Recruiting Outlook: Olaus Alinen Commits To Alabama, Caleb Downs Set To Decide on Wednesday

Recruiting Outlook is a regular series on Buckeye Sports Bulletin designed to be your one-stop shop for all news related to the Ohio State football recruiting trail.

One of Ohio State's top tackle targets in 2023 came off the board Friday morning as Windsor (Conn.) Loomis Chaffee four-star offensive tackle Olaus Alinen (6-6, 315) committed to Alabama over Miami (Fla.) and the Buckeyes.

Alinen is the No. 122 overall prospect and No. 14 offensive tackle in the class, and took official visits to Alabama, Georgia, Miami (Fla.), Ohio State and Oregon before committing to the Crimson Tide.

> I am commited to the University of Alabama!!#RollTide □□@Hayesfawcett3 pic.twitter.com/ZAYj9KKgYl
>
> — Olaus Alinen (@alinen_olaus) July 22, 2022

Alinen was the top offensive tackle target on Ohio State's board, leaving Mount Pleasant (S.C.) Oceanside Collegiate Academy four-star Monroe Freeling (6-7, 283) and Hyattsville (Md.) DeMatha Catholic four-star Oluwatosin Babalade (6-5, 296) as the top remaining targets if the Buckeyes elect to take a fifth offensive lineman in this cycle.

Ohio State already has commitments from Findlay, Ohio, four-star Luke Montgomery (6-5, 280), Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne four-star Joshua Padilla (6-4, 265), Middletown (Ohio) Lakota East four-star Austin Siereveld (6-5, 320) and Greenwich (Conn.) Brunswick School three-star Miles Walker (6-6, 285) on the offensive line.

It was the second blow this week for the Buckeyes, who lost out on Many, La., four-star linebacker

Tackett Curtis (6-2, 218) to USC, who had long been viewed as an Ohio State lean before committing to the Trojans on Monday.

Five-Star Safety Caleb Downs Committing Wednesday

Even though the Buckeyes lose out on Alinen and Curtis, things would be more than made up for if Ohio State can land Hoschton (Ga.) Mill Creek five-star safety Caleb Downs (6-0, 185), who will be announcing his commitment on Wednesday.

> Commitment 7.27.22. @PlayersTribune @dj_BluMajik @I_Am_OD3 @ChadSimmons_ @ErikRichardsUSA #gdtbath #GONOLES #GoBucks #RollTide #GoDawgs #GoIrish #GoTigers #GoGators #BOOMERSOONERI #AllGasNoBrakes pic.twitter.com/oiwF0v0uNP
>
> — Caleb Downs (@caleb_downs2) July 21, 2022

He is the No. 12 overall prospect in 2023 and the top safety in the class, as well as the top prospect from Georgia. Downs will be choosing publicly between Alabama, Georgia, Notre Dame and Ohio State, though most experts view it as a battle between the Buckeyes and Crimson Tide.

He would become the top commitment in Ohio State's class and would be the highest-ranked safety to ever commit to the Buckeyes in the modern recruiting era. Already in the class at safety is West Chester (Ohio) Lakota West four-star Malik Hartford (6-3, 175) and Cocoa, Fla., four-star Cedrick Hawkins (6-0, 175).