

## 2001 Freshmen Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING - 3.7\* Average

This is the first recruiting class for Coach Franchione at BAMA and it was a class that had to be secured in only weeks with the new staff coming in and starting late. The kids in this class have to be special and love BAMA to sign with us at a time of total change with our coach and staff not to mention a NCAA investigation ongoing and rumors of the death penalty swirling about. Our rival programs had the prospects and parents on edge about BAMA's future and wild propaganda floating around everywhere. It was worst case scenario for the coaches. The previous 4 years of CRC annually bringing in the top players in the South and BAMA signing it's share of them went out with the Dubose staff and the possible acts it took to secure some of those kids are what the NCAA is checking out. Coach Fran and the staff recruited on BAMA's tradition and stature in the football world. He was straight and honest. They were told of possible sanctions down the road. Coach Fran impressed parents and high school coaches and quickly turned heads that BAMA was still alive and well.

The reward from those efforts by Coach Fran and staff were a very nice group of signees which come into the program knowing of possible sanctions down the road but they wanted to wear Crimson and loved BAMA. Yes, several signees in this class would not have been signed in previous years, but so many of the blue-chip prospects we signed left the program early and you had to feel they didn't love the school or feel obligated to honor their commitment and the scholarship awarded to them. These kids in this class were the start of Coach Fran's recruiting theory. The prospects in-state were to be top priority. Coach Fran had the staff find and evaluate the prospects they felt fit their system and requirements and make recommendations to him and he would decide whether to offer a scholarship to them. Also due to the short period of time the coaches had from coming in late, any out of state recruitment was difficult unless they followed up on a prospect already being recruited by the previous staff. Some kids they had contacts with from previous jobs were contacted and a few signees evolved from those contacts.

BAMA signed 21 prospects and only one didn't show up in the fall. WR Bryan Bass will pursue a professional baseball career. One other signee will be a partial qualifier. DB Anthony Madison will enter school and can practice with the team but can't play for one year. He then has only 3 years of eligibility unless he makes significant academic strides and can be awarded a fourth year. I will include him in the class rating and not penalize him. So with 20 signees on campus the class turned out to be a success under difficult circumstances. The incoming class rating for this unique class is 3.7 \* which is an "average class" on my rating system. This class is far from average because these kids came to BAMA with a dark cloud above when this class could have been a disaster under the circumstances. Their outgoing rating will be very interesting in 5 years when compared with the past three classes of Coach Dubose which were dominated with "5" rated signees and the 3 highest rated incoming classes since I started in 1980.

I gave five signees a “5” rating which is a solid number under the circumstances. The big name in this class is QB Brodie Croyle and yes that last name is familiar. The newest legacy in T-Town is the son of BAMA great John Croyle, a great player in his day and a great person now with his Big Oak ranch for kids. Brodie has all the tools and only needs some bulk and experience. He could be a special player before his career is over. LB Freddie Roach has great size and speed and the staff is very high on him. He is highly rated and a key to this class. OL Von Ewing is a highly rated prospect and has let it be known he loves the TIDE. JC help should come from signee OL Atlas Herron who will be reunited with high school teammate Kenny King. It’s difficult for me to give a “5” rating to a kicker but Michael Proctor and Phillip Doyle were “5” rated and they contributed the type of career you would want ...a great one! So with Notre Dame applying the pressure for his services and being thought of highly enough to be offered a scholarship, most kickers are asked to walk on, K Mike McLaughlin arrives on campus with high expectations.

Other signees who were not highly rated but have great physical ability and the coaching staff love are DE Todd Bates and DE Mark Anderson. Both are tall and have great speed and with more bulk could grow into Eric Curry type players. The three DB’s signed all have great ability and potential. Anthony Madison, Charlie Peprah, and Roman Harper are a good group of young talent. QB Spencer Pennington is big-time baseball player but also a highly thought of football player. Many feel he has as much talent as Croyle and is taller. Time will tell if he turns out to be the QB that excels from this class. Lastly, a “2” rated signee is rare and I have only had a few since 1980. FS Juke King has great speed and size at 6’2” 205#. He is very raw but looks great and there is something about him that gets my attention. He could grow into LB or big SS and be special. Let’s watch this raw prospect closely.

So Coach Fran’s recruiting era has started and his approach to recruiting will be different than his predecessor Coach Dubose. Coach Fran will give the in-state kid every chance possible to come to BAMA if he loves the school and works hard. I believe lower rated kids will be taken over questionable high rated prospects. Evaluations will be based on your ability and desire and not your rating. Coach Dubose signed some great classes with his last three unbelievable. It will be very interesting to compare the outgoing ratings of Dubose’s 3 classes full of “5” rated blue-chips versus Coach Fran’s first class and classes to come where more emphasis is on hard evaluations versus a prospect with a big rating. I have my opinion but will wait awhile before I use some numbers to back it up.

\*\*\* Class List follows on next page.....

2001 Class - Coach Dennis Franchione						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Mark Anderson	DE	OK	3			
Todd Bates	DE	AL	4			
Brandon Brooks	WR	AL	3			
Donald Clarke	TE	FL	4			
J. B.Closner	OL	TX	3			
Brodie Croyle	QB	AL	5			
Marquez Dupree	RB	MS	3			
Von Ewing	OL	AL	5			
Roman Harper	DB	AL	3			
Clint Johnson	TE	AL	3			
Juke King	DB	AL	2			
Mike McLaughlin	PK	MS	5			
Anthony Madison	DB	AL	4			
Spencer Pennington	QB	AL	4			
Charlie Peprah	DB	TX	4			
Freddie Roach	LB	AL	5			
Mark Sanders	OL	AL	3			
Non-Qualifiers						
Quentin Bowens	FB	AL				
Mac Tyler	DL	AL				
Chose Baseball Career						
Bryan Bass	WR	AL				
Overall			3.7			

### Incoming Class Rating System

- 3.6 – Less.....Poor
- 3.7 – 3.9.....Average
- 4.0 – 4.1.....Good
- 4.2 – Above...Excellent