



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOBOS ANNOUNCE 21 SIGNEES ON NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

New Mexico football signed 21 players to its 2017 class on National Signing Day.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — University of New Mexico head football coach Bob Davie has announced 21 signees to the Lobo football program on National Signing Day. The total includes nine players that are currently enrolled for the spring semester.

The Lobos, which return over 40 lettermen from the team that went 9-4 and won the Gildan New Mexico Bowl during the 2016 season, added seven players on offense, 13 on defense and one on special teams. The 2017 recruiting class features 13 junior college transfers, seven high school players and one Division I transfer.

Below are capsules of the 2017 recruiting class.

WILLIE HOBDY

DB | 6-2 | 185 | SO | JC

Garland, Texas | Coffeyville CC/North Garland HS

Junior college transfer that will have 3 years of eligibility

JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Coffeyville CC for coach Aaron Flores
- Named Second Team Kansas Jayhawk Community College All-Conference
- Had 44 tackles, 9 pass break-ups and 3 interceptions
- Picked off two passes, including one for a touchdown, against Hutchinson
- Chose the Lobos over UNLV, Arkansas State, Southern Miss, Texas State and Western Kentucky

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at North Garland for coach Joe Castillo
- Was named Second Team All-District 11-5A both in 2012 and 2013
- Also lettered twice in track where he clocked the fourth-fastest 110-hurdle time in school history with a 15.19 and a triple jump of 42-11.5, seventh-best
- Regional qualifier in the 110 hurdles

PERSONAL

- His parent is Loretta Prince
- His birthday is August 4, 1996
- Wants to major in Business or Finance



D'ANGELO ROSS

DB | 5-10 | 185 | JR | JC

La Puente, Calif. | Fullerton JC/South Hills HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Fullerton for Tim Byrnes
- Named First Team All SCFA National Division
- Recorded 45 tackles his sophomore season with 15 passes broken up and six interceptions.
- Returned two picks for touchdowns, and also scored on a two-point conversion
- Helped his team win the California JC Championship
- Chose the Lobos over Arkansas State

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at South Hills for coach Albert Rodriguez
- Recorded 27 tackles as a senior
- Added 13 passes defended with three interceptions and a forced fumble
- Scored six offensive touchdowns, four receiving on 22 catches for 279 yards, and two rushing on 123 yards

PERSONAL

- His parents are Daniel and Wendy Ross
- His birthday is October 29, 1996
- Wants to major in Business Management

MICHAEL SEWELL, JR.

DB | 6-1 | 197 | JR | JC

Palmdale, Calif. | L.A. Valley College/Highland HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at L.A. Valley College for coach Robert Tucker
- Recorded 28 tackles in 2016 with 20 solos
- Named Conference Defensive Player of the Year
- Named First Team All-Conference and team captain for a team that went 11-0
- Named All-American by California junior college coaches
- Named First Team All-Conference as a junior as well
- Had four passes broken up and four interceptions
- Scored two touchdowns, one on an interception and one on a blocked punt return
- Chose the Lobos over Cal, Fresno State, South Alabama, Arkansas State and North Texas

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Highland for coach Troy Jackson
- Recorded at least 118 tackles in his varsity career, including two fumble recoveries
- Also played offense, scoring four touchdowns
- Named team captain as a senior

PERSONAL

- His mother is Demetris Pierson
- His birthday is September 7, 1996
- Wants to major in Liberal Arts

JERMANE CONYERS

DL | 6-3 | 320 | JR | JC

Rossville, Ga. | Dodge City CC/Ridgeland HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered and started for two years at Dodge City for coach Gary Thomas as a defensive end and defensive tackle
- Played in nine games, recording 41 tackles including 10.0 for losses of 28 yards
- Added 2.0 sacks, four quarterback hurries, a pass break-up and a blocked kick
- Had a tremendous game against Iowa Western with a career-high 11 tackles including 1.5 for loss and had a career-high three TFLs in a 7-3 win over Butler
- Named Second Team All-Conference
- Helped Dodge City win a conference championship in 2015
- Chose the Lobos over Toledo, Northern Illinois, Bowling Green and Southern Miss

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered and started for three years at Ridgeland HS for coach Mark Mariakis
- Originally signed with Indiana out of high school
- Suffered a broken leg during his senior season, but still recorded 25 tackles, two for a loss and a blocked kick
- Ran a 4.71 40 in high school

PERSONAL

- His parents are Laura Stewart and Tracy Wade
- His birthday is June 4, 1996
- Wants to major in Liberal Arts

JORDAN FLACK

LB | 6-3 | 220 | JR | JC

Newbury Park, Calif. | Moorpark JC/Newbury Park HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Moorpark College for coach Mike Stuart
- Played 10 games in 2016 and was fifth on the team in tackles with 46
- Named First Team All-Conference and team Defensive MVP as a sophomore
- Named All-Conference and All-Academic as a freshman
- Led team with 14.5 tackles for a loss for 81 yards and 10 sacks for 64 yards
- Broke up two passes, forced two fumbles, recovered a fumble and picked off one pass which he returned 60 yards for a score
- Chose the Lobos over Colorado State, Hawaii, San Jose State, Ohio, and Bowling Green

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Newbury Park for coach Gary Fabricius
- Recorded 56 tackles over his final two seasons with 15.0 tackles for loss and scored two defensive touchdowns
- Also added 10.0 sacks for 75 yards, two interceptions, three fumble recoveries and five passes defended
- Scored three offensive touchdowns, catching 31 passes for 387 yards
- Named First Team All-Conference and 1st Team All-Ventura County as a junior and senior

PERSONAL

- His parents are Kenneth and Donna Flack
- His birthday is July 12, 1996
- Wants to major in Business

SAMMY BENARD

OL | 6-4 | 285 | JR | JC

Lindsay, Oklahoma | Northeastern Oklahoma A&M/Lindsay HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Northeast Oklahoma A&M College for coach Clay Patterson
- Named First Team All-Southwest Junior College Football Conference
- Started all 10 games as a sophomore
- Helped block for a team that averaged 529.4 yards per game of total offense and 40.8 points per game
- Chose the Lobos over Baylor, Utah State, UAB, Texas State and East Carolina

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Lindsay High School for coach John Inman
- Was named both all-district and Class 2A All-Star as a senior
- Led the Leopards to second round of Class 2A state playoffs in 2014
- Won the State Championship in shot put in 2015

PERSONAL

- His parents are Andrea Benard
- His birthday is April 3, 1997
- Wants to major in Athletic Training

MARCUS WILLIAMS

TE | 6-2 | 215 | FR | HS

Rio Rancho, N.M. | Cleveland HS



NEW MEXICO

- High school teammate of current Lobo Gabe Ortega
- Grayshirt who graduated high school in the Spring of 2016

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Cleveland High School for coach Heath Ridenour
- Caught a team-best 56 passes for a team-high 967 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior
- Recorded 55 tackles as a defensive back with six interceptions for 142 yards
- Caught a team-best 35 passes for a team-high 639 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior
- Recorded 39 tackles as a defensive back with 4.0 tackles for loss with two interceptions
- Started for the 2015 New Mexico State Champions

PERSONAL

- Parents are Michael and Diedra Williams
- Wants to major in Business
- Has one brother, Michael, and one sister, Courtney
- His birthday is March 25, 1998

COLTIN GERHART

RB | 6-0 | 215 | JR | TR

Murrieta, Calif. | Arizona State/Vista HS

Graduate Transfer that is immediately eligible with 2 years of eligibility remaining

ARIZONA STATE

- Lettered at Arizona State for two seasons for coach Todd Graham
- Saw action in seven games in 2016 and also played in four games in 2015
- Also played baseball for the seasons at Arizona State, serving as an outfielder

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Vista Murrieta HS for coach Cooley Candaele
- Nearly amassed 4,500 passing yards and 3,500 rushing yards over three years on varsity
- Posted 3,151 yards of total offense as a senior with 1,418 rushing yards with 25 scores on 140 carries (10.1 avg.) averaging 101.3 rushing yards per game
- Rated the No. 41 dual-threat quarterback by ESPN and the No. 43 quarterback by Scout.com
- Recruited by Stanford, Cal, Vanderbilt, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, BYU, Boise State, Fresno State, Hawaii, and Iowa State

PERSONAL

- His parents are Todd and Lori Gerhart
- His birthday is August 11, 1994
- Plans to go to medical school after completing his master's in sports management



LON HAMPTON

LS | 6-1 | 235 | JR | JC

Zena, Okla. | Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College/Grove HS

JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College for coach Clay Patterson
- Served as a long snapper for two seasons on both punts and field goals
- Named All-Southwest Conference
- Chose the Lobos over Kansas, ULM and New Mexico State

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Grove HS for coach Dennis Millican
- Named All-District, All-Conference and All-State as a senior
- Served as Team Captain

PERSONAL

- His parents are David and Kim Hampton
- His birthday is June 7, 1996
- Wants to major in University Studies



DYLAN WEAVER

OL | 6-6 | 300 | FR | HS

Farmington, N.M. | Piedra Vista HS

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Piedra Vista for coach Jared Howell
- Missed much of his 2016 season due to an injury
- Was named First Team All-State as an offensive lineman as a junior
- Chose the Lobos over Texas Tech

PERSONAL

- His parents are Gary and Sarah Weaver
- His birthday is April 26, 1999
- Wants to major in Criminology or Athletic Training



BRYSON CARROLL

QB | 5-9 | 183 | FR | HS

San Antonio, Texas | Roosevelt HS

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Roosevelt for coach Matt Carroll
- Blistering fast quarterback with 4.4 speed who rushed for 2,417 as a junior and a senior
- In 2015 vs Lee HS, rushed for 351 yards and 8 TDs, also passed for 218 yards and 2 TDs
- Also runs track, where he ran a 10.4 in the 100-meter as a junior
- Lettered a total of 3 times in football and 4 times in track
- A 4.0 student at Roosevelt, graduating Summa Cum Laude
- Named District 26 6A offensive MVP as a senior
- Named First Team All-District as a junior
- Named to Dave Campbell's Subway Super Team
- Named First Team Utility Player
- Chose the Lobos over Tulane, Southern Miss, Bowling Green, Army, Navy and Air Force

PERSONAL

- His parents are Matt and Dawn Carroll
- His birthday is May 17, 1999
- Wants to major in Education and Social Studies



DANIEL PEABODY

TE | 6-2 | 225 | FR | HS

Tucson, Ariz. | Ironwood Ridge HS

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered three times at Ironwood Ridge for coach Matt Johnson
- Named All-State by the Arizona Football Coaches Association in 2016 as well as All-Section in 2016
- Caught 42 passes for 794 yards and eight touchdowns over his final two seasons
- Also rushed for 302 yards and four touchdowns, and recorded 61 tackles on defense with two fumble recoveries and three forced fumbles
- Also lettered in wrestling and track and field during his high school career
- Chose the Lobos over San Jose State and Army



PERSONAL

- His parents are Guy and Susan Peabody
- His birthday is February 20, 1999
- Wants to major in Business or Marketing

NICO BOLDEN

DB | 6-3 | 199 | FR | HS

Woodbury, Minn. | Woodbury HS

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered three times at Woodbury High School for coach Andy Hill
- Listed as the No. 4 recruit out of Minnesota in 2016 by 247sports.com
- In 2016, recorded 40 tackles, 2 interceptions, 131 yards receiving and 1 TD, 9 kickoff returns for 312 yards and 2 TDs and 6 punt returns for 106 yards
- In 2015, recorded 43 tackles, 2 interceptions and 1 forced fumble
- Named Suburban Eastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year and 1st Team All-State as a senior
- Named two-time All-District
- Named to the All-Combine Team at the 2016 US Army National Combine
- Also lettered twice in track
- Chose the Lobos over Vanderbilt, Syracuse, Washington State, Wyoming and Buffalo



PERSONAL

- His parents are Darryl Thomas Bolden and Angel Christina Rodriguez
- His birthday is October 15, 1998
- Wants to major in Business and Sports Management

MARCUS HAYES

DB | 6-0 | 192 | FR | HS

Rockford, Ill. | Rockford East HS

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Rockford East for coach Gary Griffin
- Recorded 85 tackles as a senior with 4.0 tackles for a loss and five interceptions, adding three passes defended, three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery
- Overall he recorded eight interceptions over his varsity career, and he added four punt return touchdowns
- Also played on offense, where he scored 28 offensive touchdowns in three seasons, including 12 receiving as a junior when as caught 37 passes for 725 yards
- Named All-State and All-Conference as a junior and senior
- Chose the Lobos over Western Michigan, Central Michigan and Buffalo

PERSONAL

- His mother is Jill Sullivan
- His birthday is May 8, 1999
- Wants to major in Business



LANGSTON MURRAY

DL | 6-2 | 335 | FR | HS

Logansport, La. | Logansport HS

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered and started for three years at Logansport for coach Kevin McGee
- Named First Team All-State and First Team All-District
- Helped Logansport to the Class 1A Louisiana State Championship in 2016, played in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome
- As a junior recorded 92 total tackles, 36 tackles for a loss and 7 sacks
- Played on both sides of the line
- Rushed for 40 yards as a Wildcat QB in the quarterfinal game of his senior year
- Chose the Lobos over ULM and TCU

PERSONAL

- His mother is Jamecia Murray and his grandmother is Patricia Murray
- His birthday is April 20, 1999
- Wants to major in Business



AARON BLACKWELL

DL | 6-3 | 298 | SO | JC

Peoria, Ariz. | Mesa CC/Liberty HS

Junior college transfer that will have 3 years of eligibility

JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Mesa Community College for coach Ryan Felker
- Played in 11 games for Mesa CC, registering 42 tackles, including 29 solos
- Recorded 6.5 sacks for 39 yards and 11.0 tackles for loss, one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries
- Signed with Weber State out of high school before transferring to Mesa in 2016

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Liberty High School for coach Dan Filimen
- Named All-West Valley Defensive Player of the Year
- Named American Family Insurance All-USA Arizona football team and First Team AFI All-Arizona Division II
- Named First Team All-State by Arizona Football Coaches Association
- Named MaxPreps Second Team All-American for medium schools in 2014
- Was also named First Team All-West Valley as a defensive lineman

PERSONAL

- His parents are Randy and Suzie Blackwell
- His birthday is July 5, 1997
- Wants to major in Business or Digital Media



AMONAI ITAAEHAU

LB | 6-2 | 240 | JR | JC

Mesa, Ariz. | Mesa CC/Desert Ridge HS

JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Mesa Community College for coach Ryan Felker
- Played in 11 games for Mesa CC, and led the team with 118 tackles including 60 solos
- Has 14.5 tackles for losses of 57 yards, and 7.0 sacks for 32 yards
- Registered eight pass break-ups and three forced fumbles
- Had a career-high 18 tackles against Eastern Arizona
- Signed with UC-Davis out of high school before transferring to Mesa in 2015

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Desert Ridge for coach Jeremy Hathcock
- Named First Team Arizona All-State Division I
- Named a two-time All-Section honoree as well All-City and as Defensive Player of the Year
- Recorded 196 tackles in a two-year varsity career, including 101 as a senior, with 11.0 total sacks
- Led Desert Ridge to a pair of state championship semifinal games

PERSONAL

- His parents are Fine and Echo
- His birthday is November 26, 1995
- Wants to major in Biology



SITIVENI TAMAIVENA

LB | 6-1 | 230 | JR | JC

Renton, Wa. | Mt. San Antonio College/Juanita HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Mt. San Antonio College for coach Bob Jabstrab
- Recorded 142 tackles and 17 sacks during his JC career
- Named First Team All-American by California's community college coaches as a freshman
- Named First Team All-State as a sophomore
- Helped a defense that averaged 15.6 points allowed per game achieve an 8-3 record and a Golden State Bowl win over College of the Canyons
- Chose the Lobos over Texas A&M, Oregon State, Washington State, San Jose State and Utah State

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Juanita HS in Kirkland, WA for coach Sean Parentolla
- Named All-King County and All-Conference as a senior

PERSONAL

- His parents are Levi and Sera Tamaivena
- Father, Levi, played for Fiji National Rugby Team (1991-99)
- His birthday is June 20, 1993
- Wants to major in Criminal Justice

CAMERON BURSTON

QB | 6-4 | 210 | JR | JC

Vallejo, Calif. | Contra Costa College/Stellar Prep



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Contra Costa College for coach Alonzo J. Carter
- Was 145-for-291 for 1,701 yards with 21 touchdowns in 2016
- Was second on the team with 521 yards rushing, scoring four touchdowns with a long of 63 yards
- Named All-State as a sophomore
- Chose the Lobos over San Jose State and Fresno State

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Stellar Prep for coach Desmond Gumbs
- Led Stellar Prep to an 8-4 record as a senior
- Had 251 yards passing and 115 rushing in a 26-3 win over Drake in earning clihisports.com Co-Multipurpose Player of the Week honors
- Named All-League as a senior

PERSONAL

- His parents are Harold Burston and Jacqueline Warren
- His birthday is September 18, 1997
- Wants to major in Accounting

RAYSHAWN BOYCE

LB | 6-5 | 248 | JR | JC

Compton, Calif. | L.A. Valley College/Salesian HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at L.A. Valley College for coach Robert Tucker
- Named All-Conference and team captain for a team that went 11-0
- Had three tackles, two for a loss and a sack in the American Division Championship Bowl against Southwestern, a 24-16 win
- Played just six games overall as a sophomore but had 7.5 tackles for loss (41 yards) and 4.5 sacks (29 yards)
- Played his first season at Arizona Western and helped his team win a conference championship
- Chose the Lobos over Fresno State, Hawaii and San Jose State

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Bishop Mora Salesian High School for coach Angelo Jackson
- Helped Salesian win the CIF championship as a senior
- Named high school All-American, 1st team All-Conference and team captain as a senior

PERSONAL

- His parents are Kimberly Smith and Daimon Wilson
- His birthday is October 24, 1995
- Wants to major in Sociology

JALIN BURRELL

DB | 6-1 | 195 | JR | JC

Riverside, Calif. | Moorpark JC/Patriot HS



JUNIOR COLLEGE

- Lettered at Moorpark Junior College for coach Mike Stuart
- Played free safety, cornerback, wide receiver, punt returner and kick returner
- Named First Team All-Conference defensive back as a sophomore
- Named Second Team All-Conference all-purpose as a freshman
- As a sophomore he recorded 48 tackles, which was second on the team.
- Led team with seven pass break-ups, and also added two interceptions, four tackles for loss, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery
- Chose the Lobos over Colorado, Tulsa, Iowa State, Arkansas State, Louisiana Tech and UL-Lafayette

HIGH SCHOOL

- Lettered at Patriot High School for coach Chris Fowler
- Recorded 79 tackles over his last two seasons, along with a forced fumble, a fumble recovery, an interception and a blocked field goal
- Also played on offense, rushing for 1,163 yards of those two seasons and catching 59 passes for 714 yards
- Scored 20 touchdowns in his career and added three two-point conversions
- Named First Team All-Conference and All-County as a junior and senior

PERSONAL

- His parent is Patricia Ann Tyler
- His birthday is September 20, 1996
- Wants to major in Business or Sociology

SIGNEE ROSTER

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Class	Exp.	Hometown/School
*Sammy Benard	OL	6-4	285	Jr.	JC	Lindsay, Okla. (Northeast Okla. A&M College/Lindsay HS)
Aaron Blackwell	DL	6-3	298	So.	JC	Peoria, Ariz. (Mesa CC/Liberty HS)
Nico Bolden	DB	6-3	199	Fr.	HS	Woodbury, Minn. (Woodbury HS)
Rayshawn Boyce	LB	6-5	248	Jr.	JC	Compton, Calif. (L.A. Valley College/Salesian HS)
Jalin Burrell	DB	6-1	195	Jr.	JC	Riverside, Calif. (Moorpark JC/Patriot HS)
Cameron Burston	QB	6-4	210	Jr.	JC	Vallejo, Calif. (Contra Costa College/Stellar Prep)
Bryson Carroll	QB	5-9	183	Fr.	HS	San Antonio, Texas (Roosevelt HS)
*Jermane Conyers	DL	6-3	320	Jr.	JC	Rossville, Ga. (Dodge City CC/Ridgeland HS)
*Jordan Flack	LB	6-3	220	Jr.	JC	Newbury Park, Calif. (Moorpark JC/Newbury Park HS)
*Coltin Gerhart	RB	6-0	215	Jr.	TR	Norco, Calif. (Arizona State/Vista HS)
*Lon Hampton	LS	6-1	235	Jr.	JC	Zena, Okla. (Northeast Okla. A&M College/Grove HS)
Marcus Hayes	DB	6-0	192	Fr.	HS	Rockford, Ill. (Rockford East HS)
*Willie Hobdy	DB	6-2	185	So.	JC	Garland, Texas (Coffeyville CC/North Garland HS)
Amonai Itaaehau	LB	6-2	240	Jr.	JC	Mesa, Ariz. (Mesa CC/Desert Ridge HS)
Langston Murray	DL	6-2	335	Fr.	HS	Logansport, La. (Logansport HS)
Daniel Peabody	TE	6-2	225	Fr.	HS	Tucson, Ariz. (Ironwood Ridge HS)
*D'Angelo Ross	DB	5-10	185	Jr.	JC	La Puente, Calif. (Fullerton JC/South Hills HS)
*Michael Sewell, Jr.	DB	6-1	197	Jr.	JC	Palmdale, Calif. (L.A. Valley College/Highland HS)
Sitiveni Tamaivena	LB	6-1	230	Jr.	JC	Renton, Wash. (Mt. San Antonio College/Palo Alto HS)
Dylan Weaver	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	HS	Farmington, N.M. (Piedra Vista HS)
*Marcus Williams	TE	6-2	215	Fr.	HS	Rio Rancho, N.M. (Cleveland HS)

**Currently enrolled*

SIGNEE BREAKDOWN

By State:

Arizona 3, California 7, Georgia 1, Illinois 1, Louisiana 1, Minnesota 1, New Mexico 2, Oklahoma 2, Texas 2, Washington 1

By Position:

Offense 7: Quarterback 2, Tight End 2, Offensive Line 2, Running Back 1

Defense 13: Defensive Back 6, Defensive Line 3, Linebacker 4

Special Teams 1: Long Snapper 1