

Part 4. "Freshman Class Reviews" ... Coach Gene Stallings 1990 -- 1996

Coach Stallings was named head coach on January 11, 1990. He quickly put his staff together and started recruiting approximately three weeks from signing day. His staff, of which several had BAMA ties, hit the recruiting trail hard and advised prospects that the goal of Coach Stallings and his staff was a National Championship ASAP!! A friend of mine, with a recruiting service, told me the prospects he talked with always mentioned how confident the BAMA assistants were about winning a NC very soon. Coach Stallings knew the goal at BAMA each year was to win a NC and this talk created a stir of excitement among BAMA faithful and prospects. The BAMA family needed to pull together again as the Bill Curry era never achieved total acceptance from everyone.

The 1989 Sugar Bowl game against Miami exposed a weakness on the BAMA roster that had to be addressed immediately if BAMA was to compete annually for a NC. That weakness was exactly what Coach Stallings made a recruiting priority from his first day at BAMA. Speed, speed, and more speed! Miami had just completed a dominant decade at the top of the football world and overall team speed was a major factor in that success. Coach Stallings wanted athletic prospects with speed as he and defensive coach (no coordinators) Bill Oliver started building the foundation of his coaching era, win with a "dominant defense". The type prospects needed for this formula were signed in the 1991 and 1992 classes and the results were the NC that Coach Stallings and staff talked of from their start in 1990.

The other priority Coach Stallings put on recruiting was to sign the top in-state prospects each year and concentrate on neighboring states for the rest. BAMA's recruiting efforts during his career were close to home. The majority of players he signed were from MS, TN, and Alabama, with an occasional signee from his home area in Texas. He wanted his staff to build strong relationships with the high school coaches in these areas and they did. This formula worked well for Coach Stallings during his era.

Coach Stallings had a strong commitment to senior leadership and upperclassmen in general as I discussed in the review of Coach Curry's era. The 14, seniors and 5th year seniors that started in the 1992 NC game, were from Coach Curry's 1988 and 1989 classes. Nine of those 14 started on offense. The 1992 offense was built around a physical running game and basically a goal of just being free of turnovers and crucial mistakes. Coach Stallings wanted the team built around a great defense. The speedy athletic players he wanted for that defense were signed in the phenomenal 1991 class. Key defensive signees were Sam Shade, Tommy Johnson, Willie Gaston, Damien Jefferies, and All-American John Copeland. These players, along with 1990 Stallings signee Antonio Langham, were the final pieces to a legendary defense that led BAMA to a NC quicker than anyone could have imagined. Again, the 1992 team had a great blend of veteran players and young athletic players. The young players possessed what Stallings wanted ... SPEED. The 1989 game against Miami opened eyes to a glaring weakness, lack of speed. Stallings early recruiting objective of speed paid off quickly. Ironically, three years after Miami taught BAMA a lesson that speed kills (WINS), that same Miami team

saw first hand what BAMA had learned. With a great defensive scheme in place, the TIDE used great speed and quickness on defense to shut down Miami's powerful offense and win the National Championship.

Coach Stallings recruiting philosophy of making the in-state prospects his priority and filling the remainder of his scholarship quota with available out of state prospects was successful at the beginning of his era. Due primarily to the 1991 Class which produced numerous impact players who were instrumental in the 1992 NC season. This class produced 5 All-Americans and 9 ALL-SEC players. Also, the class put 9 players in the NFL. After the 1991 class, the quality of in-state prospects diminished sufficiently through the remainder of Stallings era. Seven players in the 1991 class that achieved ALL-STAR status were from in-state. Over the next 5 years (1992-1996) only 8 in-state players achieved this status all together. The item that really hurt this scenario was the success of out of state recruiting did not improve and thus the final 5 years of Stallings recruiting era could best be rated as "Good" but no where close to the phenomenal class of 1991.

Coach Stallings and Staff consistently over his entire era made defense his priority thus most all great athletes signed were on the defensive side of the ball. In my opinion this philosophy was the reason Stallings did not win another National Championship. In reality the 1992 National Championship was won with "a once in a life time group of defensive players of which as many as 12-13 went on to the NFL". The lack of offense, which was an annual problem each year for Stallings teams, was compensated in 1991 by this phenomenal defensive team. In the following years when 20-plus points were needed to win against powerful offensive teams like Florida and Tennessee, his lack of offensive fire power could not overcome those type teams. In my opinionStallings era at BAMA was excellent but with a little more offensive emphasis he could have won at least 1-2 more National Championship. The 1993-1994 Florida teams were the obstacle that kept this possible scenario from materializing. Too much offensive power to overcome as we were defeated by the GATORS both those years in the SEC Championship Game.

The final two classes (1995-1996) of the Stallings era were penalized with reduced scholarships by the NCAA due to an agent involved incident with Antonio Langham during the NC celebration. The TIDE was only allowed 14 in 1995 and 12 in 1996. Many felt the extreme number of scholarships reduced would devastate the program in future years. As it turns out the 1995 class achieved the highest outgoing rating of any class since I started in 1980. This class produced 3 ALL-AMERICANS and were the 5th year seniors on the 1999 SEC Championship Team. The 1996 class also made a strong contribution to the program with 11 of 13 players completing a full career.

Ratings for 1990 – 1996 Recruiting Classes

<u>INCOMING</u>	<u>OUTGOING</u>
1990.....3.4 * Poor2.7 * Poor
1991.....4.1 * Good4.0 * Excellent
1992.....3.6 * Poor3.1 * Average
1993.....4.1 * Good3.3 * Good
1994.....4.1 * Good3.3 * Good
1995.....4.1 * Good4.2 * Excellent
1996.....3.5 * Poor3.1 * Average

Coach Stallings signed four solid incoming classes during his era. The other three classes were very poor. The 4 classes that achieved a “Good” incoming rating all produced the same 4.1 rating. The classes were the 1991 and 1993-1995. Two of these classes produced the first outgoing “Excellent” ratings since Coach Ray Perkins 1986 class which produced a 3.5 rating. The 1995 class produced an outgoing rating of 4.2. This is the highest outgoing rating since I started in 1980. The 1991 class also produced an “Excellent” rating. Its 4.0 rating is second to the 1995 4.2 rating but the 1991 class is the most significant recruiting class and the best overall class since I started in 1980. The number of ALL-STARS (9) and NFL players (9) from that class is phenomenal !!

Coach Stallings produced an excellent Won-Loss record of 62-25. His era will be remembered for the 1992 National Championship Team. That team was blessed with possibly the best defensive squad ever at BAMA or in the Nation. The 1991 recruiting class was the final piece of the puzzle for the formation of that Championship Team. Fifteen members of that 1991 class made contributions to the 1992 Championship Team. A Coach can only dream of a recruiting class that produces 9 NFL players and by their sophomore year have already help lead a team to the National Championship. This class contained exactly the type players Stallings needed for his coaching philosophy of tough defense and a power running game to control the ball. Ten players excelled on the defensive side of the ball and several were impact players. David Palmer and Sherman Williams contributed significantly to the offense and added much needed fire power to BAMA’S conservative offensive approach. I often wonder if the 1992 NC could have been won without this phenomenal class. In my opinion this class enabled Coach Stallings to accomplish the goal that every BAMA Team sets at the beginning of each year....a National Championship.

1990 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING – 3.4 * Poor

Coach Stallings arrived in T-Town 4 weeks before signing day. Coach Curry and his staff had accomplished very little at this point with securing commitments. This left Coach Stallings and staff in a difficult situation. The one item I will remember most about this class was the three QB's signed. BAMA was linked to two in-state QB's, Steve Christopher from Anniston and Jason Jack from Oxford. BAMA would sign both. When Stallings staff arrived another QB surfaced. Curry's staff was not interested in this kid and Pat Sullivan at Auburn was close to securing a commitment from this BAMA fan. With a new coach on hand, more film was sent to T-Town for QB Coach Mal Moore to review. Two weeks later he took an official visit to T-Town and his host was a QB who came to BAMA a sleeper prospect along with two high school All-American QB's in his class. Gary Hollingsworth and Jay Barker had a lot in common. Jay Barker was offered a BAMA scholarship on Sunday morning by Coach Stallings and the rest is BAMA history.

This class had an incoming rating of 3.4 * (Poor). This rating matches the lowest incoming rating since I started with the 1980 class. That was Coach Curry's 1988 3.4 incoming class. Only 9 of 20 signees (45%) were rated "4" plus (80% a good rating). I gave only 2 players a "5" rating. NG James Gregory from St. Louis was one of the two highly rated signees in this class. The other was JC signee DB Mark McMillan from CA. Two other highly thought of signees were DB Antonio Langham and FB Tarrant Lynch from BAMA pipeline Hazelwood in Town Creek, AL. Two players did not meet academic requirements and are listed but not rated. DT Clarence Jones from MS and LB Joey Veargis from FL did not make it to T-Town. Veargis was one player most BAMA fans wanted as his potential was compared to another Florida LB BAMA sneaked out of the sunshine state a few years earlier. That player was legend LB Derrick Thomas.

Coach Stallings came in late and had little time to evaluate and pursue his own players. As many as four scholarships were awarded in this class to prospects that would have not signed with a Division I school. None of the four did contribute. Again, I will comment on some of these scenarios in part 5.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING – 2.7 * Poor

This was Coach Stallings first outgoing class. It's rating was poor incoming and poor outgoing. Coach Stallings had only three weeks before signing day to secure players and Coach Curry's wish list was not impressive. The outgoing rating for this class was 2.7 * (Poor). Only 8 of 20 signees (40%) rated "3" plus. (60% a good rating). Only 2 players received a "6" rating from this class. Two signees did not qualify academically and never made it to T-Town. They were LB Joey Veargis from FL and DT Clarence Jones from MS.

DB Antonio Langham had a super career. He was the 1993 Thorpe award winner for the nation's best defensive back. He was a 2-time All-American and 3-time All-SEC selection. He had two key interceptions during the 1992 run for the National Championship. In the emotional Auburn game he picked off a pass with Auburn driving on the opening drive of the second half and returned it for a touchdown. In the following game BAMA took on FL in the SEC Championship game. With the score tied late, FL started it's final drive. Langham picked off another pass and returned it for the game winning touchdown. Langham's career was tarnished a little bit due to his involvement with an agent. This led to a NCAA investigation and sanctions including a reduction of scholarships.

The only other signee to be selected All-American and All-SEC was QB Jay Barker. His unique story was mentioned in the incoming section. He was the QB during the long 28 game winning streak and the National Championship game. He is one of BAMA's all-time favorite players! He was a class player and great leader both on and off the field. No one else earned all-star status in this class. NG James Gregory, FB Tarrant Lynch , and LB Michael Rogers all had solid careers. Two of BAMA's smallest players also produced good careers. RB Chris Anderson and DB Mark McMillan were two of the smallest players to play at BAMA since I started rating these classes in 1980. Both players contributed. This class is easily one of BAMA's weakest recruiting classes.

*** The factors and criteria I used for my ratings and rating systems are at the end of this document.

1990 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Chuck Aaron	DT	MS	4	1		
Chris Anderson	RB	AL	4	4		
Jay Barker	QB	AL	3	6	A-A, SEC	*
Rick Brown	WR	TX	3	2		
Steve Christopher	QB	AL	4	1		
Napoleon Folks	OL	AL	3	1		
Chad Gladden	OL	AL	4	2		
James Gregory	DT	MO	5	4		
Jason Jack	QB	AL	3	2		
Antonio Langham	DB	AL	4	6	A-A (2), SEC (3)	*
Jackson Lowery	DB	AL	2	2		
Tarrant Lynch	FB	AL	3	4		
Mark McMillan (JC)	DB	CA	5	4		*
Darrel Miller	LB	TN	3	1		
Jason Milner	DT	OK	4	1		
Mario Morris	LB	AL	3	3		
Derrick Nesbitt	DB	GA	3	1		
Michael Rogers	LB	AL	2	4		
Delan Trimble	LB	AL	2	2		
Rock Woody	DB	AL	4	2		
DID NOT QUALIFY						
Clarence Jones	DT	MS				
Joey Veargis	LB	FL				
Overall			3.4	2.7	A-A (2), SEC (2)	3

1991 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING -- 4.1 * Good

This class was Stallings second group of signees but the first one he and his staff recruited from the start. After being selected head coach in 1990, he basically had to keep recruiting the prospects Coach Curry and his staff was pursuing. The 1990 class was not a deep or highly rated group so this 1991 class was crucial to the future of BAMA and Stallings. Once again Coach Stallings and his staff dominated in the state. The in-state group of prospects was talented and deep in numbers. Mixed in this class were several highly rated prospects from out of state. From this class, as many as 8 players were among the top 75 players in the South. This group also filled the other priority Coach Stallings deemed a must. There is speed and athleticism throughout this group.

The incoming rating for this class was 4.1 *(Good). That matches the previous highest rated incoming class of 1982. Only four classes, since I started in 1980, have received a good incoming rating. 19 of 24 signees (79%) were rated "4" plus. Also the highest percentage since I started. I gave seven players a "5" rating. One signee did not meet academic requirements, LB Gari Jackson from Mobile never arrived in T-Town. He is listed but not rated. Basically BAMA got the prospects they wanted. The only player they did not get they really wanted was DE Dwayne Harris of Bessemer who opted for Nebraska.

All-purpose phenom David Palmer from Birmingham heads this solid class. Palmer was "Mr. Football" in Alabama his senior year. He made an impact immediately and was a very special player. DE Damiean Jefferies from Sylacauga was the top rated player in the state and was a Parade All-American and a top national prospect. The only JC player in this class was DE John Copeland. He returned to BAMA after spending 2 years in JC to get his grades in order. Copeland was a true impact player and key addition to the BAMA defense. DB's Sam Shade from Birmingham and Willie Gaston from Mobile were rated among the top safeties in the South. Sherman Williams from Mobile provided this class with an outstanding RB prospect. TE Tony Johnson from MS and OL Jon Stevenson from Memphis were among the highest rated at their positions in America.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING – 4.0 * Good

This class matched the highest incoming rating since I started evaluating with the 1980 class. Their outgoing rating is unmatched and truly outstanding. The 4.0 outgoing rating is significantly higher than any other class and only the third “excellent” rated outgoing class since 1980. 18 of 23 signees (78%) rated a “3” plus for their career (60% a good rating). This class produced five All-Americans and nine players made All-SEC. That means 40% of the class reached All-Star status. Eight players went on to the NFL. These numbers will be difficult to match.

DE John Copeland teamed with Eric Curry and were bookends on the 1992 National Championship team. He was an All-American in 1992 and a 2-time All-SEC selection. WR and return specialists David Palmer was an All-American and All-SEC selection. He has made the number 2 jersey a part of BAMA folklore. The “Deuce” is now a special part of BAMA football.

Three other players were selected both All-American and All-SEC during their careers. DE Damiean Jefferies, RB Sherman Williams, and DT Shannon Brown all received these honors. Williams will be remembered for his touchdown dance the “Sherman Shake”. Three more players were only All-SEC selections. SS Sam Shade was a 2-time selection and a solid 4-year contributor. DB Willie Gaston and DB Tommy Johnson were 1-time selections. All three of the players were key members of the 1992 defense that won the National Championship. The last player to be selected All-SEC was OL Jon Stevenson. He started on the offensive line as a true freshman and went on to be a 4-year starter. Other players who produced outstanding careers were WR Curtis Brown and TE Tony Johnson. Both were solid and could easily have been All-SEC picks. DT Elverett Brown was a solid pass rusher and started the 1992 NC game against pass happy Miami.

This class was a unique group. You usually hope for a couple of impact or All-Star performers in each class. Five All-Americans is hard to match. IMO ... the success of this class did lead Coach Stallings to a confidence level that he could take large numbers of in-state prospects each year and maintain a level of performance equal to the 1992 team. This kind of talent was special. The following three years 1992-1994 total produced only three All-Americans and ten All-SEC players.

*** The factors and criteria I used for my ratings and rating system are at the end of this document.

1991 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Tim Barnett	TE	AL	4	1		
Van Bodden	DE	MS	3	4		
Curtis Brown	WR	SC	4	5		
Elverett Brown	DT	AL	4	5		
Shannon Brown	DT	AL	4	6	A-A, SEC (2)	*
Will Brown	DB	NY	4	1		
Brian Burgdorf	QB	GA	4	4		
Brent Clark	OL	AL	3	1		
Keith Conegia	WR	FL	3	1		
John Copeland (JC)	DE	MS	5	6	A-A, SEC (2)	*
Willie Gaston	DB	AL	5	5	SEC	
Damiean Jeffries	DE	AL	5	6	A-A, SEC	*
Tommy Johnson	DB	FL	4	5	SEC	*
Tony Johnson	TE	MS	5	4		*
Kareem McNeal	OL	AL	3	3		
David Palmer	WR	AL	5	6	A-A, SEC	*
Andre Royal	LB	AL	4	4		*
Rory Segrest	OL	GA	4	2		
Sam Shade	DB	AL	5	6	SEC (2)	*
Jon Stevenson	OL	TN	4	6	SEC	
Bryan Thornton	OL	AL	4	3		
Jeff Torrence	LB	AL	3	3		
Sherman Williams	RB	AL	5	6	A-A, SEC	*
DID NOT QUALIFY						
Gari Jackson	LB	AL				
Overall			4.1	4.0	A-A (5), SEC (9)	9

1992 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING -- 3.6 *Poor

This class was Coach Stallings third recruiting group. There were varying opinions by the recruiting experts on how good this class was. Most felt it was good and that the positions needed were filled. My rating was not as generous. The incoming rating for this class is 3.6 * (Poor). There were 22 signees in this class. Four players did not qualify academically. DE Kendrick Burton, WR Toderick Malone, and OL Pete DiMario sit out and met qualifications to enter school in 1993. I have listed them on this list, but did not rate them. I will list and rate them with the 1993 class. FB Tim Watts went the JUCO route and never returned. I will not rate him either. Burton, Malone, and Watts were 3 of the top 4 players in this class. There were only four "5" rated prospects signed and 3 didn't qualify. K Michael Proctor is the other "5" rated player. Again, Coach Stallings went heavy on the in-state prospects with 13 signees. He signed only five out of state prospects.

The key in-state loss was top player RB Robert Davis to LSU. The real battle lost was BAMA's pursuit of a big-time QB. They pursued 2 QB's with no success. They were Steve Taneyhill from PA and Danny Wuerffel from FL. I've always felt this was a key point in Stallings era. Danny Wuerffel came close to signing with BAMA. A QB of their caliber to go with Brother Oliver's defense could have produced another national championship. I will discuss this more in Part# 5.

The four big signees in this class have already been mentioned. DE Kendrick Burton, WR Toderick Malone, and FB Tim Watts were "5" rated prospects from Alabama. They failed to meet academic qualifications to enter school. Burton and Malone did qualify and enter school in 1993. Tim Watts never made it to T-Town. K Michael Proctor was considered one of the top kickers in America. Rarely do I agree with a kicker being rated a "5", but Proctor deserved it. The only other signees of significance are DE Darrell Blackburn and Jeremy Pennington, two top players from Alabama. Also, LB John Walters from Texas was a solid prospect from Stallings hometown area.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING 3.1 * Average

This class had an outgoing rating of 3.1 * (Average). Of the 18 signees, 14 (78%) produced "3" plus careers. (60% considered good class contribution.).

This is a little deceiving class contribution is important but not as important impact players being produced. This class had one "6" rated player, K Michael Proctor, and only two others that reached all-star status. This class had a poor incoming rating and 5 years later produced only a slightly better outgoing rating.

K Michael Proctor produced an outstanding and unique career. He was a 2-time All-American and 4-time All-SEC selection. He is the only BAMA player to ever be selected All-SEC four times. Two other players were selected All-SEC during their careers. OL John Causey was a good solid player and LB John Walters also contributed from his first day in T-Town. DE Darrell Blackburn was about to turn the corner to stardom as a rush DE when an injury ended his career.

I truly believe the success of the 1991 class convinced the Stallings staff they could get all the prime talent they needed from in-state. The 1991 class was a once in a lifetime group of prospects from in-state and this 1992 class proved you can't count on it every year.

1992 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Maurice Belsar	OL	AL	4	3		
Darrell Blackburn	DE	AL	4	4		
Blair Canale	DB	TN	3	2		
John Causey	OL	AL	3	5	SEC	
Lamont Floyd	LB	FL	3	3		
Kris Mangum	TE	MS	4	1		
Renardo McCoy	DB	AL	3	1		
Kelvin Moore	DT	AL	3	4		
Jeremy Pennington	OL	AL	4	3		
Ozell Powell	DE	AL	4	4		*
Michael Proctor	K	AL	5	6	A-A (2), SEC (4)	
Chris Simmons	LB	AL	4	1		
John Tanks	LB	AL	3	3		
Eric Turner	DB	AL	3	3		
John Walters	LB	TX	4	5	SEC	
Marcel West	WR	FL	4	4		
Laron White	DT	AL	4	3		
Dustin Wright	C	AL	3	1		
DID NOT QUALIFY						
Kendrick Burton	DE	AL				
Toderick Malone	WR	AL				
Tim Watts	FB	AL				
Pete DiMario	OL	AL				
Overall			3.6	3.1	A-A (1), SEC (3)	1

1993 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING – 4.1 * Good

This class is Coach Stallings fourth recruiting class at BAMA. Coach Stallings continues to sign good quality classes. This class arrives one month after BAMA won the 1992 National Championship. This class was generally rated around sixth or seventh in the nation by the recruiting services and second to UT in the SEC. BAMA fell short on a couple big-time prospects that could have put them into the top five in America. Among those were Willie Anderson, the top player in the state, Jesse McCovery, and Marcellus Mostello to AUB. RB Ronnie Pillow from TN, LB Sam Cowart from FL, DL Billy Beron from LA, RB Warrick Dunn from FL, and athlete Derrick Steagall from GA. There were many others as BAMA took the momentum from the NC and pursued a large number of national recruits. Unfortunately they didn't sign many of these players as only two prospects from outside the South were signed and those 2 were from Texas.

The incoming rating for this class was 4.1 *(Good). Of the 17 signees, 13 rated a "4" plus (76%) 80 % is good rating. I gave seven players a "5" rating. I'll always remember this class for three players that didn't sign. Four Mobile area players visited T-Town the last weekend before signing day. It also was the weekend of the NC celebration and parade. The four players included the top player in the state, OL Willie Anderson. I have been told by several inside sources that during the period of time from Friday night when these prospects arrived for their official visit in T-Town, until the following Tuesday before signing day, that many interesting twists occurred with these players. Some items I can mention are that Willie Anderson basically stayed in his hotel room the entire weekend and was thought to be solid with AUB. His presence was to make sure two of the other players were not persuaded to change their mind. LB Bobby Daffin and TE Jesse McCovery were also apart of this little game. Word is they even told Coach Stallings during their Sunday morning wrapup meeting with him they would sign with BAMA. That night recruiting sites broke the news they had all committed to AUB. The fourth player involved was an athletic but not highly rated LB named Ralph Staten. He stuck with his Sunday morning commitment and signed with BAMA. One other thing, the Alabama assistant recruiting the Mobile area and involved with this "little game" was CMD. He was very vocal and upset with the things that happened during this 4 day period. Since this scenario occurred, in January 1993, recruiting in the Mobile between BAMA and AUB has been very touchy

Heading this class were two highly rated RB's. Curtis Alexander from TN and Damien Vallery from TX were both listed among the top ten TB's in America. Two LB's signed were Tyrell Buckner from TX and Fernando Davis from MS. Both of these players were listed among the top LB prospects in America. I go to T-Town each January with a couple of friends to get a first hand look at the kids

during their official visits. Davis and Buckner are two of the most impressive prospects I have ever seen and we've been going since the late eighties. Both guys looked like seniors in college instead of seniors in high school. Their physical appearance had us saying "we got to have those two". Davis was 6-3 230 and Buckner 6-2 235 and both "cut up". Two outstanding OL signed were Will Friend from MS and Chris Jordan from Jackson, AL. Both of these players were listed among the top OL in America also. QB Freddie Kitchens from Attalla was one of the top QB in the South. QB Lance Tucker from Fayette held the Alabama state record for passing yards and would have been rated one of the top QB prospects in America if he had been a couple of inches taller. One player not highly rated but a favorite among the coaches was speedy LB Ralph Staten from Mobile.

Also, listed with this class are resigns DE Kendrick Burton , WR Toderick Malone, and OL Pete DiMario. All three failed to qualify academically in 1992 and resigned with this class. Another decision I had to make with my ratings at this point. Burton and Malone were both "5" rated when they came out in 1992. I decided to list them with the 1992 class but not include them in the class ratings. DiMario was a rated a "3" and I didn't change his rating. But I did drop Burton and Malone's rating to a "4". I felt sitting out of football totally for one year should drop their rating.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING 3.3 *Good

This class had an outgoing rating of 3.3 *(Good). 14 of 19 signees (74%) contributed “3” plus careers. (60% good class contribution.). That is a great rating for 74% of class to make at least the two-deep depth chart during their career. This class has some good numbers and ratings but in my opinion fell short on some key items. This group was not as successful as anticipated. Only two members of this class were all-star selections. I truly thought this class would have had numerous impact players when it signed. One point to bring up, these guys did go through the coaching change and NCAA investigation This class was at BAMA during a difficult time .

No one in this class was selected All-American during their career. Only 2 players were selected All-SEC. LB Ralph Staten was a one-time All-SEC selection and contributed an outstanding career. He may be the fastest LB to ever play at BAMA. Also making All-SEC was one-time selection OL Will Friend.

I was so excited when RB Curtis Alexander signed. The film clips of him in high school were amazing. But he only contributed an average career. The other highly rated RB was Damien Vallery from Texas. He never contributed at BAMA. The two impressive LB’s I mentioned in the incoming review also never reached the impact level. Fernando Davis played very little until his junior year. Then going into his senior year he was selected a captain and looked to be ready for a big senior year. Then a knee injury ended his career early. The other LB Tyrell Buckner from Texas also contributed very little at BAMA. QB Freddie Kitchens had his good moments, but never played at the level many thought he would. Others of mention who had solid careers were TE Patrick Hape and LB Paul Pickett.

This was one of my favorite incoming classes. After seeing them in T-Town on their official visits, I was sure this group would lead us to a championship. Great size and speed was signed in this class. Things just didn’t work out for this group. This class is a great example of why you must rate classes outgoing to see what they accomplished.

*** The factors and criteria I used for my ratings and rating system are at the end of this document.

1993 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Curtis Alexander	RB	TN	5	4		
Kendrick Burton	DE	AL	4	4		
Tyrell Buckner	LB	TX	5	4		
Fernado Davis	LB	MS	5	4		
Will Friend	OL	MS	5	5	SEC	
Patrick Hape	TE	AL	4	4		*
Joel Holiday	OL	SC	4	4		
Chris Jordon	OL	AL	5	2		
Freddie Kitchens	QB	AL	5	4		
Toderick Malone	WR	AL	4	4		
Paul Pickett	LB	GA	4	4		
Cedric Samuel	CB	AL	3	3		
Andre Short	SS	GA	3	4		
Ralph Staten	LB	AL	3	5	SEC	*
Steve Thompson	DT	AL	2	1		
Lance Tucker	QB	AL	4	3		
Taurus Turner	FB	AL	4	1		
Damien Vallery	RB	TX	5	1		
Edgar Walker	DE	AL	4	2		
Overall			4.1	3.3	SEC (2)	1

1994 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING -- 4.1 *Good

The 1994 recruiting class was Coach Stallings fifth class at BAMA. It was a very impressive signing day list and was considered second to UT's super class among SEC schools. The class was led by an excellent in-state group of prospects. The list of available in-state prospects was considered to be one of the strongest ever. BAMA signed 11 of the top 15 players in the state and went head-to-head with AUB on 12 prospects with Fred Beasley the only miss. I was told by several insiders that BAMA got basically everyone they wanted and even had to withdraw their offers for two players in Memphis, Cletidus Hunt and Emmett Mitchell. BAMA lost three national recruits from Texas, WR Aaron Oliver, RB Jerod Douglas, and OL Alan Faneca, primarily due to distance from their homes. If you add those five players to this class it could have been phenomenal. I call this the "LB class" because Bama signed *7 LBS. This was questioned by many as a mistake by Stallings to overload one position, but LBs are usually outstanding athletes and are good candidates to play other positions.

This class had an incoming rating of 4.1 *(Good). I gave 10 players a "5" rating out of 25 signed. A total of 19 of 25 (76%) were rated "4" plus. I consider 80% a good rating. Stallings continued to meet his recruiting priority of signing the best in-state players each year with 16 signees.

The big signee in this class was super athlete LB Dwayne Rudd from MS. This high school All-American was rated the top prospect in MS and top OLB in the South. Two highly rated QBs signed were Warren Foust from OK and John David Phillips from Anniston. Two outstanding defensive prospects from BAMA's feeder program at Hazelwood High in Town Creek were LB Steven Harris and DE Chris Hood. Most considered Hood to be the top rated prospect in the state. Also from the Birmingham area BAMA signed TE Rod Rutledge and NG Eric Kerley. Both were rated the top prospects at their positions in the South. Bama added the top prospect in TN to this class with OL Josh Swords. The final two "5" rated signees were JC players, DB Brad Ford and DL Matt Parker from OK. Also in this signing group was outstanding RB Dennis Riddle from Tuscaloosa and FB Ed Scissum from Attalla. This class had a highly rated signee at every position.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING -- 3.3 *Good

This class had an outgoing rating of 3.3 *(Good). Of the 25 signees, 15 produced “3” plus careers. (60%... 60% considered a good rating). A couple of player’s careers brought up a first-time situation for me with my ratings. All-star Chris Hood fell short academically going into his senior year and his career was over. I normally give a “1” to anyone who does not complete a full 4-5 commitment unless they go to the NFL early or a career ending injury. Since he didn’t leave the university, I rated him this way. Having already made All-American his junior year, he would have been rated a “6” for his career. Since he contributed only three years, I rated him a “5”. I felt that was a fair rating. Teammate Steven Harris also had this problem and I rated him a “3” instead of a “4”. Dwayne Rudd left early for the NFL and I didn’t penalize him at all, you can’t keep players of his ability from moving on early.

This class coming in was highly rated with ten “5” rated signees. Many felt this class would have numerous impact players, but the majority produced only average to good careers. Two highly rated QB’s never made an impact. Warren Foust ended his career at another position. John David Phillips will be remembered as one of BAMA’s classiest players all-time. A great athlete who played safety and on kickoff coverage to contribute, finally got his chance at QB his senior year. Things just didn’t work out for him as Andrew Zow came on the scene. The other item to mention about this class is the 7 LBS signed. Of the seven, only Dwayne Rudd and Steven Harris contributed significantly.

LB Dwayne Rudd did live up to his incoming rating. Rudd was an All-American and All-SEC selection in 1996. He left for the NFL after that, his junior season. The only other All-American from this class was DE Chris Hood and we have already discussed his early departure above. CB Deshea Townsend contributed an outstanding career and was selected All-SEC 3 years in a row. The only other two players that achieved all-star status were TE Rod Rutledge and RB Dennis Riddle. Both were one-time All-SEC selections. Rutledge could have achieved even more if BAMA had utilized the TE more in their passing game. NG Eric Kerley contributed a fine career and I gave him a “5” rating even though he never reached all-star status.

Signees that never fulfilled their high expectations were OL Josh Swords and OL Sage Spree. CB Brad Ford and DL Matt Parker were signed from the JC ranks for immediate help. Both contributed but never at the level expected of them. I must mention one member of this class who will be remembered for one key play he was involved with. FB Ed Scissum fumbled a swing pass late in the 1997 Auburn game giving Auburn the ball and a short time later a game winning FG. Scissum was a solid team player and starting fullback. The play called that Scissum fumbled is a very controversial one and one of my most disgusting TIDE moments. So I won’t discuss it here. The point is Ed Scissum was a solid BAMA player and fulfilled his commitment to the University. That’s what I’ll remember about Ed Scissum.

This class was as solid incoming as any I'd seen since 1980. A highly rated prospect was signed for every position on the football team. Many signees were considered the best at their position in the South. But, this class never contributed at the level many anticipated. There were no championships and few individual honors. I believe it is a combination of some overrated prospects and the unstable atmosphere of the football program. This class went through a NCAA investigation, the probation from that investigation, a head coaching change, and the negative media from all these problems. This was a tough period of time for BAMA football.

***_The factors and criteria I used for my ratings and rating system are at the end of this document.

1994 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Michael Coleman	DB	TN	4	1		
Chris Edwards	LB	AL	4	2		
Brad Ford (JC)	DB	CA	5	3		*
Warren Foust	QB	OK	5	3		
Calvin Hall	WR	TN	4	4		
Steven Harris	LB	AL	5	3		
Matt Harrison	OL	AL	4	1		
Chris Hood	DE	AL	5	5	A-A, SEC (2)	
Eddie Hunter	LB	AL	2	2		
Eric Kerley	DT	AL	5	5		
Montoya Madden	FB	AL	3	4		
Franz Odom	LB	AL	2	2		
Matt Parker (JC)	DT	OK	5	4		
John David Phillips	QB	AL	5	4		
Dennis Riddle	RB	AL	4	5	SEC	
Dwayne Rudd	LB	MS	5	6	A-A, SEC	*
Rod Rutledge	TE	AL	5	5	SEC	*
Ed Scissum	FB	AL	4	4		
Chris Sign	C	TX	3	2		
Tito Smith	LB	AL	4	3		
Sage Spree	OL	AL	4	2		
Josh Swords	OL	TN	5	2		
Deshea Townsend	CB	MS	4	6	SEC (3)	*
Granison Wagstaff	LB	AL	3	2		
Owen Winston	CB	AL	3	2		
Overall			4.1	3.3	A-A (2), SEC (5)	4

1995 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING – 4.1 *Good

The 1995 recruiting class was Coach Gene Stallings sixth class since his arrival in T-Town in 1990. This class is the first of two small recruiting classes affected by the NCAA investigation of BAMA. This class was signed before the final verdict was announced, but Coach Stallings was advised by University officials to make available only 14 scholarships. This reduction was to be a part of the penalties agreed upon by the NCAA and BAMA.

Coach Stallings and staff had to turn away a few prospects due to the number reduction, but were able to sign a very good group of prospects. Most positions of need were addressed with this class. One super prospect lost at the end was Louisiana DL Ernie Badeaux. Actually though, that was to be expected ... the trend of Louisiana prospects has been for several years to tease BAMA with strong interest and then go elsewhere at the end. He signed with Florida. Another objective was to sign only prospects that were qualified or sure bets to make it. With the small number of signees, non-qualifiers would damage an already tough situation. As it turned out, all 14 signees qualified.

Even with the reduced number of signees, most recruiting services ranked BAMA's class third or fourth in the SEC and generally around tenth in the nation. Allen Wallace of SuperPrep in California, a long time fan of BAMA recruiting coordinator Randy Ross, ranked BAMA's class 8th nationally. The general consensus among recruiting services was BAMA signed a "small in numbers but big in quality" class.

This class had an incoming rating of 4.1 *(Good). That ties four other classes for the highest incoming rating since I started with the 1980 class. The other 4.1 classes were 1982, 1991, 1993, and 1994. Of the 14 signees, 11 rated a "4"plus (79%) ... 80% is a good rating. I gave seven players a "5" rating, an excellent number with 50% of the class being rated a five.

At the top of this class was a Parade and USA Today All-American running back from Kentucky. Shaun Alexander was the Kentucky player of the year. Although Kentucky prospects ratings are often considered to be deceiving due to their competition, Alexander played against the metro Cincinnati high schools ... regarded as a strong level of high school football. He was an outstanding all-purpose back and a national recruit.

WR Michael Vaughn from MS was a big-time playmaker with speed and tremendous athletic ability. A big signee and already in school was JC safety Kevin Jackson. This JC All-American will participate in spring practice and is considered a likely starter next season. A highly rated in-state OL signee was Mookie Moore. Another OL signee, Chris Samuels from Mobile, was rated a "3". This sleeper was injured his senior year, but AUB, TN and BAMA coaches all considered him to have outstanding ability and potential.

Two in-state signees that should help in the secondary are DB Kevin Sigler from Mobile and Steve Stanley from Leighton. Stanley was a QB in high school, but BAMA recruited him as DB. The last "5" rated signee was FB Reggie Grimes from TN. This outstanding athlete could end up playing one of several positions.

Coach Stallings and his staff signed a very good class. Being small in number, the majority needs to contribute down the road. Again, this class is tied for the highest incoming rating since I started in 1980.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING – 4.2 * Excellent

This small class produced a 4.1 incoming rating in which tied four other classes for the highest rating since 1980. Well, as the 5th year seniors completed their careers this past season with a SEC Championship ... this unique class continues to produce “first”. Their outgoing rating is now in “first” place. With almost every single signee contributing, their 4.2 outgoing rating is now the highest. It surpasses the 1991 class rating of 4.0 and the 1986 class rating of 3.5. It is the “first” class to produce a higher outgoing rating than their incoming rating. 12 of 14 (86%) signees contributed “3” plus careers ... (60% is a good rating). Only one player was rated a “1” ... OL Mookie Moore left for Troy State. The class produced 3 All-Americans and 4 All-SEC selections.

The prime signee of the incoming class was high school All-American tailback Shaun Alexander. After 5 years at BAMA, he leaves an all-time great for the CRIMSON TIDE. He now holds many of the career rushing records, was a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate, and a captain and leader of the 1999 SEC Championship team. He was an All-American and 2-time All-SEC selection.

OL Chris Samuels is a recruiting success story. He is one of only 6 players since 1980 to produce a “6” career rating after being signed as a “3”. He was the Outland Trophy winner for the outstanding lineman in America in 1999 and a #3 pick in the recent NFL draft. He was an All-American and 3-time All-SEC selection. I will remember him for his great leadership and significant personal accomplishments. His comments on the “Victory on the Plains” tape during halftime are memorable. After CMD’s comments he yells out in a strong distinct manner ... “Turn it up Baby ... It’s my last one ... Come on with me Baby ... It’s my last one!” The OL led by Samuels, dominated the second half with Shaun Alexander walking into the end zone untouched on 3 second half TD runs.

DB Fernando Bryant from TN was a 3-time All-SEC selection and is now playing in the NFL. I will remember him for his aggressive and cocky defensive play at the corner ... but primarily for his recruiting efforts. During his time at BAMA, he was our “ACE player” recruiter during weekend recruiting visits. A quick story ... I was at the Four Points with my friends for our annual ritual of observing recruits on their official visits. Brandon Miree and his family were coming through the lobby and Fernando was working Miree’s mom. The weather was absolutely gorgeous and the weather was a key issue with Miree’s family trying to decide between Michigan and BAMA. Fernando was smiling and running his mouth as usual. With everyone in the lobby’s attention on Miree’s family, Fernando walked to the big window and opened the curtain. He told Miree’s mom ... “Look at this ... the weather is like this every single day in T-Town.” He knew the issues and prospects loved him... moms and dads also.

Also a part of this class was JC safety Kevin Jackson. He contributed everything you want from a JC signee. This All-American and 2-time All-SEC safety was a two-year starter and immediate impact player. Some have questioned my rating of JC players the same as 4-5 year players. IMO ... JC players are signed for immediate help and for a position lacking ability or depth. When JC signees fulfill those requirements ... I feel

they have accomplished what they were signed for and deserve to be rated like everyone else. Jackson definitely meets those requirements.

Safety Kevin Sigler was headed for an All-star senior season before a season ending injury. He contributed a solid career. WR Michael Vaughn had tremendous ability and was a career starter, but injuries and then academics led him to an early exit for the NFL after his junior year. (I do not penalize for leaving early for the NFL). Steve Stanley had solid career but never reached all-star status. OL Jason McDonald was a starter during his career, but lost his job his senior year to the influx of talent from CRC's arrival at BAMA. Big WR Shamari Buchanan fought injuries his entire career but caught a big TD pass in the MISS STATE game his senior year. DL Reggie Grimes was a part-time starter through out his career. In Atlanta in the SEC Championship game against FL we saw flashes of his fullback days with a deflected pass falling into his hands for an interception and then running it in for a TD and trying, without success, the "Green Bay dive" into the "fans in the stands". I must mention undersized DE Clint Waggoner. He contributed with solid play from DE, but was a true student / athlete. His academic accomplishments were outstanding and he passed on his extra year to concentrate on his degree.

Mookie Moore was the only member of the class to leave for another school. He got my "1" rating for not completing his commitment to BAMA for 4-5 years and going to another school. Thomas Hill's career ended early due to injury.

This class is the first of two consecutive small classes. I would consider it a total success and had some unique members. Chris Samuels career was a recruiting success story. As you can see from the numbers I presented ... very few "3" rated prospects become impact players. Shaun Alexander is now a prestigious BAMA all-time great from his career accomplishments. The most significant class contribution may be the leadership and desire the 5th year seniors displayed in leading BAMA to victories in "the swamp" and on "the plains". Then closing it out with a second victory over them "GATORS" and their disgruntled head coach for a SEC Championship. This class helped bring the program back to it's traditional championship level. A small class ... with a "BIG HEART" ... and some big accomplishments!!!!

*** The factors and criteria I used for my ratings and rating systems are at the end of this document.

1995 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Shaun Alexander	RB	KY	5	6	A-A, SEC (2)	*
Fernando Bryant	CB	TN	4	6	SEC (3)	*
Sharmari Buchanan	WR	GA	3	4		
Michael Feagin	CB	AL	3	3		
Reggie Grimes	FB	TN	5	4		
Thomas Hill	CB	MS	3	2		
Kevin Jackson (JC)	SS	MS	5	6	A-A, SEC (2)	*
Jason McDonald	OL	AL	4	4		
Michael Moore	OL	AL	5	1		
Chris Samuels	OL	AL	3	6	A-A, SEC (3)	*
Kelvin Sigler	FS	AL	5	5		
Steve Stanley	FS	AL	5	4		
Michael Vaughn	WR	MS	5	4		
Clint Waggoner	TE	GA	3	4		
Overall			4.1	4.2	A-A (3), SEC (4)	4

1996 Freshman Class

INCOMING ANALYSIS AND RATING - 3.5 * Poor

The 1996 recruiting class was Coach Gene Stallings seventh class at Alabama and turned out to be his last class. This class is the last of two consecutive recruiting classes that was penalized with scholarship reductions by the NCAA. In 1995 BAMA was allowed 14 scholarships. This 1996 class was only allowed 12 scholarships. These small numbers of scholarships put added pressure on Stallings and staff as every signee needed to qualify and contribute to best bridge what most feel will be a difficult period to overcome in terms of depth and leadership when these two very small groups are upperclassmen. Last year's 1995 class produced the highest outgoing rating of any class since I started rating the classes in 1980. They were a strong group coming in and even better going out with a SEC championship lead by an outstanding group of 5th year seniors. This 1996 class arrived with a poor incoming rating and very few big time prospects. This class truly felt the impact of the NCAA's excessive "scholarship reduction" penalty.

Coach Stallings stated he was satisfied with the class under the circumstances but the fans and media were very apprehensive about the quality of this group. In a year that the state of Alabama had an outstanding group of prospects Bama was able to secure only six of those prospects and two of those six didn't make it to school because of academic problems. This class included a transfer and two junior college players. The class basically turned out to be what was feared most. A small group of signees that included two major prospects who didn't qualify, two JC signees who will contribute only two years, and very few highly rated impact players.

This class had an incoming rating of 3.5 * (Poor). That is the second lowest incoming rating since I started in 1980. The only class with the lower rating was Coach Bill Curry's 1988 3.4 rated class. I only gave 3 signees a "5" rating coming in. Two of those signees never made it to school because of academic problems. Of the 15 signees, 9 rated a "4" plus (60%).... 80% is a good class rating incoming.

The 2 signees that did not meet academic requirements were TE Gorman Thornton (5) and DE Kenny Smith (5). They were two of the top prospects in Alabama. I do not penalize a class with non-qualifiers so they are not included in my ratings. They were counted on heavily as with such a small number of scholarships available every signee making it to T-Town was critical. Their absence was an omen of things to come for this class.

The top signee of this class was JC All-American DE Michael Myers (5) from Mississippi. He was an outstanding prospect and counted on as a defensive impact player immediately. Also signed for defensive help was JC DT Heath Panks (4) from Louisiana. He sat out of football for a couple of seasons and just graduated this past year from JC. It is hoped that his high school All-American abilities in Louisiana have not diminished as

most players who sit out for extended periods have difficulty regaining their conditioning level and fundamental sharpness.

WR Tim Bowens (4) from Killen is an outstanding athlete with good speed. DT Jamie Carter (4) of Mississippi is an outstanding DL prospect. His weight is a concern but his potential is outstanding. FB Dustin McClintock (4) from Texas is an outstanding FB prospect and is one the top players in Texas. His interest in Alabama stems from Coach Stallings Texas ties. Transfer OL Brendon Meadows (4) from Louisville is counted on for help on the OL immediately. He played significantly at Louisville and signed with the Cardinals out of high school. Other signees felt to have good potential are OL Griff Redmill (3) from Jasper and OL Corey Kinnebrew (3) from Georgia.

This class turns out to be Coach Stallings final incoming class. With such a small number of scholarships available every member of the class needs to contribute significantly for this class to successful. I feel very uncomfortable about the signees in this class. I only hope that several exceed their incoming rating and produce significant careers.

OUTGOING ANALYSIS AND RATING - 3.1 * AVERAGE

This class closes out a two- year recruiting period that many thought would devastate our program. The harsh scholarship reductions imposed by NCAA were ridiculous and totally out of line. Today, as I analyze this class, our program is coming off a 3-8 performance and the total elimination of the head coach and staff that inherited this group from Coach Stallings. Coach Mike DuBose career has ended with turmoil and chaos at a time most everyone was predicting the program was about to turn the corner along with previous powers Oklahoma and Miami. Oklahoma won the National Championship this past New Year's and Miami was in the hunt. This class, signed by Coach Gene Stallings, is not to blame for our current situation. The devastation feared by most due to two consecutive small classes is not to blame for this current mess. In fact, the two classes both produced good numbers. Coaches with different agendas, lack of leadership by the man in charge, and poor coaching at several positions are the primary reasons we are not where the other two mentioned powers are. After last year's amazing SEC championship, things were as high as ever, but today we are trying to move on with another new staff and prospects wondering when will the negative talk end. Soon I hope, but not before more possible reductions in scholarships will occur due to the current investigations.

This class of 13 signees completes the Coach Gene Stallings era at BAMA. He signed 7 classes during his tenure with the final 2 classes penalized by the NCAA with reduced scholarships. This 1996 class had an outgoing rating of 3.1 * (Average). 10 of 13 signees (77%) contributed "3" plus careers. (60% good class contributions). With this class consisting of only 13 players, a crucial item for this class was for a large percentage of the class to stay with the program the full 4-5 years. The 77% contribution was very important and a significant accomplishment. The poor incoming rating of this class and its shortage of impact prospects created apprehension as to how much this class would contribute to the program. In the end the class did make a contribution with several key performers and good overall class participation. No matter the size of the class, only 2 signees left early and were rated "1" for their careers. Those players were Corey Kinnebrew (1) and Adam Joiner (1). Early departures by signees is the item that kills a classes rating. As you have seen in past years the number of signees leaving early has been averaging approximately 9-10 per class. So only two "1"

rated players is excellent. Look for this number to escalate significantly with next years 1997 Class.

The class had only three “5” rated incoming players. Gorman Thornton and Kenny Smith did not make it to BAMA and are not included in these ratings. The “5” rated signee who did arrive contributed only 1 year to the program. Super DL Michael Myers was signed from JC for immediate help. In his first year at BAMA his outstanding play earned him an ALL-SEC and ALL-AMERICAN honors. Due to some problems he was forced to miss his second year and filed for the NFL draft and was selected. These situations arise occasionally. I try to be fair and consistent with ever class. In Myers situation my philosophy is he was signed from JC for immediate help. He produced that need and was good enough to play in the NFL early. His ALL-AMERICAN status would have given him a “6” rating. Due to him leaving early and producing only one year I have given him a “5” rating. I feel this penalty is fair since his problem could have been avoided.

The scenario that we hope for but does not happen often, materialized with one signee in this class. Since 1980 only 13 players arrived at BAMA with a “3” incoming rating and went on to produce a “6” career rating....an ALL-AMERICAN or multiple ALL-SEC selection. C Paul Hogan (6) from Georgia arrived in T-Town a 240 pound center. Whats significant about this is among the 13 other signees who achieved this significant career improvement to ALL-STAR status, two of those were also small center prospects . The other two center signees to achieve this “6” rating were Roger Shultz (240 pounds - 1986) from Georgia and Toby Shiels (235 pounds - 1989) from Fairhope, Both were 2- time ALL-SEC selections. Hogan was the ultimate player who always was going to be replaced the next year by a “Big Time Prospect” .. (G). He was on a mission to keep his starting job every year. It seems he added 10 pounds each year and it was stated he could not get any larger. He ended his career a solid 285 pound center who was a 2- time ALL-SEC selection. This success story just adds to Alabama great tradition of producing quality players who have the desire and determination to do whatever it takes to wear that “Crimson Jersey on Saturday”.

One of the most popular players at BAMA and from this class was Dustin McClintock (4) from Texas. “BIG RED” was a multiple year starter and the ultimate blocking FB BAMA looks for. Shaun Alexander’s all-time rushing

records at BAMA were achieved with “BIG RED” leading the way many times. This will probably be his “claim to fame” at BAMA..... Shaun possibly could not have produced the tremendous numbers he did without “BIG RED”.

OL Griff Redmill (4) from Jasper was not highly rated but produced a very good career as a multiple year starter at OG. It seems his senior year was down slightly but I believe it was due to the team’s poor season. I will remember Griff’s junior year as our starting LG on a offensive line that was lead by “BIG” Chris Samuels. This group played almost every down and lead BAMA to a SEC Championship and Shaun to every BAMA rushing record in the book.

DT Jamie Carter (3) from Mississippi was a player with tremendous potential but fought a severe weight problem his entire career. Many believe he had NFL potential but could not beat the weight problem and the conditioning needed to reach the next level. He did provide some excellent spot playing time but could only contribute a few plays each game due to his physical condition. Also making contributions to the program were WR Tim Bowens (3) from Killen and DT Kelvis White (3) from Courtland it looked as though Kelvis was going to be impact his senior year but, injuries curtailed that scenario. Also from this class OL Brenon Meadows, (3) a transfer from Louisville, contributed playing time at OG 1996-1997.

This class was small in numbers due to NCAA penalties. Their incoming rating was “poor” and consisted of only one impact player. In the end, the class produced an “average” outgoing rating. Only two players produced ALL-STAR type careers. The incoming impact player was DE Michael Myers and he achieved ALL-AMERICAN status. Only problem is he only contributed one year. His loss severely hurt our DL position the next year, but he did go onto the NFL. The thing I will remember about this class, is much like last years class. An Incoming “3” rated C from Georgia who I remember my friends and myself joking about”another 240 pound centerjust what we needed”! Paul Hogan, much like Chris Samuels last year, came to BAMA to do whatever it took to play for THE TIDE.... yes he was under weight but he worked constantly to get bigger. He earned the starting job early in his career. Every year he fought the competition and maintained his starting status until the end. He was a 2- time All-SEC center and recruiting success story.

In closingthank God the severe, ridiculous, unfair, stupid, and just plain harsh penalty of such reduced numbers of scholarships put on BAMA by the NCAA is FINALLY OVER.... It was nothing but a vendetta by the NCAA to hurt BAMA and will probably never be duplicated again for such minor wrong doing. As I complete this review in February 2001....we are again facing scholarship reductions due to possible wrong doing. Let's hope the "_____" will be a little more sympathetic this time... then againWE ARE ALABAMA!!!

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1996 Class – Gene Stallings						
Name	Pos.	St.	Incoming Rating	Outgoing Rating	Honors	NFL
Tim Bowens	WR	AL	4	3		
Jamie Carter	DT	MS	4	3		
Paul Hogan	C	GA	3	6	SEC(2)	
Adam Joiner	TE	FL	3	1		
Jason Jones	SS	AL	2	3		
Corey Kinnebrew	DT	GA	3	1		
Dustin McClintock	FB	TX	4	4		
Brenon Meadows	OL	KY	4	3		
Michael Myers (JC)	DE	MS	5	5	A-A, SEC	*
Heath Panks (JC)	DT	LA	4	3		
Griff Redmill	OL	AL	3	4		
Rob-E Staten	LB	MS	4	2		
Kelvis White	DT	AL	3	3		
Overall			3.5	3.2	A-A (1), SEC (2)	4
Did not qualify						
Gorman Thornton	TE	AL				
Kenny Smith	DE	AL				

RATING FACTORS

INCOMING RATING

In the early 80's, there were very few recruiting publications available. I ordered Joe Terranova in 1980 because he was generally regarded as the National expert. Blue Chips out of California was also a National publication I ordered. I used newspapers like the Atlanta J-C and B'Ham P-H for the Southeastern list and ratings. In the following years, I subscribed to Max Enfinger for a National list. In the South, Forrest Davis came on the scene and finally in the late 80's numerous publications became available. The best of which IMO is Pigskin Preps. Barry Holland and Freddie Kirby are from North Alabama and we learned of each other's interest in recruiting. We shared information and many phone calls for years. Then Barry and Freddie Kirby started Pigskin Preps, a very accurate recruiting publication. Freddie is a "walking computer" full of recruiting information. Many of you know him and will agree. These guys got me started going to T-Town to observe prospects on their official visits and it remains an annual ritual.

My incoming ratings are based on a 1 to 5 scale with a "5" rating the highest. A "5" rated player is basically a top 75 prospect in the Southeast or a top 200 player in the nation. Each year I get several different lists of ratings for high school prospects, then give each signee an incoming rating based on those sources. I then take those individual ratings and average them for a "class incoming rating". I consider a class incoming rating of 4.0 to 4.1 as good. It requires 80% of the total class to be rated a "4" or above to achieve that number.

CLASS RATING SCALE

3.6 – less Poor
3.7 – 3.9 Average
4.0 – 4.1 Good
4.2 – above ... Excellent

OUTGOING RATING

I created my own rating system based on factors I personally believe distinguish a career. Positive factors would be fulfilling 4-5 year commitment, contributing with significant playing time for multiple years, starter multiple years, and of course achieving all-star status. Negative factors would be not staying with the program for a full 4-5 years and no significant playing time during entire career.

My outgoing ratings are based on a 1 to 6 scale with a "6" rating the highest. A "6" rated player is your All-American or multiple All-SEC selections. After giving each original class member an outgoing career rating, I average the individual ratings for a "class outgoing rating". I consider a 3.2 to 3.3 to be a good class rating. It requires approximately 60% of the entire class to contribute a "3" rated career or above. Even today, most coaches consider that to be good overall contribution from a recruiting class.

RATING SCALE – PLAYER

"1" Never reported, quit, didn't complete full 4-5 year commitment
"2" On squad, limited playing contribution
"3" Part-time starter, backup on 2-deep depth chart
"4" Starter multiple years, significant contribution
"5" All-SEC one year, Impact player
"6" All-American or multiple All-SEC selection

CLASS RATING SCALE

2.8 – less Poor
2.9 – 3.1 Average
3.2-3.3..... Good
3.4- Above....Excellent