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First haul for UTSA, and it's a big one

By [Dan McCarney](#) - Express-News

Responsible for the San Antonio area and all regions southward, former Texas State offensive coordinator Travis Bush hit the recruiting trails in earnest in November.

Player after player told him the same thing: Thanks, but I'm already spoken for.

“Ferrington Macon, Nick Garza, Scott Inskip, all the kids from San Antonio,” said Bush, who has since taken the same job at UTSA. “I'm trying to talk to these kids, but they were committed to UTSA. And they wouldn't budge. I was surprised, because I didn't know then what I know now.”

Which is, the Roadrunners might be a startup program with no facilities to speak of and 20 long months until their first game, but they aren't going to act like it.

That was the statement made Wednesday, said coach Larry Coker, with the signing of the school's first recruiting class, a group that counts several FBS-caliber prospects among its 27 members.

“I think it's a fabulous start,” Coker said. “I'm a little bit surprised with the quality of kids we were able to get.”

And that was before his cell phone rang with an additional dose of good news: Roosevelt defensive tackle Dominique Henderson, formerly committed to Baylor and arguably UTSA's most talented target, had chosen the Roadrunners over Houston.

“I want to build my hometown up,” Henderson said. “I'm just going to go out there and try to be a household name and help the team make some news.”

In addition to Henderson, Clark center Robert Chapman (Air Force), Bandera quarterback Cole Hubble (Houston), East Central running back Chris Johnson (Colorado, Iowa State) and Brandeis linebacker Cody Rogers (UTEP) all picked UTSA despite receiving offers from schools in the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A), according to Rivals.com.

Despite recruiting above their level — UTSA will begin play as a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) independent in 2011 — the Roadrunners lost only one commitment: Altair

Rice receiver Mario Hull, who switched to Rice several weeks ago.

The Roadrunners were otherwise able to sign virtually all of the commitments they began collecting in May with Johnson's unexpected pledge.

"There weren't too many guys committed when I did, so I had no idea how this class was going to turn out," Chapman said. "It feels like momentum kept building, and the list just kept getting better and better."

The Express-News Area Defensive Player of the Year, Rogers had been cool to UTSA's initial advances.

"(My attitude) changed after I went up to visit," he said. "The first couple of hours I was there, I was like, 'OK, I'm feeling it.' Finally towards the end when I started meeting everyone, I knew. I was like, 'Man, this is legit.'"

Moving forward, Coker said the team has three more scholarships to offer if necessary. He and his staff are also in the early stages of assembling a crew of roughly 50 walk-ons, with the intent of fielding 70 players when workouts begin in the fall.

UTSA

Class specifics

Analysis: By all early accounts, the Roadrunners have done much better than expected in their first recruiting foray. It would probably be a class any Southland Conference school would be proud of — and that's without even a practice field to show off, let alone an established tradition.

Notebook: McAllen lineman Scott Inskeep told coach Larry Coker his goal was to be the first player to fax in his National Letter of Intent. "He didn't quite make it," Coker said. "I think he came in third." ... Roosevelt defensive lineman Dominique Henderson still hadn't made his decision in time for the high school's 8 a.m. signing ceremony. He got in touch to tell Coker at almost 2 p.m., just after the news conference was breaking up.

- *Dan McCarney*

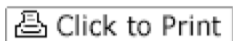
Signing list

Crosby Adams, DB, 5-9, 165, Roosevelt
Brandon Armstrong, RB, 5-8, 175, Roosevelt
Corey Brite, ATH, 5-11, 160, Giddings
Brady Brown, OL, 6-3, 300, So., O'Connor/Texas A&M-Kingsville
Richard Burge, DL, 6-3, 250, Houston (Stratford)
Robert Chapman, OL, 6-0, 300, Clark
Chris Dorsey, DL, 6-1, 240, Altair Rice
Nick Garza, WR, 6-2, 185, McAllen
David Glasco, RB, 5-11, 185, Wagner

Cody Harris, OL, 6-6, 275, Smithson Valley
Dominique Henderson, DL, 6-3, 270, Roosevelt
Earon Holmes, WR, 6-5, 165, Brackenridge
Cole Hubble, QB, 6-3, 215, Bandera
Scott Inskeep, OL, 6-4, 285, McAllen
Chris Johnson, RB, 5-9, 190, East Central
Nic Johnston, DB, 6-2, 185, Coppell
Kam Jones, QB, 6-0, 180, Edna
Nate Leonard, OL, 6-2, 290, McKinney
Sean Luchnick, WR, 6-0, 195, So., O'Connor/Penn State
Marcellus Mack, WR, 6-1, 185, Giddings
Ferrington Macon, DL, 6-0, 270, Corpus Christi Carroll
Jade Pender, TE, 6-6, 220, Castle Rock, Colo. (Castle View HS)
Drew Phillips, OL, 6-4, 260, Steele
Cody Rogers, LB, 6-1, 210, Brandeis
Darrien Starling, DB, 5-9, 175, Tyler (John Tyler)
John Walker, LB, 6-1, 215, Humble
Jake Wanamaker, WR, 6-2, 185, Central Catholic

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