

Thursday, Feb. 07, 2013

Utah State Football Announces 2013 Signing Class



USU football head coach Matt Wells announced his first signing class on Wednesday, as part of National Signing Day, at a press conference. (photo from Athletics website)

Utah State [University] head football coach [Matt Wells](#) announced his first signing class on Wednesday [Feb. 6, 2013] as part of National Signing Day. The class, which includes 24 total players, is comprised of 16 high school athletes, six junior college transfers and two return LDS church missionaries.

The state of Utah produced the most signees with 12, including three from Cache Valley, followed by three from the state of Arizona. USU also signed two players each from California and Texas, and one player from Alabama, Oregon, New Jersey, Virginia and Wisconsin.

“We are really excited about this signing class and the group of young men who will represent Utah State University both on and off the football field,” said Wells. “The most impressive thing for me during the recruiting period was how this class stayed with us through the coaching transitions, and how dedicated and loyal they were to Utah State and our football program.”

The greatest emphasis in Wells’ first recruiting class was at offensive line as Utah State signed five student-athletes at that position to go along with four wide receivers. The Aggies also secured three defensive linemen and two players each at cornerback, linebacker, safety, running back and tight end. One kicker and one quarterback rounded out the 2013 class.

“This class was really geared toward bringing in young, talented players on the offensive line and then junior college players at the skilled positions. We added talent in the back end of our defense in the secondary, along with at running back and wide receiver on offense.”

In all, Utah State's 2013 class includes 14 recruits on offense, nine on defense and one special teams performer.

“Another aspect of our recruiting that was definitely met was emphasizing the state of Utah, and first and foremost recruiting inside Cache Valley. We also brought in some kids from out of state that fit our needs and will also thrive on campus.”

Three new players are already attending classes at Utah State and include freshmen offensive linemen [Andrew Chen](#) and [Brandon Taukeiaho](#) (Dow-k-a-ho), and freshman defensive end Ricky Ali'ifua (Ah-lee-ee-foo-uh). Chen originally signed with USU in 2012, Taukeiaho originally signed with USU in 2010 and Ali'ifua originally signed with USU in 2009. Both Ali'ifua and Taukeiaho are return LDS Missionaries.

With the conclusion of signing day, Utah State will now prepare for spring practice which begins on Tuesday, March 19 and concludes with its annual Blue-White Spring Game on Saturday, April 20 at 2 p.m.

The national letter-of-intent signing period for football began on Wednesday, Feb. 6, and will conclude Monday, April 1.

[UTAH STATE FOOTBALL SIGNING DAY CENTRAL](#)

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