospect, making him one of the top 27 players in Washington according to the *Times*. The 6-foot-2, 228-pounder was a first-team Class 4A special teams performer by the *Associated Press*.

Six other signees earned White Chip designation from the *Times*. Included among those White Chips was running back **Jordan Todd** of Bellevue's Interlake High School, who earned Class 2A Player of the Year and first-team all-state honors from the *Associated Press* after leading the state of Washington with 2,681 rushing yards for the Saints.

Two of the White Chip prospects -- quarterback **Jake Nelson** and wide receiver **Christian Gasca** -- represented Lake Stevens. Nelson threw for 2,988 yards and 31 touchdowns with just 10 interceptions, completing 70.6 percent of his passes, while Gasca ranked among the top Class 4A receivers with 1,308 yards on 80 grabs with 19 touchdowns. Nelson also ran for 746 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2011. Also making the move from Lake Stevens to CWU were honorable mention all-state linebacker **Korey Young** and second-team all-WesCo 4A North performer **Brady Pahukoa**.

Two of the White Chip selections are quarterbacks, as Nelson and **Drew Austin** of Graham-Kapowsin High School both earned that distinction. Also signing onto the Wildcats as signal-callers were **Trevon Myhre** of Nooksack Valley High School in Everson, Wash., **Tyler Stumph** of Stadium High School in Tacoma, Wash., and **Kaben Humphrey-Butler** of Union High School in Camas, Wash.

The eight wide receivers to join the Wildcats are Gasca, Pahukoa, plus first-team all-conference standouts **Andrew Dodd** (Jackson High School in Mill Creek, Wash.), **Josiah Miller** (Oak Harbor High School), **Joshua Richards** (Southridge High School in Kennewick, Wash.), **James Segura-Mitchell** (Timberline High School in Lacey, Wash.), **Jesse Zalk** (Prairie High School in Brush Prairie, Wash.), and second-team all-Columbia Basin Big Nine honoree **Maurice Handcox** from Walla Walla, Wash.

The two players representing Lakes High School in the signing class were both White Chip prospects. Linebacker **Charles Hall** and running back **Levonte Littlejohn** were both honorable mention Class 3A all-state honorees from the *Associated*

Press while earning first-team all-South Puget Sound League 3A accolades at their respective positions.

Staying on the east side of the state to continue their football careers were Handcox and Richards, defensive lineman **Matt Miller** from Gonzaga Prep in Spokane, and offensive lineman **Cole Vanderbilt** from Connell High School.

Central Washington has won three of the past four Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships and has posted a 34-12 overall record during Bennett's four previous seasons in Ellensburg. The 2012 Wildcats are expected to open their game schedule at Texas A&M University-Kingsville on Sept. 1.

Below is a list of Central Washington University's 2012 football recruiting class.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POS</b>	<b>HT, WT</b>	<b>HOMETOWN</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL (H.S. COACH)</b>
Ryan Archibald	DB	6-1, 180	Kent, Wash.	Kentlake (Mike Shepard)
Drew Austin	QB	6-2, 180	Tacoma, Wash.	Graham-Kapowsin (Eric Kurle)
Andrew Dodd	WR	6-4, 211	Mill Creek, Wash.	Henry M. Jackson (Joel Vincent)
David Fontenette	TE	6-2, 228	Spanaway, Wash.	Bethel (Gavin Kralik)
Christian Gasca	WR	5-10, 180	Lake Stevens, Wash.	Lake Stevens (Tom Tri)
Charles Hall	LB	5-8, 195	Lakewood, Wash.	Lakes (Dave Miller)
Maurice Handcox	WR	5-10, 158	Walla Walla, Wash.	Walla Walla (Eric Hisaw)
Kaden Humphrey-Butler	QB	6-3, 176	Vancouver, Wash.	Union (Cale Piland)
Hayden Klein	OL	6-4, 273	Olympia, Wash.	Tumwater (Sid Otton)
Levonte Littlejohn	RB	5-10, 181	Lakewood, Wash.	Lakes (Dave Miller)
Tanner Lucas	LB	6-0, 215	Kent, Wash.	Kentlake (Mike Shepard)
Maxwell McIntosh	DB	6-0, 198	Puyallup, Wash.	Gov. John R. Rogers (Gene Bowen)
Josiah Miller	WR	5-8, 147	Oak Harbor, Wash.	Oak Harbor (Jay Turner)
Matt Miller	DL	6-3, 231	Spokane, Wash.	Gonzaga Prep (David McKenna)
Trevon Myhre	QB	6-1, 217	Everson, Wash.	Nooksack Valley (Robb Myhre)
Jake Nelson	QB	6-1, 192	Lake Stevens, Wash.	Lake Stevens (Tom Tri)
Matt Nilsson	TE	6-6, 235	Kirkland, Wash.	Juanita (Shaun Tarantola)
Brady Pahukoa	WR	6-4, 203	Lake Stevens, Wash.	Lake Stevens (Tom Tri)
Gabe Rego	LB	6-1, 200	Battle Ground, Wash.	Union (Cale Piland)
Joshua Richards	WR	5-11, 160	Kennewick, Wash.	Southridge (Tony Reiboldt)
James Segura-Mitchell	WR	5-10, 170	Lacey, Wash.	Timberline (Nick Mullen)
Tyler Stumph	QB	6-3, 210	Tacoma, Wash.	Stadium (Jess Nelson)
Jordan Todd	RB	5-6, 176	Bellevue, Wash.	Interlake (Jason Rimkus)
Cole Vanderbilt	OL	6-2, 283	Connell, Wash.	Connell (Wayne Riner)
Barrett Weston	DL	6-4, 240	Renton, Wash.	Tahoma (Tony Davis)
Blake Williams-Miller	DB	6-0, 194	Everett, Wash.	Everett (Will Soren)
Korey Young	LB	5-11, 210	Lake Stevens, Wash.	Lake Stevens (Tom Tri)
Jesse Zalk	WR	5-7, 155	Battle Ground, Wash.	Prairie (Terry Hyde)

*NOTE: Statistics listed are courtesy of [www.statewidestats.com](http://www.statewidestats.com) (Todd) or [www.maxpreps.com](http://www.maxpreps.com) (Nelson and Gasca), and may be incomplete.*