

TOP 25 PROSPECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

BRYAN SCOTT

QB-RB, 6-2, 265

CENTRAL BUCKS EAST

Considered by some scouting services as one of the top 50 players in the country. Great athlete who runs a 4.4 40. Was second-team all-state as a junior. Rushed for 1,292 yards on 194 carries and scored 14 TDs. Caught five TD passes. Some schools like him at QB, some as WR and others as RB. Scott said he has no personal preference. Michigan is the leader, but Penn State, North Carolina and Virginia are on his list.

ROD RUTHERFORD

QB-QB, 6-3, 200

FERRY

The top prospect in Western Pennsylvania. First-team all-state selection as a junior. Completed 68 of 109 passes for 1,356 yards and scored 20 TDs running. Good option-runner. Also excellent on defense. Pitt, Penn State, Michigan State have offered scholarships.

DAVE COSTLOW

QB-QE, 6-4, 255

NORTH PENN

Never played football until the eighth grade. Future seems to be on offense. Michigan, Notre Dame, Penn State, North Carolina, among others, have offered scholarships. Excellent student with 1,420 SAT.

ART THOMAS

HB, 6-3, 187

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Family is originally from South America. Thomas is one of the main reasons Cumberland Valley is considered one of the state's best Class AAAA teams. Didn't carry the ball much as a junior and gained only 400 yards. Runs a consistent 4.4 40. Could also be a receiver or defensive back. Ohio State, Northwestern, Pitt, Penn State have all offered. Needs to raise SAT score.

GINO CAPONE

FB-LB, 6-3, 230

NORTH SCHUYLKILL

Made oral commitment to Penn State in late July. Chose the Nittany Lions over Notre Dame. Could be a fullback or linebacker at Penn State. Has also played tight end in his career. Has excellent movement, running the 40 in 4.6. Rushed for more than 900 yards as a junior.

MIKE KITCHEN

RB-QB, 5-11, 195

LEBANON

Rushed for 1,556 yards on 209 carries as a junior. Has 2,956 yards and 31 TDs in career. Also plays defensive back, but prefers offense. Had more than 10 scholarship offers by midsummer. Was hoping for one from Florida State. If the Seminoles don't come through, Kitchen has no favorite.

JIM MOLINARO

OT-OL, 6-7, 235

BETHLEHEM CATHOLIC

Considered possibly the best defensive lineman in Pennsylvania. Although he plays defensive tackle in high school, colleges are recruiting him as a defensive end. An avid weightlifter who lifted twice a day this summer, the first workout at 5:30 a.m. Notre Dame has offered and is the leader. West Virginia also has offered.

BEN CARBER

OG, 6-2, 300

CENTRAL BUCKS WEST

Was first-team all-state as a junior, opening holes for fullback Dale Armstrong, who's now at Michigan. Excellent drive blocker who plays for one of the best programs in the state. Committed to Virginia earlier this month, choosing Cavaliers over Syracuse, West Virginia, Maryland and others.

ROB BLOMEIER

QB-QB, 6-0, 195

MANHEIM TOWNSHIP

Made commitment to Nebraska. He sold himself to Huskers, sending them a highlight film of himself. Nebraska coaches liked what they saw, invited Blomeier to camp this summer and then offered him a scholarship. He accepted. The only other Division I offer he had was from Buffalo, but others were interested. Recruited as an "athlete." Completed 80 of 180 for 1,058 yards as a junior. Rushed for 394 yards and had four interceptions.

RYAN BELICIC

QB, 6-3, 200

CENTRAL DAUPHIN

Didn't play football as a sophomore, but came out as a junior because of new Coach George Chuemp. Belicic excelled a year ago, completing 60 percent of passes for 2,400 yards and 26 TDs. Third-team all-state. He likes Kansas, but Pitt, Kentucky and Maryland are also in pursuit.

GAMONE JONES

DT-OT, 6-5, 320

PHILADELPHIA CENTRAL

Never played football until his sophomore year. Has excellent movement, running the 40 in 5.0. Future is probably on offense. Michigan State, West Virginia and Penn State have offered scholarships, but Jones said he has no preferences.

MATT SCHAUB

QB, 6-5, 210

WEST CHESTER EAST

Ranked among the top 15 quarterbacks in the country by Super Prep magazine. Threw for more than 2,400 yards and 24 TDs the past two seasons, despite playing in run-happy winged-T offense. He likes Virginia, but Pitt, Boston College and others have offered. Northwestern also is on his list, but the Wildcats haven't offered yet.

JOHN GLASS

OT-OT, 6-5, 320

DIERUFF

Third-team all-state selection as a junior. Future most likely on offense. He likes Michigan State and the Spartans have offered. Syracuse, Boston College, Rutgers and Miami also have offered. Low grades in the classroom could hurt his recruiting.

ANTOINE LOVELACE

WR, 6-2, 180

NESHAMINY

Did not play as a sophomore because he thought his future was in basketball. Caught 40 passes a year ago. Made commitment to Northwestern, turning down scholarship offers from Temple, Pitt and Rutgers.

JIM CONNOR

OT-OT, 6-5, 265

STRATH HAVEN

One of the best players in the Philadelphia area. Offense seems best suited for him. Runs a 5.2 40. Boston College is the leader with Duke next in line. Michigan State and Maryland offered scholarships.

WILLIAM FERGUSON

RB-QB, 5-10, 175

WOODLAND HILLS

Versatile player who also is an excellent kick returner. Can also play receiver. Caught 30 passes for 602 yards as a junior. Pitt is very interested, but so are many others. Grades a worry, but summer school helped.

JOE WILSON

OT-OL, 6-4, 275

CENTRAL BUCKS WEST

Plays alongside stud offensive lineman Ben Carber. His future is probably on offense. Miami is the early leader because the Hurricanes also offered twin brother Jon (6-2, 255). Joe also has offers from Pitt, Boston College and Temple.

ALEX WADE

FB-LB, 6-2, 242

COUNCIL ROCK

Had reconstructive surgery on a knee as a sophomore, but bounced back last year to rush for 1,500 yards. Besides his football talent, has a 4.3 grade-point average and 1,530 score on the SAT. He made commitment to Duke in July.

MATT MORGAN

OT-OT, 6-7, 290

PLUM

Has grown about seven inches and put on 90 pounds since ninth grade. Being recruited as an offensive lineman. Has offers from Pitt, North Carolina and Rutgers. Likes North Carolina and Ohio State, but the Buckeyes have not offered.

NICK FISHER

OT-OT, 6-7, 320

MARS

Made commitment earlier this summer to Maryland. North Carolina State, Syracuse and others were also recruiting him. Moves well for a big kid with a 5.2 time in the 40.

T.J. PHILLIPS

RB-QB, 6-2, 210

SHARON

Rushed for 1,978 yards on 299 attempts last season and was second-team all-state. Has 3,957 career yards and could break Mike Archie's school rushing record. Low grades a concern.

ELLY SALAMO

FB-LB, 6-3, 220

READING

Nicknamed "Hammer" because he hits hard. Most colleges like him as a linebacker. Had 74 tackles and 10 sacks last season. Boston College, West Virginia and Maryland have offered.

JASON MALAKOSKI

DT-OT, 6-4, 280

MOUNT CARMEL

Was first-team all-state selection last year in small school division (Class AA and A). Was second-team all-state as a sophomore. Being recruited mostly for defense. Has offers from Boston College, Rutgers and Temple.

TONY JOHNSON

RB-QB, 6-0, 190

STATE COLLEGE

Played receiver last year, but will move to halfback this year. Tony has run a 4.41 40. His father is an assistant coach at Penn State.

KEVIN MANNING

OT-OT, 6-5, 280

ABINGTON HEIGHTS

Also a talented wrestler who qualified for the state tournament last year. Future is on offense. West Virginia has offered and Manning seems to like the Mountaineers the most.