



# NFL DRAFT REVIEW

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## 2024 NFL ANNUAL SELECTION MEETING

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS NFL DRAFT ROUND-BY-ROUND

<u>ROUND</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
1 - SAINTS	14	T	Taliese Fuaga	Oregon State
2 - Saints, from GB	41	CB	Kool-Aid McKinstry	Alabama
5a - SAINTS	150	QB	Spencer Rattler	South Carolina
5b - Compensatory	170	WR	Bub Means	Pittsburgh
5c - Compensatory	175	LB	Jaylan Ford	Texas
6 - Saints, from PHI	199	DT	Khristian Boyd	Northern Iowa
7 - Saints, from DEN	239	T	Josiah Ezirim	Eastern Kentucky

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS UNDRAFTED FREE AGENTS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
DT	Kyler Baugh	Minnesota
S	Millard Bradford	TCU
P	Matthew Hayball	Vanderbilt
C	Sincere Haynesworth	Tulane
G	Kyle Hergel	Boston College
TE	Dallin Holker	Colorado State
WR	Jermaine Jackson	Idaho
DE	Trajan Jeffcoat	Arkansas
S	Lawrence Johnson	Southeast Missouri State
RB	Jacob Kibodi	Louisiana-Lafayette
DE	Nathan Latu	Oklahoma State
G	Nouri Nouili	Nebraska
CB	Rico Payton	Pittsburg State
WR	Kyle Sheets	Slippery Rock
LB	Isaiah Stalbird	South Dakota State
WR	Mason Tipton	Yale





**75 TALIESE FUAGA T**

**HEIGHT: 6-6**

**WEIGHT: 324**

**COLLEGE: OREGON STATE**

**DRAFTED: 1st ROUND (14th OVERALL)**

**BORN: 5/5/02**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – The New Orleans Saints addressed an immediate need while also looking to the future when they drafted Taliese Fuaga in the first round (14th overall) of the 2024 NFL Draft out of Oregon State. Possessing the strength, footwork and ability to play every offensive line position but center, Fuaga will start working at tackle for New Orleans. Fuaga comes to the Saints after four seasons in Corvallis, where he made 25 starts at right tackle in 39 games, including opening all 12 contests in 2023, when he received first-team All-American honors.

**2023** – First-team All-American selection started all 12 games and played 700 snaps at right tackle, as part of an offensive line that helped OSU average 4.9 yards per carry and 167.1 rushing yards per game...Earned an 88.2 overall grade from Pro Football Focus, and a 90.9 mark in run blocking...PFF graded him at 80.0 in pass blocking...Helped OSU rush for 277 yards on 40 carries (6.9 avg.) with six touchdowns, as the OSU offensive line surrendered only one sack in 62-17 win vs. Stanford, Nov. 11...Represented the National team at the Reese's Senior Bowl. **2022** – PFF honorable mention All-American and first-team All-Pac-12 (second-team by *Associated Press* and conference coaches) started all 13 games at right tackle, as part of an offensive line that helped pave the way for the Beavers to average 396 yards per game overall and 196.5 yards per game on the ground, which was among the league's leaders, graded out at 80.8 by Pro Football Focus, including a 79.6 mark in run blocking...Blocked for an offense that gained 268 yards on 43 carries (6.2 avg.) with five touchdowns and surrendered only one sack to power a 38-34 come-from-behind win vs. Oregon, Nov. 26. **2021** – Played in ten games along the line for OSU...Pac-12 Academic Honor Roll. **2020** – Saw action in four games along the line for OSU in COVID-19 pandemic shortened season.

**PERSONAL** – Played for Coach Leon Hatch at Mount Tahoma (Tacoma, Wash.) HS...Rated three stars by 247Sports and Rivals...Played in the 2020 Polynesian Bowl...Played on the defensive line at Mount Tahoma, where he tallied 40 tackles, 10.5 stops for loss and five sacks, in addition to seeing offensive line action...Named first-team All-League on the offensive line and received second-team recognition on the defensive line as a senior and an All-Area nomination...Selected second-team All-League as a junior...Sociology major...Name pronounced tah-lee-ESS-ay Foo-AH-gah...Born October 6, 2001.



# DRAFT NOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## New Orleans Saints 2024 NFL Draft Day One Notes

- With the 14th pick overall, New Orleans selected Oregon State T Taliese Fuaga (pronounced tah-lee-ESS-ay Foo-AH-gah).
- Fuaga was the 59th first round pick taken by the Saints all-time (including QB Dave Wilson taken in the first round of the 1981 Supplemental Draft).
- This is the fifth time New Orleans has picked from the 14th overall slot in the NFL Draft. In 1990, the Saints selected West Virginia DE Renaldo Turnbull, who would play for New Orleans for seven seasons and recorded 44.5 sacks, tied for 11th in franchise history. Turnbull was a *Pro Football Weekly*/PFWA all-rookie selection in 1990, when he recorded nine sacks and was selected to the Pro Bowl and as an *Associated Press* All-Pro in 1993, when he was tied for fourth in the NFL with 13 takedowns. In 2009, they selected Ohio State CB Malcolm Jenkins with the 14th overall pick. Jenkins, who moved to safety in 2010, enjoyed a 13-year career with New Orleans (2009-13, 2020-21) and Philadelphia (2014-19) and in 199 games with 191 starts, recorded 1,284 tackles with 13.5 sacks, 21 interceptions, 130 passes defensed, 17 forced fumbles and ten fumble recoveries. Jenkins was selected to three Pro Bowls and won Super Bowl championships with both the Saints (2009) and Eagles (2017). In 2013, with the 14th pick, New Orleans selected Texas S Kenny Vaccaro. In five seasons with the Saints, Vaccaro played in 68 games with 67 starts and recorded 482 tackles with eight sacks, eight interceptions, 29 passes defensed, five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries. In 2018, New Orleans selected UTSA DE Marcus Davenport with the 14th overall pick. In five seasons, Davenport played in 63 games with 32 starts and recorded 21.5 sacks, seven forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.
- Fuaga, 6-6, 324, was the ninth tackle taken in the first round by the club. Only defensive ends (11) have been taken more frequently than tackles and running backs (nine each) in the first round. He is the 49th tackle selected by the club all-time.
- Fuaga was the eighth Oregon State player picked by New Orleans in the NFL Draft, the second former Beaver picked in the first round by the Black and Gold, joining WR Brandin Cooks (20th overall in 2015). Oregon State is tied with Alabama and Tulane for producing the 14th most Saints draft selections.
- Fuaga was the first OSU offensive lineman ever taken in the first round of the NFL Draft.
- Fuaga joins DB Rejzohn Wright as the second former Oregon State player currently on the Saints roster. He is the first Saint taken in the first round out of a Pac-12 Conference school since G/T Andrus Peat was selected 13th overall out of Stanford in 2015.
- In four seasons at Oregon State, Fuaga played in 39 career games, opening his last 25 contests at the right tackle position.
- In 2023, Fuaga opened all 12 games he played in at right tackle for the Beavers, as part of an offensive line that helped OSU average 4.9 yards per carry and 167.1 rushing yards per game. He was a first-team All-America selection by Phil Steele, Pro Football Focus, ESPN, CBS Sports and the FWA and was a second-team selection by the *Associated Press*, AFCA, The Athletic, *The Sporting News* and *USA Today*. Fuaga was a consensus first-team All-Pac-12 selection for the 8-5 Beavers. He was selected to participate in the Senior Bowl.
- In 2022, Fuaga was a Pro Football Focus honorable mention All-American and first-team All-Pac-12 (second-team by *Associated Press* and conference coaches), when he started all 13 games at right tackle for the 10-3 Beavers, helping pave the way for the offense to average 396.0 yards per game and 196.5 on the ground.

- As a sophomore in 2021, he saw action in ten games for OSU and four contests as a freshman in the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic shortened season.
- Fuaga prepped at Mount Tahoma (Tacoma, Wash.) High School, where he played on both the defensive line and the offensive line. As a senior, he was named first-team All-League on the offensive line and second-team on the defensive line, where he tallied 40 tackles, 10.5 stops for loss and five sacks.



### **34 KOOL-AID MCKINSTRY CB**

**HEIGHT: 5-11**

**WEIGHT: 199**

**COLLEGE: ALABAMA**

**DRAFTED: 2nd ROUND (41st OVERALL)**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – When the New Orleans Saints drafted Kool-Aid McKinstry with their second round pick (41st overall) of the 2024 NFL Draft, the team added one of college football's top corners and elite punt returners. McKinstry played three seasons for Alabama, where he recorded 92 tackles, five stops for loss, two sacks, two interceptions and 25 passes defensed. In two seasons (2022-23) as the Tide's primary punt returner, he returned 35 punts for 418 yards (11.9 avg.).

**2023** – One of nation's top corners, who also contributed on punt returns...A consensus first-team All-American (*Associated Press, The Sporting News, CBS Sports, Pro Football Focus, Sports Illustrated* and *USA Today*). Garnered second-team All-America accolades by the AFCA, The Athletic and Walter Camp Foundation. Earned first team All-SEC honors from the *AP* and conference coaches. Selected as a semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award and Lott IMPACT Trophy...Started all 14 games and broke up seven passes to go with 32 tackles, including two for loss. Also returned 14 punts for 86 yards with a long gain of 33...In season opener vs. Middle Tennessee, returned five punts for 66 yards (13.7 avg.) to be selected as one of the coaching staff's special teams players of the week. Recorded a long punt return of 33 yards to set up an eventual Crimson Tide touchdown. Also contributed three tackles...Vs. Ole Miss, helped UA's secondary limit the high-powered Rebel offense to only 245 yards passing and ten total points. Recorded three tackles, including one for two-yard loss, while adding a pass breakup to be named a defensive player of the week by the Tide coaches...At Mississippi State, did not allow a completion on the night, breaking up one pass. Played a key role in limiting the Bulldogs to only 107 yards passing...At Kentucky, totaled three tackles, including half a stop for a two-yard loss, to go with a pass breakup. Added two punt returns for 22 yards...At Auburn, recorded one tackle in Iron Bowl as the Tigers avoided throwing in his direction...In SEC Championship victory over Georgia, had his day cut short due to injury, but contributed two tackles, including half a stop for loss, to go with a pass breakup prior to his exit...In Rose Bowl loss to Michigan, totaled five tackles. **2022** – Opened all 13 games, while also handling punt return duties...Earned first-team All-America honors from Pro Football Focus at cornerback. Named a second-team All-American at corner by the AFCA, CBS Sports and *The Sporting News*. Also an *AP* third-team honoree on defense. Picked up second-team honors as a punt returner by the FWWA and was tabbed third-team at punt returner by PFF. Selected to the All-SEC first-team as a defensive back by both the *AP* and conference coaches. Also picked up second-team All-SEC honors from the conference coaches as a return specialist...Ranked second among Division I punt returners with 332 yards on 21 returns with a long of 45...Averaged 15.8 yards per return, also ranked second in the nation and first in the conference...Totaled 35 tackles, including two stops for 16 yards in losses and one sack for a 12-yard loss. Also contributed a team-high 16 passes defensed and a 26-yard interception return...A Bednarik Award semifinalist, presented annually to the nation's top defensive player...At Texas, recorded a career-high seven tackles, including one stop for a 12-yard loss, to go with a pass defense...Vs. ULM, contributed to the Tide's 262 combined punt return yards to break previous school record of 204 that was set back in 1947. Accumulated 136 yards, third-most in

UA single-game history on five returns (27.2 avg.)...Vs. Vanderbilt, contributed three tackles, three passes defended and racked up 91 yards on four punt returns (22.8 avg.)...At Arkansas, earned defensive and special teams player of the week accolades from coaching staff for his standout play in Fayetteville, when he recorded six tackles, including one for a four-yard loss, and two passes defended. Returned three punts for 77 yards (25.6 avg.) with a season-long of 45...At Tennessee, targeted once and did not allow a completion...Vs. Mississippi State, broke up a career-high four passes to go with four tackles...At LSU, recorded two tackles and one pass defense...Vs. Austin Peay, picked off his first pass of the season, returning the interception 26 yards, to go with three tackles. Added one punt return for ten yards...Vs. Auburn, had four tackles to go with one punt return in the Iron Bowl...In the Allstate Sugar Bowl 45-20 win over Kansas State, broke up a game-high three passes to go with one tackle.

**2021** – As a freshman, earned a contributing role in the Crimson Tide's deep secondary unit during training camp...Selected to Freshman All-SEC Team by coaches...In 15 games with six starts, recorded 25 tackles (eight solo), including one sack for a 13-yard loss, one interception and two passes defended...In opener against Miami, saw his first collegiate playing time...Vs. Mercer, made his first start of the season. Totaled six tackles to tie for second on the UA defense. Also picked off his first career pass and added two pass breakups to be selected as one of the team's defensive players of the week by coaching staff...At Florida, recorded a special teams tackle...Vs. LSU, got starting and finished with one tackle...Vs. Arkansas, entered in a pinch and stepped up. Recorded two tackles...At Auburn, got the starting nod in the Iron Bowl. Recorded two tackles, including a huge sack for a 13-yard loss late in game. Also broke up the Tigers' two-point try in the fourth overtime to give UA the ball back in position to win...In SEC Championship game against Georgia, made a second straight start at cornerback for the Crimson Tide. Finished with three tackles on the day...In Cotton Bowl against Cincinnati, totaled five tackles in his start...In College Football Playoff National Championship game against Georgia, finished with four tackles against the Bulldogs.

**PERSONAL** – Widely considered the top cornerback in the 2021 signing class, playing for Head Coach Sam Shade at Pinson (Al.) Valley HS...A five-star on the 247Composite, where he ranked as the nation's No. 23 overall player, the No. 1 corner and the top player in Alabama...The No. 18 player nationally in the Top247 by 247Sports and the site's top-ranked cornerback...Rivals.com ranked him 46th nationally, the No. 2 cornerback and the No. 1 recruit in Alabama...Four-star recruit and No. 38 in the ESPN300 (ESPN.com) and the No. 4 athlete, the No. 2 player in Alabama and No. 17 player in the Southeast by ESPN...No. 13 on the PrepStar Top 150 Dream Team and the publication's No. 1 cornerback and top player in his state...Selected to Under Armour All-America Game...Earned Alabama All-State honors from Max Preps...A playmaker on both sides of the football, leading the Indians to the Alabama 6A State Championship in 2020 and three titles in four years...Chose Alabama over Auburn and LSU.



# DRAFT NOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## New Orleans Saints 2024 NFL Draft Day Two Notes

- With the 41st pick overall pick in the second round, New Orleans selected Alabama CB Kool-Aid McKinstry.
- The Saints traded up to the 41st overall pick in a trade with Green Bay in exchange for the 45th pick, a fifth round draft pick (No. 168) and the team's sixth round pick (No. 190).
- This is only the second time New Orleans has selected from the 41st overall slot. In 1980, the Saints selected Notre Dame CB Dave Waymer with the 41st overall selection. Waymer is the franchise's all-time leader with 37 interceptions, who was inducted posthumously into the New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame in 1996.
- McKinstry, 5-11, 199, was the 63rd cornerback selected by the club all-time.
- McKinstry became the first Alabama cornerback selected by New Orleans and the third Crimson Tide defensive back overall, joining safeties Roman Harper (2006) and Vinnie Sunseri (2014). He is the ninth Alabama player selected in the draft by the Saints. Alabama and Missouri are tied for producing the 12<sup>th</sup> most Saints out of the NFL Draft by colleges.
- McKinstry is the only former Crimson Tide player currently on the Saints roster.
- In three seasons at Alabama (2021-23), McKinstry recorded 92 tackles, five stops for loss, two sacks, two interceptions and 25 passes defended. In two seasons (2022-23) as the primary punt returner, he returned 35 punts for 418 yards (11.9 avg.).
- In 2023, McKinstry was a consensus first-team All-American and All-SEC selection and semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award, as he made 32 stops, including two for a loss and broke up seven passes. He also returned 14 punts for 86 yards with a long gain of 33 yards. He was a defensive and special teams centerpiece for a Crimson Tide team that won the SEC Championship game and advanced to the College Football Playoff for the second time in three years.
- In 2022, McKinstry was a second-team All-American at cornerback and punt returner and a first-team All-SEC defensive back. On defense, he made 35 tackles, including two stops for a loss, one sack, one 26-yard interception return and 16 passes defended. He ranked second among Division 1 punt returners with 332 yards and averaged 15.8 yards per punt return, ranked second in the nation and first in the conference.
- In 2021, McKinstry served as a key reserve in the secondary and on special teams in his first year with the Crimson Tide, recording 25 tackles, including one stop for a loss, one sack, one interception and two passes defended, earning freshman All-SEC honors as Alabama advanced to the College Football Playoff National Championship game.
- A Birmingham native, McKinstry played for former NFL DB Sam Shade at Pinson Valley High School, where he was widely considered the top cornerback in the 2021 signing class and led his team to the Alabama 6A State Championship in 2020 and three titles in four years.



## **18 SPENCER RATTLER QB**

**HEIGHT: 6-0**

**WEIGHT: 211**

**COLLEGE: SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DRAFTED: 5th ROUND (150th OVERALL)**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – With their eyes on competition and development, the New Orleans Saints selected Spencer Rattler out of South Carolina with the team's first selection in the fifth round (150th overall) of the 2024 NFL Draft. In five seasons at Oklahoma (2019-21) and South Carolina (2022-23), Rattler completed 900-of-1,313 passes (68.5 pct.) for 10,807 yards with 77 touchdowns and only 32 interceptions. Despite playing only two seasons in Garnet & Black, the Phoenix, Ariz. native finished his Gamecock career first in school history in completion percentage (67.5), fifth in completions (523) and passing yards (6,212) and ninth in passing touchdowns (37).

**2023** – Selected as a team captain and a co-winner of the Team MVP Award in his final season at South Carolina. Started all 12 games. Completed 275-of-399 passes (68.9 pct.) for 3,186 yards with 19 touchdown passes and eight interceptions. Ranked fifth in the Southeastern Conference and 27th in the NCAA in passing yards with the third-highest single-season total in Gamecocks history...Averaged 265.5 yards passing per game, ranked third in the SEC and 22nd in the nation...Set school single-season record for completions (275) and completion percentage (68.9)...Logged five 300-yard passing games, one shy of the school record...Threw for over 300 yards against North Carolina (353), Furman (345), Florida (313), Jacksonville State (399) and Vanderbilt (351)...The 399-passing yard performance vs. Jacksonville State ranks eighth in school history...Threw two 70+ yard TDs vs. Mississippi State, including a career-long 76-yarder...Tossed a season-high four touchdowns vs. Florida...Rushed for 104 yards and four TDs...Longest rush was a 28-yarder against Mississippi State...Invited to the Senior Bowl where he was voted the best quarterback on the American Team by opposing defenders and capped the week by being selected as game's Most Valuable Player. **2022** – Redshirt junior who started all 13 games in his first season with the Gamecocks, helping them log an 8-5 record...Along with defensive tackle Zacch Pickens, named the Team MVP and was one of five Rex Enright Captain's Award winners, along with SEC Academic Honor Roll honors...Completed 264-of-399 passes (66.2 pct.) for 3,026 yards with 18 touchdowns and 12 interceptions...Rushed for 46 yards with three scores. Also caught a 15-yard pass...Had school's fourth-highest passing yardage mark vs. Tennessee (438). Had what was maybe the best game by a signal-caller in school history in the upset win over the fifth-ranked Volunteers. Completed 30-of-37 passes for 438 yards and a school-record six touchdowns with zero picks. The 30 completions, 438 yards and six TDs were all career-highs. Also caught a 15-yard pass, the first of career. Selected as the Walter Camp National Offensive Player of the Week, the CFP National Performer of the Week and co-SEC Offensive Player of the Week...Led Carolina to another Top-10 win against No. 7 Clemson, finishing 25-of-39 for 360 yards and two touchdowns, while rushing for another score. Found wide receiver Antwane Wells for a career-long 72-yard TD...Finished the regular season as hot as any quarterback in the country...Engineered victories over both Tennessee and Clemson by completing 55-of-76 passes (72.4 pct.) for 798 yards and eight touchdowns with only two interceptions...Completed 29-of-46 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns in TaxSlayer Bowl against Notre Dame. The 46 attempts were a career-high. **2021** – Appeared in nine games at Oklahoma, starting each of the first six contests. Completed 140-of-187 passes (74.9 pct.) for 1,483 yards with 11 touchdowns and five interceptions. Ranked first in the Big 12 and second nationally in completion percentage and fourth in the Big 12 in passing efficiency rating (155.5)...Matched career-high with 30 completions against Tulane when he threw for 304 yards in opener...Tied school record for TD passes in a half with five vs. Western Carolina...22-for-25 against Kansas State and completed 55 of his last 68 attempts (80.8 pct.). **2020** – Davey O'Brien Award Semifinalist...Named National Freshman of the Year by CBS Sports...Became second OU quarterback to be named an FWAA Freshman All-American (Sam Bradford)...A first-team *Associated Press* All-Big 12 selection and the organization's co-Big 12 newcomer of the year...Academic All-Big 12 first-team honoree...Started all 11 games. Completed 214-of-317 passes for 3,031 yards and 28 touchdowns with seven interceptions. Rushed for 160 yards and six touchdowns. Passed for at least 200 yards in ten games and for at least



two TDs in nine contests. Had 15 touchdown passes and just two interceptions in his final seven games. 92.5 passing grade by PFF ranked third nationally. Ranked by PFF as nation's 13th-best player regardless of position. Led nation's freshmen in passing touchdowns, passing offense (275.5 ypg) and total offense (290.1 ypg)...Among all players who played at least six games, finished eighth in passing TDs, ninth in yards per pass attempt (9.6), tenth in pass efficiency rating (172.6), 14th in completion percentage (67.5), 15th in passing offense and 16th in yards per completion (14.2)...Completed 14-of-23 passes for 247 yards and three touchdowns, and rushed seven times for 40 yards and one score in Cotton Bowl win over No. 10 Florida...Named Big 12 Championship Most Outstanding Player after completing 22-of-34 passes for 272 yards with one touchdown pass and rushing for a nine-yard score in win over No. 8 Iowa State...Accounted for five touchdowns (four passing, one rushing) in victory over No. 14 Oklahoma State. Completed 17-of-24 passes (71 pct.) for 301 yards, four TDs and zero interceptions (good for his second-best passer rating of the season [231.2]) and rushed for a nine-yard score against Oklahoma State. Named Davey O'Brien QB of the Week, Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week and Big 12 Newcomer of the Week...Registered 212 yards on 15-of-27 passing and a TD and rushed for a TD in just over one half vs. Kansas...Completed 21-of-30 passes for 288 yards and two TDs as Sooners mounted six straight scoring drives at Texas Tech...Threw for 332 yards and two touchdowns (including a 61-yarder) on 13-of-22 passing at TCU...Completed 23-of-35 passes for 209 yards and three TDs and rushed for a career-high 51 yards and a score on 14 carries in quadruple-overtime win over No. 22 Texas. 15-of-22 for 135 yards and two TDs after halftime...Completed 25-of-36 passes for 300 yards with two TDs and rushed for 20 yards and a TD at Iowa State...Posted career-high 30 completions, 41 attempts, 387 yards and four TDs vs. Kansas State...Completed 14-of-17 passes for 290 yards and four TDs vs. Missouri State in first career start. Became first Oklahoma freshman to throw four touchdowns in first start...Also set OU freshman records for passing efficiency rating (303.3), yards per completion (23.7) and yards per attempt (17.1) vs. MSU...Passing efficiency rating vs. Missouri State set a Big 12 freshman record and rated as the third-highest in school history regardless of class. **2019** – Appeared in three games and completed 7-of-11 passes for 81 yards with one touchdown...Ran three times for 23 yards...Was one-for-three passing for eight yards and ran once for eight yards vs. No. 1 LSU in CFP Semifinal at the Peach Bowl...Was two-for-four through the air for 23 yards vs. Texas Tech...Completed all four passes for 50 yards and his first career touchdown (nine yards) in collegiate debut vs. South Dakota. Also ran for 15 yards on two carries in the contest.

**PERSONAL** – Graduated from Pinnacle (Phoenix, Ariz.) HS in 2019...Five-star recruit by 247Sports and Rivals and a four-star prospect by ESPN...The consensus No. 1 quarterback in the class of 2019...An All-American Bowl selection...Led his team to the 7-on-7 title at Nike's "Opening" tournament...Elite 11 quarterback competition MVP...Rated ninth overall in the 2019 class by 247Sports, 13th by Rivals and 29th by ESPN...Touted as the No. 1 recruit in Arizona by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals...Threw for an Arizona state high school record 11,083 yards in his career with 116 TD passes...Ran for over 1,000 career yards with 14 touchdowns...Graduated in December, 2023 with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies...Spencer Michael Rattler was born Sept. 28, 2000 in Phoenix, Ariz.



**16 BUB MEANS WR**

**HEIGHT: 6-2**

**WEIGHT: 215**

**COLLEGE: PITTSBURGH**

**DRAFTED: 5th ROUND (170th OVERALL)**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – With their second fifth round draft pick (170th overall), the Saints selected wide receiver Bub Means out of Pittsburgh. After starting his college career as a defensive back at Tennessee in 2019, the Georgia native spent two seasons at Louisiana Tech (2020-21) and two at Pitt (2022-23), recording career totals of 90 receptions for 1,552 yards (17.2 avg.) with ten touchdowns.

**2023** – Played in all 12 games for Pittsburgh, starting ten at wide receiver...Honorable Mention All-ACC...Compiled 41 receptions for 721 yards (17.6 avg.) and six touchdowns. Led Pitt in receiving yards and TD catches...75-yard touchdown catch at Virginia Tech marked a career-long and was the Panthers' longest of the season...Posted career-highs with nine catches for 109 yards (including a 22-yard TD) at Wake Forest...Finished with four receptions for 71 yards (17.8 avg.) with one TD in win vs. Louisville...Vs. Boston College, had three receptions for 78 yards (26.0 avg.), including a 61-yard TD grab to put Pitt ahead for good in the third quarter in a 24-16 win...Selected to play in the East-West Shrine Bowl. **2022** – Joined Pitt as a transfer from Louisiana Tech with immediate eligibility and went on to play in all 13 games, starting seven...compiled 27 receptions for 401 yards (14.9 avg.) and two touchdowns. Also rushed for ten yards...Posted a season-high 90 yards on three catches (30.0 avg.) with a TD at Virginia...Had a season-high six catches (for 38 yards) vs. Rhode Island...Played a vital role in the Sun Bowl victory over UCLA with four catches for 84 yards (21.0 avg.) and a TD. Made a crucial 17-yard catch on the final drive against the Bruins, helping to set up the game-winning field goal. **2021** – At Louisiana Tech, compiled 22 receptions for 430 yards (team-high 19.6 yards per catch) and two TDs in 11 contests (two starts). Registered multiple receptions in eight games...Averaged 20.3 yards per return on club-best 12 kickoff returns (244 yards)...Added an eight-yard rush and completed his only pass attempt of year for 22 yards at UTEP...Conference USA All-Freshman...Had season-high 94 receiving yards (on two catches) with a 72-yard TD at Mississippi State...Had five catches for 67 yards and a score at North Carolina State...Posted career-highs with four kickoff returns for 90 yards (22.5 avg.) with a long of 27 yards against UTSA. **2020** – Redshirted in first year at Louisiana Tech after transferring from Tennessee. **2019** – Spent season at Tennessee as a defensive back, appearing in four games.

**PERSONAL** – Garnered 25 scholarship offers out of Lovejoy (Ga.) HS, which he helped to the Georgia 6A state playoffs as a senior...Twice selected first-team All-Region 4-6A...Compiled nearly 900 receiving yards with 11 touchdown catches over his final two varsity seasons...Missed part of his senior season in 2018, but still caught 19 passes for 460 yards and six TDs...Had over 400 receiving yards and five touchdown catches as a junior in 2017...Majored in communications...Jerrod Means was born Jan. 10, 2001 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



**53 JAYLAN FORD LB**

**HEIGHT: 6-2**

**WEIGHT: 240**

**COLLEGE: TEXAS**

**DRAFTED: 5th ROUND (175th OVERALL)**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – The Saints selected Jaylan Ford with the 175th overall pick in the fifth round of the 2024 NFL Draft out of Texas. The 6-3, 242-pound defender possesses a combination of speed, instincts and strength needed to excel on both defense and special teams. The Frisco, Texas native started 29-of-49 games for the Longhorns during his college career with totals of 287 tackles (141 solo), 27.5 stops for loss, three sacks, ten passes defended, six interceptions, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries. Heading into his rookie campaign, Ford will look to provide depth at the linebacker position and contribute on special teams.

**2023** – Butkus Award semifinalist...A consensus first-team All-Big 12 selection by (conference head coaches, the *Associated Press*, and Phil Steele) and *USA Today* All-Big 12...A Phil Steele honorable mention All-America selection...Appeared in and started all 14 games. Totaled 101 tackles (46 solo), 10.5 stops for loss, one sack, two interceptions, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, six quarterback hurries and two passes defended. Became the first Longhorn with back-to-back 100-tackle seasons since Keenan Robinson in 2010-11. Had at least five tackles in 13 games and seven-plus stops in nine contests...Had five tackles (one solo) and one interception vs. Rice, his seventh takeaway over his last eight games. Fifth career pick, the fourth Longhorn LB to achieve the feat...Registered eight tackles (four solo), one stop for loss and an interception at Baylor. Was his eighth takeaway over his last 11 games, including six interceptions. Named the Reese's Senior Bowl National Defensive Player of the Week...Posted six tackles (two solo), a season-high 2.5 stops for loss, one sack and one forced fumble at Houston...Had a season-high 11 tackles (four solo) with one tackle for loss and two quarterback hurries against BYU...Registered eight tackles (four solo), 1.5 tackles for loss and recovered one fumble against Kansas State...Reese's Senior Bowl invitee. **2022** – Named a third-team All-American by the *Associated Press*...A first-team All-Big 12 Selection (conference head coaches and the *Associated Press*)...Dave Campbell's Texas Football Defensive Player of the Year...Played in 13 games with 12 starts...Totaled a career-high 119 tackles (61 solo), ten tackles for loss, two sacks, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, four interceptions, two quarterback hurries and two pass breakups...Registered career-highs with 15 tackles (ten solo) and one forced fumble and notched half a sack versus UTSA...Recorded 12 tackles (eight solo), one stop for loss and one forced fumble at Texas Tech...Had 14 tackles (seven solo) and one stop for loss against West Virginia...Made seven tackles (four solo), one stop for loss and had one pass defense in a shutout of Oklahoma in the Red River Showdown...Registered eight tackles (two solo), a fumble recovery and had his first career interception against Iowa State. Tabbed Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week for his performance against the Cyclones...Recorded six tackles (four solo), two stops for loss and a sack at Oklahoma State...Made ten tackles (six solo), had one forced fumble, a fumble recovery and an 18-yard interception return at Kansas State. Netted Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week accolades for his standout performance against the Wildcats...Tallied nine tackles (three solo) and a split sack against TCU...Made five solo tackles and had a 12-yard interception return at Kansas...Registered 13 tackles (two solo), two stops for loss, one pass defense and an 18-yard interception return against Baylor. His interception against the Bears was his fourth of the season, tying the single-season interception record for a Texas linebacker, last accomplished by Derrick Johnson (2002 and 2003). Earned third Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week honor for efforts against Baylor, becoming the third Longhorn to earn the accolade three times in same season (Johnson, '04; Jackson Jeffcoat, '13)...Totaled ten tackles (five solo) against Washington in the Alamo Bowl. Marked seventh game with double-digit tackles in 2022 and the eighth of his career...119 season tackle total was the most for a Longhorn since 2014 (Jordan Hicks - 147; Steve Edmond - 131). All four interceptions set up Texas TDs. **2021** – Played in all 12 games with two starts. Registered 53 tackles (29 solo) with a team-leading six stops for loss...Had three tackles (one solo) in Texas' season-opening win versus Louisiana-Lafayette...Collected 12

tackles (seven solo) with a stop for loss and a quarterback hurry against Oklahoma State...Made five tackles (three solo) including a stop for loss at West Virginia...Recorded six solo tackles and two stops for loss against Kansas State. **2020** – Played in all ten games, contributing primarily on special teams and started in the Valero Alamo Bowl versus Colorado. Logged 14 tackles (five solo) and one tackle for loss...Recorded three tackles (two solo) in his debut versus UTEP...Recorded a career-high seven tackles (two solo) and one stop for loss in the regular season finale at Kansas State...Posted four tackles in the Alamo Bowl win over Colorado.

**PERSONAL** – A two-time all-state honoree who led Lone Star (Frisco, Texas) HS to the state semifinals as senior...Ranked No. 112 overall in Texas by Rivals...No. 988 nationally, No. 71 at outside linebacker, and No. 123 overall in Texas according to 247Sports...Rated No. 102 at outside linebacker and No. 156 overall in Texas by ESPN...Ranked No. 51 in SportsDay's Top 100 Recruits by the *Dallas Morning News*...Named second-team 5A All-State in 2019, when he amassed 142 tackles (115 solo), including 11 stops for loss, a sack, six pressures, an interception, a pass defense and a forced fumble. Part of a defense that allowed just 15.7 points per game, including six games of seven points or fewer, including two shutouts. Helped Lone Star to a 14-1 overall record, including a 7-0 district mark/title, and an appearance in the 5A Division 1 state semifinals. Named third-team 2019 Super Team and to the Texas Top 300 by Dave Campbell's Texas Football...Earned honorable mention 5A All-State honors as a junior in 2018 and named Defensive MVP of District 5-5A Division 1, when he compiled 105 tackles, including eight stops for loss, with eight passes defended, three forced fumbles and three interceptions. Part of a defense that allowed just 11.3 points per game, including 31 points in their first six games, two of which were on a safety, and seven total games of seven points or less. Helped Lone Star to a 10-3 record, including a 6-1 district mark and 5A Division I regional playoffs appearance...Tabbed the District 13-5A Defensive Newcomer of the Year in 2017 as a sophomore. Part of a defense that allowed just 13.1 points per game, including four shutouts. Helped Lone Star to a 12-2 overall record, including a 7-0 district mark/title, and an appearance in the 5A Division 2 quarterfinals.



**97 KHRISTIAN BOYD DT**

**HEIGHT: 6-2**

**WEIGHT: 320**

**COLLEGE: NORTHERN IOWA**

**DRAFTED: 6th ROUND (199th OVERALL)**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – A big-bodied interior defender who cranked up his pressure totals for Northern Iowa in 2023, the New Orleans Saints selected Khristian Boyd in the sixth round (199th overall) of the 2024 NFL Draft. During his college career, Boyd appeared in 49 games and has recorded 149 tackles (59 solo), 22.5 stops for loss, 10.5 sacks, five passes defensed and two forced fumbles.

**2023** – All-Missouri Valley Football Conference first-team...FCS Third Team All-American (*AP*, *STATS Perform*, *FCS Football Central*)...2024 Hula Bowl invitee...Started all 11 games on the defensive line...Had 43 tackles (17 solo), including 6.5 stops for loss of 28 yards, 3.5 sacks for a loss of 23 yards and a pass defense...Finished with five tackles and a sack/stop for loss at Idaho State, Sept. 16...Made five tackles, 1.5 stops for loss and a split sack at Indiana State, Oct. 7...Made seven tackles and a sack vs. North Dakota State, Nov. 18. **2022** – Consensus second-team All-MVFC...Played in ten games and recorded 32 tackles (12 solo), five stops for loss, a sack, two passes defensed and two forced fumbles...Notched six tackles and a sack/stop for loss vs. Indiana State, Oct. 1...Had one solo tackle and a forced fumble vs. Utah Tech, Oct. 15...Posted one solo stop for loss and a forced fumble at Southern Illinois, Oct. 29. **FALL 2021** – Started two of ten games and tallied 20 tackles (seven solo tackles), 3.5 tackles for a loss for 11 yards, and two sacks for a loss of ten yards...Best game was against Western Illinois, Nov. 20, with two tackles for loss/sacks for a loss of ten yards. **SPRING 2021** – Started all seven games played...Recorded a career-high two sacks and 2.5 stops for loss as part of seven tackle (five solo) day at Youngstown State, Feb. 27, in 21-0 shutout win...Had seven stops and a half sack/stop for loss vs. Illinois State, March 6...Finished game with seven tackles (six solo), 2.5 stops for loss, one sack and one pass breakup at Western Illinois, March 27...Finished with 24 tackles (13 solo) and added one pass defense. Tied for second on the team with 3.5 sacks for a loss of 19 yards. Third on team with 5.5 stops for loss. **2019** – Appeared in ten games and recorded 25 tackles (nine solo), two stops for loss, a split sack for a two-yard loss and one pass defense...Notched a career-high nine tackles at James Madison, Dec. 13. **2018** – Redshirted...Played against Indiana State, Sept. 27 and recorded two tackles.

**PERSONAL** – Rated as the 31st-best recruit in the state of Missouri by 247Sports.com out of Blue Springs (Mo.) HS...Rated as a three-star prospect from 247Sports.com...Claimed All-State, All-Conference and All-District as a senior, when he earned team captain status with the Wildcats and notched 54 tackles (22 solo), four sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery...Led his team to back-to-back runner-up finishes in the Missouri state championship...Earned an 11-3 record with the Wildcats in 2017...Lettered in basketball and track...Volunteered with Micah Ministries and Won By One to Jamaica...Graduated with a bachelor's degree in movement and exercise science with a minor in strength condition, sports administration and coaching.



**72 JOSIAH EZIRIM T**

**HEIGHT: 6-6**

**WEIGHT: 329**

**COLLEGE: EASTERN KENTUCKY**

**DRAFTED: 7th ROUND (239th OVERALL)**

**COLLEGE CAREER** – An offensive lineman who has shown promise the past two seasons at right tackle after converting from defensive tackle, New Orleans selected Ezirim in the seventh round (239th overall) of the 2024 NFL Draft out of Eastern Kentucky. A two-time All-Conference selection and 2024 FCS All-American, Ezirim was a key anchor on the Colonels' offensive line for their conference's most productive offense (437.4 yards per game.).

**2023** – Ezirim started all 11 games for Eastern Kentucky at right tackle, contributing to the Colonels' achievement of having the top offense in the conference 437.4 (ypg.). They totaled 4,811 yards on the season, scoring 37 touchdowns and averaging 29.5 points per game...He was selected as an *Associated Press* third-team All-American, voted first-team All-United Athletic Conference by the league coaches and Phil Steele's UAC Offensive Lineman of the Year. Earned an invitation to the East-West Shrine Bowl, where he was coached by Saints Pro Football Hall of Fame Finalist/Offensive Assistant Jahri Evans, and was invited to the NFL Scouting Combine. **2022** – Phil Steele fourth-team All-Atlantic Sun Conference selection, when he played in all 12 games and opened the final eight contests at right tackle...Part of a line that helped ECU rank third nationally in passing offense per game (329.7 ypg.), fifth in third-down conversion percentage (51.9), tenth in total offense per game (451.3 ypg.), 11th in scoring offense (36.2 ppg.), and 18th in red zone offense (87.9 pct.)...Helped ECU tally its highest point total in program history. **2021** – Converted to the offensive side of the ball and played in five games for Eastern Kentucky. **2020** – Saw action in six games along the defensive line and on special teams and recorded nine tackles...Had four tackles in opener at Marshall, Sept. 5...Finished with four tackles in the 2020 Opportunity Bowl victory against Western Carolina, Nov. 21. **2019** – Played in ten games along the defensive line and finished his first season with three tackles.

**PERSONAL** – Helped Hilliard (Ohio) Davidson HS to an 11-2 record, a conference championship and a regional runner-up finish as a senior in 2018...Finished the season with 67 tackles (25 solo), three sacks and one forced fumble...Had 39 tackles and three sacks as a junior in 2017...Full name is Josiah Nnamdi Ezirim...His father, Emmanuel, moved from Nigeria to the United States when he was 13 and played soccer at Ohio State...Majored in business.



# DRAFT NOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## New Orleans Saints 2023 NFL Draft Day Three Notes

- With their first of three fifth round draft picks (150th overall), the Saints selected South Carolina QB Spencer Rattler.
- In five seasons at Oklahoma (2019-21) and South Carolina (2022-23), Rattler played in 48 games with 42 starts and completed 900-of-1,313 passes (68.5%) for 10,807 yards with 77 touchdowns and carried 297 times for 410 yards with 16 touchdowns.
- A two-time team captain at South Carolina after transferring from Oklahoma, the 6-0, 211-pound Rattler started all 12 games as a redshirt senior in 2023 and completed 275-of-389 passes (70.1%) for 3,186 yards with 18 touchdowns and eight interceptions.
- Rattler was invited to the Reese's Senior Bowl, where he was selected as the game's Most Valuable Player. With New Orleans having selected QB Jake Haener in the fourth round (127<sup>th</sup> overall) in 2023, the Saints have the last two Reese's Senior Bowl MVPs on their roster.
- In 2022, Rattler started all 13 games in his first season with the Gamecocks, leading them to an 8-5 record. He completed 264-of-399 passes (66.2%) for 3,026 yards with 18 touchdowns and 12 interceptions.
- In 2020, as a redshirt freshman, Rattler started all 11 games in his second year at Oklahoma, completing 214-of-317 passes (67.5%) for 3,031 yards with 28 touchdowns and seven interceptions, also rushing 81 times for 160 yards and six touchdowns. He was named national Freshman of the Year by CBS Sports and earned All-Big 12 honors and co-Big 12 Newcomer of the Year.
- This is the fourth time New Orleans has selected from the 150th overall slot. Of the previous three players selected, the only one to see action for the Saints was S Mel Mitchell, who was selected in 2002 out of Western Kentucky and played for the team from 2002-05, excelling on special teams.
- Rattler was the 24th quarterback selected by New Orleans in the NFL Draft.
- Rattler was the fifth South Carolina player selected in the draft by the Saints, the first since CB Earl Johnson was selected in the ninth round (236th overall) in 1985.
- Rattler joins FB Adam Prentice as the second former Gamecock currently on the Saints roster.
- With their second fifth round pick (170th overall), New Orleans selected Pittsburgh WR Bub Means.
- After starting his career as a defensive back at Tennessee (2019), where he played with current Saints teammate Alontae Taylor, the 6-2, 215-pound Means played two years at Louisiana Tech (2020-21) and the last two seasons at Pittsburgh (2022-23). In 41 college games with 19 starts, he had career totals of 90 receptions for 1,552 yards (17.2 avg.) with ten touchdowns.
- In his final season at Pitt in 2023, Means played in all 12 games with ten starts and was an honorable mention All-ACC selection, when he recorded 41 receptions for 721 yards (17.6 avg.) with six touchdowns, leading the Panthers in receiving yards and TD catches.
- In 2022, Means joined Pitt as a transfer and played in all 13 games with seven starts and compiled 27 receptions for 401 yards (14.9 avg.) and two touchdowns.
- The Lovejoy, Ga. native played in 11 games with two starts for Louisiana Tech in 2021 and compiled 22 receptions for 430 yards (team-high 19.6 avg.).

- Means is the 73rd wide receiver selected by New Orleans in the NFL Draft. The only position to be picked more as a draft choice by New Orleans is linebacker (74).
- Means is the eighth player selected all-time by the Saints from Pittsburgh, tied for 14th among schools of Saints selections. He is the first Pitt draft selection by the Black and Gold since DE Greg Romeus was picked in the seventh round (226th overall) in 2011.
- Means joins QB Nathan Peterman as the second former Panther currently on the Saints roster.
- This was the first time a Saint has been picked with the 170th overall selection.
- With their third fifth round pick (175th overall), New Orleans selected University of Texas LB Jaylan Ford. Using three fifth round picks (Rattler, Means and Ford), it marked the first time New Orleans came away with three picks in the same round since they selected RB Alvin Kamara, LB Alex Anzalone and DE Trey Hendrickson in the third round of the 2017 NFL Draft. The last time the Saints picked three times in the fifth round occurred in 2015 when they selected LB Davis Tull, DT Tyeler Davison and CB Damian Swann.
- In four seasons at Texas, Ford, 6-2, 240, played in 49 games with 29 starts and finished his college career with 287 tackles (141 solo), including 27.5 stops for loss, and added three sacks, six interceptions, ten passes defensed, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.
- In 2023, the Frisco, Texas native was a Butkus Award semifinalist and consensus first-team All-Big 12 selection when he started all 14 games and totaled 101 tackles, 10.5 stops for loss, one sack, two interceptions, one forced fumble, one fumble recoveries and two passes defensed.
- In 2022, Ford was an *Associated Press* third-team All-American and consensus first-team All-Big 12 selection. In 13 games with 12 starts, totaled a career-high 119 tackles, ten stops for loss, two sacks, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, four interceptions and two passes defensed.
- In 2021, Ford played in 12 games with two starts and registered 53 tackles (29 solo) with a team-leading six stops for loss.
- It was only the second time New Orleans has selected a player with the 175th overall selection, having picked Langston CB Eugene Howard with the 175th overall choice in 1968.
- Ford was the 74th linebacker selected by New Orleans in the NFL Draft, the most-drafted position by the Saints.
- Ford was the seventh Texas player selected in the NFL Draft by the Saints, the first since S Kenny Vaccaro was selected in the first round (14th overall) in 2013. The only other time a Longhorns linebacker was selected in the draft by New Orleans was Winfred Tubbs in the third round (79th overall) in 1994.
- Ford is the only Longhorn currently on the Saints roster.
- With their sixth round pick (199th overall), New Orleans selected Northern Iowa DT Khristian Boyd.
- In six seasons at Northern Iowa, Boyd, 6-2, 320, played in 49 games and recorded 149 tackles, 22.5 stops for a loss, 10.5 sacks, five passes defensed and two forced fumbles.
- In 2023, the Kansas City, Mo. native was a consensus FCS third-team All-American, starting every game on the defensive line and totaling 43 tackles, including 6.5 stops for a loss and 3.5 sacks.
- In 2022, Boyd was a consensus second-team All-Conference selection, when he played in ten games and recorded 32 tackles, including five stops for loss, one sack, two passes defensed and two forced fumbles.
- This is only the second time New Orleans has selected a player with the 199th overall selection, having picked North Carolina TE Brooks Williams with the 199th overall choice in 1978.
- Boyd was the 35th defensive tackle selected by New Orleans in the NFL Draft.



- Boyd is only the second Northern Iowa player selected in the draft by the Saints, joining former college teammate Trevor Penning on the roster.
- With their seventh round pick (239th overall) and final choice in the draft, New Orleans selected Eastern Kentucky T Josiah Ezirim.
- In five seasons at Eastern Kentucky, Ezirim, 6-6, 320, played in 48 games, starting his college career as a defensive lineman from 2019-20, where he recorded 12 tackles in 19 contests and converted to the offensive line in 2021, where he started 19 games at right tackle from 2022-23
- In 2023, the Hilliard, Ohio native started all 11 games for Eastern Kentucky at right tackle and was an *Associated Press* third-team All-American, earning an invitation to the East-West Shrine Bowl, where he was coached by Saints six-time All-Pro Guard/Offensive Assistant Jahri Evans, and to the NFL Scouting Combine.
- As a junior in 2022, Ezirim played in all 12 games and started the final eight at right tackle as part a line that helped Eastern Kentucky rank third nationally in pass offense.
- This was only the third time New Orleans has selected a player with the 239<sup>th</sup> overall selection, having last picked Oregon State QB Sean Canfield with the 239<sup>th</sup> overall choice in 2010.
- Following the selection of Oregon State T Taliese Fuaga in the first round, Ezirim is the 50<sup>th</sup> tackle selected by New Orleans in the NFL Draft. This was the first time the Saints selected two tackles in the NFL Draft since 1990, when they picked Maine T Scott Hough in the seventh round and Duke T Chris Port in the 12<sup>th</sup> round.
- Ezirim is the only Eastern Kentucky player currently on the Saints roster.
- Ezirim was only the third Eastern Kentucky player selected by New Orleans in the NFL Draft, the first since WR Michael Cadore in the 12<sup>th</sup> round (327<sup>th</sup> overall) of the 1989 NFL Draft.



**69 Kyler Baugh DT**  
**Minnesota (6-2, 305)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms as an undrafted free agent, 4/27/24...Talihina, Okla. native enrolled at Minnesota in January, 2022 with two seasons of eligibility after transferring from Houston Baptist and played in 26 games and made 77 tackles, seven stops for loss and four sacks, broke up four passes, forced a fumble and recovered a fumble...Earned All-Big Ten Honorable Mention both seasons and Academic All-Big Ten in 2023...Played in 13 games in 2023 and made 41 tackles (18 solo), 5.5 stops for loss, three sacks, broke up three passes, forced a fumble and recovered one fumble...Broke up one pass, had two sacks and made three tackles vs. Eastern Michigan...Broke up one pass, notched a split sack, had one stop for loss and totaled five tackles at North Carolina...Registered two tackles, one stop for loss, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery at Northwestern...Had four tackles and half a stop for loss at Iowa...Totalled five tackles and had a split sack against Illinois...Recorded six tackles and one pass breakup against Wisconsin...In 2022, played in 13 games and made 36 tackles (13 solo) and had 1.5 sacks, one stop for loss and one pass defense...Made Minnesota debut and totaled three tackles vs. New Mexico State...Had two tackles and broke up one pass at Michigan State...Registered four tackles against Purdue...Recorded five tackles and one half stop for loss at Illinois...Made three tackles at Penn State...Had a split sack and four tackles at Nebraska...Recorded three tackles and notched a split sack vs. Syracuse...Spent three seasons (2019-21) at Houston Baptist where he played in 26 games with 18 starts and made 104 tackles, which included 11 stops for loss and five sacks, four passes defended, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery...In 2021, played in 11 games with eight starts, recording 52 tackles with 4.5 stops for loss, including 3.5 sacks...Tallied a career-best nine tackles against Northern Colorado...Played in all four games in COVID-19 pandemic shortened 2020 season and had 11 tackles, including season-high six stops at Texas Tech...In 2019, played in 11 games as freshman, recording 41 tackles, six stops for loss, 1.5 sacks, one quarterback hurry and four passes defended...Made a season-high seven tackles twice...Three-time Southland Conference Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll (2019-21) selection...Graduated from Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in human resource development...Three-year letterman at Talihina (Okla.) HS for Head Coach Kelly Gravitt...As a senior, made 122 tackles and was named a Vype 100 Player in Oklahoma...Made 119 stops as a junior in 2018 and earned 6A Defensive Player of the Year, all-state and Black Diamond All-Conference honors...Was a member of the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society Superintendent Honor Roll all four years...Born on Nov. 28, 2001 in Talihina, Okla.



### **38 Millard Bradford S**

**TCU (5-10, 190)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with Saints, 4/27/24... Played five years at TCU and was a two-time Honorable Mention All-Big 12 selection (2022-23)... Finished his Horned Frog career with 231 stops (175 solo), 16.5 tackles for loss, one sack for a nine-yard loss, four interceptions, 21 passes defended, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries... In 2023, ranked fifth on TCU with 54 tackles... Had one interception, one pass defense and five tackles (four solo) vs. Texas... Also had a pick/pass defense to go with three stops in 44-11 win over BYU... Totaled season-best nine tackles (seven solo) at Kansas State... Finished with eight stops at Oklahoma... Forced one fumble and made the fumble recovery to go with one pass defense and five tackles vs. Colorado... Totaled six stops in the 42-17 victory over Baylor... Had six solo stops and one pass defense at Texas Tech... In 2022, finished fifth on the team with 58 tackles while ranking third with eight pass breakups. Started all 12 games he played, missing three contests at midseason due to injury... Had a team-best and season-high eight tackles, including two for loss, with a pass breakup in the College Football Playoff Semifinal win over Michigan... Returned an interception 36 yards for a touchdown in a 62-14 victory over Iowa State... Totaled at least seven tackles and one pass defense in four of the last five contests, including the 29-28 win at Baylor, the Big 12 Championship Game and College Football Playoff National Championship... Began the year with two passes defended and four solo stops in the 38-13 victory at Colorado... Had six stops (five solo) in the 55-24 rout of Oklahoma... Had five tackles with one for loss as TCU held Texas to 199 yards of offense in a 17-10 win in Austin... Also had a tackle for loss as part of a five-stop effort in the 34-24 victory over Texas Tech... In 2021, played in 11 games with starts in eight of the final nine contests, missing the West Virginia game due to injury. Finished fourth on TCU with 52 tackles (41 solo), including 2.5 stops for loss, one sack for a nine-yard loss, one interception and three passes defended... Totaled a team-best and a season-high ten tackles at Oklahoma State... Recorded five stops, including his first career sack, in 30-28 win over No. 12 Baylor... Had an interception vs. Texas to go with eight stops, including one tackle for loss, in just his second career start... Also posted eight tackles and one pass defense at Oklahoma... Had one pass defense and two stops in the 52-31 victory at Texas Tech... Closed out the 2021 campaign with a team-high seven tackles at Iowa State... Appeared in all ten games in 2020 with his first career start coming in 59-23 win at Kansas. Totaled career-high 3.5 tackles for loss among eight stops against the Jayhawks... Came back the next week with another eight tackles and a pass defense in the 29-22 win over No. 15 Oklahoma State... Placed fifth on TCU with 44 tackles (35 solo), 6.5 stops for loss and a pass defense... Had one tackle for loss as part of a five-stop effort in 33-23 win at Baylor... Recorded seven stops, including one for loss, vs. Oklahoma... Had one tackle for loss as part of four stops vs. Kansas State... In 2019, played in all 12 games. Placed 12th on TCU with 23 tackles. Tied for third on the team with four special teams stops... Had two tackles for loss as part of a career-high 13 stops (ten solo), at Oklahoma, including a spectacular strip and recovery of the ball in the same motion while tackling quarterback Jalen Hurts... Recorded three tackles versus Baylor... Graduated with a bachelor's degree in youth advocacy/social work... Rated by 247Sports as the No. 1 prep school player in the country at Fork Union Military Academy... Ranked as the nation's No. 54 safety prospect coming out of O'Connor (Helotes, Texas) HS... Born on September 24, 1999 in Deridder, La.



**43 Matthew Hayball P**  
**Vanderbilt (6-0, 189)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with the New Orleans Saints, 4/27/24...Punted last two college seasons at Vanderbilt after serving as Florida Atlantic's punter for three seasons...Finished as Vandy's all-time leader in punting average (46.5)...Named All-American (second-team) in 2023 by Walter Camp, FWAA, AP, The Athletic and Phil Steele as Vanderbilt's first All-American since 2016 and first All-American punter since 1996. First-team All-SEC punter (coaches and Phil Steele). A Ray Guy Award Finalist and College Football Network SEC Punter of the Year, who accepted an invitation to the Shrine Bowl. SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll...Averaged 47.6 yards per punt in 2023, the second-best single-season punting average in school history and ranked seventh nationally in net punting (43.1). One of only 14 punters in the nation with a long punt of 71 yards or more...At the end of the regular season, was the only active punter across all divisions of NCAA football to have eclipsed 13,000 career punting yards...Had five punts inside the 20 at South Carolina, tying his season-best...Named Ray Guy Award Punter of the Week after his performance in the game versus Kentucky, when he punted seven times for an average of 50.3 yards per punt, which is the highest punting average by a Vanderbilt punter in a game since 2002...Career-long punt of 71 yards in win over Hawaii...In 2022, punted 59 times for an average of 45.4 yards, ranked second in the SEC and 11th nationally. Had a long of 65 yards, pinned opponents inside the 20-yard line 21 times and forced a fumble at Alabama...Served as Florida Atlantic's punter for three seasons...In 2021, totaled 61 punts for 2,785 yards with the Owls, good for an average for 45.6 yards per punt...Named Conference-USA Honorable Mention in 2021 and 2020, also making the C-USA All-Academic Team...Finished freshman season in 2019 ranked 33rd nationally with 43.5 yards per punt...Graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance at FAU and pursued a graduate degree in leadership and organizational performance at Vanderbilt...West Adelaide, Australia native attended Sacred Heart College (grades 7-12 in Australia)...Born March 12, 1997.



**61 Sincere Haynesworth C**  
**Tulane (6-1, 310)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with the New Orleans Saints, 4/27/24...Five-year starter for the Green Wave who anchored the interior of their offensive line, playing a key role in the program's resurgence both as a blocker and with his leadership abilities...Tabbed the AAC's Center and Offensive Lineman of the Year by College Football Network in 2023...Claimed second-team Group of Five All-America honors from HERO Sports...Named a fourth-team All-American and first-team All-AAC pick (Phil Steele)...Voted first-team All-AAC by the league's coaches...Helped Tulane total 5,181 yards in total offense and 41 touchdowns...The team scored over 20 points 12 times and over 30 points in six contests with a high of 37 against South Alabama...In 2022, a first-team All-American Athletic Conference selection...Played and started all 14 games at center...Helped clear the way for the AAC Offensive Player of the Year (Tyjae Spears), the Offensive Player of the AAC Championship Game (Michael

Pratt) and the Offensive MVP of the Goodyear Cotton Bowl (Spears)...Tulane averaged 36 points, 204.8 rushing yards and 236.6 passing yards per game...The team put up a total of 6,179 yards and 64 offensive touchdowns during the season...Started all 12 games at center in in 2021...Part of an O-line unit that blocked for the Olive and Blue as they averaged 164.9 yards rushing per game...Led an O-line that helped Tulane gain more than 100 yards on the ground in 10 out of 12 games in the season...Earned All-AAC recognition for the second consecutive season as an honorable mention selection...Started all 12 games for the Green Wave at center in 2020, the only player on the line to start all 12 games...Blocked in an O-line unit that led the way for Tulane to average 217.1 rushing yards per game...Made 11 appearances and five starts as a true freshman in 2019...Graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology...Earned three-star ratings from 247Sports.com and Rivals.com at Pearland (Texas) HS...Finished his senior year at Pearland with a 7-0 record in 6A Region III District play, going 10-1 overall to earn a spot in playoffs...Led his team to the second round of the Texas State Championship in 2015 and 2016...Born on April 13, 2001 in Buffalo, N.Y.



**60 Kyle Hergel G**  
**Boston College (6-2, 315)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with the New Orleans Saints as an undrafted free agent, 4/27/24...In six seasons for North Dakota (2018-21), Texas State (2021-22) and Boston College (2023), appeared in 57 games with 56 starts on the offensive line...Started all 13 games for the Eagles at left guard in 2023 and was selected Honorable Mention All-ACC...Started all 12 games he played in for Texas State at right guard in 2022 and earned Pro Football Focus All-Sun Belt first-team...Started all 12 games for the Bobcats in the Fall of 2021, playing 855 snaps at left guard and four snaps at right guard, after transferring and earned All-Sun Belt Honorable Mention...In the Spring of 2021, started the season's first five games for North Dakota...In 2019, broke into the lineup, opening all 12 games at right guard for the Fighting Hawks and earned All-Football Championship Subdivision Independent Newcomer of the Year...Graduated from Texas State with a degree in occupational workplace leadership and received a master's degree in Sports Administration from BC...Attended Clarkson Football North (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada) HS, where he was a three-star recruit by 247 Sports and captain...Born on October 7, 1999 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



**85 Dallin Holker TE**  
**Colorado State (6-3, 241)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with the New Orleans Saints as an undrafted free agent, 4/27/24...Played at Colorado State in 2023 and enjoyed one of the most productive single-seasons by any Ram in program history...Unanimous second-team All-American by all five NCAA selectors, John Mackey Award finalist and NFL Scouting Combine participant...Team captain tallied 767 yards on 64 receptions with six

touchdowns...Reception and yardage totals were the most by any FBS tight end during the regular season...767 receiving yards were the second-most in a single-season by a CSU tight end...64 receptions were the third-most in a single-season by a CSU tight end...Spent three seasons at BYU (2018-22), with the 2019 and 2020 seasons on his mission in Vina del Mar, Chile...Recorded 42 receptions for 521 yards and three touchdowns in his BYU career...Appeared in three games in 2022, finishing with nine catches for 86 yards and one touchdown...Played in all 13 games in 2021, with 14 catches for 200 yards and one TD...Played in 13 games as a freshman (2018), starting four, totaling 19 receptions for 235 yards and a TD...Played at Lehi (Utah) HS...A three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN...Ranked No. 16 player Utah by 247Sports...Led Lehi to state championship as senior...Named 2017 *Deseret News* 5A MVP...*Salt Lake Tribune* 5A All-State first-team...Posted 97 receptions 1,766 yards and 22 touchdowns as senior, the second-most yards in state history, despite missing two games...Had over 100 receiving yards in eight of 12 games and went over 150 in six contests in senior campaign...Averaged 147.2 receiving yards per game, when he recorded 105 receptions for 1,295 yards and 11 TDs as junior...Also played basketball at Lehi...Wife, Taye Raymond-Holker, also transferred from BYU and was on the Colorado State Track & Field team as a sprinter and jumper and won two Mountain West Conference championships in 2022-23...Also fluent in Spanish...Born on April 7, 2000.



**80 Jermaine Jackson WR**  
**Idaho (5-7, 170)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with Saints, 4/27/24...Played four seasons at Idaho after transferring from the College of San Mateo (Calif.)...In 2023, was named a team captain by teammates and appeared in all 13 games, making 48 receptions for 593 yards (12.4 avg.) with two receiving touchdowns and two off of punt returns. Did all punt returns for the Vandals (18) to gain 332 yards (18.4 avg.). Completed 18 kickoff returns for a total of 478 yards (26.6 avg.)...Saw some action on the ball taking seven receptions to grab 89 total yards at Cal Poly...Received Big Sky Special Teams Player of the Week honors after an 84-yard kickoff return against Eastern Washington for a career-high 151 kick return yards and 225 all-purpose yards...Earned another Big Sky Special Teams Player of the Week award after a 79-yard punt return for a TD against Idaho State...Returned a punt 86 yards for a touchdown in second round FCS Playoff win over Southern Illinois...Racked up honors on All-Big Sky second-team as a receiver and as a punt returner...In 2022, Appeared in all 12 games for the Vandals. Recorded 54 receptions for 1,049 yards and four touchdowns. Earned first-team Big Sky Conference honors at wide receiver and at punt returner. Had four games with over 100 yards receiving, including a career high 132 yards and one touchdown against Portland State...Tallied 15 punt returns for 208 yards (13.9 avg.), including a 79-yard touchdown against Drake. Had three kickoff returns on the year, including a 95-yard TD against Southeastern Louisiana in first round of FCS Playoffs. Led the Big Sky and ranked 11th in the FCS for yards per reception (19.4). Ran nine times for 48 yards...Caught a 20-yard TD pass and returned a punt 79 yards for a score in opening win vs. Drake for 192 all-purpose yards...In the Fall of 2021, appeared in four games to reserve a redshirt and caught eight passes for 93 yards...In the Spring of 2021, appeared in one contest and returned two kickoffs for 62 yards (31.0 avg.) before sustaining a season-ending knee injury...Competed for the College of San Mateo for two seasons...First-team All-State selection as a wide receiver and as a returner as a sophomore in 2019, when he helped lead San Mateo to the CCCAA Northern California Football Conference Championship and finished with 47 receptions for 622 yards and five touchdowns...Graduated with a communications degree...Prepped at San Leandro (Calif.) HS...Born on June 2, 2000 in Oakland, Calif.



### **76 Trajan Jeffcoat DE**

**Arkansas (6-4, 266)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with the Saints, 4/29/24...In five college seasons between Missouri (2018-22) and Arkansas (2023), Jeffcoat appeared in 60 games and totaled 101 tackles (68 solo), 15.5 sacks, 28 stops for loss, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery...Two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll selection (2020-21)...Started all 12 games in 2023 for the Razorbacks, making 16 stops with 8.5 tackles for loss and four sacks. Led the team with 29 quarterback pressures and 18 hurries according to Pro Football Focus...Started 11-of-13 games in his final season at Missouri in 2022, adding 21 tackles and one sack...Started all 13 games in 2021 and recorded 34 stops (23 solo), ten tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery...In 2020 Covid-19 shortened campaign, was selected first-team All-SEC (*AP* and conference coaches) after totaling 23 tackles (18 solo), six stops for loss, a team-high six sacks and a forced fumble in nine contests...Redshirted in 2019...In 2018, saw action in all 13 games as a true freshman, adding seven tackles (six solo) and a stop for loss/sack...Rated a three-star prospect by Rivals and No. 19 prospect in South Carolina after leading Irmo (Columbia, S.C.) HS with 13 sacks and 23 additional quarterback hurries as a senior in 2017...Born on October 7, 1999 in Orangeburg, S.C.



### **37 Lawrence Johnson S**

**Southeast Missouri State (6-0, 205)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms as an undrafted free agent, 4/27/24...Six-year letterman at Southeast Missouri State, who played in 55 games and recorded career totals of 283 tackles (179 solo), 18.5 stops for loss, five sacks for a loss of 37 yards, two interceptions, 23 passes defensed, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries...In 2023, Played in ten games and was credited with 65 tackles (43 solo), five stops for loss, one sack, five passes defensed, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery, earning Big South-Ohio Valley Conference Association second-team All-Conference honors. Selected to the 2024 Hula Bowl...Finished with five tackles and a half tackle for loss vs. Lindenwood...Finished with nine tackles (team-high six solo), a half stop for loss and one pass defense vs. Eastern Illinois...Posted seven tackles at Tennessee Tech...In 35-31 win at Nicholls State, made eight tackles, 1.5 stops for loss and one pass defense...In 2022, was first-team All-OVC and was named to three different All-America teams, including the AFCA (second-team), Stats Perform (third-team) and Phil Steele (third-team). Started 12 games in the secondary and was Southeast Missouri's second-leading tackler with 86 stops (45 solo). Led team with ten tackles for loss and tied for first with four sacks. Added one interception, a team-high nine passes defensed and a fumble recovery. Turned in double-digit tackles in four games. Ninth in the OVC in tackles, 11th in sacks and fourth in stops for loss...Finished with a season-high 12 tackles in opener at Iowa State...Posted ten tackles vs. Central Arkansas, vs. Tennessee Tech and at Montana...Returned his only interception of the season 14 yards vs. Tennessee Tech...Scored a TD when he returned a fumble 13 yards at Montana...Notched season-high two sacks for a loss of 27 yards to go with six tackles at Tennessee State...Earned OVC Defensive Player of the Week honors for performance against Tennessee Tech...In 2021, played in first six games

and made three starts at strong safety before suffering season-ending shoulder injury. Finished with 23 tackles (14 solo). Had one fumble recovery...Tallied season-high eight tackles at Missouri...Added six stops and a fumble recovery at Sam Houston...In 2020, started eight games at strong safety. Led the team in total tackles (55) and solo stops (36). Had one stop for loss, five passes defended and one forced fumble. ninth in the OVC with 6.9 tackles per game. Posted three double-digit tackle performances highlighted with season-high 12 stops vs. Tennessee Tech...Added seven tackles, an interception and one pass defense at Southern Illinois...Led the team in tackles in each of the final three games...In 2019, played in 13 games with 11 starts and ranked fourth on team with 53 tackles (40 solo), two stops for loss and three passes defended...Finished with season-high nine tackles, (all solo), vs. Tennessee Tech...Finished with seven tackles vs. West Virginia State, at Jacksonville State and vs. Illinois State...In 2018, appeared in eight games on special teams as a freshman and recorded one stop...Graduated with a bachelor's degree in corporate communications...Completed 69-of-127 passes for 1,214 yards and seven TDs as a senior at Riverview Gardens (St. Louis, Mo.) HS...Ran for 799 yards and another nine scores, averaging 9.4 yards per rush...Threw for 908 yards and six TDs on 57-of-126 passes as a junior...Carried the ball 45 times for 127 yards and five more TDs...Born on September 2, 1999.



**35 Jacob Kibodi RB**  
**Louisiana-Lafayette (6-1, 225)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms, 4/27/24...Transfer finished his college career with the Ragin' Cajuns from 2021-23 after starting out at Texas A&M from 2017-19...In 2023, played in 12 games and carried 129 times for 729 yards with seven touchdowns and caught nine passes for 79 yards with one TD, reaching the century mark rushing three times...Carried ten times for 54 yards and had a career-long 37-yard catch at Old Dominion...Carried seven times for 108 yards with one TD, including a 59-yard carry, at UAB...Vs. Buffalo, carried seven times for 100 yards with two TDs, including a 69-yard carry, and caught a pass for a 16-yard gain...At Minnesota, carried seven times for 65 yards, including a 52-yard carry...At South Alabama, carried 23 times for 119 yards, including a 56-yard rush, with two TDs...In 2022, had 169 rushing yards on 37 carries (4.6 avg.) in nine games...Most utilized in a win over Arkansas State where he set season-highs in attempts (12) and yards (54)...Played in one contest in 2021...Appeared in 15 games for the Aggies before transferring...In 2019, played in seven games and carried 31 times for 123 yards with one TD and caught six passes for 37 yards...Best game of season came vs. Lamar when he rushed 11 times for 47 yards with a TD...As sophomore, appeared in two games and rushed three times for 26 yards...Ran for 121 yards and a score as a freshman...Graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from Louisiana-Lafayette...Rushed for 1,208 yards and 12 touchdowns on 141 carries as a senior in 2016 at Christian Life (Baton Rouge, La.) Academy, where he was rated as a consensus three-star recruit and one of the top 50 players in Louisiana...Younger brother, Caleb, plays linebacker at Louisiana-Lafayette...Last name is pronounced Kuh-Bo-Dee...Born on Oct. 4, 1998 in Baton Rouge, La.





**54 Nathan Latu DT**  
**Oklahoma State (6-4, 265)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms, 4/27/24...Three-year letterman and junior college transfer who played in 31 games with five starts for the Cowboys and recorded 46 tackles (22 solo), 10.5 stops for loss, seven sacks, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery...As a super senior in 2023, Played in all 14 games and started five, including each of the first four and the Texas Bowl win over Texas A&M...Credited with 31 total tackles on the year to rank second among OSU's defensive linemen. Had three sacks to tie for third on the team and first among defensive linemen. Also had three quarterback hurries and one forced fumble...Had a career day against Central Arkansas in the season opener, recording career-highs with six tackles, 1.5 sacks and 1.5 tackles for loss...Made at least one tackle in 12 games and multiple tackles in eight games...His forced fumble came in homecoming win over Cincinnati...As a senior in 2022, played in 10 of OSU's 13 games...Recorded 14 tackles, 4.5 stops for loss, four sacks to rank second on the team and one fumble recovery...Made one sack each against UAPB, Iowa State, Oklahoma and Wisconsin...Made a key fumble recovery against ISU...As a junior in 2021, appeared in seven games and posted one stop for loss...Majored in University Studies...Prior to Oklahoma State, played at Snow (Utah) Junior College in 2019 (did not play in 2020 due to COVID-19)...In his lone season, he made 21 tackles with 4.5 sacks and three forced fumbles...Played for Aaron Whitehead at Olympus (Holladay, Utah) HS...Helped lead the Titans to an 8-3 record as a junior with 16 tackles, three stops for loss and a sack in seven games...Also competed in track and field and rugby, earning All-State honors in rugby...Part of the Polynesian Club...Before moving to Utah, lived in Chisolm, Minn. from three years old through seventh grade, where he participated in basketball, baseball, wrestling, track and field, ice hockey and curling...Fraternal twin brother Cameron, is a tight end for the San Francisco 49ers...Last name pronounced LAH-too...Nathan Eugene Latu was born in Torrance, Calif. on February 24, 2000.



**63 Nouri Nouili G**  
**Nebraska (6-4, 315)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms, 4/27/24...Frankfurt, Germany native was a member of Nebraska's team for three seasons, moving into starting lineup after beginning college career at Colorado State...Started 11 games in his final season at Nebraska in 2023, missing one start (Purdue) due to injury. Opened ten games at right guard before starting at left guard against Iowa...Played a big role in Nebraska ranking second in the Big Ten in rushing...Nouili played in every game of the 2021 season, starting the final seven games at left guard. Although he joined the team as a walk on, was placed on scholarship for the 2021 season prior to the Ohio State game...Made his first start as a Husker at left guard against Northwestern, when the Huskers ran for 427, totaled 657 yards of offense and scored 56 points, Nebraska's highest output in a Big Ten Conference game...Joining Nebraska's team in 2020, was on the team's travel squad for four of five games...Nouili played in eight games with seven starts at

offensive guard as a true freshman for Colorado State in 2019. He became the first true freshman offensive lineman to start for the Rams since 1996... Graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice... Nouili volunteered with the International Student-Athlete Alliance, Operation Christmas Child, the N-Volved Leadership Group, Legacy Retirement home, the Nebraska Football Road Race and the Huskers' Day of Service... Was an exchange student at Norris (Firth, Neb.) HS... An honorable-mention all-state selection as senior, when he totaled 32 tackles and seven stops for loss, also playing on the offensive line... Also played football in home country of Germany.



**36 Rico Payton CB**  
**Pittsburg State (6-2, 230)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with New Orleans Saints, 4/27/24... Spent final four college seasons at Pittsburg State (Kan.) after starting his career at Southern Illinois... In 2023, team captain recorded 35 tackles with four interceptions and 15 passes defensed. Made four tackles, two interceptions and three passes defensed in 20-10 victory over Central Oklahoma... In 2022, Started eight of the 13 games played in and posted 14 tackles (11 solo) with four passes defensed and a fumble recovery to earn All-Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association honors... Started two of the nine games played in 2021 and posted 12 tackles (eight solo), one interception and six passes defensed... Opted out of 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic shortened season)... Played in all 11 games, including two starts, in 2019. Had 14 tackles (11 solo), 1.5 stops for loss and four passes defensed... Redshirted for SIU in 2018... Recreation services, sport and hospitality major... A Missouri Class 6A All-State and All-Conference/All-District performer as a senior at Lindbergh (St. Louis, Mo.) HS... Set a school record for single-season touchdowns at Lindbergh (29)... Also set a record for most rushing TDs in a season (18)... Led his team to an 11-2 record as a senior... An All-Conference basketball player and state qualifier in track & field... Earned a gold certificate for a 4.0 GPA as a junior... Born on November 28, 1999.



**81 Kyle Sheets WR**  
**Slippery Rock (6-4, 220)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with the New Orleans Saints, 4/27/24... Played in 51 games for Slippery Rock from 2019-23 (2020 season cancelled due to COVID-19) and caught 154 passes for 2,440 yards (15.8 avg.) with 29 touchdowns, ranking in the top ten in the school's career records in all three major receiving categories... In 2023, recorded 76 receptions for 1,186 yards (15.6 avg.) with 17 touchdowns, earning Division II All-American (*Associated Press*, American Football Coaches Association, D2CCA, Hansen) honors and helping SRU to a 12-2 record... Started all 12 games played in 2022, when he was tabbed second-team All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West, finishing with 54 receptions for 887 yards (16.4 avg.) with nine TDs... Appeared in all 12 games with five starts in 2021 and caught 23 passes for 357 yards (15.5 avg.) and three TDs... Appeared in 13 games in 2021 and caught one pass

for ten yards...Majored in safety management...A Four-year letterwinner in both football and basketball at Conneaut Area (Linesville, Pa.) Senior HS...A two-time All-Area selection...Played quarterback and wide receiver in high school...Born on Sept. 24, 2000.



**44 Isaiah Stalbird LB**  
**South Dakota State (6-1, 215)**  
**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with Saints, 4/27/24...Played at Nebraska in 2019 and South Dakota State from 2020-23 and appeared in 64 career games and had totals of 251 tackles, 18.5 stops for loss, three sacks, an interception, 19 passes defensed, five forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and two blocked punts, representing the 2022 and 2023 Football Championship Subdivision National Champions...As a senior in 2023, recorded 80 tackles (48 solo), 6.5 stops for loss, three sacks, three forced fumbles, one fumble recovery, one interception and six passes defensed...In 2022, played in 12 games with ten starts and finished third on team with 55 tackles and tied for third on squad with four passes defensed...Made six tackles, including a stop for loss in opener at Iowa...Recorded season-high eight solo tackles, also breaking up a pass and returning a fumble eight yards to set up a Jackrabbit touchdown in road win at North Dakota...Came up big in FCS playoffs, racking up 22 stops in four contests...Notched five tackles and broke up a pass in quarterfinal win over Holy Cross...Matched season-high with eight tackles in semifinal win over Montana State and credited with seven stops in championship game vs. North Dakota State...Moved full-time to linebacker in Fall of 2021 and started 14 of 15 games...Shared team lead with two forced fumbles and ranked second on squad with 73 tackles...Tallied career-high nine tackles and broke up a pass in opening win at Colorado State...Notched five tackles, including 1.5 stops for loss, in shutout victory at Indiana State...Forced a fumble, broke up a pass and had five tackles vs. Southern Illinois...Again made nine tackles in home victory over North Dakota State...Closed regular season with eight tackles, one stop for loss and a pass defense in win over North Dakota...Collected at least three tackles in all four FCS playoff games, highlighted by his third nine-tackle performance of the season in second-round victory at Sacramento State...Forced a fumble and totaled four tackles in semifinal game at Montana State...In 2020-21 season, saw action in all ten games, including starting the first two games of the season...Recorded at least one tackle in every game while playing at safety and in the nickel position...Tallied four tackles and blocked a punt in opener at Northern Iowa, earning squad's Special Teams Player of the Week...Notched tackles for loss as part of three-stop performances in consecutive games at North Dakota and vs. Western Illinois...Also broke up season-high two passes at UND...Opened Football Championship Subdivision playoff run with season-high five tackles, adding a stop for loss and pass defense in win over Holy Cross...Registered three tackles in both semifinal win over Delaware and national championship game vs. Sam Houston...Played in 12 games for the Cornhuskers in 2019, seeing action at safety and on special teams. Finished with 13 tackles and one blocked punt...Graduated with a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies...Joined the Huskers as a walk-on after a standout career at Kearney (Neb.) HS...Earned first-team All-State from the *Omaha World-Herald* and was a *Lincoln Journal Star* Super State selection...Registered 77 tackles as a senior...Added 22 receptions for 393 yards and six TDs as a wide receiver...Born on July 18, 2000 In Chicago, Ill.



**84 Mason Tipton WR**

**Yale (5-11, 187)**

**NFL Experience: R**

Agreed to terms with New Orleans Saints as an undrafted free agent, 4/27/24... Finished ranked third in school history in career touchdown receptions (19), fifth in career receptions (132) and sixth in career receiving yards (2,067)... Three-time All-Ivy selection... Unanimous first-team All-Ivy selection in 2023 after leading the Ivy League with ten TD receptions, which was sixth in the FCS and tied for the fourth-most in school history... Named to the New England Football Writers Association All-New England team... Finished with 52 receptions for 786 yards (15.1 avg.), both career-highs... Caught at least one touchdown pass in seven of Yale's ten contests... Had three touchdown receptions in victory at Brown... Caught a season-high ten passes in win at Princeton... Season-high 136 receiving yards in win over Morgan State... Had a 15-yard touchdown run in win over Sacred Heart... Honorable mention All-Ivy selection in 2022. Appeared in eight games, missing two contests due to injury and finished with 29 receptions for 386 yards with two touchdowns... Had a season-high 83 receiving yards in the victory at Cornell... Had a season-high six receptions in the victory over Dartmouth... Named All-Ivy second-team in 2021, when he appeared in all ten games and led the Bulldogs with 570 receiving yards and three touchdowns. Ranked seventh nationally with 21.1 yards per catch... Had a season-high 132 receiving yards with five catches including a touchdown against Penn... Made three catches for 61 yards against Harvard on Nov. 20 in the 137th edition of The Game... In 2019, worked his way into the starting lineup as a first-year player in three-wide sets. Selected to two Ivy League Weekly Honor Rolls for his performances against Princeton and Harvard. Played in eight games, caught 24 passes for 325 yards and four touchdowns... Graduated with a degree in biology... At Archbishop Hoban (Akron, Ohio) HS, was a three-time state champion and three-year letterman... First-team All-Region and All-League with 48 receptions and 1,186 yards with six TDs senior year... Three-year letterman and first-team All-Region and All-League in baseball... Greater Akron All-Star with .423 batting average... A member of the National Honor Society... Father, Lawrence, played football at the University of Akron... Born on September 27, 2000 in Akron, Ohio.