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Gardner-Webb Recruiting Class Reaches 20 On National Signing Day

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Office of University
Communications

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Class Features 16 High School Recruits and Four Transfers

Written by: Gardner-Webb Athletics Media Relations



BOILING SPRINGS – Gardner-Webb football signed 20 student-athletes on National Signing Day, signaling a strong first class for new head coach Tre Lamb.

The class features 16 high school recruits and four transfers. Ten of the signees are from the Carolinas (six from North Carolina, four from South Carolina).

A program-record five of the signees announced on Wednesday are three-star recruits as rated by 247Sports, ESPN or Rivals.

“This class is very important for a number of reasons,” said Lamb, who will coach his first season in 2020 with the Runnin’ Bulldogs. “This is our first class as a staff and we plan on winning games in 2020. These young men will play a role in our success. Our coaching staff came together and did a great job of targeting young men who wanted to join this family and be a part of a new era of Runnin’ Bulldogs football.”

Quarterback Tayvon Bowers, who starred on the Netflix series QB1: Beyond the Lights as a prep senior at Bishop McDevitt (Pa.) High in 2017, enrolled at Gardner-Webb in January after transferring from Wake Forest. Bowers was rated as the top quarterback in

Pennsylvania and as one of the 25 best dual threat prospects nationally before signing with the Demon Deacons. Bowers (6-1, 200) will join a talented offensive group for spring practice – which is set to begin for the Runnin’ Bulldogs on March 15.

Gardner-Webb signed another three-star quarterback on Wednesday, with Gilbert (S.C.) High standout Jy Tolen (6-0, 190) making it official with the Runnin’ Bulldogs. Tolen, a Class 3A All-State selection this past season, passed for an eye-popping 4,046 yards, 47 touchdowns and only three interceptions in 2019. He is rated as the nation’s No. 32 pro-style quarterback in the Class of 2020 by 247Sports.com.

Receiver Mendez Jean-Baptiste (5-10, 170) is a three-star prospect according to ESPN and was explosive in his senior season at Orlando (Fla.) Jones HS. The speedster caught 54 passes for 751 yards, including a season-high 154 yards vs. state power Apopka (Fla.) High.



Head Football Coach Tre Lamb

On the defensive side of the ball, tackle Cash Devaughn (6-1, 285) and cornerback Christian Miller (5-11, 175) were both rated as three-star prospects in the Class of 2020 by 247Sports.

Devaughn finished his senior season at Middle Creek (N.C.) High with 17.5 tackles for loss and is one of the top-125 defensive tackle prospects nationally. Miller, who picked up 18 Division I scholarship offers as a senior, earned All-State honors at Hilton Head (S.C.) High after breaking up 28 combined passes over his final two seasons.

Miller, a Shrine Bowl selection, was rated as South Carolina’s No. 27 overall senior prospect by the High School Sports Report.

Gardner-Webb mined its back yard for talent, signing two from nearby Crest (Shelby, N.C.) High. Running back Jalin Graham (6-1, 195) and defensive lineman Christopher Richardson (6-2, 275) helped the Chargers to 10 wins in 2019 and each earned All-Conference honors. Richardson was named the conference Defensive Player of the Year for his efforts in 2019.

A full list of the 2020 class, is available below:

2020 Gardner-Webb Football Recruiting Class

Brice Bass * 6-4 * 220 * DE * Stockbridge, Ga. / Stockbridge HS

Tayvon Bowers * 6-1 * 200 * QB * Harrisburg, Pa. / Bishop McDevitt HS / Wake Forest

Cash Devaughn * 6-1 * 285 * DT * Apex, N.C. / Middle Creek HS

Clayton Frady * 6-5 * 290 * OL * Sylva, N.C. / Smoky Mountain HS

Dylan Gonzalez * 5-10 * 175 * DB * Lake Mary, Fla. / Lake Mary HS

Jalin Graham * 6-1 * 195 * RB * Shelby, N.C. / Crest HS
Anthony Herock * 6-3 * 225 * TE * Cumming, Ga. / North Forsyth HS
Charlie Jackson * 6-4 * 295 * DT * Monroe, Ga. / Monroe Area HS
Mendez Jean-Baptiste * 5-10 * 170 * WR * Orlando, Fla. / Jones HS
Jatarius Mason * 6-3 * 300 * OL * Annapolis, N.C. / A.L. Brown HS
Noah McGlockling * 5-11 * 170 * CB * Conyers, Ga. / Rockdale HS
William McRaney * 6-0 * 200 * LB * Shallotte, N.C. / West Brunswick HS
Christian Miller * 5-11 * 175 * CB * Hilton Head, S.C. / Hilton Head HS
Ahkeem Mitchell * 6-0 * 220 * LB * Vero Beach, Fla. / Vero Beach HS
Raequan Ousley * 5-11 * 170 * CB * Orlando, Fla. / Evans HS
Christopher Richardson * 6-2 * 275 * DL * Shelby, N.C. / Crest HS
Jy Tolen * 6-0 * 190 * QB * Gilbert, S.C. / Gilbert HS
Chance Walker * 5-11 * 180 * ATH * Gaston, S.C. / Swansea HS / Newberry College
Will Webster * 6-4 * 285 * OL * Chapin, S.C. / Chapin HS / Coastal Carolina
Dan Wittekind * 6-3 * 305 * OL * Chester, N.Y. / Chester HS / Marist

[Learn more about Gardner-Webb Football.](#)

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