

# South Carolina Gamecocks Football December '23 Signing Day

NAME	POS	HT	WT	HOMETOWN (HIGH/LAST SCHOOL)
Mazeo Bennett	WR	5-11	180	Greenville, S.C. (Greenville)
David Bucey	DB	6-0	195	Savannah, Ga. (Savannah Christian Prep)
Blake Franks	OL	6-5	345	Greenville, S.C. (Greenville)
Matthew Fuller	RB	5-10	205	Jesup, Ga. (Wayne County)
Debron Gatling	WR	6-0	195	Alpharetta, Ga. (Milton)
Wendell Gregory	LB	6-2	225	Marietta, Ga. (Walton)
Kelvin Hunter	DB	6-0	190	Florence, S.C. (West Florence)
Fred "JayR" Johnson	LB	6-4	225	Norfolk, Va. (Maury)
Mason Love	K/P	5-11	175	Riverside, Mo. (Park Hill South)
Kam Pringle	OL	6-7	360	Dorchester, S.C. (Woodland)
Dante Reno	QB	6-2	205	Boston, Mass. (Cheshire Academy)
Jerome Simmons	DL	6-4	333	Bamberg, S.C. (Bamberg-Ehrhardt/ Highland (Kan.) C.C.)
Michael Smith	TE	6-4	250	Savannah, Ga. (Calvary Day School)
Jalewis Solomon	DB	6-0	185	Ellaville, Ga. (Schley County)
Dylan Stewart	EDGE	6-5	250	Washington, D.C. (Friendship Collegiate)
Josiah Thompson	OL	6-7	280	Dillon, S.C. (Dillon)

## By Position

### OFFENSE (8)

**Quarterback (1):** Dante Reno  
**Running Back (1):** Matthew Fuller  
**Wide Receiver (2):** Mazeo Bennett, Debron Gatling  
**Tight End (1):** Michael Smith  
**Offensive Line (3):** Blake Franks, Kam Pringle, Josiah Thompson

### DEFENSE (7)

**Tackle (1):** Jerome Simmons  
**EDGE (1):** Dylan Stewart  
**Linebacker (2):** Wendell Gregory, Fred "JayR" Johnson  
**Defensive Back (3):** David Bucey, Kelvin Hunter, Jalewis Solomon

### OTHER (1)

**Kicker/Punter (1):** Mason Love

## By State

**South Carolina (6):** Mazeo Bennett, Blake Franks, Kelvin Hunter, Kam Pringle, Jerome Simmons, Josiah Thompson  
**Georgia (6):** David Bucey, Matthew Fuller, Debron Gatling, Wendell Gregory, Michael Smith, Jalewis Solomon  
**Massachusetts (1):** Dante Reno  
**Missouri (1):** Mason Love  
**Virginia (1):** Fred "JayR" Johnson  
**Washington, D.C. (1):** Dylan Stewart

## MAZEO BENNETT

Wide Receiver 5-11 180  
Greenville, S.C.  
(Greenville)

Highly-regarded wide receiver prospect from Greenville (S.C.) High School... led the Red Raiders to a 10-4 mark in his senior season and a spot in the Upper State Class AAAA Championship... named to the Class 4A All-State team by the high school coaches in 2023... coached by Greg Porter... the Red Raiders also reached the Upper State AAAA Finals in 2022... caught 31 passes for 541 yards as a senior, 47 passes for 857 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior and 25 passes for 661 yards as a sophomore... totaled 103 receptions for 2,059 yards and 23 touchdowns over a three-year prep career... averaged 20.0 yards per reception... added 559 yards rushing with 17 TDs and returned kickoffs for 1,136 yards... also played basketball.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
183/34/3	239/34/5	179/21/3	-/68/3

## DAVID BUCEY

Defensive Back 6-0 195  
Savannah, Ga.  
(Savannah Christian Prep)

Two-way player for Savannah (Ga.) Christian Prep, working at both linebacker and wide receiver... expected to play safety at the collegiate level... led the Raiders to 12-3 mark and a spot in the 3A state championship game for the first time since 2011 as a senior... logged 111 tackles including 17.0 for loss and with a pair of sacks, an interception and eight passes defended... caught 52 passes for 769 yards and six touchdowns... coached by Baker Woodward... named the 2022 Georgia 3-AAA Athlete of the Year after helping his squad reach the quarterfinals of Peach State's playoffs... totaled 100 tackles including 18 for loss with four sacks and five interceptions on defense... added 747 yards and nine touchdowns as a receiver on offense... also played lacrosse.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/118/159	-/101/121	-/24/83	-/-

## BLAKE FRANKS

Offensive Line 6-5 345  
Greenville, S.C.  
(Greenville)

Offensive line prospect from Greenville (S.C.) High School... played offensive tackle... named to the Class 4A All-State team by the high school coaches in 2023... was a two-time All-Region selection... selected to play in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas... led the Red Raiders to a 10-4 mark in his senior season and a spot in the Upper State Class AAAA Championship... coached by Greg Porter... the Red Raiders also reached the Upper State AAAA Finals in 2022... was a three-year starter.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/58/12	-/39/8	-/54/8	-/15/6

## MATTHEW FULLER

Running Back 5-10 205  
Jesup, Ga.  
(Wayne County)

Running back prospect from Wayne County in Jesup, Ga... also played outside linebacker... led the Yellow Jackets to a 7-4 mark in 2023... finished his senior campaign with 256 carries for 2,086 yards (8.1 ypc) and 27 touchdowns... logged 45 tackles on defense... coached by Jared Shaw... Wayne County went 10-3 during his junior campaign in 2022... rushed 257 times for 1,757 yards and 22 touchdowns as junior... added 90 tackles with 180 tackles for loss.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
140/11/18	-/34/56	-/24/42	-/-

## DEBRON GATLING

Wide Receiver 6-0 195  
Alpharetta, Ga.  
(Milton)

Wide receiver prospect from Alpharetta, Ga.'s Milton High School... also played cornerback... led the Eagles to a 13-2 record and a 7A Georgia state title in 2023... caught 77 passes for 892 yards and 11 touchdowns... selected to the Under Armour All-America game following his senior season... coached by Ben Reeves... was a MaxPreps Sophomore Second-Team All-American in 2021 after catching 37 passes for 659 yards and 11 touchdowns, helping Milton to a 13-2 record... also competed in track where he posted an 11.48 100m in 2022.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/124/97	-/86/62	-/59-66	-/72/89

## WENDELL GREGORY

Linebacker 6-2 225  
Marietta, Ga.  
(Walton)

Linebacker prospect from Walton High School in Marietta, Ga... led the Raiders to a 14-1 record and a runnerup finish in the 7A Georgia state playoffs as a senior... totaled 56 tackles including 18.0 tackles for loss with 7.0 sacks and 14 hurries... coached by Daniel Brunner... made the transition from wide receiver to linebacker during his sophomore season... credited with 38 tackles and four sacks as a junior and 58 stops as a sophomore... also ran track at the high school level.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
217/23/28	186/16/23	95/7/15	229/12/30

## KELVIN HUNTER

Defensive Back 6-0 190  
Florence, S.C.  
(West Florence)

Played safety and running back for West Florence (S.C.) High School... the Knights posted a 5-6 record in his senior season after going 11-2 and advancing to the Class 4A Lower State finals during his junior campaign... logged 86 tackles with 18 tackles for loss, 3 sacks and five forced fumbles on defense... carried the ball 57 times for 332 yards and five touchdowns on offense as a senior... named to the Class 4A All-State team by the high school coaches in 2023... selected to play in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas... coached by Jody Jenerette.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
246/24/4	-/25/6	196/18/4	-/53/8

## FRED "JAYR" JOHNSON

Linebacker 6-4 225  
Norfolk, Va.  
(Maury)

Highly-regarded linebacker prospect out of Maury High School in Norfolk, Va... helped the Commodores to a perfect 15-0 record and a Virginia 5A state championship as a senior... named the Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year following his senior season... named first team all-state as a tight end and all-purpose on defense... selected to play in the 2024 All-American Bowl... coached by Dyrri McCain... full-time two-way player as a junior with extensive reps at receiver, edge, and linebacker... Helped Maury to a 10-2 record and a Virginia Class 5 state runner-up finish in 2022.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/33/9	110/9/2	-/47/12	-/-/25

## MASON LOVE

Kicker/Punter 5-11 175  
Riverside, Mo.  
(Park Hill South)

Kicker/punter from Park Hill South High School in Riverside, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City... averaged 44 yards per punt and connected on 16-of-20 field goals and 17-of-18 extra points as a senior... long field goal was from 57 yards... 93 percent of his kickoffs were touchbacks... earned first-team all-conference as both a punter and placekicker as a senior... earned all-state honors both on the field and in the classroom... selected as an Under Armour All-American... won the punt and field goal competitions at the Texas Showcase in the spring of 2023... ranked by Kohl's as the nation's top punter and 22nd-best kicker.

RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)			
ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/3/31	-/2/32	-/-	-/-

## KAM PRINGLE

**Offensive Line** 6-7 360  
**Dorchester, S.C.**  
**(Woodland)**

Offensive line prospect from Dorchester (S.C.) Woodland High School... coached by Eddie Ford... helped his team to an 8-3 record as a senior... named the Class 2A Lower State Defensive Lineman of the Year by the South Carolina Football Coaches Association... named to the Class 2A All-State team by the high school coaches in 2023... named an Under Armour All-American... selected to play in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas following his senior season.

### RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/25/6	173/14/4	39/2/1	-/21/1

## DANTE RENO

**Quarterback** 6-2 205  
**Boston, Mass.**  
**(Cheshire Academy)**

The lone quarterback in the 2024 signing class... led Cheshire Academy to a 7-2 record as a senior... completed 159-of-248 passes (64.1 percent) for 2,358 yards with 20 touchdowns and seven interceptions... added 232 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground... selected as an Under Armour All-American and named a team captain for the game... was an Elite 11 Finalist... coached by Bill Mella... previously played at Windsor (Conn.) Loomis Chaffee... also played baseball and basketball during his prep career... is the son of Yale football coach Tony Reno.

### RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/46/5	-/21/5	269/12/5	233/16/4

## JEROME SIMMONS

**Defensive Line** 6-4 333  
**Bamberg, S.C.**  
**(Bamberg-Ehrhardt/Highland C.C.)**

Junior college defensive tackle who spent two seasons at Highland (Kan.) Community College... coached by DJ Mayo... helped the Scotties post a 6-5 record in 2023... credited with 26 tackles including 3.0 tackles for loss and a sack as a sophomore... also forced a fumble and had an interception... as a freshman in 2022, he logged 24 tackles including 8.0 tackles for loss with 4.5 sacks as the Scotties posted a 2-8 record under head coach Jared Powers... graduated from Bamberg (S.C.)-Ehrhardt High School in 2022.

### JUCO RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
18/4/6	6/2/1	-/-/-	18/-/-

## MICHAEL SMITH

**Tight End** 6-4 250  
**Savannah, Ga.**  
**(Calvary Day School)**

Tight end prospect from Savannah's Calvary Day School... led the Cavaliers to a 13-1 record and a spot in the Class 3A state semifinals as a senior... caught 28 passes for 638 yards (22.8 ypc) and 11 touchdowns in 2023... as a junior, in 2022 caught 24 passes for 601 yards (25 ypc) and 12 touchdowns... helped the Cavaliers go 11-1 and make the quarterfinals of Georgia's AAA playoffs... was a two-way player as a sophomore in 2021... earned Region 3-A Private first-team honors as a tight end... caught 42 passes for 684 yards and nine touchdowns... helped Calvary Day post a 12-1 record while making the playoffs... also played basketball... was on the Calvary Day squad that won a regional title his sophomore season.

### RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
144/13/20	62/5/9	174/9/24	205/11/37

## JALEWIS SOLOMON

**Defensive Back** 6-0 185  
**Ellaville, Ga.**  
**(Schley County)**

Two-way player at Schley County High School in Ellaville, Ga, working at both wide receiver and cornerback... totaled over 3,400 yards and 34 touchdowns as a receiver during his prep career... added 96 tackles with 17 interceptions and 20 pass breakups on defense... led the Wildcats to a 13-1 record and a spot in the Georgia Class A Division II state semifinals in 2023... caught 70 passes for 1,072 yards and 11 touchdowns... credited with 26 tackles and eight interceptions with six pass breakups on defense... selected as an Under Armour All-American... coached by Darren Alford... as a junior in 2022, earned all-state honors after catching 86 passes for 1,210 yards and 10 TD for a squad that went 12-3 and played for a Peach State Class A Division II title... on defense, was credited with 29 tackles, 4 PBU and 3 INT... also returned a kickoff for a TD... caught 61 passes for 989 yards and 13 touchdowns as a sophomore on offense, while totaling 22 tackles, 8 PBUs and 5 interceptions on defense... earned all-state recognition and participated in the Georgia Elite Classic... brother, Zykevious Walker plays on the defensive line at Auburn.

### RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
-/14/59	-/33/48	194/13/29	92/4/13

## DYLAN STEWART

**EDGE** 6-5 250  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**(Friendship Collegiate Academy)**

EDGE rusher who is the highest-ranked prospect in the Gamecocks' December signing class... played at Friendship Collegiate Academy in Washington, D.C... lined up all over the front seven on defense... led the Knights to an 11-2 mark as a senior... coached by Michael Hunter... served as a team captain... selected as an Under Armour All-American and named a team captain for the game... logged 16 sacks as a junior in 2022 and helped his team win a DCSAA Class AA state championship... named All-Metro by the *Washington Post* and received DCSAA Class AA all-state honors after his junior year... played linebacker and tight end as a sophomore.

### RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
11/2/1	19/3/1	15/3/1	24/2/1

## JOSIAH THOMPSON

**Offensive Line** 6-7 280  
**Dillon, S.C.**  
**(Dillon)**

Offensive lineman from Dillon (S.C.) High School... played left tackle in high school... helped his team to a 10-2 mark in his senior season... coached by Kelvin Roller... named Mr. Football for the state of South Carolina, just the second offensive lineman to win the award... named the Class 3A Lower State Defensive Lineman of the Year by the South Carolina Football Coaches Association... named to the Class 3A All-State team by the high school coaches in 2023... selected to play in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and the All-American Bowl... earned MaxPrep all-America honors... also played on the Dillon basketball squad.

### RANKINGS (NATIONAL/POSITION/STATE)

ON3	247	ESPN	RIVALS
8/2/1	40/3/1	65/6/2	47/4/2