

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL**

2023 Early National Signing Day - 12/21/22

**Coach Wilkerson - 2023 Early National Signing Day Quote:**

“We are thrilled to have an outstanding group of talented student-athletes signed in this first signing period. Our coaching staff has done an amazing job identifying and connecting with this phenomenal group and we can’t wait for them to get to campus! This group will undoubtedly have an amazing impact both on and off the field. We couldn’t be more excited about them joining our FAMILY! The future of EIU Football is bright.”

**\*\*\*Transfer Recruits in Blue**

**\*\*\*High School Recruits in White**

Adigun	Akin	S	6-2	175	Little Elm, TX	Lone Star HS
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**Quote from Clay Bignell (EIU Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/Safeties Coach):**

“Akin is a dynamic playmaker from the Lone Star State. He is a tremendous athlete with a rare combination of length and speed. We are extremely excited to add Akin to the Panther Family!”

Allen	Matt	OL	6-9	265	Bourbonnais, IL	Bradley-Bourbonnais HS
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**Quote from John Cannova (EIU Offensive Line Coach):**

“Matt was one of our first commits in the 2023 class. Having played basketball his whole life, he is a tremendous athlete with immense upside. As a 6’9” high school tight end, he will provide great athleticism and height as he develops into an offensive tackle.”

DiSanto	Nic	OL	6-4	310	Wyandotte, MI	Gabriel Richard HS
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**Quote from John Cannova (EIU Offensive Line Coach):**

“Nic is a leader, competitor, and an extremely hard worker. On the field, Nic plays with great physicality and intensity. He has a very high ceiling in football after being a 3-sport athlete at Gabriel Richard High School. We can't wait to watch him develop.”

Dowling	Blainey	QB	6-2	185	Chicago, IL	Mount Carmel HS
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**Quote from Joe Davis (EIU Offensive Coordinator/Quarterback Coach):**

“Blainey is the ultimate competitor. He is a winner who possesses the decision-making and accuracy we want to build our offense around.”

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Edwards	Marcus	CB	5-11	180	Bay City, TX	Cisco College
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**Quote from DJ Bland (EIU Cornerback Coach):**

“Marcus is an experienced corner who is not afraid to come downhill and crack someone. He will come in and make an impact for our defense with his length and knowledge of the game.”

Fridge	Tienne	CB	6-2	200	Sacramento, CA	Sacramento City College
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**Quote from DJ Bland (EIU Cornerback Coach):**

“Tienne is a great all-around corner who can defend the deep ball and come downhill to make open field tackles. He will make an immediate impact and change the look of our defense.”

Gipson	Terrance	RB	6-0	185	Kingwood, TX	SMU / Blinn / East Los Angeles College
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**Quote from Turner Pugh (EIU Running Back Coach):**

“Terrance is a versatile athlete from a strong football background. He is elusive and dynamic with the ball in his hands. We’re looking forward to having Terrance on campus very soon.”

Howard	Noah	OL	6-4	340	Clinton, IA	Iowa Central Community College
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**Quote from John Cannova (EIU Offensive Line Coach):**

“Noah is a very physical offensive lineman. He will bring toughness and a finisher mentality to the EIU offensive line. He embodies the hard-hat and lunch-pail mentality that we preach here. Coming to us from Iowa Central CC, he’ll be able to jump right in and compete at both guard and tackle.”

Hudson	JJ	LB	6-1	220	Philadelphia, MS	East Mississippi Community College
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**Quote from Adam Gristick (EIU Defensive Coordinator):**

“JJ is a physical and instinctive linebacker with sideline-to-sideline speed. His attack mentality will make a great addition to our lineback room. We’re excited he’s a part of our EIU family.”

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Mihalopoulos	Panayiotis (Pan)	OL	6-2	310	Chicago, IL	Loyola Academy
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**Quote from John Cannova (EIU Offensive Line Coach):**

“Panayiotis is coming to EIU from Loyola Academy, where he was the starting left tackle for the 2022 IHSA 8A State Champions. He brings a physicality, attitude, and intensity to everything he does. He embodies our Lead From the Front mentality. Growing up playing rugby and hockey, he understands the toughness needed for our level and we’re sure that he’ll bring that attitude to the EIU offensive line.”

Mirza	Eli	WR	5-11	190	Carmichael, CA	Sierra College
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**Quote from Kyle Derickson (EIU Special Teams Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach):**

“Eli’s ability to dominate in the California JUCO leagues over the past two seasons proves that he is ready to help our passing game improve. His route running, speed, and ability to catch the ball stood out immediately in the recruiting process, but how he presented himself and his personality proved he would be a great fit here in Charleston.”

Richardson	Isaiah	ATH	6-5	195	Suwanee, GA	Collins Hill HS
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**Quote from Adam Gristick (EIU Defensive Coordinator):**

“Isaiah is the prototypical player we’re looking for on defense here at EIU. He’s a fantastic athlete with great size, skill, and speed. His versatility will give him a chance to make an immediate impact this fall.”

Robinson	Torris	OL	6-5	325	Olive Branch, MS	Coahoma Community College
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**Quote from John Cannova (EIU Offensive Line Coach):**

“Torris will provide great size and athleticism to the EIU offensive line. He plays with physicality and great movement in space. Having played both offensive guard and tackle at Coahoma Community College, he brings great versatility and will compete in the offensive line room from Day One.”

Wilkerson	Peyton	DL	6-1	215	Mokena, IL	Lincoln-Way Central HS
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**Quote from Adam Morris (EIU Defensive Line Coach):**

“Peyton is a versatile player who played multiple positions up front at Lincoln-Way Central HS. His passion for the game will make him an immediate asset to the defensive line room. We can’t wait to get another Wilkerson in the EIU football program, and we’re looking forward to him officially joining our football family.”

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Wilson	Makhi	S	6-0	185	Bettendorf, IA	Pleasant Valley HS
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**Quote from Clay Bignell (EIU Safety Coach):**

“Makhi is the complete package. He’s been a playmaker on both sides of the ball and a star on the track at Pleasant Valley High School. He has all the physical traits we are looking for at safety and he can be a difference-maker for us. He’s a high-character person from a great family. Panther Nation will love having him in the secondary for the next 4 years. We’re extremely happy to have Makhi join the family!”

Woods	Jordan	WR	6-2	180	Hammond, IN	Hammond HS
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**Quote from Kyle Derickson (EIU Special Teams Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach):**

“Jordan is an unbelievable athlete from Northwest Indiana that played both WR and QB. He’s the type of player that will amaze you when you put the ball in his hands. He takes control of the game whether it be on the football field or basketball court and puts the team on his back in the clutch moments. The maturity and leadership he carries himself with at all times makes him an outstanding addition to the EIU Family.”