

Recruiting Rundown: OSU's Big Weekend Brings Priority Prospects, Top OL Targets



As the 2019 recruiting class winds down, Ohio State aims to fill the few spots left after the Buckeyes inked 15 letters of intent during the Dec. 19-21 early signing period.

Reunited with OSU's six early enrollees — Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy Orange five-star defensive end Zach Harrison, Austin (Texas) Lake Travis five-star wide receiver Garrett Wilson, Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian Academy three-star running back Marcus Crowley, Wayne (N.J.) DePaul Catholic four-star safety Ronnie Hickman and the Mentor, Ohio, four-star duo of offensive tackle Ryan Jacoby and defensive end Noah Potter — majority of the 2019 class returned to campus for an official visit weekend in Columbus.

Enjoying Columbus... as always. pic.twitter.com/K9sXPRVCfM

— Bryson shaw (@bshaw272727) January 19, 2019


Among the signees, Potomac (Md.) Bullis School three-star safety Bryson Shaw was back after he received an in-home visit from three of his future mentors — co-defensive coordinator/secondary coach Jeff Hafley, head coach Ryan Day and defensive line coach Larry Johnson — last Wednesday. Former co-defensive coordinator/safeties coach Alex Grinch, who hand-picked Shaw and pushed for his commitment until he flipped April 29 from Wisconsin, left Jan. 4 to Oklahoma as defensive coordinator.

There's nothing quite like a visit to The Ohio State University ☐ #GoBucks
pic.twitter.com/QqvHdkj6Og

— Ohio State Football (@OhioStateFB) January 22, 2019


Buford, Ga., five-star center Harry Miller, Cleveland St. Ignatius four-star linebacker Tommy Eichenberg and Wake Forest, N.C., three-star defensive tackle Jaden McKenzie rounded out the signees back at Ohio State. The recruiting weekend marked the first big one for Day's new assistants — passing game coordinator/quarterbacks coach Mike Yurcich, co-defensive coordinator Greg Mattison, Hafley, linebackers coach Al Washington and special teams coordinator/assistant secondary coach Matt Barnes.

Unsigned after the early period but committed to the Buckeyes dating back to August 2017, Huntington (W.Va.) Spring Valley four-star offensive guard Doug Nester was back on campus for the second time since Dec. 7-9 when he took his official visit. The 6-6 1/2, 305-pounder called off an official visit to Georgia in January but remains slated for weekend trips to Penn State (Jan. 26) and Virginia Tech (Feb. 2) before he makes his final decision Feb. 6 on National Signing Day. Nester is the 247Sports composite's No. 96 overall prospect, No. 6 offensive guard and No. 2 player in West Virginia.

#GoBuckeyes  pic.twitter.com/3Z1zcnmLeu


— Dawand Jones (@dawand_jones) January 21, 2019

One of OSU's top targets along the offensive line used his official visit, coming back to Columbus for the first time since he took an unofficial visit that led to an offer Nov. 21 and watched practice at the Woody Hayes Athletic, when Indianapolis Ben Davis three-star offensive tackle Dawand Jones made the drive Saturday down Interstate 70. The 6-8, 360-pounder included Ohio State in his top five after he returned home from the trip. He is the 247Sports composite's No. 1,026 overall prospect, No. 86 offensive tackle and No. 13 player in Indiana.

This is a dream come true... Officially Committed!!  pic.twitter.com/lZ0GoomTAR

— Jakob James (@jakobjames00) January 22, 2019

The Buckeyes added their seventh member to the 2020 recruiting class Monday when they received an on-the-spot commitment from Cincinnati Elder offensive tackle Jakob James. The 6-5, 275-pound James became a priority prospect throughout the fall and culminated his recruitment after he picked up an OSU offer Monday at the end of the unofficial visit.

I just wanna see my dog ball sell figures  pic.twitter.com/RAd9BI8moo

— Justin Rogers (@AllAmerican52JR) January 19, 2019

Also in 2020 on the offensive line over the weekend, Ohio State's top target made his way back from up north when Justin Rogers appeared Saturday in Columbus. The five-star offensive guard from Oak Park, Mich., was shown with Detroit Cass Tech product and Buckeyes senior offensive tackle Joshua Alabi.

Rogers' recruitment likely has ways to go before he makes his decision, but the surprise unofficial visit

is the first for him since OSU's 2018 season ended. Rogers is the 247Sports composite's No. 14 overall prospect, No. 1 offensive guard and No. 1 player in Michigan for 2020.

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