Blue Raiders ink 22 on National Signing Day

13 on defense, 9 on offense

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee head football coach Rick Stockstill announced today the signing of 22 players to scholarship agreements on National Signing Day.

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"I am really pleased with this class," said Stockstill. "I thought we filled all our needs at every position except wide receiver and up front on defense, which is why we held a couple scholarships. We will address that after signing day.

"The skill guys are athletic and can run and I really like our two quarterbacks. Both are winners, enjoyed successful high school careers, and have been exposed to the spread offense which will fit our system nicely."

The Blue Raiders inked players from six different states with 11 coming from Georgia, five from Florida, three from Tennessee, and one each from Alabama, Maryland, and South Carolina. Overall, 19 signees come from the high school ranks, including Marcques Dixon who graduated in 2009 and signed with the University of Tennessee. The class also has two transfers and a junior college offensive lineman.

Stockstill and his staff addressed the loss of eight starters on defense by signing 13 players on that side of the ball. The program also lost linemen Antonio Hill, who will graduate early in the spring, and Phillip Tinsley to a career ending back surgery on that side of the ball.

The Blue Raiders brought in three defensive tackles, three defensive ends, four cornerbacks, two safeties, and one linebacker.

"We lost a lot of guys on our defensive front so that was a critical position to fill," added Stockstill. "I thought we did a great job in that area. We added good size and athletic ability with the four inside guys while the ends are athletic, tall, and have good growth potential."

Offensively, the Blue Raiders added four linemen, two receivers, a running back and two quarterbacks.

"The four offensive linemen have size and the versatility to play multiple positions," said Stockstill.

The Blue Raiders, who return 10 starters next year, will begin spring practice on March 16 with the Blue-White Spring Game set for April 9 at Floyd Stadium.

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