



## ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

175 ALUMNI ARENA

BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14260

(716) 645-6311 • FAX: (716) 645-6840 • WEB: WWW.BUFFALOBULLS.COM

Date: February 2, 2005

Contact: Paul Vecchio

# BUFFALO RELEASES FOOTBALL SIGNEES

*27 players from 13 different states make up Hoffer's fifth class*

**BUFFALO, NY** – Head football coach Jim Hoffer announced the following players as having signed National Letters of Intent to pursue their academic and athletic careers at the University at Buffalo on the first day of the college football signing period.

The initial 2005 Buffalo football signees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School/Previous School</u>
Matt Bacoulis	OL	6-4	320	Des Plaines, IL/Maine East
Julian Cartie	DB	5-9	175	New Britain, CT/New Britain/Milford Academy
Andre Evans	DB	5-10	165	Cleveland, OH/Glenville
Labinot Hakanjin	DL	6-0	280	Brooklyn, NY/Fort Hamilton/Erie CC
Brett Hamlin	WR	6-0	170	Jupiter, FL/William T. Dwyer
Kendric Hawkins	DB	5-10	170	Upper Marlboro, MD/DeMatha Catholic
Mario Henry	DB	5-9	195	Erie, PA/Strong Vincent
Ernest Jackson	WR	6-2	200	Rochester, NY/Gates-Chili
Gerald Jackson*	DB	5-11	165	Alexandria, VA/DeMatha Catholic
Kevin Johnson	OL	6-3	295	Newton, NJ/Newton
Ike Nduka	RB	6-0	200	White Plains, NY/White Plains
Derek Newell	OL	6-4	310	Trenton, NJ/Trenton Central
Mike Newton	DB	5-10	175	Pasadena, MD/Calvert Hall
Ray Norell*	OL	6-5	285	Monroe, CT/Masuk HS/Milford Academy
Tony Paoli*	QB	6-0	205	Fort Lauderdale, FL/St. Thomas Aquinas/Palomar JC
Alex Pierre	DB	6-0	175	Hackensack, NJ/Hackensack
Frankie Pointer*	DL	5-11	285	Detroit, MI/Clarenceville
Jesse Rack	TE	6-3	220	Maspeth, NY/Christ The King
Gary Rice	WR	5-9	170	Hamilton, OH/Hamilton
Dane Robinson	DL	6-1	245	Baltimore, MD/Calvert Hall
James Starks	QB	6-3	190	Niagara Falls, NY/Niagara Falls HS
Evan Wallace*	WR	5-8	170	Santa Clara, CA/Wilcox HS/West Valley CC
Phillip Warren*	FB	6-1	270	Brunswick, ME/Brunswick HS/Kent School
Andrew West	OL	6-6	320	Croswell, MI/Croswell-Lexington
John White*	TE	6-3	235	Kingston, MA/Archbishop Williams/Salisbury School
Brevon Williams	DB	6-0	200	Hartford, CT/Weaver HS/Milford Academy
Drew Willy	QB	6-3	204	Randolph, NJ/Randolph

\*enrolled in January

# 2005 Recruiting Class Capsule Bios

## MATT BACOULIS

OL • 6-4 • 320

FR. • DES PLAINES, IL • MAINE EAST HS

Three-year letterwinner and captain for coach Paul Tomasiewicz who was rated among the Top 100 prospects in the state of Illinois...played both offensive and defensive tackle for the Blue Demons...also plays center on the basketball team and is a thrower on the track and field team...chose Buffalo for the coaching staff and family atmosphere.



Hamilton HS...chose Buffalo for the opportunities and to make a difference.

## BRETT HAMLIN

WR • 6-0 • 170

FR. • JUPITER, FL • WILLIAM T. DWYER HS

An excellent all-around athlete...had 25 catches and five touchdowns – two on punt returns – as a senior in an outstanding high school program...served as a captain his final two seasons as the Panthers of William T. Dwyer went 23-3...selected to play in Outback Bowl and was an All-County and All-Conference selection...also has lettered in baseball and track...chose Buffalo because of the players and the coaching staff.

## JULIAN CARTIE

DB • 5-9 • 175

FR. • NEW BRITAIN, CT • NEW BRITAIN HS

MILFORD ACADEMY

Comes to Buffalo as one of three Milford Academy graduates who signed with the Bulls this year after helping Milford to an 11-1 record last fall...helped his New Britain team to a 22-1 record in his final two seasons and participated in the Connecticut-Rhode Island All-Star game...had a school-record six special teams touchdowns and, as a receiver his senior year, had 43 receptions for 1,043 yards and 22 touchdowns...chose Buffalo because he loved the people and for the academic environment.

## KENDRIC HAWKINS

DB • 5-10 • 170

FR. • UPPER MARLBORO, MD • DEMATHA CATHOLIC

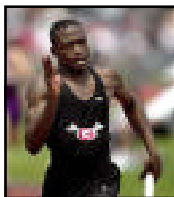
An honorable mention All-State performer for powerhouse DeMatha Catholic who recorded three interceptions and two fumble recoveries in his senior season...helped the Stags to a 22-1 record in his final two seasons and joins former DeMatha Catholic teammates Gerald Jackson and Jamal Chisam on the Bulls...first cousin of Bulls' basketball assistant coach Chris Hawkins...chose Buffalo for the facilities and because the football program is on the rise.

## ANDRE EVANS

DB • 5-10 • 165

FR. • CLEVELAND, OH • GLENVILLE HS

Third-team All-Ohio selection who helped Glenville record a 12-2 record and a regional championship last fall...had 70 tackles, two interceptions and 13 pass deflections as a senior...earned four letters and was twice a captain for coach Ted Ginn, Sr....also excelled on the Glenville track team, winning a state title...chose Buffalo for the coaching staff, facilities and atmosphere.



## MARIO HENRY

DB • 5-9 • 195

FR. • ERIE, PA • STRONG VINCENT HS

Highly sought-after athlete who set school records for career yards rushing (2,451) and touchdowns (40) while leading his team to a pair of district titles for coach Tom Cacchione...had 1,248 yards rushing (11.8 per carry) and 18 touchdowns as a senior...three-year letterwinner who has also been an All-Conference pick in track in the 100 and 200 meters...chose Buffalo because of defensive backfield coach Andy Rondeau and because it's close to home.



## LABINOT HAKANJIN

DT • 6-0 • 280

JR. • BROOKLYN, NY • FORT HAMILTON HS

ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

An All-Conference selection for former UB assistant coach Dennis Greene at Erie Community College where he was a two-year starter...racked up 55 tackles last year including 10 tackles for loss...in his ECC career he started 21 games and had 19½ TFL, 5½ sacks and a pair of interceptions and forced fumbles...had 85 tackles and 10½ sacks as a senior while being named All-City and All-State at Fort



## ERNEST JACKSON

WR • 6-2 • 200

FR. • ROCHESTER, NY • GATES-CHILI HS

A three-year letterwinner and Monroe County Division Player of the Year for coach Jason Benham...earned first-team All-County and second-team All-State honors after racking up 1,480 yards and 18 touchdowns in six games before spending the rest of the year as a wideout...set school records for most carries in a game, most yards in a game and most touchdowns in a season...played wide receiver, tailback and free safety as Gates-Chili went 7-2 as a senior...chose Buffalo because "the coaches are wonderful and the campus, academic programs and social life are excellent."

# 2005 Recruiting Class Capsule Bios

## **GERALD JACKSON**

**DB • 5-11 • 165**

**FR. • ALEXANDRIA, VA • DeMATHA CATHOLIC**

An All-County and All-State selection who helped DeMatha Catholic to a state title and perfect 12-0 record in 2003...had 45 tackles, five for loss, an interception and two punt returns for touchdowns for the Stags...earned five letters...has also boxed in several clubs...originally signed with UB last year but entered school as a "grayshirt" this January.

## **KEVIN JOHNSON**

**OL • 6-3 • 295**

**FR. • NEWTON, NJ • NEWTON HS**

A first-team All-Conference selection for Dave Griffen at Newton HS, where he earned three letters and served as captain once...has attended football camps at Rutgers, Penn State and UConn as well as the Art Monk Football Camp...graded out at 86% last year and racked up 10 pancake blocks while not allowing a sack all season...had 77 tackles on defense...chose Buffalo for "the beautiful campus, academics, great and supportive coaching staff, the geographical area and the multicultural and ethnic diversity."

## **IKE NDUKA**

**RB • 6-0 • 200**

**FR. • WHITE PLAINS, NY • WHITE PLAINS**

A third-team All-State selection after gaining 1,386 yards and scoring 17 touchdowns for White Plains...an All-Conference and All-Area performer...set school records for carries in a game (51) and for yards per carry (9.0)...helped Tigers to a 16-5 mark over his final two seasons, including 10-1 as a junior...excellent combination of speed and strength evidenced by being tabbed all-league in track and field in both sprints and the shot put...chose Buffalo because of the way he and his family were treated during the recruiting process.



## **DEREK NEWELL**

**OL • 6-4 • 310**

**FR. • TRENTON, NJ • TRENTON CENTRAL**

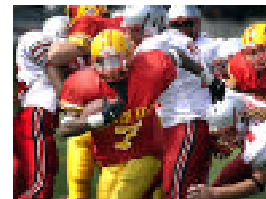
A first-team All-Area selection and first-team Colonial Valley Conference pick for coach Lawrence Parker...played both offensive line and defensive tackle for the Tornado...also throws the shot and discus on the track and field team...chose Buffalo for the potential of the football program and the excellent academics.

## **MIKE NEWTON**

**DB • 5-10 • 175**

**FR. • PASADENA, MD • CALVERT HALL HS**

Played both cornerback and running back for coach Jay Robinson while earning first-team All-MIAA (Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Assoc.) honors...earned two letters and is also an outstanding baseball player and a guard on the Cardinals basketball team...joins Calvert teammate Dane Robinson in the 2005 recruiting class...chose Buffalo for the combination of quality academics and athletics.



## **RAY NORELL**

**OL • 6-5 • 285**

**FR. • MONROE, CT • MASUK HS**

**MILFORD ACADEMY**

Helped Milford Academy to an 11-1 record at left tackle last season...was a first-team All-State selection as a senior at Masuk HS and helped his team to the state finals...had 10 pancake blocks in one game in high school...played in the Governor's Bowl game between Connecticut and Rhode Island...one of three Milford Academy graduates in the 2005 recruiting class...chose Buffalo for the coaching staff and players...enrolled in January.



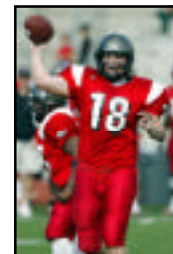
## **TONY PAOLI**

**QB • 6-0 • 205**

**JR. • FORT LAUDERDALE, FL • St. THOMAS AQUINAS HS**

**PALOMAR JC**

Transferred into UB in January after spending two seasons at Palomar JC outside San Diego...threw for over 2,600 yards and 23 touchdowns in his two years, earning All-Mission Conference honors as a freshman while winning the conference title...threw for 1,200 yards and accounted for 16 touchdowns for coach Mike Morrill at St. Thomas Aquinas in Florida...also spent one season at Bridgton Academy in Maine where he threw for 1,800 yards and 16 touchdowns...chose Buffalo "to be a part of the greatest turnaround in Division I sports history."



# 2005 Recruiting Class Capsule Bios

## **ALEX PIERRE**

**DB • 6-0 • 175**

**FR. • HACKENSACK, NJ • HACKENSACK HS**

Playmaking defensive back who racked up 100 tackles, blocked a kick, forced four fumbles, recovered five fumbles and recorded a safety as a senior for coach Ralph Doss...earned three letters and set a school record with 20 tackles in one game...an All-League and All-County performer his final two seasons as the Comets went 18-5, including reaching the state finals as a senior...also excels on the track and field team...chose Buffalo for the academics, coaches, location and the opportunity to play.

## **FRANKIE POINTER**

**DT • 5-11 • 285**

**FR. • DETROIT, MI • CLARENCEVILLE HS**

Comes to Buffalo as a "grayshirt" having originally signed last February, but enrolled at UB in January...An All-State selection and All-Metro choice for coach Greg Hudkins who helped his team to a 17-4 record in final two seasons...four-year letterwinner and first-team *Free Press* All-Western Detroit pick...also lettered in wrestling, track and basketball.

## **JESSE RACK**

**TE • 6-3 • 220**

**FR. • MASPETH, NY • CHRIST THE KING HS**

Excellent prospect who projects as a tight end after excelling at both defensive end and tight end at Christ the King for coach Kevin Kelly...had 13 catches and four touchdowns his senior season while earning All-League honors and earning a spot in the Senior Bowl...chose Buffalo for the great academics and the Western New York area.

## **GARY RICE**

**WR. • 5-9 • 170**

**FR. • HAMILTON, OH • HAMILTON HS**

A versatile athlete who racked up 1,600 all-purpose yards, including a school-record 96-yard run...a first-team All-Conference selection who earned three letters and was a captain...a point guard on Hamilton's state champion basketball team ('04-05) for three years and also a three-year letterwinner in track and field...chose Buffalo for the academics and because he wanted to help build the program.

## **DANE ROBINSON**

**DL • 6-1 • 245**

**FR. • BALTIMORE, MD • CALVERT HALL**

An All-Area and All-Baltimore selection at Calvert Hall for coach Jay Robinson...had 94 tackles, 12 for loss – including 3½ sacks as a senior while earning honorable mention All-State kudos...earned four letters and was a captain once...also plays basketball for the Cardinals...chose Buffalo for the great atmosphere.

## **JAMES STARKS**

**QB • 6-3 • 190**

**FR. • NIAGARA FALLS, NY • NIAGARA FALLS**

Outstanding athlete who ran for 1,048 yards and threw for over 600 yards for the Wolverines of Niagara Falls while earning All-Western New York honors...served as a captain three years for former UB player and coach Joe Shifflet and also plays on Niagara Falls' nationally-ranked basketball team with UB basketball signee Greg Gamble...chose Buffalo because he felt it was the best fit for him.

## **EVAN WALLACE**

**WR • 5-8 • 170**

**JR. • SANTA CLARA, CA • WILCOX HS**

**WEST VALLEY JC**

Mid-year enrollee who racked up 654 yards receiving on 42 catches (15.6 ypc) while scoring eight touchdowns at West Valley JC last year...earned All-Conference and All-NoCal honors and was twice the state player of the week while serving as captain...served as captain while earning three letters at Wilcox HS, helping the Chargers to a 10-2 record as a senior...an All-Mid Peninsula selection and conference receiver of the year...cousin of boxer Roy Jones, Jr...chose Buffalo for the great opportunities both academically and athletically.



## **PHILLIP WARREN**

**FB • 6-1 • 270**

**FR. • BRUNSWICK, ME • BRUNSWICK HS**

**THE KENT SCHOOL**

Earned All-New England honors and co-league MVP last fall for the Kent School as a fullback and defensive tackle while helping his team to an 8-2 record...a three-year letterwinner for coach Dick Leavitt at Brunswick, where he set school records for most yards and touchdowns in a game and had over 2,000 yards rushing and 27 touchdowns as a senior...All-State and All-Conference selection who was MVP of his post-season All-Star game...enrolled at UB in January...chose Buffalo because "I saw a program on the rise and that's the way my high school team was."

## **ANDREW WEST**

**OL • 6-6 • 320**

**FR. • CROSWELL, MI • CROSWELL-LEXINGTON HS**

A two-year letterwinner and one-year captain for coach Jason Van Der Maas...a first-team All-Conference and All-County and honorable mention All-State pick...selected as an alternate to the prestigious East-West Michigan All-Star team...also earned two letters in track and field...chose Buffalo for the atmosphere and the coaches.

# 2005 Recruiting Class Capsule Bios

## JOHN WHITE

TE • 6-3 • 235

FR. • KINGSTON, MA • ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS

SALISBURY SCHOOL

A mid-year prep school enrollee who played quarterback at the Salisbury School last fall, but projects as a tight end...a four-year letterwinner and one year captain at Archbishop Williams where he set school passing records with 2,400 yards and 31 touchdowns...an Eastern Massachusetts All-Star as a junior and senior who also recorded nine interceptions as a defensive back as a senior...chose Buffalo because of the coaching staff.

## BREVON WILLIAMS

DB • 6-0 • 200

FR. • HARTFORD, CT • WEAVER HS

MILFORD ACADEMY

Do-it-all athlete who played defensive back, tailback, wide receiver and quarterback at Weaver HS for coach Robert Fleeting before spending this year at Milford Academy...had 800 yards rushing and eight interceptions as a senior at Weaver as team went 17-7 over his final two seasons...chosen as MVP of the 2003 Connecticut-Rhode Island All-Star game...also excels in track and field...one of three Milford Academy graduates – the No. 1 prep school in the nation in 2004 – in the 2005 recruiting class...chose Buffalo because the players and coaches made him feel welcome.



## DREW WILLY

QB • 6-3 • 204

FR. • RANDOLPH, NJ • RANDOLPH HS

Accomplished passer who was a third-team All-State selection in New Jersey while setting school records for career passing yardage (5,387) and touchdowns (51)...as a senior completed 62% of his passes for 2,459 yards and 20 touchdowns...led the Rams of Randolph to a 15-6 record and the Iron Hills Conference title over his final two seasons...earned first-team All-County and All-Area honors as a senior and has also been a first-team All-Area guard on the basketball team...chose Buffalo for the coaching staff, the campus and the players.



## 2005 UB Recruiting Breakdown

### By State

New York.....	5
New Jersey .....	4
Maryland .....	3
Connecticut.....	3
Ohio.....	2
Florida .....	2
Michigan.....	2
Virginia.....	1
Pennsylvania.....	1
Illinois.....	1
Massachusetts.....	1
Maine.....	1
California.....	1

### By Position

Defensive Backs .....	8
Offensive Linemen .....	5
Wide Receivers.....	4
Defensive Linemen .....	3
Quarterbacks.....	3
Running Backs .....	2
Tight ends .....	2
Linebackers .....	0
Punter/Placekickers .....	0

