



NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT  
SIGNING DAY

FEB. 4, 2009

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
VANDALS

## NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT 2009

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The football signing class of 2009 provides Idaho coach Robb Akey's Vandals with an infusion of speed, a boost to depth, and a splash of experience.

"These are the guys that we went after; that we wanted," Akey said Wednesday morning after the Vandals inked 20 players (17 high school and three junior college) to National Letters of Intent. "We're not 'settling' for any of these guys. These are guys we attacked and we wanted to get in here."

The class spans the country - from the Atlantic shore to the Hawaiian Islands, and includes players who can bolster every phase of the game.

Two of the junior college signees - offensive lineman Tevita Halaholo and quarterback Brian Reader, already are enrolled at Idaho. The third - linebacker Corey Toomer, will join the team this summer. Reader has three years of college eligibility remaining. Toomer originally signed with the Vandals out of Las Vegas' Shadow Ridge High School before playing at Arizona Western the last two seasons.

The freshman class includes two players from Idaho, although one hails from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and a solid group out of Washington - a region Akey believes is key in the Vandals' recruiting efforts.

"We've done very well in Vandal country," Akey said of the signing of Coeur d'Alene's Jared Heston (LB), Boise's Jeffrey Bediako (LB), Yakima's Taylor Elmo (athlete), Seattle's Aaron Grymes (DB), Kennewick's Clayton Homme (TE) and Puyallup's Justin Veltung (WR).

"When you look at that being a quarter of the class - we're taking care of the homeland pretty well."

The rest of the class is a different story. Players will be moving to Moscow from as far away as Hawai'i (Conrad Scheidt), South Carolina (Denzell Wedgeworth) and Mississippi (Trey Williams).

"I like the group we have as a whole," Akey said. "We were able to take care of depth at the quarterback position. We've increased our speed at the skill levels. We were able to address depth at the linebacker position and we added another pass rusher or two."

In the quarterback mix along with returners Nathan Enderle (junior) and Justin Morales (redshirt freshman), are Reader and Arizona high schooler Taylor Davis.

"I have a lot of confidence in Nate," Akey said. "But anybody can get hurt. We just needed more depth."

Along with Bediako, Heston and Toomer, the linebacking corps receives a boost with the addition of Hawai'i's Conrad Scheidt and Texas' Michael Terry. In the secondary, another Texan - Tracy Carter, is joined in the new class by Grymes, Williams and California's Gary Walker.

Halaholo is the biggest newcomer at 6-5, 358. He's joined by two freshmen offensive linemen - Californians Jordan Johnson (6-5, 306) and Kyle Salm (6-6, 273).

In a quest to replace standout h-back/tight end Eddie Williams, Akey's staff found Homme and Nevadan Michael LaGrone.

Defensively, Vince Keener is coming as an end and is joining Westview (Ariz.) High School classmate Guy Reynolds, who redshirted last season.

As for Elmo, he comes in with the versatility to play either tight end or defensive end. Exactly where he lands, remains to be seen but his tremendous athletic and leadership abilities are big pluses for the Vandals.

Adding depth to the receiving corps are speedsters Wedgeworth and Veltung.

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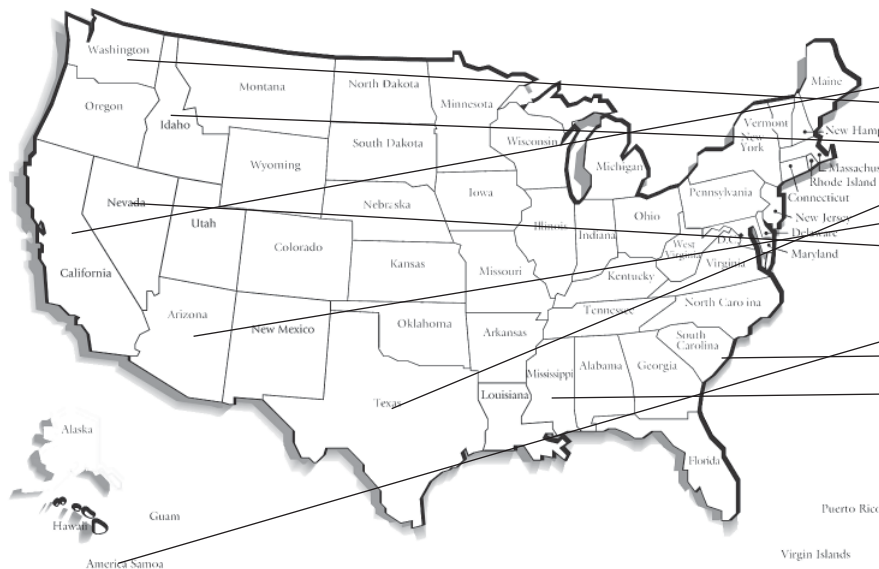
PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Jeffrey Bediako	LB	6-3	228	Boise High School	Boise, Idaho/Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Jared Heston	LB	6-1	220	Lake City High School	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Tracy Carter	DB	5-11	170	Madison High School	Mesquite, Texas
Taylor Davis	QB	6-3	191	Boulder Creek High School	Anthem, Ariz.
Taylor Elmo	ATH	6-3	220	Eisenhower High School	Yakima, Wash.
Aaron Grymes	DB	5-11	170	West Seattle High School	Seattle, Wash.
Tevita Halaholo	OL	6-5	358	College of San Mateo/Mills High School	Oakland, Calif.
Clayton Homme	TE	6-5	200	Southridge High School	Kennewick, Wash.
Jordan Johnson	OL	6-5	306	Santiago High School	Corona, Calif.
Vince Keener	DE	6-4	220	Westview High School	Avondale, Ariz.
Michael LaGrone	TE	6-2	215	McQueen High School	Reno, Nev.
Brian Reader	QB	6-3	220	Monterey Peninsula Junior College/Palma High School	Prunedale, Calif.
Kyle Salm	OL	6-6	273	San Dimas High School	San Dimas, Calif.
Conrad Scheidt	LB	6-0	207	Kamehameha High School	Waianae, Hawai'i
Michael Terry	LB	6-1	225	Angleton High School	Rosharon, Texas
Korey Toomer	LB	6-2	225	Arizona Western College/Shadow Ridge High School	Las Vegas, Nev.
Justin Veltung	WR	5-11	175	Puyallup High School	Puyallup, Wash.
Gary Walker	S	6-0	190	Redlands East Valley High School	Redlands, Calif.
Denzell Wedgeworth	WR	5-10	190	Hemingway High School	Hemingway, S.C.
Trey Williams	DB	6-2	200	Leflore County High School	Itta Bena, Miss.

### CLASS BREAKDOWN

High School	17
Junior college	3

### BY POSITION

Linebacker	5
Secondary	4
Quarterback	2
Athlete	1
Offensive line	3
Tight end	2
Defensive end	1
Receiver	2



### BY STATE

California	5
Washington	4
Idaho	2
Texas	2
Arizona	2
Nevada	2
Hawai'i	1
South Carolina	1
Mississippi	1

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### JEFFREY BEDIAKO

(pronounced BEE-DEE-ah-ko)

LB, 6-3, 228

Boise High School

Boise, Idaho/Amsterdam, The Netherlands

First-team all-Southern Idaho Conference ... 38 tackles, two quarterback hurries, one pass deflection ... 4.46 40 ... also played tight end ... played at Boise High after moving to Idaho from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, as a high school senior ... at the time of his commitment to the Vandals, Boise High coach Bob Clark told the media, "He takes a lot of athleticism to Idaho. His east-west speed on the field is great and he'll add a lot to their defense. ... I think two or three years from now, he'll be a very special football player, because right now he's still learning the game."

### JARED HESTON

LB, 6-1, 220

Lake City High School

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Inland Empire League Defensive Player of the Year ... All-Idaho first-team linebacker ... senior-team all-HEL running back ... all-North Idaho first-team defense ... as a senior, had 85 tackles, five tackles for loss, three sacks, three pass deflections and eight QB hurries ... two-way starter as a senior and junior ... also punted and was team's placekicker ... as a junior, earned first-team All-North Idaho on defense ... No. 5 overall prospect in Idaho by Rivals.com ... after committing in August, he was quoted: "I really like it (at Idaho). It just feels like home being so close by and everything." ... coach Van Troxel said in a newspaper interview: "We've had some great linebackers, but I'd rank Jared at the top. Whether it's in games or practice, he steps up and whacks people. He's what a linebacker is supposed to be. ... We rely on him to be our defensive leader. On offense he's kind of become our glue. When things need to be settled down offensively, we go to Jared. ... I'm really excited for him (to go to Idaho), because I think it's a great fit. He'll have an opportunity to get out there and play." ... as a youngster, he set the national age-group record (10-under) in the 50-meter breaststroke (he gave up competitive swimming after his sophomore season because of time constraints ... the age-group record, set in 2001, still stands.

### TRACY CARTER

DB, 5-11, 170

Madison High School

Mesquite, Texas

11-3A First-team all-district cornerback as a senior and second team as a junior ... two year-starter at Madison High and three-year letterman . as a senior, had four interceptions and 15 passes defended ... also a standout track athlete ... on Madison's 4x400 state championship team ... regional qualifier in the hurdles ... said coach Marcus Gates: "Tracy has an innate ability to make plays

on the football. He's very athletic and he's very competitive. ... He won two games for us. He covered the best receivers and he shut them down. ... He makes plays on the football. You really can't teach that. ... You're getting a great kid - not only a great athlete but a great kid."

### TAYLOR DAVIS

QB, 6-3, 191

Boulder Creek High School

Anthem, Ariz.

Northwest Region Offensive Player of the Year ... All-State selection ... first-team all region after throwing for 2,357 yards and 26 TDs ... completed 64 percent of his passes as a senior ... as a junior, threw for 855 yards and nine TDs ... as a junior, was second-team Northwest Region ... was in the final four of 48 original players from 17 states at the EA Sports Quarterback Camp at Las Vegas ... finished second in the accuracy competition at the EA camp ... the EA Sports Elite 11 recap had this: "Davis might be the top QB prospect in Arizona this class. ... has plus arm strength, a good setup and delivery and was obviously quite accurate all day long." ... 2008 team, which was only in its third year of existence, advanced to second round of playoffs ... in a website article, he said: "When I took the visit, I verballed to Idaho. ... The coaches were like family - they seemed liked they really cared. And the program just seemed really cool. I want to build the program."

### TAYLOR ELMO

ATH, 6-3, 220

Eisenhower High School

Yakima, Wash.

Seattle Times Red Chip prospect ... honorable mention all-Big Nine quarterback as a senior ... all-league selection at linebacker as a sophomore ... starting quarterback at Eisenhower as a junior and senior ... also started at safety ... in two seasons, threw for 2,380 yards and 23 TDs ... also rushed for 1,631 yards and 16 TDs ... said Elmo after committing to the Vandals, "The whole setting seemed right for me. The school size is good, and the older players were real positive about the program." ... Ron Siegel's all-state senior team as a defensive back.

### AARON GRYMES

DB, 5-11, 170

West Seattle High School

Seattle, Wash.

As a junior, Metro Sound Division Offensive MVP after helping West Seattle High to Class 3A state-playoff qualifying round ... injured as a senior and missed middle part of season but came back to be part of West Seattle's post-season play, which resulted in three playoff victories ... fifth as a junior in state 3A 100 meters with a 10.8 ... said coach Davis Lura in an earlier newspaper article: "He works his butt off in the weight room twice a day. ... His biggest

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strength is his football IQ. He understands all the pieces that are on the field. Most kids just understand what they're supposed to do, but he gets it all." ... originally committed to the University of Washington (de-committed in late January) ... 4.4 40 speed ... said Grimes in an article after choosing Idaho: "I feel like I have a knack for where the ball is - I can always find the ball and be the first on there. ... I definitely wanted to be somewhere where I felt wanted and where I was going to be able to play." ... 3.70 grade-point average ... plans to major in Business ... 2008 University of Washington summer camp MVP.

### TEVITA HALAHOLO

OL, 6-5, 358

College of San Mateo

Mills High School

Oakland, Calif.

First Team JC Grid-Wire All-American, First Team CCC Football Coaches All-American, All-California Region 1, First Team pre-season JC Gridwire All-American, and First Team All Nor-Cal selection while leading the way for an enormously successful rushing attack ... born in Tonga and moved to U.S. as a toddler ... 2006 graduate of Oakland's Mills High School ... benches 350 and squats 450.

### CLAYTON HOMME

TE, 6-5, 200

Southridge High School

Kennewick, Wash.

CBBN Columbia Division MVP as a senior ... played receiver and defensive back ... team was undefeated during the regular season ... Seattle Times Red Chip player ... Associated Press all-state honorable mention for class 4A ... as a junior, was first-team all-Columbia Basin League ... as a junior, had 27 receptions for 355 yards and eight TDs ... during the regular season of his senior year, had 37 receptions for 481 yards and five TDs ... had 610 total yards and six total TDs ... also has six interceptions and 30 tackles ... also plays basketball and baseball ... said coach Andy Troxel in an earlier article: "Clayton is a great young man who has worked very hard on and off the field to get to where he is at. He will have a great opportunity at Idaho to play and get a quality education." ... said Homme after his visit to Idaho: "I like the campus a lot. I'm from a small town myself, and it's kinda got that small town atmosphere. It's not too big, but it's not too small. I think I'll fit in great there."

### JORDAN JOHNSON

OL, 6-5, 306

Santiago High School

Corona, Calif.

All Big Eight first team ... All-Riverside County first team ... Press-Enterprise all-area team ... first-team all-California Interscholastic

Federation Inland Division ... all-CIF Southern Section ... started 26 successive games ... two-year starter ... team captain ... benches 335 and completed 43 reps at 225 pounds in the power clean ... Jordan said the graduation in Idaho's offensive line provides an early playing possibility and the School of Business is appealing.

### VINCE KEENER

DE, 6-4, 220

Westview High School

Avondale, Ariz.

As a senior, earned all-Arizona recognition during Westview's run to its second successive state championship game appearance ... also a two-time selection to the all-West Phoenix Region and an all-West Valley honoree ... was listed among the top 50 in Arizona in 24/7 magazine ... as a senior, had 108 tackles (fifth all-time at Westview), five sacks (third all-time at Westview), 15 tackles for loss and 16 QB hurries ... as a junior, second-team all-region after registering 87 tackles, 17 QB hurries and 3.5 sacks.

### MICHAEL LAGRONE

TE, 6-2, 215

McQueen High School

Reno, Nev.

Led Nevada high schoolers with 17 sacks as a senior in 2008 ... two-way starter (also a tight end) for state championship McQueen High School (14-0) ... as a senior, also had 54 total tackles and 24 tackles for loss ... first team Class 4A All-State defensive end and first team all-Northern Region and High Desert League defensive end ... earned second team all-Northern Region honors and first team all-Desert League recognition as a tight end during his senior year ... had 22 receptions ... as a junior, was Northern Nevada Defensive Player of the Year as well as NevadaSportsNetwork.com first-team all-state ... of his decision to come to Idaho, LaGrone said in an earlier interview: "The school has a lot to offer. It was my first trip, and it was a great experience. Certainly the whole college life. They have a lot of programs that are real good. I'm thinking about music as one of my majors, or sports medicine. They put the whole music thing in my view, so it was cool. The team was real cool too."

### BRIAN READER

QB, 6-3, 220

Monterey Peninsula JC

Palma High School

Salinas, Calif.

As a freshman at MPC, threw for 2,500 yards and 20 TDs in leading the Lobos to a 10-0 regular-season record and Coast Conference title ... earned Coast Conference Player of the Year honors and was an all-Region II choice ... played in the Junior College All-American game ... out of high school, redshirted for one season at Arkansas before transferring to Monterey Peninsula ... he told

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the Monterey County Herald, "I believe the area fits the person who I am. I love the outdoors. .... I fit (Idaho's) system with naked boot-legs and rollouts. ... I'm not a city person. It's a college town. I like people know who you are. It's a good change from what I've seen in the past." ... at Palma High School, he started only one year but broke several school records in passing for 2,411 yards and 19 TDs as he completed 64 percent of his passes ... Tri-County Athletic League MVP and All-League quarterback ... on the Monterey County Herald All-Monterey County Football team and was chosen by the Salina Californian as the Monterey County Offensive Player of the Year.

### KYLE SALM

OL, 6-6, 273

San Dimas High School

San Dimas, California

All-California Interscholastic Federation Mid-Valley Division first team ... all-Inland Valley first team ... all-Valle Vista League first team ... Gabriel Valley Tribune all-area first team ... blocked in an offense that averaged 341 rushing yards per game ... 4.2 grade-point average ... said coach Bill Zernickow, "He's been healthy and dominant."

### CONRAD SCHEIDT

LB, 6-0, 207

Kamehameha High School

Waianae, Hawai'i

Ranked #81 in the nation at middle linebacker by Scout.com ... 2008 ILH Football All-Star second team ... Hawai'i All-Star Football Classic selection ... after committing to Idaho, Scheidt was quoted: "I mean I love the small town atmosphere. I like that you're able to connect with everyone in the community and it's a real good football town. ... Idaho is where I want to be."

### MICHAEL TERRY

LB, 6-1, 225

Angleton High School

Rosharon, Texas

Team captain ... started at defensive end and used frequently as a "power" running back ... earned District 24-4A first team honors as well as honorable mention 4A all-state recognition ... Once he committed to the Vandals, Terry described his trip and prospects in an online story. "I loved it. It felt like family down there, and the coaches made me feel wanted. I like how the whole town was about football. Everybody down there, in all the windows, you see the "Go Vandals" and stuff. I like that, the support from the town."

### KOREY TOOMER

(pronounced tumor)

LB, 6-2, 225

Arizona Western

Shadow Ridge High School

Las Vegas, Nev.

Two-year starter at linebacker ... as a sophomore, had 24 solo stops and 62 assists for 86 total tackles ... forced one fumble and had three interceptions ... had 8.5 tackles for loss for -27 yards ... as a freshman, had 11 solo stops and 33 assists for 44 total tackles ... also had 3.5 tackles for loss (-12 yards), one sack and two forced fumbles ... said his JC coach Tom Minnick: "Korey's a kid that can run, he can chase you down. The good thing about Korey is he can cover. ... He's the type of kid you want in your program. His parents did a great job with him, and he doesn't get into trouble. He's a kid that will be at practice every day and do what you tell him. That's the kind of kid you want to coach." ... initially signed with Idaho as a senior at Shadow Ridge High School ... at Shadow Ridge in 2006, he was a two-way starter at tight end and linebacker ... he had 88 tackles and eight sacks ... was a first team All-Northwest Division and All-Sunset Conference selection.

### JUSTIN VELTUNG

WR, 5-11, 175

Puyallup High School

Puyallup, Wash.

As a senior, was first team all-South Puget Sound League as a receiver, defensive back and kick returner ... SPSL Special Teams Player of the Year as a junior and senior ... Tacoma News Tribune all-area return specialist ... had 19 receptions for 481 yards and 944 all-purpose yards despite missing part of the season with injury ... also, all-state selection and SPSL MVP as a soccer forward ... ran track as a freshman (10.8 100) and plans to run it again this spring ... recorded a 4.39 40 - the best time at the Spanaway Competitive Edge Combine ... said his coach Tom Ingles: "Any time he has the ball in his hands, he's got the speed to outrun anyone on the field. ... Justin is an incredible athlete. He runs extremely well, has great balance, great hands."

### GARY WALKER

S, 6-0, 190

Redlands East Valley

Redlands, Calif.

Two-way starter as a senior ... all-California Interscholastic League Inland Division selection at defensive back ... also played receiver ... as a senior, had 464 yards receiving on 27 receptions and scored four touchdowns; 71 tackles, four interceptions (two for TDs); returned three punts for TDs, and carried the ball 42 times for 294 yards and one TD ... as a junior, 22 receptions for 302 yards and three TDs; 88 tackles and three interceptions; averaged 22.1 yards per punt return; had 42 carries for 381 yards and four

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TDs; 8-for 17 passing for 238 yards and eight TDs ... REV MVP as a junior and senior ... also team captain as a junior and senior and led team in interceptions both years ... high school teammate of Idaho linebacker Andre Ferguson ... of his decision and his trip to Moscow, Walker was quoted as saying: "I really enjoyed myself while I was out there. I really liked the coaches along with the players, so I could see myself out there and playing for coach Akey. That's how I made my decision. ... I liked the weight room - the weight room to me is really important, to have a nice weight room; so that really caught my attention. I could see myself working out in there. And I liked the big dome, the Kibbie Dome was great. It was really nice."

### **DENZELL WEDGEWORTH**

WR, 5-10 190

Hemingway High School

Hemingway, S.C.

Three-time all-state selection ... two-time all-Pee Dee choice ... three-time all-region player ... WPDE-TV Player of the Week twice - after games against Johnsonville and Carvers Bay ... Hemingway MVP three years ... during his career, accounted for 2,507 yards rushing and 28 rushing TDs; 3, 072 yards passing and 26 TDs; 557 yards receiving and three TD receptions, and 64 tackles and seven interceptions (three returned for TDs) defensively.

### **TREY WILLIAMS**

DB, 6-2, 200

Leflore County High School

Itta Bena, Miss.

Four-year letterman ... 3.5 grade-point average ... as a senior, rushed for 1,900 yards and 23 TDs .. as a junior, rushed for 700 yards and 12 TDs ... played two ways as a sophomore and rushed for 500 yards and nine TDs along with defensively accounting for 60 tackles and 20 tackles for loss ... was a 2A all-state running back ... second in state 2A in 110-meter hurdles with an Accutrack time of 14.1 ... member of 2A state 4x100 championship team ... interested in Architecture as a major ... lists hobby as chasing quail (he's caught four).

