



National Signing Day: Top stories to watch for Palm Beach County

Sun Sentinel reporters Wells Dusenbury and David Furonos join Fox Sports Florida to make their National Signing Day predictions.

Wells Dusenbury Sun Sentinel JANUARY 31, 2017

The culmination of a year-long rollercoaster ride that is high school football recruiting, National Signing Day tends to bring out the crazy and unexpected as players officially make their decisions.

But this year, Wednesday may be subdued as the Sun Sentinel's top 23 Palm Beach County prospects made their commitments prior to National Signing Day. Also, seven of the top 14 players enrolled in college early.

Here are the county's top storylines heading into National Signing Day.

Arnett to announce

Palm Beach County will still feature at least one player commitment as Pahokee standout receiver Tyron Arnett will announce his decision. The senior, who had 60 catches for 1,238 yards and 15 touchdowns, will choose between Western Michigan, Central Michigan and Georgia State. Arnett was a former Georgia State commit, but the two Michigan schools both made pushes down the stretch with offers in late January.

Early enrollees

As mentioned previously, the trend of early enrollees has continued into 2017. This year, Dwyer quarterback Todd Centeio (Temple) and cornerback Cedrick Dort (Kentucky), Palm Beach Gardens safety Amari Carter (Miami) and offensive line Jerry Drake (Pittsburgh), Lake Worth defensive end Jonathan Garvin (Lake Worth), Atlantic safety Marquis Waters (Duke) and Palm Beach Lakes wide receiver D.J. Edwards (Purdue) are already off on their college campuses.

Miami pulls in strong class

As for the state's big three college football programs, Miami once again is coming away with an impressive haul. After landing Palm Beach County's top three prospects last year in Richards, Santaluces linebacker Zach McCloud and Oxbridge Academy running back Travis Homer, coach Mark Richt reeled in two more blue-chip recruits with Carter and Garvin.

Though Florida State didn't sign a player from Palm Beach last year, the Noles made up for it this season with a commitment from Glades Central quarterback James Blackman. West Virginia made a late push for the 6-foot-5 rocket-armed signal caller, but Blackman remained firm FSU.

Florida came up empty in Palm Beach as Jim McElwain was unable to land any prospects. The Gators signed one area player last year in Pahokee cornerback McArthur Burnett.

Slow start for Kiffin

As for FAU, the Lane Kiffin effect has been negligible in Palm Beach County as the Owls have zero commits from the area. Prior to previous coach Charlie Partridge's dismissal, FAU had pledges from Boynton Beach cornerback Endrickson Boucher and Oxbridge Academy's Robert Holmes, but both players backed off those commitments.

It's not fair to make any sweeping generalizations with Kiffin since he's only been on the job for just over a month, but the early returns in Palm Beach County haven't been promising.

Keiser impressing early on

The local program making a quick recruiting impact has been upstart Keiser University, which hired former Oxbridge coach Doug Socha two weeks ago to build the program. The Seahawks, which will begin play in 2017 in NAIA Division II, have already nabbed a commitment from Oxbridge defensive tackle Simeon Phillips, who's expected to sign on Wednesday.

The school is also in the mix for handful of other recruits, who could sign with Keiser either on Signing Day or after.

Broward's top stories

American Heritage four-star prospect Tedarrell "T.J." Slaton is expected to decide between Florida and Georgia in a ceremony at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. Although Slaton played right tackle in high school, he will transition to play defensive tackle in college.

St. Thomas Aquinas WR Mike Harley appears to be leaning toward signing with UM after decommitting from West Virginia. He announces at 10:15 a.m. on CBS Sports.

Miramar DB Brian Edwards is expected to choose between Miami, Florida and Louisville in a ceremony at 1 p.m.

Staff writer David Furonos contributed to this report.