

Recruiting Outlook: Camp Season Continues, Ohio State Trending For Five-Star Defensive Lineman



Ohio State officially kicked off campus season last week, hosting the first of several one-day sessions on Thursday, and will be back at it this week with another handful of camp opportunities for prospects in upcoming recruiting classes.

At that first camp, the Buckeyes hosted no shortage of prospects, highlighted by a pair of current 2024 commitments - Toledo Central Catholic three-star offensive lineman Marc Nave (6-5, 315) and New Palestine, Ind., four-star offensive lineman Ian Moore (6-5, 295) - as well as Orlando (Fla.) Edgewater four-star cornerback Cai Bates (6-2, 180), Orlando (Fla.) Evans four-star safety Brandon Jacobs (6-2, 170) in 2024.

Also in attendance were Cleveland Heights four-star running back Marquise Davis (6-0, 190), Cocoa, Fla., four-star defensive end Javion Hilson (6-4, 225), Clayton (Ohio) Northmont four-star cornerback Dorian Brew (6-2, 185) and Indianapolis Ben Davis four-star cornerback Mark Zackery IV (6-0, 164) in 2025 and Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) American Heritage quarterback Dia Bell (6-1, 184) and Cincinnati Withrow wide receiver Chris Henry Jr. (6-5, 185) in 2026, among others.

Three camps will take place this week on June 12 and 14-15, with a final one-day camp set for next week on June 20. The Buckeyes will also host a high school 7-on-7 camp on June 21 to wrap up camp season.

Ohio State Trending For Five-Star DL Houston

The Buckeyes could be in a solid position to land Buford, Ga., five-star defensive lineman Eddrick Houston (6-3, 255), as 247Sports recruiting analyst Steve Wiltfong put in a crystal ball prediction over the weekend for Ohio State to land him.

Houston is the No. 15 overall prospect and fourth-ranked defensive lineman in 2024, totaling 64 tackles (11 for loss) with 10 sacks last season for Buford. His other top schools include Alabama, Clemson, Georgia and USC, with a commitment date set for Aug. 22.

Houston has already taken official visits to Clemson, Georgia and USC, and is expected to take official visits to Ohio State (June 16) and Alabama (June 23) over the next couple of weeks ahead of his decision.

While it has been a slow start for Ohio State on the defensive line in 2024, momentum with Houston - as well as momentum coming out of the most recent recruiting weekend for the Buckeyes that featured Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy three-star defensive lineman Jayden Jackson (6-2, 300), Chicago Kenwood Academy four-star defensive end Marquise Lightfoot (6-5, 220) and Olney (Md.) Good Counsel four-star defensive end Darien Mayo (6-7, 250) - could have Ohio State start gathering some prospects in the trenches here soon.

RB Target Gideon Davidson To Commit Wednesday

While defensive linemen could be on the horizon for Ohio State, that is unlikely to be the case at running back. Lynchburg (Va.) Liberty Christian Academy four-star running back Gideon Davidson (6-0, 193), who was expected to take a visit to Ohio State on Wednesday, is instead planning to announce his commitment at his high school.

You are invited to my commitment announcement at end of the Frank Rocco football camp this Wednesday, 11:45am at the LCA soccer fields. There will be a short presentation, then a group photo with everyone in attendance & hot dogs served by FCA. Hope 2see you there. Gid the kid. pic.twitter.com/WZ8v7rso0z

— Gideon Davidson (@DavidsonGideon) June 12, 2023

While Davidson could theoretically announce his commitment to Ohio State ahead of a visit to Columbus, it's more likely that the Buckeyes will not be the announced program where Davidson - the No. 67 overall prospect and No. 4 running back in 2025 - is planning to take his services.

Davidson's other top programs include Clemson, Colorado, Iowa State, Michigan, Notre Dame, Oregon, Penn State, Tennessee and USC, with the Tigers viewed as the favorite to land his commitment this week.

If Davidson does commit elsewhere, Ohio State is involved with plenty of 2025 running backs, including Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei five-star Jordon Davison (5-11, 210), Davis and Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph four-star Bo Jackson (6-1, 190).