

Four Bixby Spartan Footballers Sign Letters of Intent

By Ron Holt

During a recent ceremony in Bixby High's Whitey Ford Field House, four Spartan senior football standouts who contributed during the 2024 state championship season signed national letters of intent to play collegiate football.

Linebacker/quarterback Cooper Parker signed with Harding University; offensive lineman Jacob Hamlin signed with the University of Central Arkansas, while defensive lineman Peyton Chronister and linebacker Dob Doh each signed to play at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College.

In early December, Spartan teammates Blake Hogshooter and Broderick Shull were early letter of intent signees. Hogshooter, a wide receiver, signed with the University of Houston, while Shull, an offensive lineman, signed with Auburn University.

Here's a look at the recent Spartan signees:

Cooper Parker, Linebacker Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas

After capping off his high school career with a legendary performance in a Class 6A state championship overtime win over Owasso, Parker began considering his options to play at the next level. It was Harding's persistence that apparently paid off.

"Ever since they offered me, they've been keeping up with me and showing me a lot of love," Parker said following the signing ceremony. "That really meant a lot. They called every week and came to one of our games ... the head coach came to the game.

"When I went for a game day visit, even players after the game were talking to me. They were 2023 Division II national champions ... hopefully we can bring it back in 2025," he said. Harding plans to play Parker at linebacker.

The 5-11, 205-pound Parker, the son of Gentry and Stephanie Parker, had an outstanding senior season, playing both ways.

Offensively, he played as a backup quarterback, rushing 136 times for 728 yards and 19 touchdowns and catching one pass for 11 yards and a TD. He was six for six passing for 58 yards. As a linebacker, he led Bixby in tackles with 110 tackles, 71 unassisted, and nine tackles for loss.

"I think Harding and UCO (Central Oklahoma) were the two schools that did the best job of recruiting him," Spartan head coach Loren Montgomery said of Parker. "Harding was on him forever."

Harding went 12-2 in the 2024 season, losing in the Division II quarterfinal playoffs. In 2023, the Bison finished with a 15-0 record in winning the national championship, the school's first.

Jacob Hamlin, Offensive Lineman Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas

Hamlin, a 6-4, 275-pound center, made the most of his time in the Spartan program - starting for the first time this past season - to earn collegiate attention. His recruitment happened quickly.

"It happened very fast. After the state championship I didn't have many offers on the table but it just kind blew up for me. I'm super grateful for the opportunity God has given me the last few months," said Hamlin, the son of Brian and Quynh Hamlin.

"Last week I was sitting in class and got a random call ... it was Central Arkansas. They said they wanted me to visit. I was getting ready to commit at UCO but my dream had always been to play Division I football so that was the main thing.

"Secondly, I just loved everything about the campus. Conway is super beautiful, it's not too big and not too small. And it's not too far away. The football team plays a lot of big games, so I think that's an opportunity for me to improve. I'm definitely still developing ... I'm still a young player. I'm looking forward to the next four years.

"They see me at all five positions. They said I could probably start at center and guard but if there was an injury I could help out at tackle. They said I was super versatile and that was a plus ... it helped 100 percent playing all the positions at Bixby."

Coach Montgomery said, “Jacob had an offer to walk on at Northeastern but then he started taking visits and his senior film came out. He started at center this year, but he’s also played guard and tackle. Once people got him on campus and saw that he played at high level here he then received other opportunities.” Central Arkansas was 6-6 in 2024 and in 2023 the Bears finished 7-4, losing by 27-13 in a season opening game at Oklahoma State. Central Arkansas opens the 2025 season at the University of Missouri.

Peyton Chronister, Linebacker
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Miami

Chronister, a 6-1, 220-pound defensive lineman, committed to play junior college football at Northeastern A&M after being contacted by the Norsemen coaches and after a visit to the school, which is recognized for sending players to the next level. NEO had a 3-6 record this past season.

“One of their coaches hit me up. I talked to my parents about it, and I told them I wanted to visit the school,” said Chronister. “The facilities were great, the recovery stuff was great, it’s a lot like ours. I felt like I’d like to play there. I told Coach Montgomery I wanted to commit there and he thought it’d be a good fit.

“They are looking at me at outside linebacker. I’m actually young for my grade so I’m going to go to work, go there and play and then hopefully get a D-1 opportunity.”

Chronister, the son of William and stepmother Brandy Franklin, had a productive senior season for the Spartans, ending with 41 total tackles, 23 solo stops, one tackle for loss and 4.5 sacks.

Dob Doh, Linebacker
NEO, Miami

Doh, a 5-11, 188-pound defender, was preparing to attend the University of Central Oklahoma to work on a degree before a visit with teammate Peyton Chronister changed his mind.

“My decision to attend NEO came kinda late. At first, I thought about going to UCO to study business, but Peyton went up there (NEO) for a visit and he told me they offered him a great deal and he thought I should go too,” Doh said after the signing ceremony.

“They had me on an official visit and I loved it, I loved everything about it. When you go to play Juco football it’s all about football, you can’t get distracted. Miami is a small town without distractions. It’s a crazy football school and it was obvious the teachers we talked to cared about us and our education.

“I’m going to play safety. It’s my first year playing safety, but I’m looking forward to it. I’m going to go back to work to get ready,” added Doh, the son of Julien and Steve Doh.

Doh, who was hampered by an injury during his senior season, ended with 16 tackles, five unassisted, four tackles for loss and one sack.