

University of Missouri 2024 Football Commitments

by Danny Heitert, S.T.C. Grid Reports

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Aidan Glover, QB, 6'3", 193, Collierville High School (6-A), Collierville, TN B+

*Aidan Glover is the quarterback prospect that Missouri pivoted to after national recruit Daniel Kaelin from West Belleville, NE decommitted from U of Missouri and orally committed to Nebraska and its new head coach Matt Ruhl. Glover has good size, an impressive linear burst, and fine arm strength. Pays attention to the details of play faking, loading the ball quickly, and getting his feet aligned for the specific pass intended. With his decision making prowess and fine change-of-direction, Glover should be able to manage the read option portions of a Power 5 offense effectively. When the passing pocket gets pushed, Glover slides horizontally from his initial passing platform to find the first available throwing lane and reloads. When totally flushed from the pocket, Glover buys time with his feet while still focusing downfield. Glover's arm has above-average strength and upper-echelon accuracy. Aidan throws on time and his passes don't take long to arrive, even if thrown from hash-to-hash. However, when required, Glover can feather the ball over defenders who are running underneath vertical seam routes. Aidan is very effective throwing the long ball with precise trajectories that cause fast safeties to struggle arriving on time. An issue could be a perceived Messiah complex whereby Glover tries to "save" every pass and forces some balls into closing windows. Glover considered offers from OK ST, STAN, GA TECH, IND, BC, VIRG, and TULANE before **orally committing to Missouri.***

James Madison, WR-KR-DB, 6'3 ½", 205, St. Thomas Aquinas (4-A), Ft. Lauderdale, FL B+

*Best player from a nationally acclaimed football program. Native Kansas City wide receiver has size, functional strength, and pull away speed. Aligns in multiple X and Z alignments intended to get him the ball and to utilize his quickness, change-of-direction, and ball skills. Able to run past high school coverages (man & zone) and defensive run support angles with fine linear burst. Tracks ball and adjusts routes precisely before utilizing his 6'8" wingspan to snatch high degree of difficulty catches. High school defenders have difficulty getting Madison tackled to the ground. Also doubled as a defensive Cover 2 Safety who provided willing run support. Considered offers from FLA ST, GA, AL, OLE MISS, MICH, ORE, PENN ST, AUB, and MIAMI before giving **oral commitment to Missouri.***

Austyn Dendy, ATHLETE (FS-WR-RB), 6'1", 200, Pine Bluff H.S. (6-A), Pine Bluff, ARK B+

Versatile offensive wildcard who aligns primarily as medium split Slot but also as a dangerous running back or occasional quarterback. Played against competitive large school football programs. Muscular,

*strong, and very forceful ball carrier. Dendy's subtle quickness and gradual, long-striding linear speed causes defenders to underestimate burst and choose poor pursuit angles. Involved in a lot of Z-Slot motion and horizontal-oriented runs plays, but Austyn is at his best when he plants a foot and runs north and south. Dendy has excellent functional strength and contact balance that is displayed by his running through arm tackles. Austyn's route tree patterns lack detail and precision but his ball skills are very good. Can be a stalk blocking terror when he wants to be, but too often Dendy seems disinterested without the ball. Very comparable in size and abilities to 2009 Cahokia H.S. / 2010-2014 Alum Jimmy Hunt. Considered offers from OLE MISS, MISS ST, MICH ST, PURDUE, MEMPHIS, UNLV, and TULSA before giving **oral commitment to Missouri.***

Whit Hafer, TE, 6'7", 230, Joplin High School (6-A), Joplin, MO (6-A) B+

*Aligns as an attached Tight Slot and operates as a Move-TE in a Shotgun Pistol offense. Father is Jeff Hafer who played for Quinn Snyder's initial Missouri basketball team. Whit was Missouri's first oral commitment for 2023. Hafer is better blocking in-line than in open space. Whit's very good play side or back side zone blocking proficiency will be nice fit with Missouri's different zone blocking runs. Effective receiver in the short to medium depth routes off play-action or bootleg action. Both short burst and extended linear speed are average. Lateral movement is quite good and pivots well. Sustains base blocks for extended durations. Despite playing erect and without much bend, Whit is an excellent arc blocker who attacks perimeter defenders. Hafer is able to effectively pull across to the far side of the formation and lead block up through the opposite C-gap to second level linebackers. Evidence of latent explosivity might be Hafer's quickness off the ground for his high pointing and snagging of 50-50 balls. Hafer has a revved motor and doesn't take many plays off. Considered offers from KAN ST, KU, and UNLV before giving **oral commitment to Missouri.***

Ryan Jostes, OT, 6'6", 295, Washington H.S., Washington, MO B

Plays OT in a Shotgun Pistol offense where Washington's offensive line used minimum line splits. Quickness, contact balance, and foot work to sustain are all positives. Explosive pop is more gradual than instantaneous...engages DE's & OLB's initially with decent pop but sustains with functional strength and determined foot work. Presents a wide blocking surface and applies good functional strength to it. Moves well laterally, pivots easily, and plays with a fiery disposition. Not a natural knee bender and too often gets extended too far beyond his feet. Project prospect who plays with real gusto but must be rebuilt to incorporate leverage and bend.

Talan Chandler, OG-CTR, 6'3", 295, Nevada H.S. (4-A), Nevada, MO B+

Underrated interior offensive lineman who, while a very capable drive blocker, is an even better combo & pull blocker to multiple points of attack. Played in a modified Shotgun attack that incorporated Wing-T blocking principles and personnel groupings. Played guard position predominantly with occasional snaps at Center. Thick, quick, and efficient blocker within confined space. Displays good initial pop either drive blocking or pulling to farther points of attack. Nevada H.S. offensive scheme designed to get their ace blocker to as many far remote points of attack as possible (eg. Combo block... climbing up to 2nd level ILB's...off-tackle kickouts of edge defenders...sweeps to perimeter). While Chandler's footwork, in-line burst, and swivel pivoting will play well at the SEC level, his past open space blocking domination will face stiffer challenges. Talan competed against mid-level Missouri programs that provided minimum resistance. Chandler's ability to fluidly drop step (to gain depth off the line of scrimmage and

*advantageous blocking angles) and bend to coil for underneath blocking leverage is advanced. Talan can retrace his blocking paths, identify his target(s), strike a blow, and instantly re-position his body to seal the point of attack within 2 to 3 seconds. Works his feet after initial contact to sustain his blocking victories. Depending on specific type of block, Chandler resembles two current MU Tiger blockers at their same stage of high school development: Drake Heismeyer's drive blocking (at Francis Howell)...and...Conner Tollison pulling and trapping (at Jackson). Chandler decommitted from University of Colorado to give **oral commitment to Missouri**.*

Justin Bodford, DT, 6'0", 292, St. Thomas Aquinas H.S. (4-A), Ft. Lauderdale, FL B+

*Short and thick defensive tackle provides dependable gap control, solid anchoring against point of attack double teams, and backfield disruption via stunt game penetration. Typically aligned as a 3-Technique defensive tackle with occasional Zero Technique alignments. Bodford's quickness is a problem for opponent interior blockers and, despite height disadvantage, utilizes leverage and fine functional strength to resist territorial retreat. Limited arm length has not hindered Bodford's block shed ability against higher quality high school blockers. Post-shed pursuit reveals a quick 5-to-10 yard burst to the ball. Best version of Justin Bodford is a forceful disrupter as part of interior line stunting. More likely develops along the Realus George model as opposed to the more stationary, but brutally strong, Kobe Whiteside model. Similar to Parkway Central H.S. alum Khalen Saunders (Western Illinois / K.C. Chiefs / New Orleans Saints) at the same stage. Justin considered offers from Maryland, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, Louisville, Wake Forest, and Syracuse before giving **oral commitment to Missouri**.*

Williams Nwaneri, DT/DE, 6'6", 265, Lee's Summit North (6-A), Kansas City, MO A

Long, athletic, and versatile DT/DE who aligns in a variety of stance on OT's (eg. standup 2-pt, down 3 or 4 pt) and a three-point stance on the OG...and is a disruptive force from either alignment. Rare prospect with length (an 84" wingspan), huge hands (11-plus inches), linear burst (4.6 forty) and explosiveness (33 inch vertical). Nwaneri's excellent footwork, sudden acceleration, and natural bend provide the base composite for his future stardom. Nwaneri's long arms, fine functional strength, and his ability to instantly torque body, forecast a versatile edge or interior defender who is ready for Power 5 competition. While entering only his third year of organized football, Nwaneri is both gaining lean muscle mass and improving his technique at rapid rates. Well coached defender who keeps his shoulders square to the line of scrimmage, weaponizes his arms as extension levers, stays off the ground, and sheds explosively. Opponent blockers almost never are able to acquire chest-to-chest positioning before being punched back on to their heels. When Nwaneri is aligned as a 5-Technique defensive end, he often utilizes an elongated sprinter's stance and literally runs off the snap. Displays only a few basic moves but performs those moves well. Flashes his intimidating pass rush by instantly shrinking his target surface, skimming blocker's outside shoulder, and keeping his feet alive before suddenly disengaging for his burst to the ball. Despite lapses of playing too erect, Nwaneri generally plays the game with a smaller player's athleticism and range. Although there has never been a combo Five Technique Edge / Three Technique DT in the state of Missouri who is comparable...there was a 1997 Jefferson City High School defensive end named Justin Smith (6'5", 220 pound, 4.6 forty yards). Smith's strength at the point of attack was equal to Nwaneri's and his post-shed linear burst to the ball was superior to Nwaneri. But even Justin Smith did not possess the length, wingspan, fluid lateral change-of-direction, and amount of lean muscle mass that Nwaneri does. Williams may begin his college career as a bigger (2022) Isaiah McGuire but then evolve

into a quicker, more athletic (2023) Darius Robinson. Nwaneri considered offers from OKLA, GA, AL, TN, ORE, MICH, NOTRE DAME, PENN ST, and TEX A&M before **orally committing to Missouri**.

Elias Williams, DE 6'4", 267, Hudson H.S.(2-A), Hudson, FL B+

Small school Five-Technique with explosive quickness, strength, and natural bend. Delivers an explosive initial hat & hands blow to blocker, plays through gap side half of that blocker, and keeps his feet alive. Acquires underneath leverage, sheds when he decides, and spurts to the ball. Agile enough to suddenly re-direct his path to ball after block shed or stunt penetration. Has been timed in the forty at 4.6. Has thick, muscular lower body, excellent functional strength, and an intense disposition. Authoritatively strikes the ball carrier upon arrival. Has skills similarities to DeSmet's 2020 defensive lineman Mekhi Wingo...but taller and with longer arms. Considered offers from AL, LSU, TN, USC, FLA ST, MIAMI, K ST, MICH ST, S CAR, CIN, IND, and UCF before **orally committing to Missouri**.

Jaylen Brown, DE, 6'6", 230, James Clemens H.S. (7-A), Madison, AL B+

Long and athletic combo defensive lineman who competes at the highest level of Alabama high school football and resembles a very early Darius Robinson. Aligns most snaps as a 5-Technique End to the wide side of the field. Utilizes both a 3-point and 4-point stance while occasionally bumping inside to a 3-Technique. Very capable of bending his knees and playing with a low pad level but too often makes his work harder by initially standing up at the snap. Brown's initial quickness, excellent lateral movement, and fluid change-of-direction are rare for a player of Brown's stature. Well coached 5-Technique who preemptively secures inside hand superiority, locks out arms, and sheds briskly. Can burst 2-plus yards per stride to the ball carrier after his block shed. Brown has an eye-blink swim move that leaves blockers gasping. Brown plays with his shoulders square to the line of scrimmage and maintains the scheme's gap integrity. Jaylen is almost never successfully reach blocked. Adds a lot to defensive stunt packages by rapidly attacking a predetermined landmark and fluidly redirecting to the ball. Too often gets too far up field and runs past the ball. Considered offers from LSU, Houston, and Maryland before giving **oral commitment to Missouri**.

Nicholas Rodriguez, OLB, 6'1", 209, St. Thomas Aquinas H.S. (4-A), Ft. Lauderdale, FL B+

Versatile hybrid Edge defender who can play well both against the run and the pass. Potential college 3-down defender who can fit into a base college scheme or a number of defensive specialty packages. Hard target edge OLB with exceptional lateral agility, and fine diagnostics. While linear burst is good but not great, Rodriguez is plenty quick within confined space. Plays both on and off the line of scrimmage depending on presence of an attached TE or Tight Slot. Secures his edge or off-tackle gap responsibility within the defense's scheme. Patient until ball's path is declared and then bursts to ball while keeping leverage. Excellent shedding edge lead blocks. Stays on his feet and is excellent in zone coverage. Considered offers from OHIO ST, LSU, TN, OLE MISS, KY, MIAMI, and MICH ST before **orally committing to Missouri**.

Brian Huff, OLB, 6'3 1/2", 224, Valley View H.S (5 -A), Jonesboro, ARK B+

Long and versatile play maker OLB with nifty feet in confined space and sufficient burst in open space. Aligns as an OLB in a base 30 front scheme but will adjust to line-of-scrimmage edge defender in a scheme variation. Moves laterally with ease and runs fluidly with enough burst (4.7) that it is not a problem. Sees his blocking keys and keeps inside-out leverage. Uses fine functional strength and long

extended arms to keep blockers at bay. Striker who rarely allows YAC yardage after initial contact. Considered offers from LSU, NOTRE DAME, MISS ST, K ST, ARK, OK ST, and Houston before giving **oral commitment to Missouri**.

Jackson Hancock, ATHLETE (SS, WR, RB), 6'0", 185, Sequoyah H.S. (6-A), Canton, GA B+

Instinctive, play-making Strong Safety in the lineage of Isaac Thompson, Marvin Burks, and Phillip Roche but with lesser burst. Two-way player who aligns offensively as a Slot-WR-RB wildcard or defensively as an in-Box or backliner Safety. Aggressive and fearless every snap he is on the playing field. Although a common linear burst has restricted Keys' recruitment by Power-5 programs, his general speed is good enough that it will not be a significant issue. Cameron's quick feet, abrupt change-of-direction, keen analytics, and physical run support will be his calling cards at the next level. Almost never gets baited or over commits on play-action passing (eg. RPO's). Consistently defeats stalk blocks and his run support is rapid, physical, and sure. Versatility is evident in his play as a Slot receiver along the routes & ball skills model (eg Barrett Bannister). Tracks ball well and is difficult to get on the ground. Considered offers from Appalachian ST, COASTAL CAROLINA, and TROY before giving **oral commitment to Missouri...**and Missouri could be the smartest one in the room.

Jude James, FS/SS/TE, 6'3 ½", 194, Francis Howell (6-A), Wentzville, MO B+

Versatile Free Safety / Strong Safety who specializes in run support at the offensive attack's edge or the perimeter run alleys. Willing run support Safety and effective edge blitzer Runs and changes directions fluidly. Gets timely breaks on thrown balls and doesn't whiff on potential interceptions. On offense aligned as an attached tight Slot who operated as a move-Tight End (same position utilized by alum Brett Norfleet). Two early summer camp performances satisfied on-scene coaches and scouts that this versatile play-maker with growth potential would be a valuable piece to any Power Five roster. Considered offers from K ST, NEB, UNVL, WYO, COL ST, MEMPHIS, and TOLEDO before **orally committing to Missouri**.

Cameron Keys, CB, 6, 0", 160, Mosley H.S. (6-A), Lynn Haven, FL B+

Quick, tenacious, and skilled cornerback who's calling card is squeeze man coverage. Played against some of the largest Florida suburban high school programs. Would vary his alignment depth according to down and distance. Makes intelligent use of the sidelines to restrict receiver options. Smartly tracks the greatest emerging receiving threat in zone coverage and resists being baited to lesser threats. With man coverage calls Keys displays a close-up, in-your-face alignment, swivel hips, and fine long speed to remain in a wide receiver's hip pocket. Shows a fine break on thrown balls and an abrupt closure to ball carriers. Can be beat with inside releases but has good make-up burst. Real striker in run support but inconsistent wrapping up. Excels as part of special teams. Similar to 2012 CBC / 2013-16 MU Tigers Aarion Penton. Considered offers from TN, OLE MISS, KY, MISS ST, ARK, and W. VIRGINIA before giving **oral commitment to Missouri**.

TRANSFERS

Jayven Richardson, OT, 6'7", Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, Kansas B+

Long, athletic offensive tackle with fine quickness, lateral movement, and solid technique. Competed against very few edge defenders that will be confused with SEC Five Techniques. First Team All Kansas

*Jayhawk Community College Conference. As a junior college LOT displayed quick take off, sustained live feet, and good bend. Initial pop good but not great. However, exhibits good functional strength and foot work to sustain run blocks. Pivots and changes direction smoothly. Fluid lateral movement is very good and should be an asset within Missouri's zone blocking schemes. Flashes athleticism while pulling and trapping across formation. Runs very well and consistently nails moving targets. Rarely off balance. Most advanced skill is Richardson's pass protection. Bends his knees, moves his feet, and handles stunt games effectively. Considered offers from OLE MISS, AUB, MISS ST, ARK, TEX TECH, KANSAS, IL, MARYLAND, PUR, and HOUSTON before giving **oral commitment to Missouri.***