

Week of May 2nd

HAPPY VALLEY RECRUITING

in partnership with

PSU FOOTBALL U

NEW OFFERS: Pages 2-14

NAMES TO KNOW: Pages 15-16

MY PREDICTIONS: Page 17

RANDOM THOUGHTS: Pages 18-19

INTERVIEW WITH CONNOR NOLAND: Page 20

CURRENT COMMIT RANKINGS: Page 21

NEW OFFERS

J.K. Dobbins | 2017 Class

Running Back | La Grange, Texas | La Grange

247Sports: 47th Overall | Rivals: 73rd Overall | Scout: 77th Overall | ESPN: 58th Overall

- Monday morning (5/2), J.K. Dobbins picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- Dobbins has been verbally committed to Ohio State since giving his pledge back on March 6th.
- Since his commitment to the Buckeyes he has picked up offers from Penn State, USC (California), and Florida.

You have to think that D'Andre Swift is Penn State's top priority at running back in the 2017 class, but maybe Franklin and staff would like some other options if Swift decides elsewhere. Yesterday, Swift announced that he would like to take all five official visits and listed the following schools who would currently get one of the five: Penn State, Georgia, Florida State, Alabama, and Ohio State. I think Penn State, Georgia, and Florida State are the top 3 for Swift at the moment.



Blessed to receive an offer from penn state! 🏈



5/2/16, 10:31 AM

22 RETWEETS 107 LIKES

NEW OFFERS

Casey Thompson | 2018 Class

Quarterback | Moore, Oklahoma | Southmoore

- Tuesday evening (5/3), Casey Thompson picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- Being only a sophomore, it is still very early in Thompson's recruiting. Already has picked up some offers from big time programs such as Ohio State, Miami, and Arizona State.
- Having not received an offer from Oklahoma yet, many still believe the home-state Sooners will be the team to beat.

Penn State has now offered 5 quarterbacks in the 2018 class. I still believe that Jurkovec is the #1 QB priority for Penn State in the 2018 class:

1. He is an instate kid from western PA
2. He is the #1 ranked dual-threat QB in the nation and #9 ranked overall prospect in the nation regardless of position



NEW OFFERS

Spencer Sanders | 2018 Class

Quarterback | Denton, Texas | Ryan

- Tuesday evening (5/3), Spencer Sanders picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- Being only a sophomore, it is still very early in Spencer's recruiting. Prior to PSU's offer, Spencer has already picked up offers from UNC, South Carolina, Texas A&M, and Kansas.

Penn State has now offered 5 quarterbacks in the 2018 class. I still believe that Jurkovec is the #1 QB priority for Penn State in the 2018 class:

1. He is an instate kid from western PA
2. He is the #1 ranked dual-threat QB in the nation and #9 ranked overall prospect in the nation regardless of position



Spencer Sanders
@SpenceSanders

Honored an blessed to receive an offer from #pennstate 🙌🙌🎉



5/3/16, 10:37 PM

NEW OFFERS

Connor Noland | 2018 Class

Quarterback | Greenwood, AR | Greenwood

- Wednesday morning (5/4), Connor Noland picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- Being only a sophomore, it is still very early in Spencer's recruiting. Prior to PSU's offer, Noland has already picked up offers from schools such as Arkansas, UCLA, UNC, Kentucky, and Texas A&M.

Read more about Connor Noland on Page 14



Connor Noland
@cnoland_13

Blessed to receive an offer to play football for Penn State University!
Thank you very much!
@PennStFball #PennState



5/4/16, 6:19 AM

NEW OFFERS

Ryan Johnson | 2017 Class

Defensive End | Mobile, AL | St. Paul's Episcopal

- Wednesday evening (5/4), Ryan Johnson picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- Ryan already has over 30+ offers and as you can imagine being from the state of Alabama, both Auburn and Alabama are both up there believed to be leading in his recruitment.
- Interesting offer as PSU already has 2 DE's committed in 2017, but Ryan Johnson is one of the elite DE prospects in this class. Not sure Penn State jumped to the top of Ryan's offer board as PSU provided Johnson with his 32nd offer.



Ryan Johnson 4 4 @ryanjoh... 39m

Blessed to receive offers from the Texas A&M Aggies & the Penn State University Nittany Lions! 🙏

#GigEm 👍 #WeAre 🦁



👤 Gerry Hamilton and 9 others



↻ 15

❤️ 40



NEW OFFERS



Justyn Ross | 2018 Class

Wide Receiver | Phenix City, AL | Central

- Wednesday evening (5/4), Justyn Ross picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- Justyn has already began adding up some big time offers including ones from Alabama, Auburn, Michigan, and Florida to name a few.
- Justyn has great speed for his size and as he fills out he will be a desired target for any quarterback. The sophomore is currently 6'5 and 190 pounds.



 **Ross**
@_Jross5

Blessed to receive another offer
from penn state .  

5/4/16, 10:06 PM

7 RETWEETS 14 LIKES



NEW OFFERS

Warren Thompson | 2018 Class
Athlete | Seffner, FL | Armwood

- Wednesday afternoon (5/4), Warren Thompson picked up an offer from the Nittany Lions.
- In addition to his new Penn State offer, Warren has offers from Miami, Louisville, Tennessee, and Southern Miss.
- Like Justyn Ross, Thompson is also very quick for his size (6'4, 185 pounds). Looks like the Nittany Lions would like to bring in at least one big receiver in the 2018 class.



warren thompson 
@pagnotti5

What a blessing to receive my 1st
B1G offer the mighty Penn st
university 🦁🔵



5/4/16, 1:14 PM

12 RETWEETS 25 LIKES

NEW OFFERS

Joshua Blackwell | 2017 Class
Athlete | Buford, GA | Buford

- Penn State swung through Buford on Thursday (5/5) and informed Joshua's coach that Penn State is extending an offer
- Joshua currently has offers from schools such as UNC, Vandy, Duke, Georgia Tech, and a handful of others
- Seems that Blackwell's recruitment is starting to pickup as he has received four offers this week (UNC, Vandy, App. State, and now Penn State)

NEW OFFERS

Cam Akers | 2017 Class

Running Back | Clinton, MS | Clinton

Penn State has offered 2017 5-star running back, Cam Akers out of Clinton, Mississippi.

Akers has offers to numerous big time programs such as Ole Miss, Alabama, Ohio State, and Georgia to just name a few. As D'Andre Swift from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is Penn State's number one priority at running back in 2017, but many recruiting analysts are have Swift trending towards Georgia. Penn State has offered J.K. Dobbins, running back out of Texas on Monday (currently committed to Ohio State). Penn State looking for other big time running back targets as backups if Swift were to become a Bulldog?



Cam akers
@thereal_cam3

Blessed to receive an offer from
Penn State #WeAre!



5/5/16, 7:17 PM from [Clinton, MS](#)

19 RETWEETS 70 LIKES

NEW OFFERS

Tyler Taylor | 2017 Class
Linebacker | Buford, GA | Lanier

Penn State offered 2017 linebacker, Tyler Taylor yesterday.

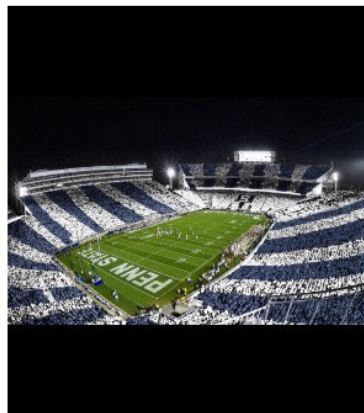
Tyler is from Buford, Georgia and attends Lanier. The Penn State offer was #19 for Tyler, and many analysts have Tyler trending to the home state Georgia Bulldogs. Some other big time offers that Tyler currently has are Alabama, Auburn, and Oklahoma.



Tyler Taylor 8
@tylertaylor8



Truly blessed to receive an offer from Penn State!! [#blessed](#)



5/5/16, 7:29 PM

19 RETWEETS 45 LIKES

NEW OFFERS

Jerry Jeudy | 2017 Class

Wide Receiver | Pompano Beach, FL | Deerfield Beach

Thursday evening, Penn State extended an offer to 2017 4-star wide receiver, Jerry Jeudy out of Pompano Beach, FL.

No matter the recruiting service you view, it can be agreed that Jerry is a top 10 receiver in the nation and his offer sheet proves it. The Penn State offer puts Jerry up to 29 offers with many believing Alabama leads for his services.



JJ⁴

@jerryjeudy

Penn State Offer [#GodBless](#)

5/5/16, 7:59 PM

6 RETWEETS 23 LIKES



NEW OFFERS

Kenny Bastida | 2018 Class

Linebacker | Fort Lauderdale, FL | Cardinal Gibbons

Another offer extended by the Nittany Lions while in Florida yesterday. This one goes to 2018 linebacker, Kenny Bastida from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Penn State offer gives Kenny offer #4 with 3 others currently from Southern Miss, NC State and Wisconsin. Only being a sophomore still, many more are about to start piling up for Kenny.



KB !!
@kingbastida

Blessed To Receive An Offer From
Penn State [#WeAre](#) [#NittanyLions](#)
!! [@Corey_Bender](#) [@RyanBartow](#)



5/5/16, 8:43 PM

NEW OFFERS

Ge'Mon Eaford | 2019 Class

Defensive End | Deerfield Beach, FL | Deerfield Beach, FL

Penn State extended an offer to class of 2019 defensive end, Ge'Mon Eaford. This gives Ge'Mon his 15th offer for the high school freshman. (Yeah, 15 offers as a freshman is pretty good).

Other offers include Alabama, Michigan, Georgia, Florida State, and Auburn to just name a few of the big time schools going after him already.

Pretty safe to say that Ge'Mon will be one of the biggest names in recruiting in a few years when the class of 2019 NSD nears, if not the biggest.



Ge'Mon Eaford
@Gemon_J_Wilson

Blessed to receive my 15th offer from Penn state [@Corey_Bender](#)
[@RyanBartow](#) [@DemetricDWarren](#)
[@agray4877](#)



NAMES TO KNOW

Samuel Vretman | 2017 Class

Offensive Tackle | Cheshire, CT | Cheshire Academy

247Sports: 80th Overall | Rivals: Not Ranked | Scout: 81st Overall | ESPN: Not Ranked

- Samuel Vretman is originally from Sweden, but attends Cheshire Academy in Cheshire, CT.
- Vretman is high school teammates with big Penn State ATH target, CJ Holmes.
- Samuel was in Happy Valley on Monday, May 2nd, with his parents who made the trip from Sweden. Coach Spencer and Limegrover traveled to CT on Tuesday (5/3) to see Vretman work out.
- Currently Vretman's top offers include Rutgers, Colorado State, Temple, and UConn.
- Samuel is definitely a name to keep an eye on in the future as his offer list grows and it becomes closer til National Signing Day on February 1st, 2017



Samuel Vretman
@SVretman

Great visit today to Penn State!

[#WeAre](#)



5/2/16, 1:56 PM from [Beaver Stadium](#)

5 RETWEETS 11 LIKES

NAMES TO KNOW

Alexander Marshall | 2017 Class

Tight End | Andover, NH | Proctor Academy

247Sports: 27th TE | Rivals: 17th TE | Scout: 19th TE | ESPN: Not Ranked

- Alex Marshall is a familiar name to the Penn State coaches having camped at Penn State last summer, but currently does not hold a Penn State offer (yet)
- Some of Alex's offers include: Alabama, Florida, Florida State, UCLA, USC, and LSU
- I believe that Franklin wants to take a TE in this class, and has missed out on some TE priorities such as, Jake Marwede (Duke) and Trey Pugh (Northwestern). Penn State has another TE on their radar in Matt Dotson (Cincinnati, OH), who does not seem to be currently trending in Penn State's direction (Michigan State and Ohio State seem to be leading schools)
- I believe that Marshall will soon get a Penn State offer, and the coaching staff will put the full court pressure on Alex to make him their TE commit in the 2017 class.
- Marshall may commit to another school such as Florida State in the near future (Visiting Tallahassee June 4th), but I think PSU will offer and pursue starting this summer and through the fall



MY PREDICTIONS

Mark Webb | 2017 Class

Wide Receiver | Warminster, PA | Archbishop Wood

247Sports: 24th WR | Rivals: 24th WR | Scout: 72nd WR | ESPN: 22nd WR

Mark Webb recently earned his invite to The Opening Finals in Beaverton, Oregon from July 5-10 after camping in New Jersey this past weekend. Webb also noted that he would like to take all five of his official visits this coming fall. There are rumors that Webb and 2017 running back, D'Andre Swift are a package deal, but I do not believe in the whole "package deal" scenarios.

However, Webb received two big offers on Monday night from Alabama and Georgia. Many believe that Georgia is the school where Swift and Webb are a "package deal" to as both talked up UGA at camp last weekend. Webb said that he will still take his time and wait until after the season to decide. I still like Webb in a Nittany Lion uniform when the 2017 season rolls around. I originally thought that Webb may pull the trigger and commit to PSU sometime this summer (Lasch Bash, Camp, etc.), but after his impressive camp performance last weekend, more and more big time offers will roll in, which will ultimately extend his decision. Webb speaks with the PSU coaches daily and former Archbishop Wood teammates and current Nittany Lions, Jake Cooper and Ryan Bates often. Not to mention that Penn State has made Webb their #1 wide receiver priority for the 2017 class since the start, and he speaks with the PSU coaches daily. The longer his recruitment goes, the more comfortable I am with Webb committing to Penn State.



RANDOM THOUGHTS

Players currently committed to other schools with PSU offers that I believe Penn State will continue to recruit hard until National Signing Day:

1. **David Adams** - LB – Committed to Notre Dame 3/20
2. **Joshua Kaindoh** - DE – Committed to Maryland 4/30
3. **Cam Spence** - DT – Committed to Maryland 4/8
4. **Kurt Hinish** - DT – Committed to Notre Dame 3/21
5. **Avery Roberts** - LB – Committed to Nebraska 4/21
6. **Paris Ford** - S – Committed to Pitt 10/16/15

I don't think **Maryland's** "Stay Home Movement" will last until NSD. Once the season gets rolling , I believe that their BIG TIME recruits will begin looking elsewhere again (See Dwayne Haskins and Keandre Jones from 2016). I also don't see UMD having more than 6 wins this season (That's giving them wins against Howard, FIU, UCF, Purdue, Minnesota, Rutgers) which isn't going to help.

Notre Dame: They had a very good recruiting week, right after their Junior Day back in March. Both **Adams** and **Hinish** were considered heavy PSU leans at the time, and I don't think the staff stops recruiting them the whole way up until February 1st. With LB being a huge position of need, **Adams** may be priority #1 to persuade to flip their commitment.

Avery Roberts and **Nebraska:** Roberts was always a Penn State lean up until after Blue White and announcing his commitment a few days later. Is it due to his younger brother (Grahm-2018 RB) not getting a Nittany Lions offer on the visit while the Cornhuskers already offered? Penn State has a few other LB prospects available on their board still, but if they go elsewhere I don't think **Avery** has heard the last from Franklin and his staff.

Maybe **Paris** is the one top player from the 412 that **Pitt** convinces to stay home for the 2017 class. (2016-Hamlin, 2015-Whitehead, etc.). The thing that makes me believe that **Paris** will eventually flip somewhere else is the announcing of each offer he receives. Many times when coaches offer players who are already verbally "committed" to another school, there is normally something behind it. Prior to offering a recruit, most of the time coaches are in contact with that recruit getting a feel for how that recruit feels about their school, how committed that prospect is to their current school, etc. With many offers still currently coming to **Paris**, I think there may be something there.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

How many offensive line recruits will Penn State take in the 2017 class?

There are currently 3 offensive line commits in the 2017 class:

CJ Thorpe – Offensive Guard – Pittsburgh, PA

Michael Miranda – Offensive Guard – Stow, OH

Robert Martin – Offensive Tackle - Montvale, NJ

I would guess that Penn State will take a total of four or five in the 2017 class. Five offensive lineman commits only being if Robert Hainsey or another highly touted recruit were to commit to the Nittany Lions.

Top currently uncommitted offensive line recruits with higher Penn State interest:

Robert Hainsey (OG) - Pittsburgh, PA (IMG - Bradenton, FL)

Riley Locklear (OT) - Huntington, WV

Andrew Stueber (OT) - Darien, CT

Carter Warren (OT) - Passaic, NJ

Penn State's offensive lineman scholarship commits by year since 2012:

2017- 3 currently (Thorpe (OG), Martin (OT), Miranda (OG))

2016- 4 (Fries, Menet, Gellerstedt, McGovern)

2015- 4 (Bates, Jenkins, Palmer, Gonzalez)

2014- 4 (Beh, Brosnan, Sorrell, Wright)

2013- 3 (Mahon, Nelson, Cothren)

2012- 4 (Gaia, Stanko, Laurent, Dowrey)

Connor Noland

Connor Noland | 2018 Class

Quarterback | Greenwood, AR | Greenwood

Early Wednesday morning, Connor Noland announced via his Twitter account (@cnoland_13) that Penn State has extended a scholarship offer. This Penn State offer was the eighth offer for the 2018 quarterback from Greenwood, Arkansas.

I was fortunate to catch up with Connor and gather some thoughts on what the offer means to him.

Connor's first thoughts when receiving the Penn State offer were, "I was excited when Penn State offered. I was somewhat expecting Michigan State to be my first Big Ten offer. My first thought was about the football tradition at Penn State."

I asked **Connor what are the first three things that come to his mind when he thinks about Penn State:**

Tradition

Academics

Coach Franklin

Things that are important to Connor when choosing a school:

"The academic aspects at Penn State are very big for me. My family stresses the importance on academic success and being a good person. Both of those add up to being a role model for younger kids. Penn State has many important factors that make it a school that any student athlete would be proud to attend. Playing quarterback is a special position that comes with special requirements. I always strive to be the person that can be trusted on and off the field"

Connor seems to be the perfect fit for Penn State, as he strives for just as much success and leadership off the field as he does on the field. As Connor is just finishing up his sophomore year, his recruitment will continue to grow and whatever school that Connor chooses down the road will be lucky to have him representing their University.

Current 2017 commit rankings

| Last | First | 247 | 247 pos. | Rivals | Rivals pos. | Scout | Scout pos. | ESPN | ESPN pos. | AVG. | AVG. pos. |
|----------|---------|-----|----------|--------|-------------|-------|------------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| Matos | Yetur | 233 | 8 | NR | 8 | NR | 27 | 232 | 18 | 233 | 15 |
| Thorpe | CJ | 192 | 10 | NR | 12 | 183 | 23 | 127 | 8 | 167 | 13 |
| Barber | Damion | 490 | 22 | NR | 24 | NR | 41 | NR | NR | 490 | 29 |
| Rivers | Dylan | 273 | 22 | NR | NR | 194 | 15 | NR | 24 | 234 | 20 |
| Clifford | Sean | 211 | 10 | 181 | 9 | 246 | 18 | 97 | 3 | 184 | 10 |
| Martin | Robert | 592 | 66 | NR | NR | NR | 72 | NR | NR | 592 | 69 |
| Miranda | Michael | 582 | 23 | NR | 19 | NR | 30 | NR | NR | 582 | 24 |
| Brown | DJ | 844 | 87 | NR | 44 | NR | 56 | NR | NR | 844 | 62 |

Highest National Average Rank: CJ Thorpe (167)

Highest Position Average Rank: Sean Clifford (10)

Highest National Rank 247Sports: CJ Thorpe (192)

Highest Position Rank 247Sports: Yetur Matos (8)

Highest National Rank Rivals: Sean Clifford (181)

Highest Position Rank Rivals: Yetur Matos (8)

Highest National Rank Scout: CJ Thorpe (183)

Highest Position Rank Scout: Dylan Rivers (15)

Highest National Rank ESPN: Sean Clifford (97)

Highest Position Rank ESPN: Sean Clifford (3)