

## May Football Evaluation Projects 40 Major College Offers Throughout State

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**Special Writer**

**Goose Creek**—With the May evaluation period all but over the summer team camps and one day prospect camps await many of the top football prospects in South Carolina as the inexact science of recruiting continues at a fast pace in talent rich South Carolina.

According to the Publisher of *The High School Sports Report* nearly 40 rising senior football prospects received informal offers during the May evaluation period. The HSSR has confirmed that USC and Clemson have offered around 12 in-state players to date and Clemson is already on the board with three in-state verbal commitments including defensive back **DeAndre Hopkins** of **D.W. Daniel**, athlete **Joe Craig** of **Gaffney**, and wide receiver **Martavis Bryant** from **T.L. Hanna**, compared to the Gamecocks having Greenwood two way lineman **Kelcy Quarles** of Greenwood.

In the waning days of May, most high school students are looking forward to summer jobs, easy summer days, and fun in the sun. However, a select few juniors and seniors will be preparing themselves for the upcoming school year by attending camps throughout the United States in hopes of finding the college that is the right fit for them, or in some other cases just the chance at getting noticed.

The *HSSR* had an interesting conversation with **Marcus Lattimore's** mother on May, 26 concerning the fact that **Duke** is likely to remain in her son's top five schools until the end of the recruiting process. "My favorite overall school that I really like is **Duke**, the head coach there is Coach Cutliffe, and he is just a wonderful person," she said. "The whole atmosphere at Duke is something that captured my heart, and if I had a chance to go to any school that I could choose to go to, that's where I would go. Hands down even after all the people that I have met, and all the schools that I have seen, with the facilities at Duke it is a place that really made an impression on me."

At the *High School Sports Report* Banquet held back in February, Lattimore stated his top five were **Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida State, and Duke**. In the 2008 season he rushed for 2,314 yards on 305 carries with 32 total touchdowns en route to winning the state championship. He is regarded by most national services as the top running back in the nation.

Some of the most sought after players are putting themselves in position to be recognized by colleges throughout the country. At **White Knoll** rising senior softball prospect **Codee Yeskee** said, "This is going to be one of the first big decisions I have ever made." Yeskee is being recruited by schools like Georgia, South Carolina, and College of

Charleston. She was injured for the half the season. She will play this summer for the South Carolina Bandits softball team. .

**Woodruff High** quarterback **Jake Lambert** (6-0, 185) a two sport athlete in baseball and football plans on attending one of the **USC's** work out camps in July. He also plans to also Furman during the summer. Surprisingly no schools have offered the all-state selection who threw for more than 3,300 yards as a junior, which was a school record. With no schools offering the spread offense quarterback still doesn't have any particular school in mind. He also isn't sure if he would rather play baseball or football at the next level but would like to play at least one, but when asked which sport, Lambert said, "If I had to choose one, I guess I would choose football," he said.

One school that would probably take some interest in a spread offense quarterback would be **Michigan**. **Conelius Jones**, quarterback for **Spartanburg High** plans on attending camp there this summer. Jones threw for over 1,500 yards this past season along with 10 touchdowns. Jones has received offers from **Duke**, **Michigan**, **Stanford**, and **Wake Forest**. Of those schools the Jones said that he is leaning toward **Michigan**. There are a lot factors that Jones takes into account deciding on a school; including the education, size of the student body, and game day atmosphere. Although, one factor he mention that some recruiters may over look is how players currently enrolled feel about the school. It depends on the coaches; if the players are happy then it will make prospects decisions much easier.

Heading into the 2009 season, last years MVP **Dureal Elmore** is gearing up for his summer by heading to a three day camp to be held at **Clemson**, and a one day prospect camp at **Georgia Tech**. Elmore is hoping that when he showcases his abilities this summer he will start to receive offers from schools. Elmore rushed for over 2,000 yards on 244 attempts and 23 touchdowns as a junior for Abbeville. His favorite as of late May is the **Clemson**, but it is still early. His top priority is earning a degree. He plans to major in business finance; sports take the back seat when it comes to education.

As **Abbeville** continues through their spring practice, Elmore mentioned one of his goals for 2009 was for Abbeville to win the state championship. He also talked about how they are starting to incorporate the shotgun formation more into their offense. He likes running from under center. But he knows that most colleges are now running a lot of their offense from the shotgun. By seeing the shotgun at the high school ranks, it will allow him to be a more confident runner from this formation as his career progresses.

Offensive tackle prospect from **Boiling Springs**, **Logan Stewart**, (6-5,255, 4.9) planning on attending a list of camps this summer. The list includes **Vanderbilt**, **Duke**, **Wake Forest**, **South Carolina**, **North Carolina State**, and may be **Notre Dame**. The school's that have offered him include **East Carolina**, **Air Force**, **West Carolina**, and **Appalachian**

**State.** At this point, Stewart is unsure of which school he likes but has to consider **Appalachian State** as a contender since they were the first school to offer him. He did however; enjoy himself a couple weeks ago at USC's spring game in Columbia. Being the leader on a young offensive line has kept most of Stewarts focus on bringing them along, in attempts to get them ready for summer drills.