

Laurens duo inks on Signing Day

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

On the traditional National Signing Day Wednesday, a pair of Laurens Raiders had their day in the sun.

Receiver Will Tinsley and defensive lineman Wesley Carlay each made their intentions known as they inked their National Letters of Intent. Tinsley signed with Erskine, while Carlay agreed to play and attend The Citadel.

Tinsley was won over by the opportunity to play for a revived program at Erskine, which is in Due West. The Flying Fleet won out over Newberry, which was the other main contender for Tinsley's signature, while Catawba and Coastal Carolina had also shown interest.

"To be able to be a part of starting up the program again, they haven't had a football team since 1951," Tinsley said.

Tinsley has improved the most over the last two years on special teams, especially when it came to holding on either extra points or field goals. Holding, he said, is easier than it would seem to be.

"I had a few dropped ones, but that was when I was still learning how to do it," Tinsley said. "I learned it pretty quick."

Tinsley said among his memories of playing with the Raiders will both be playing at K.C.

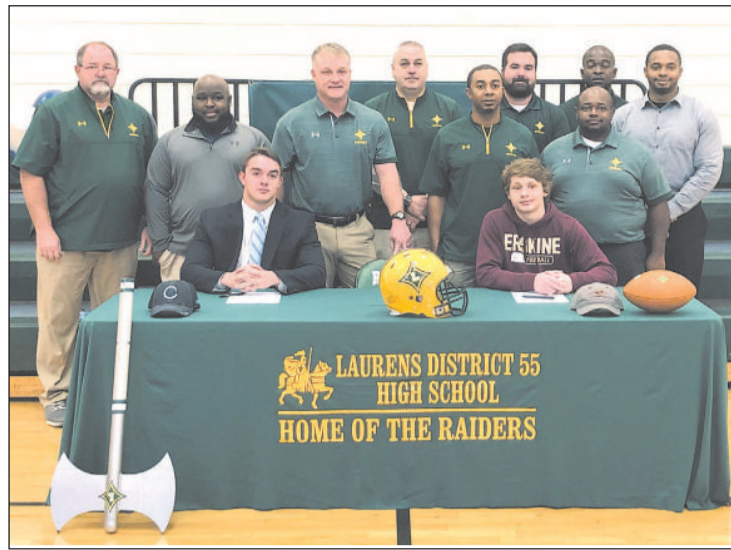


Photo Courtesy Erin Fleming

THE BIG DAY — Laurens seniors Wesley Carlay and Will Tinsley signed their National Letters of Intent Wednesday. Carlay signed with The Citadel and Tinsley inked with Erskine.

Hanna Stadium, on Laurens' campus, and the playoff game this past November against Rock Hill during which Laurens put up 30 points in the first half but eventually lost.

"They shouldn't even have had 30 points, if you want to be real," Tinsley said. "We should've been up bigger than we were anyway. Then everything went wrong in the second half."

Tinsley said he is aiming to major in sports management at Erskine and would like to become a sports agent.

Carlay chose The Citadel over Newberry and Erskine, and the decision really came down to academics over athletics. A degree from The Citadel degree has a traditionally led graduates from South Carolina's military college to a lot of career opportunities.

"It's a very highly-regarded degree," Carlay said, adding he hopes to be an exercise science major. He would like to be a college strength coach after his academic career is done.

Carlay said he became a less selfish player as a senior and was more about the team. Things for him began to take shape very early, during a victory over intra-county rival Clinton.

"I felt us really come together as a team," Carlay said.

Carlay's older brother, Summie, is an offensive lineman at South Carolina, and the younger Carlay considered joining his brother in Columbia. Instead, he felt the desire to forge his own path was too strong to ignore. To that end, Carlay said he fell in love with The Citadel.

PC signing class shows Palmetto flavor

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Presbyterian College football team announced its 2019 Signing Day Class Wednesday evening, and a look at the 27-player class shows plenty of in-state talent making the trip to Clinton next fall.

Twenty of the 27 players who inked with PC come from South Carolina, including Woodruff quarterback Keegan Halloran, and 15 of the 27 players are on offense.

Also, two pairs of twins (Brock and Blake Dalton, Paul and Tim Johnson) also signed with the Blue Hose.

Here are the members of the incoming class for PC:

Julius Land, LB, Irmo: A two-time all-region linebacker, he joins teammate Oka Emmanwori in this year's class. Land was a two-time region runner-up and a region champion in his days with Irmo.

Oka Emmanwori, DB, Irmo: A two-time all-region selection and three-year letterwinner at Irmo, Emmanwori was also an all-academic selection three times.

Brock Dalton, LB, Camden: Dalton was a three-year letterwinner with 244 tackles in his prep career.

Blake Dalton, LB, Camden: Dalton had 250 career tackles, and INT, and five pass break-ups at Camden, where he also played on the baseball team.

Chase Hagler, OL, Porter

Ridge: An all-conference pick, Hagler had 70 pancake blocks in two seasons.

Keegan Halloran, QB, Woodruff: A two-time all-region selection and four-time all-academic honoree, Halloran had more than 7,000 career passing yards and 82 passing touchdowns. He also had 1,500 rushing yards and 19 TDs. He was named Region 3-3A Player of the Year.

Malik Busby, DT, Chesnee: Busby had 45 sacks and 266 tackles in his career and recorded the most charges taken in a season and in school history on the basketball team.

Clenton Chcoran, DE, West Mecklenburg (Charlotte): Cochran had a prep career that included 100 tackles, 11 sacks, and three forced fumbles as he helped West Mecklenburg reach the third round of the state playoffs for the first time ever.

Jake Keyes, OL, Wade Hampton: A three-year letterwinner, Keyes also played catch-

er and first base on the baseball team.

Tyler Shelton, S, Chapel Hill (Douglasville, Ga.): Shelton was an all-state selection as a junior and is a two-time all-region pick. Shelton had more than 200 career tackles, three sacks, three INTs, four forced fumbles and six fumble recoveries.

Other signees: Colby Key, OL, Airport; Devan Diggins, WR, Blue Ridge; Ian Rome, DB, Columbus (Ga.); Paul Johnson, RB, Westside; Tim Johnson, DB, Westside; Hunter Mills, FB, Hanahan; Bryson Howell, DB, Mountain Island Charter (Mount Holly, N.C.); Tyler Huff, QB, Ridgeview; Jordyn Wall, WR, Richmond (Rockingham, N.C.); Samuel Kelley, TE-HB, Woodruff; Randall Brown, RB, Lugoff-Elgin; Marcus Quinn, LB, Landrum; Nathan Lovette, TE, Nation Ford; Haden Graham, DL, Latta; Ryan Fleming, WR, Ben Lippen; Trey Davis, OL, Waccamaw; Joseph Whiteaker, OL, May River.

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