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## **WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA HAS MOST NFL PLAYERS; CALIFORNIA LEADS ALL STATES; MIAMI TOPS HOMETOWNS**

**Westlake High School** in Atlanta, Georgia, with six players, tops the list of high schools with the most 2005 NFL players, the NFL announced today.

Three high schools have five players each: **Dillard** in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; **Dorsey** in Los Angeles, California; and **Long Beach Polytechnic** in Long Beach, California.

The totals are based on the 1,692-man 2005 NFL Kickoff Weekend rosters (September 8, 11-12).

NFL players from kickoff rosters hail from 1,409 high schools in 46 states and the District of Columbia, two foreign countries (Australia and Canada) and one U.S. territory (American Samoa).

The NFL players from the most productive schools have fond memories of their high school days, and respect for how the schools' football programs are run:

- **ARIZONA CARDINALS T IAN ALLEN (Westlake):** "The first job of our coach (**DALLAS ALLEN**) was to make us men, to help us grow as people. We were all pretty talented and had athletic ability, so what he tried to focus on was our character. For our first couple of years we had three-a-days in training camp. Looking back on that, it was tough but it helped build character. I didn't grow up with a lot of money and neither did a lot of guys who played on our team, so Coach Allen would come to our homes and pick us up and take us to school or take us to practice. I'm ecstatic to hear we have the most players in the league."
- **DENVER BRONCOS S MARQUES ANDERSON (Long Beach Poly):** "When you're there, you kind of take it for granted that the program has been so successful. The competition level is so high that you have to bring your 'A' game all the time to even compete. It makes your game a lot better going into college. All of the athletes that come out of there, our slogan was 'Athletes and Scholars.' We wanted to excel in the classroom as well as on the field. Everybody feeds off that and it brings out the best in you. Being challenged like that makes you disciplined and makes you work that much harder."
- **CINCINNATI BENGALS DT MATTHIAS ASKEW (Dillard):** "Every game, we had to get better. There were no exceptions about guys going half-speed. They expected so much out of you because there is a bloodline of great athletes that came through the school. I loved it at Dillard. It was a beautiful experience that got me prepared for where I am today because of what they taught us. They always taught us how to do things the right way at the next level so it was easy for us when we went off to college."
- **ST. LOUIS RAMS WR ISAAC BRUCE (Dillard):** "I enjoyed my time there. My school taught and stressed discipline in every area, especially football. We were taught to be men on the field. We were taught technique, which was the biggest thing. My high school was the place where I learned to run routes. I think the basic foundations of my technique of being a receiver, I was taught at Dillard."
- **JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS QB QUINN GRAY (Dillard):** "The community rallies around the football team. When I was there, you couldn't go to a game without buying your ticket ahead of time. The stadium was always packed. It was a family atmosphere and everyone respected each other. You learned lessons of camaraderie and friendship. Guys from different sides of the tracks, guys from different neighborhoods – you had to get along with everyone. My father worked at the school and he would say, 'If you want to be on the team, you have to come together as a family.'"
- **TENNESSEE TITANS CB PACMAN JONES (Westlake):** "Westlake football was a great outlet for the kids to keep them off the street and involved in something. We all grew up playing football together in Sandtown Park and Old National Park as kids. Everyone knew each other. I am the youngest of the six guys who are in the league from Westlake and I learned almost everything I know about football from those guys."

- **CLEVELAND BROWNS CB-S SEAN JONES (Westlake):** “Growing up, we didn’t know how much talent we had compared to other high schools in the state or the nation. We knew we had talent but we didn’t realize how much. I played recreation ball and Pop Warner with Pacman Jones (Tennessee) and Keyaron Fox (Kansas City) since the fourth or fifth grade. We played together in middle school and high school. You would see players go on to play at major Division I college programs and in the NFL.”
- **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS WR SAMIE PARKER (Long Beach Poly):** “Pretty much all of the alumni come back and talk to the kids at Poly. We would have multiple guys from the NFL and several guys who were training for the combine. When I was in school I would run track practice, then afterwards I would run routes with and against some of the older guys. It really gave me experience and probably put me a little further ahead of the game than some other guys.”

#### HIGH SCHOOLS WITH MOST NFL PLAYERS

High School, Town, State	Number	NFL Players
Westlake, Atlanta, GA	6	Keith Adams, PHI; Ian Allen, ARZ; Keyaron Fox, KC; Pacman Jones, TEN; Sean Jones, CLV; Anthony Mitchell, CIN
Dillard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	5	Matthias Askew, CIN; Isaac Bruce, STL; Chris Gamble, CAR; Quinn Gray, JAX; Jovan Haye, CAR
Dorsey, Los Angeles, CA	5	Antonio Chatman, GB; Na’il Diggs, GB; Keyshawn Johnson, DAL; Dennis Northcutt, CLV; Edell Shepherd, TB
Long Beach Polytechnic, Long Beach, CA	5	Marques Anderson, DEN; Willie McGinest, NE; Samie Parker, KC; Omar Stoutmire, WAS; Manuel Wright, MIA

Fifteen high schools have four players each in the NFL this year. Thirty-six high schools boast three NFLers, while 152 schools have two players:

High School	NFL Players	High School	NFL Players
Aplington-Parkersburg, Aplington, IA	4	Lufkin, Lufkin, TX	4
De La Salle, Corcord CA	4	Melrose, Melrose, TN	4
DeSoto, DeSoto, TX	4	Miami Beach, Miami Beach, FL	4
Ely, Pompano Beach, FL	4	Miami Central, Miami, FL	4
Humble, Humble, TX	4	St. Ignatius, Cleveland, OH	4
Kahuku, Kahuku, HI	4	St. Augustine, New Orleans, LA	4
Lawton, Lawton, TX	4	William R. Raines, Jacksonville, FL	4
Los Alamitos, Los Alamitos, CA	4		
Number of high schools with 3 NFL players: 36			
Number of high schools with 2 NFL players: 152			
Number of high schools with 1 NFL player: 1,199			

**HOME STATES:** California topped the list of states with most NFL players in 2005 (199), followed by Florida (179) and Texas (176):

#### STATES WITH MOST NFL PLAYERS

State	NFL Players	State	NFL Players
California	199	Pennsylvania	58
Florida	179	Michigan	50
Texas	176	Virginia	49
Georgia	90	South Carolina	48
Ohio	78	Mississippi	46
Louisiana	76	Illinois	45

**HOMETOWNS:** Miami, Florida heads the list of hometowns with the most NFL players (31), followed by Houston (24) and Los Angeles (17):

**HOMETOWNS WITH MOST NFL PLAYERS**

Hometown	NFL Players	Hometown	NFL Players
Miami	31	Jacksonville	12
Houston	24	San Diego	12
Los Angeles	17	Pittsburgh	11
Atlanta	15	Dallas	10
Detroit	14	Ft. Lauderdale	10
New Orleans	14	Memphis	10
Cincinnati	12		

**AMERICAN SAMOA:** The United States territory of American Samoa has four NFL players: Cincinnati DE Jonathan Fanene, Chicago TE Gabriel Reid, Kansas City DT Junior Siavii and San Francisco DT Isaac Sopoaga. Fanene and Siavii attended Tafuna High in Pago, Pago. Sopoaga, also from Pago Pago, attended Samoana High. Reid is from Leone and attended Leone High School.

**FOREIGN COUNTRIES:** Canada leads the list of foreign countries with NFL players (11), followed by Australia (two):

**FOREIGN COUNTRIES WITH NFL PLAYERS**

Country	Total	NFL Players
Canada	11	Israel Idonije, CHI; Nick Kaczur, NE; Steve Morley, NYJ; Tom Nutter, SL; J.P. Darche, SEA; Alain Kashama, SEA; Mike Vanderjagt, IND; Mike Labinjo, PHI; Mitch Berger, NO; Rob Meier, JAX; Oshiomogho Atogwe, SL
Australia	2	Ben Graham, NYJ; Mat McBriar, DAL

NOTE: To obtain a complete list of NFL players' high schools, states and hometowns, plus rankings both alphabetically and numerically, contact the NFL Communications Department (212/450-2000) or log on to [www.nflmedia.com](http://www.nflmedia.com).

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