

Much of Alford's recruitment came down to his relationship with linebackers coach James Laurinaitis, who visited Alford twice in January before he was promoted from a graduate assistant. Alford, meanwhile, visited Ohio State last summer and returned this past fall for the Buckeyes' win over Michigan State on Nov. 11.

Alford is the second pledge at linebacker for Ohio State in 2025, joining Akron Hoban three-star Eli Lee (6-3, 215), who joined the Buckeyes' class in October. McKinney, Texas, four-star Riley Pettijohn (6-2, 205) and Dallas Skyline four-star Elijah Barnes (6-2, 225) remain priority targets for Laurinaitis and Ohio State.