

Coaches Association chooses 2021 Dream Team

By DOUG DONNELLY

From multiple in-state colleges and universities to West Virginia to the United States Naval Academy, this year's Michigan High School Football Coaches Association **Dream Team** selections will be showcasing their talents around the country next season.

Thirty-five football players from across the state have been chosen to the **Dream Team** through a process that begins with football coaches across the state nominating players to a hyper-local, All-Region team. All-Region, All-State and **Dream Team** selections are made entirely by prep football coaches from the state of Michigan.

"The talent assembled on this team shows the remarkable group of athletes we have to celebrate in the state of Michigan," said MHSFCA Executive Director Scott Farley. "High school football in Michigan has a tremendous following and this is a great example of why. We have some outstanding football players here."

The team begins with Honorary Captain Tate Myre, an Oxford High School senior and three-year varsity football player who was slain in a school shooting this month. The honor student was an All-Region selection at linebacker.

Most of the athletes making the Dream Team are seniors, but not all of them.

Junior Dante Moore of Detroit Martin Luther King is one of the highest-rated quarterback prospects in the nation. He recently led King to the Division 3 state football championship. The 6-foot-2, 195-pounder threw for 3,050 yards and 40 touchdowns this season. He's joined by DeWitt's Tyler Holtz, who compiled 2,885 passing yards and 41 passing touchdowns and also rushed for more than 800 yards.

Three running backs are on the team – including Christian Stokes of Harper Woods, a West Virginia commit who rushed for 1,610 yards this season; West Bloomfield's Dillon Tatum, a Michigan State commit and Cinclear Lewis, who played high school football at Kalamazoo Central and will play defensive back at Cincinnati.

Five wide receivers made the Dream Team, including Tommy McIntosh of DeWitt, Tayshawn Trent of Harper Woods, Lynn Wych El of King, Antonio Gates Jr. of Dearborn Fordson and Semaj Morgan of West Bloomfield. McIntosh will play at the University of Wisconsin and Gates at Michigan State.

The offensive lineman on the team includes Levi Harber of Montrose, a Vanderbilt commit; Johnathan Slack of Detroit King, who holds multiple offers from Power 5 schools; Cross Watson of Portage Central who is going to Purdue; Ashton Lepo of Grand Haven, a Michigan State commit; Giuseppe Gottfried of Saline who will attend Navy and Jackson Pruitt of Detroit Cass Tech, who is headed to Temple. Harber is the only Division 7 player on the Dream Team.

On the defensive side of the ball, Essexville Garber's Alex VanSumuren, a Michigan State signee is joined by Detroit King's Kenny Merriweather, Malachi Davis of Holt, Deone Walker from Cass Tech and Devontae Miles of River Rouge.

The five linebackers are Blake Bailiff of Detroit King, Tyler Stolsky of Portage Central, Will Beesley of Warren DeLaSalle, Aidan Vaughan of Walled Lake Western and Michael Williams from West Bloomfield. Beesley is headed to Princeton. Vaughan made 103 solo tackles and had 27 tackles for loss this past season and Williams made 24 sacks.

The defensive backs include Nolan Ziegler of Grand Rapids Catholic Central, a Notre Dame signee; Jameel Croft of Detroit King; Will Johnson from Grosse Pointe South and Michigan signee; Jaden Mangham of Birmingham Groves and Cornell Perry from Brownstown-Woodhaven. Perry will play at Syracuse next year.

Two multi-position players were chosen as athletes on the team – Tyrell Henry of Roseville and Josh Burnham of Traverse City. Henry is headed to Michigan State and Burnham will play at Notre Dame. Burnham was one of the finest two-way players in the state, passing for more than 900 yards, rushing for more than 1,300 yards and being an All-State linebacker.

The specialist on the team is Ann Arbor Huron's Adam Samaha, who made seven field goals, 30 extra points and had 30 touchbacks on kickoffs.