



University of Missouri

MIZZOU

The magazine of
the Mizzou Alumni Association

[Home](#) » [Winter 2010](#) » [Around the Columns](#) » Mizzou makes 2010 recruiting class official

Around the Columns

Mizzou makes 2010 recruiting class official

The first Wednesday in February has become an annually circled calendar date for college football enthusiasts nationwide. For Missouri Tiger fans and Coach Gary Pinkel, National Signing Day Feb. 3, 2010, was starred and underlined, too.

“It’s a very important day for Mizzou football because every class that we sign will have an impact on the future,” Pinkel said at Mizzou Arena’s Clinton Club.

Citing recent recruiting success in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas, and in the state of Texas, Pinkel confirmed what had already been determined by football-talent-ranking Web site, Rivals.com: This 23-man class is the best in Pinkel’s 10-year tenure.

“In our [talent] evaluation system, this is a significantly higher level of total recruits than we’ve [ever] had.”

The class is ranked No. 21 in the nation according to Rivals, and features nine players from Texas, six from Missouri, and one each from Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

“We reached out to more states than we have in the past because kids that are interested in us reached out to Mizzou,” Pinkel said.

The class also includes the consensus No. 1 overall recruit in the state, offensive lineman Nick Demien from Wentzville, Mo., and current sophomore starting quarterback Blaine Gabbert’s younger brother, Tyler, from Ballwin, Mo.

Nick Demien, OL, 6-6, 295, Timberland High School, Wentzville, Mo.

One of the nation’s most dominant offensive line prospects, he has been touted for his outstanding technique, footwork and aggressiveness. He was rated as the No. 1 overall

prospect in the state by Rivals.com and the nation's No. 5 offensive tackle by Scouts.com. His uncle, David Demien, BS BA '76, played at Mizzou in 1975.

Henry Josey, RB, 5-10, 180, Angleton (Texas) High School

A versatile and athletic running back, Josey is known for his ability to hit holes and get into the secondary quickly. He rushed for 1,369 yards in 2009 and was a member of a state-champion 4x400 relay squad on the Angleton track and field team.

Kony Ealy, DE, 6-5, 230, New Madrid (Mo.) High School

A versatile athlete who could potentially make an impact on either side of the ball, he starred as an outside linebacker and as a running and receiving threat for New Madrid. Rivals.com ranks him as the No. 3 overall player in the state of Missouri. He also was a standout forward in basketball, earning all-state, all-district, all-region and all-conference honors.

Tyler Gabbert, QB, 6-0, 190, Parkway West High School, Ballwin, Mo.

Known for having a quick release and a compact throwing motion, Tyler chose Missouri over Iowa, Wake Forest, Oregon, and Big 12 rival Nebraska. He was ranked No. 12 nationally at quarterback by Scout.com. Gabbert is also an outstanding baseball player, batting .370 as a second baseman in 2009.

Marcus Lucas, WR, 6-5, 205, Liberty (Mo.) High School

Ranked by Rivals.com as the No. 2 overall recruit in the state, he has the ability to outmaneuver opponents and use his height to his advantage. A two-time first-team all-state wideout, he received the Otis Taylor Award his junior and senior years, which is given to the best receiver in the Kansas City metro area. His mother, Monique Lucas, BS BA '89, played basketball at Mizzou from 1986–89.

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Last updated: Feb. 15, 2013