

## Players to watch:

### **QB Karé Lyles:**

Karé Lyles, born on May 1, 1998, in Madison, Wisconsin, is emerging as a standout quarterback for the Prague Lions in the European League of Football (ELF). With a diverse background in American football, Lyles brings a unique skill set and a winning mentality to the field. Lyles' football journey began in his hometown, where he honed his skills playing for the Scottsdale Outlaw Football team. He then made his mark at the collegiate level, representing renowned programs such as the Wisconsin Badgers, the Scottsdale Fighting Artichokes, the Southern Illinois Salukis, and the Jackson State Tigers.

In 2023, Lyles ventured to Europe, joining the New Yorker Lions in the German Football League (GFL). His debut season in Germany was nothing short of impressive, as he showcased his talent by completing 139 passes for 1,745 passing yards and 23 touchdowns, along with two rushing touchdowns in 11 GFL games.

Beyond his on-field accomplishments, Lyles comes from a football family, with a brother who played as an offensive lineman and a father who excelled as both a quarterback and a tight end. His deep-rooted passion for the game is evident in his commitment to excellence, as showcased by his decision to pursue a starting spot in Germany over opportunities in the USFL or XFL.

### **RB Tyrese Johnson-Fisher:**

Tyrese Darnell Johnson-Fisher is an accomplished athlete with a diverse sports background. He excelled in track at Oakham School and with Croydon Harriers, winning the 60m National Indoor Finals in 6.89 seconds and placing third in England at the U17 Championships in the 100m with a time of 10.73 seconds. Tyrese also played rugby for Oakham School, Leicester Tigers Academy, and the Jamaican Rugby Sevens National Team.

His football career includes stints with the London Warriors (2018, 2022), Coastal Carolina University Chanticleers (2018), Copiah Lincoln Community College Wolves (2021), Istanbul Rams (2022), Berlin Rebels (2023), and Prague Lions (since 2024). Notably, he ran a 4.38-second 40-yard dash and was the first international player in the 2018 Under Armour All-America Game, despite never playing high school football.

In the ELF, he recorded 126 yards and two touchdowns in four games in 2022 before being released by the Rams after Week 4. Despite no known team or individual awards, Tyrese's impressive athleticism and sports versatility stand out.

### **RB Adam Žouželka:**

Adam Žouželka, born on October 30, 2001, in Přerov, Czech Republic, is a dynamic force as a running back for the Prague Lions in the European League of Football (ELF). With a remarkable journey in the world of football, Žouželka has established himself as a versatile and impactful player, poised to make significant contributions to his team's success.

Žouželka's football odyssey began with the Přerov Mammoths, where he honed his skills before transitioning to the senior level with the Ostrava Steelers in 2021. His impressive performance caught the attention of the Prague Lions, leading to his signing with the team in 2022. Additionally, he had a brief stint with the Potsdam Royals before returning to the Prague Lions in 2023. Throughout his career, Žouželka has achieved notable success, including winning the Czech Bowl Championship in 2022 and earning prestigious accolades such as the ČAAF Junior MVP in 2021 and the Czech Bowl MVP in 2022. His outstanding performance on the field has been recognized with awards like the Lions Offense MVP in 2022 and being a nominee for the ELF Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Beyond his accomplishments on the gridiron, Žouželka's athleticism and versatility are evident in his background in ice hockey during his youth. His ability to seamlessly transition between sports underscores his natural talent and determination to excel in athletics.

**Last season's stats:** 78 Att, 286 Rushing yards, 4 TDs, 1 Fumble

#### **RB Meril Zero: On IR**

Meril Zero, a French running back, has had an impressive football career. Known for his speed and versatility, he previously played for the Berlin Rebels in the German Football League (GFL), where he was named a GFL All-Star in 2022. During that season, he racked up 846 yards and seven touchdowns in just 10 games, making him the third most successful rusher in Germany. After sitting out 2021 due to injury, Zero made a strong comeback, playing a key role in the Berlin offense. His performance did not go unnoticed, and he secured a contract with the Paris Musketeers in the European League of Football (ELF), his hometown team. There, he will be part of a talented backfield that also includes seasoned players like Jason Aguemon.

Previously, Zero also played in Poland for the Bydgoszcz Archers and won the German Bowl with the New Yorker Lions. His versatile skills as a runner and receiver make him a valuable addition to any team.

#### **WR Travier Fields-Jackson: On IR**

Hailing from Red Oaks, Texas, the 6'3" and 200-pound Fields-Jackson joins the Lions after a successful stint with the Topeka Tropics in the National Arena League during the 2023 season. Fields-Jackson's football journey began at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, where he showcased his skills before transferring to Missouri Southern State College at the Division II level. In his sole season with MSSU in 2019, he made notable contributions, recording 13 receptions for 254 yards and scoring a touchdown.

During his time with the Lions, Fields-Jackson displayed versatility by playing multiple positions, including tight end, halfback, and wide receiver. His impact on the field was evident as he made crucial receptions and demonstrated his ability to contribute to the team's success. Prior to his collegiate career, Fields-Jackson honed his skills at Red Oak High School, where he excelled as a wide receiver under the guidance of coach Mike Shields. His athletic prowess extended beyond football, as he also competed in track and field, showcasing his athleticism and dedication to sports.

#### **WR Artie Henry III :**

Artie Henry, hailing from Sarasota, Florida, is a versatile football talent known for his

impactful performances both as a wide receiver and kick returner. Graduating from Marshall University with a degree in health sciences in 2021, Henry's collegiate career was marked by consistent contributions on the field. Prior to Marshall, he showcased his skills at San Diego Mesa Junior College, recording impressive stats as a receiver and kick returner. With 42 receptions for 504 yards and six touchdowns at Marshall, Henry's adaptability and athleticism make him a valuable asset on any team. Recently signed to replace Cornerback Daniel Wright, Henry's versatility extends to playing cornerback, further highlighting his value as a multi-dimensional player.

#### **DT Jakub Smutny:**

Jakub Smutny, born on May 27, 1996, in the Czech Republic, has established himself as a formidable force in the realm of American football. With a background spanning various teams across Europe, his journey reflects a dedication to the sport and a commitment to excellence. Smutny's football odyssey began with the Pardubice Stallions, where he honed his skills from 2014 to 2019, earning recognition as the Stallions Defense MVP in 2018 and 2019. His prowess on the field caught the attention of other teams, leading him to don the jerseys of the Vysočina Gladiators, Prague Black Panthers, and Dresden Monarchs in subsequent years. In 2021, Smutny achieved a career milestone by clinching the German Bowl Championship with the Dresden Monarchs. His contributions to the game were evident in his impressive stats, including 20 tackles and 6 sacks in 8 GFL games that season. Transitioning to the Prague Lions in 2023 marked a new chapter in Smutny's football journey. With a renewed sense of purpose, he continued to excel on the field, showcasing his talent with 28 tackles, 5 sacks, and notable defensive plays in the Austrian Football League (AFL) and the German Football League (GFL). His recent three-year contract with the Prague Lions signifies a new chapter in his career, one marked by continued success and unwavering dedication to the game he loves.

**Last season's stats:** 29 tackles, 1 sack, 7.5 TFL, 1 Forced Fumble, 1 Fumble Recovery

#### **DT James Brooks:**

James Richard Brooks, born on November 30, 1988, in Phoenix, Arizona, is an American football player known for his prowess as a defensive end. He rose to prominence during his college years playing for the Arizona State University in the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. In 2023, Brooks showcased his talent in the European League of Football (ELF) as a member of the Prague Lions. Brooks began his football journey at Flagstaff High School, where he excelled in basketball and showcased his skills as a tight end and defensive end in football. As a three-star recruit, he committed to Arizona State University in 2007, marking a significant achievement for Flagstaff High School's athletics program. After redshirting his first year, Brooks emerged as a key player for the Sun Devils in the 2009 season, delivering notable performances with 17 tackles, three and a half sacks, and an interception in nine games. His standout moment came in December 2010 during the Territorial Cup game against the Arizona Wildcats, where he made crucial plays, including blocking two extra points, earning him recognition as the Pac-10 Player of the Week. In his senior year, Brooks made a personal decision to transfer to the University of North Alabama. Following his collegiate career, he embarked on a professional journey, signing with the Cologne Falcons in the German Football League in 2013. Brooks continued to excel in the

international football scene, playing for teams like the Kozły Poznań in Poland and the IBM Big Blue in Japan's X-League. His impressive performances earned him accolades, including multiple All-Star selections and recognition from American Football International as part of the All-Pandemic Team in 2020. Brooks also made appearances for the Prague Lions in the Czech League ČLAF in 2016 and 2018. Additionally, he served as the defensive coordinator for the Prague Black Panthers in the 2019 season of the Austrian Football League.

In 2023, Brooks joined the Prague Lions for the inaugural season of the European League of Football under the helm of Head Coach Zach Harrod. He made significant contributions to the team, tallying eight and a half sacks, 14 tackles for loss, and four forced fumbles. His stellar performance earned him a contract extension for the 2024 season, solidifying his role as a key player for the Prague Lions in the ELF.

**Last season's stats:** 40 tackles, 8.5 sack, 14.5 TFL, 4 Forced Fumble

### **DE Jan Stary:**

Jan Stary, born on June 5, 1996, in Prague, Czech Republic, has become a stalwart in American football, showcasing a journey marked by dedication and excellence. Beginning with the Liberec Titans, he transitioned to the Prague Black Panthers from 2018 to 2021, then moved to the Vysočina Gladiators and the Znojmo Knights, and since 2023, proudly dons the jersey of the Prague Lions. Throughout his career, Stary has amassed a remarkable collection of team accolades, including winning the Bronze Bowl and earning two Czech Bowl Championships. Individually, he has been recognized for his contributions, receiving awards such as Most Improved Player and Play of the Year with the Black Panthers, along with Co-Defense MVP honors with the Knights in 2022. His on-field prowess is evident in his impressive stats from 2022, tallying 23.5 tackles and 7 sacks in just 10 AFL games. Off the field, Stary is affectionately known as "Honza" and brings a diverse background to the game. Prior to football, he spent eight years playing soccer and now balances his athletic pursuits with fatherhood and work as a farmer in a family business.

**Last season's stats:** 28 tackles, 5 sack, 10.5 TFL, 2 Forced Fumble, 1 Fumble Recovery

### **DB Aleksandar Borković:**

Aleksandar Borković, born on September 14, 1999, in Indija, Serbia, has etched his name in the annals of football history with his exceptional skills and accomplishments. Beginning his football journey with the Inđija Indians from 2010 to 2020, he later ventured to international arenas, playing for the Mallorca Voltors and the SBB Vukovi Beograd in 2021, followed by a stint with the Znojmo Knights in 2022, and currently, he proudly represents the Prague Lions. Borković's talent has not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by a series of prestigious awards throughout his career. From being named the Serbian Flag Football League MVP in 2015 to earning MVP honors in various Serbian leagues, including the U17 Serbian League in 2016 and the Serbian First League in 2017, his achievements speak volumes about his impact on the field. In addition to individual accolades, Borković has tasted team success, clinching the Serbian Bowl Championship in 2021. His standout performance in 2022, with 31.5 tackles, 1 forced fumble, 3 interceptions, and 2 pass-break-ups in 10 AFL games, underscores his

defensive prowess and value to his team.

Beyond football, Borković's interests and pursuits are equally diverse. Notably, he shares a bond with his brother Stefan, who is also an American football player. In the winter of 2021/22, he ventured into bobsledding, aiming to qualify for the Olympics—an endeavor that reflects his determination and athleticism beyond the gridiron.

**Last season's stats:** 29 tackles, 1 sack, 3 TFL, 1 INT, 1 Forced Fumble, 1 Forced Recovery in 5 Games

### **DB Daniel Wright: On IR**

Daniel Wright, born on March 25, 1999, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is a dynamic American football player known for his remarkable contributions on the field. Throughout his collegiate career at the University of Alabama, Wright showcased exceptional versatility and skill, solidifying his reputation as a standout safety and a formidable force in the game. Wright's journey with the Alabama Crimson Tide began with promise and potential, highlighted by his participation in the prestigious Under Armour All-America Game. His impressive rankings in scouting services underscored his status as a top safety prospect, reflecting his exceptional athleticism and football acumen.

During his tenure at Boyd Anderson High School, Wright left an indelible mark, demonstrating his prowess with remarkable stats and earning accolades as a junior, including standout performances with 72 tackles and four interceptions. His football lineage is noteworthy, as he follows in the footsteps of his brother, former Florida standout and NFL safety Major Wright, further solidifying his family's legacy in the sport.

### **CB Rachuan Mitchell:**

Rashuan Mitchell, hailing from Jacksonville, Florida, is an impressive American football player known for his strong defensive skills. At University Christian High School, he helped secure the school's eighth state title and earned second-team Class 2A All-State honors.

Mitchell's collegiate career at the University of North Texas showcased his talent. In 2017, as a redshirt freshman, he made 24 tackles in 12 games. He improved further in 2018, with 36 tackles, three interceptions, and a sack over 11 games. The following year, he started all 12 regular-season games, recording 23 tackles, 10 pass breakups, and two interceptions.

Despite playing only one game in 2020, Mitchell's contributions to North Texas' defense have been significant, marking him as a dedicated and skilled player.

## **Notable Performances:**

### **Stadium:**

#### **eFotbal Aréna:**

Capacity: 3327. Formerly known as Stadion Viktoria, eFotbal Aréna opened in 1952 and was renovated in 2002 and 2007 to add seats. It's the homefield of FK Viktoria Žižkov, a Czech

3<sup>rd</sup> Division Club. It hosted two games of the U-19 Soccer European Championship in 2008.

#### **Head Coach - Dan Disch:**

With over three decades of coaching high school football in Florida, he has honed his craft and established himself as a formidable force in the world of American football. Transitioning to the collegiate level, he spent 13 years coaching NCAA Division I football, with a notable seven-year tenure as a defensive coordinator. His strategic prowess and defensive acumen were evident during his time as the defensive coordinator for the Kiel Baltic Hurricanes in 2015, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the team's performance. In 2018, he ascended to the role of head coach for the Hurricanes, showcasing his leadership and commitment to excellence on the field. His tenure with the Prague Lions began in 2019 when he joined as their defensive coordinator, bringing his wealth of knowledge and championship-winning mentality to the team.

Under his guidance, the Prague Lions have achieved remarkable success, securing two Czech Bowls and solidifying their position as a dominant force in European football. Now, as he assumes the role of head coach for the upcoming season, his leadership and strategic vision are poised to lead the team to even greater heights.

#### **Offensive Coordinator - Ed Stults:**

With a career spanning over 40 years in coaching, Stults brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Lions' offensive unit. Stults' coaching journey began at Bluffton University in Ohio, where he earned all-conference honors as a linebacker before transitioning into coaching immediately after graduation. Over the years, he has held various coaching positions at esteemed institutions such as the University of Cincinnati, Edinboro University, and California University of Pennsylvania, where he served as assistant head coach, offensive coordinator, and offensive line coach, among other roles. His extensive coaching resume also includes stints at Jacksonville University, Ball State University, and the University of Findlay, where he made significant contributions to the development and success of the offensive programs. Prior to joining the Prague Lions, Stults served as the Offensive Line Coach at Arkansas High School in Texarkana, Texas, showcasing his versatility and adaptability across different levels of the game.

#### **Special Teams Coordinator - Reggie Mitchell:**

The Prague Lions have once again made a significant coaching addition, this time bringing on board the experienced Reggie Mitchell as their Special Teams Coordinator for the 2024 season in the European League of Football (ELF). Mitchell brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role, having amassed over 30 years of coaching experience at the Division I level. His most recent position as the running backs coach at UTEP showcased his ability to develop talent and maximize player potential. With extensive coaching stints at prestigious programs like Illinois and Kansas, Mitchell has proven himself as a highly respected figure in the world of college football. His track record speaks for itself, with an impressive 33 players drafted into the NFL under his guidance, including notable first-round picks such as Rashard Mendenhall, Plaxico Burress, and T.J. Duckett. Not only does Mitchell bring coaching

prowess to the table, but he also boasts an illustrious playing career as a four-year starter at running back for Central Michigan. His on-field success, including helping secure consecutive Mid-America Conference titles, underscores his deep understanding of the game from both a coaching and playing perspective.

## **Game against Vikings - Strategy, details and more**

### **-What are your “keys to the game”?**

The keys to any game for us is to take care of the ball, and execute on offense - and to play hard with good effort on both sides of the ball.

### **-What are your goals for this season?**

After all of the adversity and problems from the past season we are looking for more stability on and off the field - and we hope to be competitive.