

Nine H-F athletes announce their plans for college careers

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On Feb. 9, Homewood-Flossmoor High School recognized nine athletes making their college commitments with a photo and media session.

Football players

Malyk Jones and Justin Thomas will continue to be a defensive duo at the University of Indianapolis. They said they didn't plan for that to happen, but it was "in the air."

Thomas, a defensive lineman, committed to the Greyhounds first. He has family in the central Indiana area. Indianapolis coaches plan to use Thomas mainly as an edge rusher, he said.

"It feels like home, and it's a good program. They have great coaches, and they were recruiting hard," Thomas said. "It's good to have somebody with you (like Jones) to keep you in check and push you to work harder. That's what we already do here."

Jones said when his close friend gave his pledge to the school, it made his decision easier. He'll play middle linebacker. Both players were told they'll have a chance to play as freshmen.

"For me, it was the atmosphere. I talked to the guys and they like to win," Jones said. "They want to compete for a national title, and that's somewhere I want to be."

Defensive back Aaron Hogan will head to Carroll University in Wisconsin. He said the facilities and coaches won him over when he visited. He appreciates the academic support for athletes and being near will give his family a chance to attend games.

He'll play cornerback in a defense that tends to blitz that position from the boundary a lot. Hogan likes to hit, so that suits him just fine.

"My playing style fits right in with their playbook," Hogan said. "They play a lot of man-to-man, and I like that."



Myles Walton



Aaron Hogan



Justin Thomas



Malyk Jones



Jackson Greear



Jaden Jackson

Jamarion McDonald will carry the ball to Iowa. The running back signed with St. Ambrose.

"It felt like I could be there. The coaches was cool. The players was cool. The vibe was there. It felt like I fit in perfect," McDonald said.

The Fighting Bees run a balanced offense, which McDonald said he liked. He didn't want to be part of an offense that would've put too much wear and tear on his body.

Myles Walton will catch passes for North Central College in Naperville. He took three visits to the campus before committing.

The Cardinals graduated five receivers after this season, meaning Walton will have every opportunity to contribute quickly.

"That was a big goal for me," he said. "I've got a big support team so being close to home will be very good. It'll be good to see my parents in the stands."

Baseball players

Twin brothers Jaden and Jaren Jackson signed with Joliet Junior College baseball. Staying together wasn't exactly planned for junior college.

"We didn't have to be together, but we just felt like being together for another year was good," Jaden said. "We're not a package deal. I love having this year with my brother, but we'll probably split off."

At JJC, Jaren will be used as a middle infielder and utility man by the Wolves. Jaden will roam center field, but is capable of playing all three outfield positions.

"They just give me the best opportunity to get to the Division I, Division II level," Jaren said.

Both play football, too. Jaden had two knee injuries that sidelined him for most of his junior and senior years. That's a key time to be recruited. He said that motivated him to get back to where he wants to be as an athlete.

"I didn't get any looks (in football)," Jaden said. "JJC really took a chance on me, and I liked the brotherhood they have there, the camaraderie. I love their facilities, too."

Baseball was the easy choice for Jaren, though.

"I was just better (at baseball)," he said. "I love football. I loved the experience, the teammates and the moments I had, but baseball is me. That's what I like to do."

H-F pitcher Aarion Fry signed with Lakeland University. He visited the Plymouth, Wisconsin, campus in November and committed on Christmas Day.

"I kind of knew what was up (when I was on campus)," Fry said. "It took a few days to review, and I just committed."

He'll be the only lefthander on the roster, and Muskies coaches told Fry he'll be given every opportunity to crack the starting rotation if he puts in the work.

"I had a few other offers but when I found out about them, it was just over," he said.

Soccer player

Soccer player Jackson Greear will be a defender at Carroll University in Wisconsin.

"I love the school. I love the team, and I know I'll do great the next four years there," Greear said. "It just felt right."

The Pioneers are looking to work into a new formation and Greear has the flexibility to fit into a lot of positions. He's played all over the back line.

"I'll be a big part of that, playing on the outside and on defense still," he said. "We're just trying something and it's going to be great."



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