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2008 West Virginia Football Signees

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – (February 6, 2008) – These student-athletes have signed national letters-of-intent and grants-in-aid to play football at West Virginia University, head coach Bill Stewart announced today.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Hometown/School</u>
John Bassler	OL	6-5	285	New Windsor, Md./Francis Scott Key HS
Tyler Bitancurt	K	6-0	180	Springfield, Va./West Springfield HS
Jeffrey Braun	DL	6-5	315	Westminster, Md./Winters Mills HS
Brantwon Bowser	CB	6-0	180	Phoenix, Ariz./Phoenix College
Ryan Clarke	FB	6-1	235	Glen Burnie, Md./DeMatha Catholic HS
J.J. Dorsey	CB	6-0	180	Winchester, Va./Handley HS
Tevita Finau	DL	6-5	290	Phoenix, Ariz./Phoenix College
Larry Ford	DE	6-5	240	Georgetown, S.C./Coffeyville CC
Corey Freeman	DL	6-3	220	Cleveland Heights, Ohio/Cleveland Hght. HS
Josh Jenkins	OL	6-5	305	Parkersburg, W.Va./Parkersburg HS
Joseph Madsen	OL	6-4	270	Chardon, Ohio/Chardon HS
Donovan Miles	LB	6-2	225	Stafford, Va./Brooke Point HS
Ja'tavious Miller	LB	6-0	208	Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee HS
Chris Palmer	DL	6-4	290	Philadelphia, Pa./St. John Neumann HS
Robert Sands	S	6-6	205	Miami, Fla./Miami Carol City Senior HS
D.J. Shaw	DL	6-1	290	Bude, Miss./Copiah-Lincoln CC
Bernard Smith	DL	6-2	220	Atlanta, Ga./Benjamin E. Mays HS
Courtney Stuart	S	6-3	220	Chandler, Ariz./Phoenix College
Jerome Swinton	CB	5-9	160	Daytona Beach, Fla./Seabreeze Senior HS
Tyler Urban	TE	6-4	240	North Huntingdon, Pa./Norwin Senior HS
Coley White	QB	6-1	175	Daphne, Ala./Daphne HS
J.D. Woods	WR	6-2	180	Naples, Fla./Golden Gate HS
Jorge Wright	DL	6-3	260	Miami, Fla./Dr. Krop HS

John Bassler, OL, 6-5, 285, New Windsor, Md./Francis Scott Key HS

Coached by Bill Hyson at Francis Scott Key High School ... two-time all-Monocacy Valley Athletic League on offense and defense ... two-time all-Carroll County selection ... named as an offensive lineman to play in the Super 22 all-star game, featuring the best players from the Baltimore metro area ... also played basketball and baseball ... son of Robert and Carol Bassler.

Tyler Bitancurt, K, 6-0, 180, Springfield, Va./West Springfield HS

Coached by Bill Renner at West Springfield High School ... connected on 13-of-17 field goal attempts, including a 50-yarder, and made 49-of-50 extra points ... the 13 field goals were the most in the state and tied him for the seventh-most in a season in state history ... 70 of his 81 kickoffs resulted in touchbacks ... had a 39.0-yard per punt average with a long of 60 yards ... as a senior, he finished with 88 kicking points and had a two-year career total of 152 points ... selected Washington, D.C. all-metro by the Washington Post as a senior ... two-time first-team all-Patriot district punter and kicker ... two-time first-team all-Northern Region punter ... selected first-team all-Northern Region kicker as a senior ... for his career, he finished with 15-of-20 field goals with a long of 50 yards, 107-of-108 extra point attempts, including consecutive streak of 70, 123 touchbacks on 147 kickoffs, and a 39.4-yard punting average with a long of 60 yards ... had 29 punts land inside the opponent 20-yard line and 10 punts of 50 yards or more ... three-year letterwinner in soccer ... earned first-team all-district honors as a junior ... son of Mauro and Teresa Bitancurt.

Brantwon Bowser, CB, 6-0, 180, Phoenix, Ariz./Phoenix College

Enrolled at WVU in January 2008 ... coached by former Mountaineer standout Dale Wolfley at Phoenix College ... runs a 4.5-40-yard dash and benches 300 pounds ... played in six games and collected 14 tackles, including 10 solos ... coached by Tom Bruney at Maryvale High School in Phoenix, Ariz. ... a 2006 first-team all-state selection ... a first-team all-region honoree ... helped lead the Panthers to the semifinals of the state championships as a senior ... also played basketball and ran track ... ran a 10.7/100m dash ... son of Robin Bowser.

Jeffrey Braun, OL, 6-5, 315, Westminster, Md./Winters Mill HS

Coached by Ken Johnson at Winters Mill High School ... three-year, two-way starting center-defensive lineman ... runs a 5.1/40-yard dash and benches 405 pounds ... considered the best lineman outside the metro areas ... finished with 57 tackles as a senior ... for his career, he finished with 127 tackles, seven sacks, four pass breakups and two fumble recoveries ... 2007 Maryland consensus all-state by the Associated Press ... named to the Baltimore Sun's all-metro team ... three-time selection to the all-Monocacy Valley Athletic League and all-Carroll County teams ... two-time first-team all-area by The Examiner ... two-time first-team small school all-state selection ... helped lead Winters Mill to the state playoffs as a sophomore and junior ... set the record for the most bench reps at the 2007 Nike Baltimore combine ... also played basketball for two years ... Vice President of varsity athletic club ... son of Stacey and the late Jeff Braun, Sr.

Ryan Clarke, FB, 6-1, 235, Glen Burnie, Md./DeMatha Catholic HS

Coached by Bill McGregor at Dematha Catholic High School ... runs a 4.5/40-yard dash and benches 335 pounds ... finished with 35 carries for 456 yards and six touchdowns as a senior ... first-team all-Washington, D.C. by all-DCSportsFan.com ... second-team all-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference ... helped DeMatha to a 10-2 record, the WCAC Conference championship and a No. 4 ranking in Washington D.C. by the Washington Post ... also helped lead the Stags to state titles as a sophomore (11-2) and junior (12-0) ... he also ran track ... son of Greg and Dale Clarke.

J.J. Dorsey, CB, 6-0, 180, Winchester, Va./Handley HS

Coached by Tony Rayburn at Handley High School ... ran and passed for more than 1,000 yards for three-straight years ... accumulated 4,111 yards rushing and 5,643 passing yards over his career for a total of 9,754 yards of total offense, fourth best for career yardage all-time in Virginia ... accounted for 2,872 yards of total offense as a senior, running for 1,175 yards and passing for 1,697 ... collected 3,122 yards of total offense as a junior (1,344 run/1,778 pass) ... selected all-state as a senior ... three-year all-district and all-region and was named the Region II Player of the Year in 2006 ... helped guide the Judges to the playoffs all four years and to the region championship as a sophomore and the district championship as a junior ... an all-district and all-region selection in basketball ... son of James and Yvette Dorsey.

Tevita Finau, DL, 6-5, 290, Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii/Phoenix College

Coached by former Mountaineer standout Dale Wolfley at Phoenix College ... 2007 second-team NJCAA All-American ... collected 90 tackles, including 58 solo tackles, nine sacks, 20 tackles for loss, four forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and six pass breakups ... runs a 4.7/40-yard dash and benches 365 pounds ... coached by Suaki Livai at Kahuku High School ... helped guide the Red Raiders to the 2004 Hawaii state championship ... also participated in basketball ... three-year first-team all-state honoree ... son of Tolu and Takinima Finau.

Larry Ford, DE, 6-5, 240, Georgetown, S.C./Coffeyville CC

Enrolled at WVU in January 2008 ... coached by Jeff Leiker at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas ... registered 37 tackles as a sophomore, including 6.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery ... earned second-team all-Region VI honors ... helped Coffeyville to a 5-5 record and a first-round appearance in the region playoffs ... coached by Barry Avant at Georgetown High School ... as a senior, he collected 117 tackles, 17 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks ... named regional defensive player of the year ... selected first-team all-low country ... played in the South Carolina North-South All-Star game ... member of the basketball team ... runs a 4.7/40-yard dash and bench presses 315 pounds ... son of Larry and Geneva Ford.

Corey Freeman, DL, 6-3, 220, Cleveland Heights, Ohio/Cleveland Heights

Coached by Jeff Rotsky at Cleveland Heights High School ... four-year letterwinner ... as a senior, he finished with 91 tackles, 14.5 sacks and 30 tackles for loss ... Blocked four field goals, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery ... named first-team all-state ... selected All-Lake Erie League first-team ... a first-team all-district honoree ... runs a 4.55/40-yard dash, has a 35-inch vertical jump and benches 310 pounds ... son of Corey Locke and Pamela Sloan.

Josh Jenkins, OL, 6-5, 305, Parkersburg, W.Va./Parkersburg HS

Coached by Bernie Buttrey at Parkersburg High School ... top recruit in the state of West Virginia ... first West Virginia player to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas ... graded out at 98 percent for his senior season ... collected 158 pancake blocks ... finished with 113 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, seven sacks and four fumble recoveries ... USA Today first-team All-American ... Parade Magazine All-American team ... a three-time AAA first-team all-state selection ... three-time all-MSAC Conference honoree ... helped lead the Big Reds to a 13-1 record and the AAA state championship in back-to-back seasons ... runs a 5.2/40-yard dash and bench presses 400 pounds ... also plays basketball ... son of Deborah Johnson.

Joseph Madsen, OL, 6-4, 270, Chardon, Ohio/Chardon HS

Coached by Jim Dipofi at Chardon High School ... two-way starter at defensive tackle and offensive tackle ... three-year letterwinner and team captain ... collected 59 total tackles, including 21 solo stops, five sacks and 18 tackles for loss ... also had 16 assisted tackles, four forced fumbles and a fumble recovery ... selected first-team All-Ohio guard ... first-team All-Premier Athletic Conference honoree ... named first-team Northeast Lakes all-district ... earned most valuable player honors at the West Virginia summer camp ... helped lead Chardon to a 10-3 record and the first round of the playoffs as a junior ... son of Eric and Reta Madsen.

Donovan Miles, LB, 6-2, 225, Stafford, Va./Brooke Point HS

Coached by Jeff Berry at Brooke Point High School ... finished with 107 tackles, including eight sacks and 21 tackles for loss as a senior ... a two-time all-district and all-area performer ... helped lead the Blackhawks to a 9-2 record, including a 7-0 conference record, the Commonwealth District championship and an appearance in the regional playoffs ... collected 114 tackles, 10 sacks and 21 tackles for loss as a junior ... Brooke Point finished 7-4 and made an appearance in the first round of the region playoffs ... runs a 4.5/40-yard dash ... son of Michael Robinson.

Ja'tavious Miller, LB, 6-1, 210,Pahokee, Fla./Pahokee HS

Coached by Blaze Thompson at Pahokee High School ... finished with 109 tackles, eight sacks, 20 tackles for loss and two interceptions as a senior ... registered 14 tackles against Newberry HS in the state championship game ... two-time first-team 2B all-state ... two-time 2B all-area ... Palm Beach Post first-team small school all-area honoree ... played in the Outback Bowl state all-star game and the North-South all-star game ... helped lead the Blue Devils to back-to-back 14-0 records and the state 2B championship his junior and senior seasons ... as a junior, he collected 125 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries ... runs a 4.44/40-yard dash, has a 28.6 vertical jump and has benched 225 pounds 10 times ... volunteered with elementary school tutoring and helped with hurricane clean-up ... son of Lynora Fulmore.

Chris Palmer, DL, 6-4, 290,Philadelphia, Pa./St. John Neumann HS

Coached by Bill Sytsma at St. John Neumann High School ... played both offensive and defensive lines ... described as the quickest offensive guard in the Philadelphia Catholic School League ... selected to the Harrisburg Patriot News Platinum 33 team ... earned Scout.com and Super Prep All-American honors... offense averaged more than 400 yards a game in total offense, including 250 yards a game rushing ... team had a 1,400-yard rusher ... collected 64 tackles, seven tackles for loss and three sacks as a senior ... earned All-Catholic League honors two years as a defensive lineman and one time on offense ... selected to play in the Philadelphia city all-star game ... as a junior, finished with 62 tackles, nine tackles for loss and had five sacks ... runs a 5.0/40-yard dash, has a 29-inch vertical jump and benches more than 300 pounds ... son of Rudy and Grace Palmer.

Robert Sands, S, 6-6, 205,Opa-Locka, Fla./Miami Carol City Senior HS

Coached by Walter Frazier at Miami Carol City Senior High School ... selected second-team all-state by the Miami Herald ... Dade County Top 25 by the Miami Herald ... collected 60 tackles as a senior ... had two interceptions and broke up five passes against the nation's No. 5 team, Booker T. Washington High School ... registered 60 tackles as a junior ... helped lead the Chiefs to the second round of the state playoffs ... he also ran track ... finished third in the state in the triple jump ... selected first-team All-Dade County ... runs a 4.54/40-yard dash and bench presses 265 pounds ... son of Veronica Sands.

D.J. Shaw, DL, 6-1, 290,Bude, Miss./Copiah-Lincoln CC

Coached by Glenn Davis at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Miss. ... registered 56 total tackles, including 34 solo stops, three sacks, seven tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and 15 quarterback hits ... selected honorable mention all-state ... collected 23 tackles as a freshman, including 13 unassisted tackles and a sack ... helped lead Co-Lin to a 9-3 record, the South Division Championship and a runner-up finish in the state championship game ... Co-Lin won the Sea Island Company Golden Isles Bowl Championship ... prepped at Franklin County High School in Meadville, Miss. ... used as a fullback in high school ... ran 113 times for 558 yards and seven touchdowns ... helped lead Franklin County to a 6-4 record and the first round of the state playoffs ... named all-division 7-3A and one of the Clarion Ledger's Top 125 prospects in the state ... runs a 5.0/40-yard dash, benches 425 pounds and squats 650 pounds.

Bernard Smith, DL, 6-2, 220,Atlanta, Ga./Benjamin E. Mays HS

Coached by Jessie Soloman at Benjamin E. Mays High School ... named to the Georgia Sportswriters' Association Class 4A first-team all-state ... earned All-Atlanta honors ... had a team-leading 125 tackles, including 75 solo tackles, 22 tackles for loss, 12 sacks, three forced fumbles and four forced fumbles as a senior ... led the state of Georgia in solo tackles ... punted the ball 25 times for an average of 37.7 yards per punt ... rated No. 4 rush end in Georgia by the Atlanta Journal Constitution ... helped lead the Raiders to a 9-3 record, a second-place finish to Tucker High School in the conference standings and advance to the second round of the state playoffs ... selected to play in the Georgia North-South All-Star Game ...had a season-high 15 tackles in 25-0 win over Lakeside High School and four sacks in a 14-0 win over Miller Grove High School ... selected honorable mention all-state class 4-A as a junior ... led Benjamin E. Mays to a 10-3 record as a junior and advance to the second round of the state playoffs ... son of Constance Nealey.

Courtney Stuart, S, 6-3, 220, Chandler, Ariz./Phoenix College

Coached by former Mountaineer standout Dale Wolfley at Phoenix College ... registered 56 tackles, four forced fumbles and one interception as a sophomore in 2007 ... selected honorable mention all-Western States Football League ... runs a 4.45/40-yard dash and benches 315 pounds ... coached by John Wrenn at Hamilton High School in Chandler, Ariz. ... selected honorable mention all-state as a senior ... helped lead Hamilton to a 12-1 record and an appearance in the state championship game ... son of Greg and Lisa Smith.

Jerome Swinton, CB, 5-9, 160, Daytona Beach, Fla./Seabreeze Senior HS

Coached by Mark Beach at Seabreeze Senior High School ... finished with 48 tackles and blocked a punt as a senior ... a first-team Class 4A all-state defense selection ... named all-Central Florida by the Orlando Sentinel ... an All-Southeast Region selection by Super Prep ... helped lead Seabreeze to a 12-1 record and an appearance in the state semifinals ... collected 53 tackles, three interceptions and eight pass breakups as a junior ... runs a 4.31/40-yard dash, has a 34-inch vertical jump and bench presses 265 pounds ... son of Jerome Swinton and Diane Pollard.

Tyler Urban, TE, 6-4, 240, North Huntington, Pa./Norwin Senior HS

Coached by Dan Conwell at Norwin Senior High School ... as a senior, rushed for 510 yards on 80 carries and scored seven touchdowns as a fullback ... registered 79 tackles and seven sacks ... scored two touchdowns and two sacks in a playoff win over Woodland Hills ... selected second-team all-state class 4A ... Pittsburgh Tribune Review's Terrific 25 ... named all-WPIAL Quad-South Conference ... helped lead the Knights to a 7-4 record and an appearance in the WPIAL quarterfinals ... as a junior, he collected 70 tackles and seven sacks ... rushed for 500 yards and a 6.2 yards per carry average ... member of the National Honor Society ... son of James and Debra Urban.

Coley White, QB, 6-1, 175, Daphne, Ala./Daphne HS

Coached by Glenn Vickery at Daphne High School ... brother of two-time BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year Pat White ... accounted for almost 2,500 yards of total offense as a senior, 964 yards rushing and 1,500 yards passing ... named conference player of the week ... helped Daphne to an 11-2 record and a state 6A runner-up finish ... named Daphne High School's Student of the Month ... also runs track ... runs a 4.5/40-yard dash and bench presses 230 pounds ... son of James and Vonametriss White.

J.D. Woods, WR, 6-2, 180, Naples, Fla./Golden Gate HS

Coached by Dave Tanner at Golden Gate High School ... played wide receiver in high school, collecting 54 catches for 851 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior ... an all-state selection as a senior ... earned first-team All-Southwest Florida accolades ... a two-time first team all-district and All-Collier County Athletic Conference honoree ... helped Golden Gate to a 6-5 finish and a first-round appearance in the state playoffs ... collected 28 receptions for 584 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior ... four-year starter on the basketball team ... participates in the triple jump, the long jump and the 400m dash on the track team ... earned honorable mention all-state honors as a junior in basketball and was all-district and all-conference in track ... runs a 4.5/40-yard dash and bench presses 230 pounds ... son of Freddie and Williamena McCrary and John Blackmon.

Jorge Wright, DL, 6-3, 260, Miami, Fla./Dr. Krop HS

Coached by Rick Divita at Dr. Krop High School ... registered 62 tackles and 18 sacks as a senior ... selected All-Dade County honorable mention ... selected to play in the Dade North-South All-Star game ... helped team to a 7-3 record ... two-year letterwinner in wrestling ... runs a 4.7/40-yard dash and bench presses 275 pounds ... son of Jorge and Dr. Ellen Wright.