

# YOUNGSTOWN STATE

## 2009 PENGUINS FOOTBALL

### National Letter-of-Intent Signees

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School (Previous)
Theo Barnes	DL	6-3	240	Akron, Ohio	Archbishop Hoban
Jelani Berassa	WR	6-3	180	Miami, Fla.	Miami Killian
Jamaine Cook	TB	5-9	195	Cleveland, Ohio	Midpark
Sylvestry Gibbs	LB	6-0	190	Austintown, Ohio	Austintown Fitch
Fred Herdman	DL	6-4	250	Scottsdale, Ariz.	Pinnacle
Kurt Hess	QB	6-3	220	Dayton, Ohio	Chaminade-Julienne
Taylor Hill^	DE	6-2	205	Youngstown, Ohio	Cardinal Mooney (Michigan)
Gannon Hulea	ATH	6-2	200	Poland, Ohio	Poland
Nick Liste	PK/P	5-11	180	Niles, Ohio	Niles McKinley
Torrian Pace	TB	5-10	220	Chantilly, Va.	Chantilly
Conner Seeman	TE	6-4	250	Copley, Ohio	Copley
Carson Sharbaugh	TE	6-5	230	New Wilmington, Pa.	New Wilmington
Kyle Stadelmyer	LB	6-2	210	Girard, Ohio	Girard
Rob Stupar	FB	6-0	235	State College, Pa.	State College
Jerome Swinton	CB	5-9	160	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Seabreeze (Milford Academy)
Averick Walker^	CB	5-10	180	Lithonia, Ga.	Redan (Fork Union)
Brandon White	OL	6-5	310	Cincinnati, Ohio	Colerain

^Enrolled at YSU in January

### The Class Breakdown

#### By State

**TOTAL: 17 | Ohio (10)** • Theo Barnes (Akron), Jamaine Cook (Brook Park), Sylvestry Gibbs (Austintown), Kurt Hess (Dayton), Taylor Hill (Youngstown), Gannon Hulea (Poland), Nick Liste (Niles), Conner Seeman (Copley), Kyle Stadelmyer (Girard), Brandon White (Cincinnati). **Pennsylvania (2)** • Carson Sharbaugh (New Wilmington), Rob Stupar (State College). **Florida (2)** • Jelani Berassa, Jerome Swinton. **Arizona (1)** • Fred Herdman (Scottsdale). **Virginia (1)** • Torrian Pace (Chantilly). **Georgia (1)** • Averick Walker (Lithonia).

#### By Position

**TOTAL: 17 | Offense (8)** • *Offensive Line (1):* Brandon White. *Tailback (2):* Jamaine Cook, Torrian Pace. *Fullback (1):* Rob Stupar. *Tight End (2):* Conner Seeman, Carson Sharbaugh. *Quarterback (1):* Kurt Hess. *Wide Receiver (1):* Jelani Barnes. **Defense (7)** • *Defensive Line (3):* Theo Barnes, Fred Herdman, Taylor Hill. *Linebacker (2):* Sylvestry Gibbs, Kyle Stadelmyer. *Defensive Back (2):* Jerome Swinton, Averick Walker. **Specialist (1):** *Punter/Placekicker (1):* Nick Liste. **Athlete (1):** Gannon Hulea.

### THEO BARNES

6-3 • 240 | DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

AKRON, OHIO | ARCHBISHOP HOBAN

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Starting defensive lineman for Hoban...Hoban went 9-5 senior year, reaching Division II semifinals...lost to eventual state champion Sylvania Southview in semifinals...coach was Ralph Orsini...also played basketball...received honorable-mention NCL Blue Division honors...in 2008, Hoban was 20-4 and set a school mark with an 11-game winning streak...was conference and district champ...basketball coach was T.K. Griffith.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Leslie and Ted Barnes...born Nov. 25, 1990...academic interest is sociology.

### JELANI BERASSA

6-3 • 180 | WIDE RECEIVER

MIAMI, FLA. | MIAMI KILLIAN

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Honorable-mention All-Dade County 6A-4A selection as a wide receiver by the *Miami Herald*...selected to play in the Miami-Dade High School Football All-Star Gridiron Classic...team won district championship...Cougars were 10-3...lost in playoffs to power Miami Northwestern...coach was Steve Smith...also played basketball...was a starter at forward and team captain.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Vivienne Crawford and Kelvin Berassa...born April 29, 1991...has a brother and sister...father was born in Trinidad and mother was born in the Bahamas...academic interest is undecided.

## JAMAINE COOK

5-9 • 195 | TAILBACK

CLEVELAND, OHIO | MIDPARK H.S.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Special-Mention All-Ohio Division I selection...Division I Northeast Lakes All-District first-team selection...rushed for 1,500 yards and 23 touchdowns as a senior...accounted for 2,008 all-purpose yards...had 305 yards and scored four touchdowns against Olmsted Falls...also returned kickoffs...had a kickoff return for touchdown against Amherst...had 285 yards and five touchdowns against Orange...Meteors were 4-6...named first-team All-Southwestern Conference as a junior...had 1,005 yards and 13 touchdowns...also had 400 yards receiving...set school records for career rushing yards, touchdowns in a game, rushing yards in a game and touchdowns in a season...coach was Vern Long...earned four letters...was a team captain...also played basketball and competed in track and field...named to honor roll.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Michelle Cook and Tony Dehaney...born Aug. 19, 1991...has two sisters (Jasmine and Jada) and two brothers (Javon and Derek)...academic interest is engineering.

## SYLVESTRY GIBBS

6-0 • 190 | LINEBACKER

AUSTINTOWN, OHIO | AUSTINTOWN FITCH H.S.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Special-Mention All-Ohio Division I as a senior...first-team All-Federal League as a defensive back...first-team Division I Northeast Inland District selection...two-way starter as a defensive back and running back...carried the ball 139 times for 843 yards and 11 touchdowns...caught seven passes for 41 yards and two scores...had 50 tackles, including 30 solo stops...scored four touchdowns against Boardman with two rushing, a 100-plus yard fumble return and a 35-yard interception return...had a season-high 138 yards on 18 carries against the Spartans...scored four touchdowns against Massillion Perry...scored two touchdowns against Parma, including one reception...team had a four-win improvement from junior to senior year...Falcons posted a 5-5 mark in 2008...as a junior, was a second-team All-Federal League selection as a defensive back...three-year letterwinner...coach was Phil Annarella...also competed in track and field.

**PERSONAL:** Mother is Delett Gibbs...born Oct. 10, 1990...has two brothers (Sylvester and Sterling)...academic interest is psychology.

## JEROME SWINTON

5-9 • 180 | CORNERBACK

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. | SEABREEZE/MILFORD ACADEMY

**MILFORD ACADEMY:** Played for and attended Milford Academy during 2008-09 school year...coach was Bill Chaplick.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Was a first-team Class 4A all-state selection as a defensive back as a senior...named all-Central Florida by the Orlando Sentinel...an all-Southeast Region selection by SuperPrep...finished with 48 tackles and a blocked punt as a senior...Fighting Sandcrabs were 12-1 and advanced to the state semifinals...collected 53 tackles, eight pass breakups and three interceptions as a junior...blocked nine kicks during career...ran a 4.31 40-yard dash and had a 34-inch vertical jump...coach was Marc Beach.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Diane Pollard and Jerome Swinton...attended same high school as YSU's Jarvis Richards...originally signed with West Virginia out of high school.

## FRED HERDMAN

6-4 • 250 | DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. | PINNACLE

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Second-team and Honorable-Mention All-Arizona Class 5A selection as an offensive lineman...first-team All-Region selection...all-region defensive tackle as a junior...was named Pinnacle's Player of the Game four times...earned Mr. Hustle Award on three occasions...team's offensive lineman of the game four times...also defensive lineman of the game four times...three-year letterwinner...three-year starter at offensive guard and defensive tackle...Pinnacle reached state quarter-finals in 2007 and playoffs in 2006...coach was Dana Zupke...also a standout wrestler...placed eighth at state meet in 2007 and sixth as a sophomore in 2006 as a heavyweight...earned four letters.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Patty and Fred Herdman...born Feb. 25, 1991...has two sisters (Karah and Katie) and two brothers (Chris and Justin)...academic interest is exercise science/physiology...was born in Cleveland...same high school as YSU baseball player Jonathan Crist.

## KURT HESS

6-3 • 220 | QUARTERBACK

DAYTON, OHIO | CHAMINADE-JULIENNE H.S.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** First-team Greater Catholic League North Division selection...named most valuable offensive back...honorable-mention Division III Southwest All-District selection...as a senior, completed 149-of-269 passes for 1,824 yards and 12 touchdowns...had a 55.4 completion percentage...tossed five touchdown passes against Dayton Thurgood Marshall...team captain as a senior...second-team Greater Catholic League and honorable-mention all-district selection as a junior...completed 189-of-310 passes for 2,322 yards...threw 23 touchdown passes...had a 61.0 completion percentage...three-year starting quarterback and four-year letterwinner...threw for more than 5,000 yards and 40 touchdowns in career...set school mark for career passing yards...also played basketball...second-team All-GCL selection on the hardwood...named a scholar-athlete.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Rita and Mark Hess...born Feb. 6, 1991...has two sisters (Alison and Heidi) and a brother (Mark)...academic interest is elementary/early childhood education...volunteers at Holy Angels Catholic Church and Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

## TAYLOR HILL

FRESHMAN | 6-2 • 205 | DEFENSIVE END

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO | CARDINAL MOONEY H.S.

**2008-09:** Enrolled at Youngstown State in January...originally attended Michigan following standout career at Cardinal Mooney.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** As a senior was a first-team All-Ohio Division IV selection...as a junior was an honorable-mention Division IV pick...was an all-conference and an all-county selection as junior and senior...earned three letters...in final two campaigns, recorded 206 tackles, including 18.5 sacks...posted more than 90 tackles as a defensive end in 2007...as a junior, had 98 stops and 12 sacks...was a four-star prospect by Rivals.com...listed as the No. 21-ranked outside linebacker and the 16th-best recruit in the state by Rivals...three-star prospect and the No. 24 weak side linebacker nationally by Scout.com...Cardinals lost 28-27 to Coldwater in the Division IV State Championship Game in 2007...Cardinal Mooney won the state championship in 2006 beating Plain City Jon Elder 26-12...had five total tackles, including a sack in title game...Mooney lost in the state championship to Coldwater 33-9 in 2005...had five tackles and a sack in title contest...in final three years Mooney was 36-4 (14-1 in 2007, 14-0 in 2006 and 12-3 in 2005)...coach was P.J. Fecko.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Sandra Jennings and Eugene Hill...born Sept. 29, 1989...academic interest is general studies.

## GANNON HULEA

6-2 • 200 | ATHLETE

POLAND, OHIO | POLAND

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Special-Mention All-Ohio Division III selection as a senior...All-American Conference Red Division first-team selection...first-team all-district pick...as a senior, completed 69-of-108 passes (64 percent) for 1,057 yards and seven touchdowns...rushed for nearly 400 yards and five touchdowns...also was the team's punter and starting defensive back...Bulldogs finished the year 9-3 reaching the Division III Region 11 semifinals...as a junior, completed 61-of-111 passes (55 percent) for 804 yards and four touchdowns...set school mark for completion percentage...coach was former YSU quarterback Mark Brungard...Eagles won two league championships and appeared in playoffs twice...also played basketball and competed in track and field...made the honor roll.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Raedine and Paul Hulea...born March 6, 1990...has a sister (Kelsey)...dad attended YSU and sister is a current undergrad...academic interest is engineering...grandfather Nick was a three-year letterwinner at guard for the Penguins from 1947-49.

## NICK LISTE

5-11 • 180 | PLACEKICKER/PUNTER

NILES, OHIO | NILES MCKINLEY

**HIGH SCHOOL:** First-team All-Ohio Division III kicker as a senior...first-team All-Northeast Inland District Division IV and All-American Conference Red Division selection...made 5-of-6 field goals, including a long of 48 yards...averaged 45 yards per punt...80 percent of kickoffs were touchbacks...made 11-of-14 field goals in career...had a career-long 74-yard punt against Struthers in 2007...was Red Dragons' punter and placekicker all four years...McKinley won conference championship his junior year...earned four letters...coach was Brad Yeager...also played soccer...scored 19 goals as a junior...was a first-team all-district and all-county selection...named second team All-MAC...also first-team all-state in track and field as member of seventh-place 4x100-meter relay squad in 2008...also competed in the shot put...named to the honor roll.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Diane and Dave Liste...born Feb. 21, 1991...has a brother (Dave)...brother is an undergrad at YSU...academic interest is physical therapy.

## TORRIAN PACE

5-10 • 220 | TAILBACK

CHANTILLY, VA. | CHANTILLY

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Gameday Group AAA Player of the Year...first-team Virginia AAA all-state selection...first-team All-Northern Region as a running back...first-team All-Concorde District selection...named one of the top 50 players in the Washington area...Washington D.C. All-Metro selection...rushed for 2,717 yards on 290 carries and scored 33 touchdowns...yardage was the 11th-best single-season performance in Virginia history...averaged 252 yards and three touchdowns per game in Chargers' final seven contests...in three playoff games had 827 yards...had 12 100-yard games in 13 contests...had three 300-yard plus games and six 200-yard plus contests...rushed for more than 300 yards against Robinson (322), Annadale (368) and Westfield (353)...had 10 multi-touchdown games...had five scores against Annadale and Westfield...named a 2008 Old Spice Red Zone Performer...Chargers reached Virginia AAA Northern Regional Playoffs...lost to Oakton in regional finals...Chantilly reached playoffs last three years...reached AAA State Championship Game in 2007...as a junior was a first-team Virginia AAA all-state selection...first-team All-Northern Region and All-Concorde District pick...ran for 4,578 yards in high school career...coach was Mike Lalli.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Shawnee Cason and Lawrence Pace...born Aug. 1, 1991...has a brother (Trent)...academic interest is criminal justice.

## CONNER SEEMAN

6-4 • 250 | TIGHT END

COPLEY, OHIO | COPLEY H.S.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Second-team All-Suburban League selection...played tight end and defensive end...was a team captain...three-year letterwinner...coach was Ron Viscounte...also competed in track and field...was a district qualifier in the 110-meter hurdles...earned league honors in shot put, 110 and 300 hurdlers...earned three letters in track and field.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Teresa and Carl Seeman...born Sept. 29, 1990...has two sisters (Hannah, Nicole) and a brother (John)...academic interest is education.

## CARSON SHARBAUGH

6-5 • 230 | TIGHT END

NEW WILMINGTON, PA. | NEW WILMINGTON

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Invited to represent Pennsylvania in Big 33 Football Classic in June vs. Ohio as a linebacker...Region 3 first-team all-district selection on defense...first-team all-conference as a linebacker and second-team as wide receiver...recorded 85 tackles for the year... as a tight end had 20 catches for 323 yards and four touchdowns... Greyhounds won the PIAA AA State Championship...team captain on state title team...first time team played for state title since 1988...went 15-1...beat West Catholic 35-34 in double overtime in the championship game...had 11 tackles and a sack in title tilt...had tackle on final play of the game in overtime to stop two-point conversion against Aliquippa in PIAA AA Western Final...coach was Terry Verrilli...earned three letters... also played basketball.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Gina and Ed Sharbaugh...born Feb. 19, 1991... academic interest is undecided.

## KYLE STADELMYER

6-2 • 210 | LINEBACKER

GIRARD, OHIO | GIRARD H.S.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** First-team All-Ohio Division IV selection as a defensive back...as a running back was a All-Northeast Inland District Division IV and All-American Conference Blue Division first-team selection... was a Trumbull County Player-of-the-Year nominee...set school records for all-time rushing yardage, single-game rushing yards, season scoring, career scoring and single-game scoring...was an all-around player for the Indians, playing quarterback, wide receiver, safety, punter, kick-off specialist, punt returner and kick returner...rushed for 1,119 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior in eight games played...caught 10 passes for 206 yards and two scores...returned a punt and kickoff for a touchdown...averaged 35.1 yards per punt...had 46 tackles, six for losses, intercepted a team-high five passes and forced a fumble...in finale against Liberty had 40 carries for 241 yards and four touchdowns... Indians finished year 9-1...as a junior, was a first-team All-Northeast Inland District Division IV selection as a punter...rushed for 1,230 yards and scored 24 touchdowns as a junior...had 23 receptions...also credited with 65 tackles and four sacks...as a sophomore rushed for 357 yards and five touchdowns in a game against Liberty...had 1,572 yards and 19 touchdowns in 2006...was an honorable-mention all-state selection as a sophomore...earned three letters...coach was Bud McSorley...also played basketball.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Becky and Keith Stadelmyer...born Sept. 6, 1990...has two brothers (Kaleb and Kody)...academic interest is engineering.

## ROB STUPAR

6-0 • 235 | FULLBACK

STATE COLLEGE, PA. | STATE COLLEGE H.S.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Invited to represent Pennsylvania in Big 33 Football Classic in June vs. Ohio as a defensive lineman...two-year starter on the defensive line...finished his season with 43.5 tackles, including 12 for losses...led the team with 8.5 sacks...as a fullback, rushed for 451 yards on 63 carries and scored six touchdowns...averaged 7.2 yards per attempt...named honorable-mention Mid-Penn Conference Commonwealth Division accolades...Little Lions were 12-1 advancing to PIAA Class AAAA quarterfinals...had 466 yards rushing on 66 carries as a junior...Lions were 6-5 in 2007...team was a two-time district champion... earned three letters...coach was Al Wolski...also played basketball... named to the academic honor roll.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Cher and Steve Stupar...born May 6, 1990... has two sisters (Dyanna, Kate) and two brothers (Jon, Nate)...father was a lineman at Penn State from 1976-79...his brother Jon played at Virginia from (2004-07)...sister Kate played basketball at Pennsylvania College of Technology...brother Nate is a football player at Penn State... uncles Ron, Doug and Jeff Hostetler all played for Penn State in the late 1970s and early 1980s...grandfather Frank played football at Tennessee...academic interest is communications.

## AVERICK WALKER

5-10 • 180 | CORNERBACK

LITHONIA, GA. | REDAN H.S. | FORK UNION

**FORK UNION:** Spent the 2008 campaign at the prep school.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Played both defensive back and quarterback in high school...as a senior, completed 62-of-134 passes for 915 yards and five touchdowns...named all-county...coach was Ronnie Fleetwood... also played baseball.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Nanette and Averick Walker, Sr....born Sept. 21, 1990...has a sister...academic interest is political science.

## BRANDON WHITE

6-5 • 310 | OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

CINCINNATI, OHIO | COLERAIN

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Special-Mention All-Ohio Division I selection...first-team Greater Miami Conference honoree...named to the All-Tristate first team... first-team Southwest All-District Division I...had 122 knockdowns as a senior...coach was Tom Bolden...a standout wrestler...was 29-4 as a junior...also competed in track and field.

**PERSONAL:** Parents are Earl White and Shirley Horning...born Dec. 15, 1990...has four brothers and four sisters...academic interest is business management.