

# 2021 New Jersey Four-Star Defensive Tackle Tywone Malone Discusses Decision To Omit Ohio State From Top Schools List



Earlier this week, Oradell (N.J.) Bergen Catholic four-star defensive tackle Tywone Malone narrowed his list of more than two dozen scholarship offers to Florida State, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Texas A&M, Rutgers and USC.

Asked by Rivals recruiting analyst Adam Friedman why he didn't include Ohio State, which had long been considered the favorite in his recruitment, the 6-4 and 300-pound Malone cited his desire to play both baseball and football at the next level.

Top 50 DT Tywone Malone goes in-depth on his top 6, future plans, commitment date, & why #OhioState didn't make the cut <https://t.co/Um2OKFh1m0> #FSU #OleMiss #Rutgers #Vols #TAMU #USC [pic.twitter.com/VnluVABsbB](https://pic.twitter.com/VnluVABsbB)

— Adam Friedman (@RivalsFriedman) October 9, 2020

"The big key was the baseball part of things," Malone said on Friday. "I really haven't been talking to Ohio State's baseball program as much as these other schools. Coach (Ryan) Day, Coach (Larry) Johnson and I were calling and texting a lot and that's what I really liked about Ohio State. But like I said, baseball is a big thing in my recruitment and that was making it tough."

Though Malone — who is considered the fifth-best defensive tackle and No. 55 prospect overall in the class of 2021 — is a talented first baseman who hit 15 home runs on the summer circuit and has received interest from several MLB teams, the Buckeyes don't often allow players to play two sports in college.

Ohio State currently holds a pair of commitments at defensive tackle in Streetsboro, Ohio, four-star

Mike Hall and Manassas (Va.) Unity Reed four-star Tyleik Williams, whose pledge on Aug. 27 essentially ended the Buckeyes' pursuit of Malone since they're both projected to play nose tackle at the next level.

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