



## Players to watch:

### **QB John Uribe:**

The Wroclaw Panthers have switched quarterbacks, with John Uribe taking over. Uribe, who led the team to victory in the last game of the 2022 season, brings experience from playing for the Traun Steelsharks in Austria. In his debut for the Panthers, he threw for 232 yards and three touchdowns. Uribe aims to lead the Panthers to success in the European League of Football after previous stints in Serbia and Hamburg.

### **#22 RB Dawid Brzozowski:**

Dawid Brzozowski, born on January 29th, 2001, in Bielawa, Poland, has emerged as a standout running back in the football world. With a successful career starting from the Bielawa Owls, where he won multiple championships, including the Polish U18 Championship in 2018 and 2019, Brzozowski's talent has been widely recognized.

His achievements include being named Junior Offensive Player of the Year in 2018 and earning MVP honors in both the PLFAJ Final in 2019 and the PFL9 Final in 2021. Since joining the Panthers Wrocław in 2022, Brzozowski has continued to impress, earning ELF Rookie of the Year in his debut season.

Brzozowski's stats speak for themselves, with notable performances in the 2022 ELF season and playoffs. Additionally, his versatility was showcased when he represented Poland internationally and played as a defensive back for the Bielawa Owls.

**Last season's stats:** 205 Carries, 1116 Rushing Yards, 12 TDs, 3 Fumbles

### **WR Matt Cole:**

Matt Cole is a new offensive playmaker for the Wroclaw Panthers in the 2024 European League of Football season. Born and raised in Chicago, 27-year-old Cole played college football at McKendree University in Illinois. During his three seasons with the Bearcats, he recorded 85 catches for 1,471 yards and 16 touchdowns, and also ran for 313 yards and a touchdown. Cole was also a talented return specialist, running back three kickoffs and one punt for touchdowns.

After college, Cole was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Miami Dolphins in 2020. He later joined the San Francisco 49ers and played in their final game of the season. Over the next year, he moved between the New York Jets, New York Giants, and Carolina Panthers, playing special teams. He also had brief stints with the Seattle Seahawks and Washington Commanders before joining the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the Canadian Football League in 2023.

Now making his debut in Europe, Cole will reunite with former college teammate A.J. Wentland, a star linebacker for the Panthers. The Wroclaw Panthers have been active this offseason, also signing players like defensive back Devan Burrell, tight end Adria Botella Moreno, and offensive lineman Keanu Ebanks. They are still looking for a quarterback but have added a lot of talent for the upcoming season.

### **#85 WR Daniel Bender: On IR**



Daniel Bender, from Duval County, Fla., is an American football wide receiver for the Wroclaw Panthers. He began his football career at Sandalwood High School in Jacksonville, Fla. At Shaw University, Bender led his team in 2019 with 60 receptions for 716 yards and six touchdowns, earning him a spot on the 2018 CIAA Honorable Mention Team. He also set program records for single-game receptions (14) and single-season receptions (60).

Bender then transferred to Western, where he appeared in all six games during the 2020-21 season, catching seven passes for 91 yards and two touchdowns. In 2021, he played in all 11 games, achieving a career-high 102 receiving yards in one game and finishing the season with three touchdown receptions.

In 2024, Bender will play as a wide receiver for the Wroclaw Panthers, filling in for the injured Matt Cole. Last season, he contributed to the Panthers both as a defensive back and as a wide receiver in selected plays, showcasing his versatility and commitment.

**Last season's stats:** 3 rec, 44 receiving yards, 1TD, 14 tackles, 3 TFL, 3 INT, 1 TD

#### **#8 TE Botella Moreno:**

Born on September 18th, 1993, in Barcelona, Spain. Botella Moreno played for the Barcelona Búfals and Badalona Dracs Junior teams, before joining the L'Hospitalet Pioners in 2011. After three seasons with the Pioners, in which he won the league and the Spanish cup three times, he committed to the University of Sioux Falls.

He spent four seasons playing wide receiver and defensive end at the Division II level. Due to an injury, Botella Moreno did not play football for 14 months after his last collegiate game. He played in Germany, Denmark and Spain over the next three seasons, before signing with the Hamburg Sea Devils in 2021. Botella Moreno reached the Championship Game and was an All-Star in 2021. He signed with the Vienna Vikings for the 2022 season. He missed some games due to injury but won the Championship with the team and was a First-Team All-Star in 2022. And also last year, he was a strong player and rightfully part of the ELF Top 100

**Last season's stats:** 58 receptions, 619 yards, 8 TDs in 12 games

#### **#49 LB A.J. Wentland:**

Adrian Joseph Wentland, born on December 6, 1994, in Rockford, Illinois, is an American football linebacker known for his tenacity and skill on the field. His football journey began at Harlem High School, where he established himself as a defensive standout, earning accolades as the Tackle Leader and Huskies Defensive MVP.

Following his stellar high school career, Wentland continued his football journey at McKendree University, where he became a dominant force in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) as a linebacker. His remarkable tackling ability and leadership qualities earned him multiple All-Conference selections and the prestigious GLVC Defensive Player of the Year award in 2016. Transitioning to the professional level, Wentland made an impact with the Dresden Monarchs in the German Football League (GFL), setting records for tackles and earning recognition as the Monarchs Defensive Player of the Year. He continued to excel internationally, winning championships in Finland with the Kuopio Steelers and in Austria with the Raiders Tirol.

In 2022, Wentland joined the Leipzig Kings in the European League of Football (ELF), where he demonstrated his prowess as a linebacker, leading the league in tackles and earning



selection to the ELF All-Star First Team. His relentless pursuit of excellence led him to the Panthers Wrocław in 2023, where he continues to showcase his skills as a top linebacker in European football.

**Last season's stats:** 112 tackles, 2.5 Sacks, 10 TFL, 1 INT, 1 fumble recovery in 9 games

### **#10 DB Devan Burrell:**

Devan Burrell, born on September 21, 1995, in Bellflower, California, USA, is a talented safety with a diverse athletic background. He began his football journey at Cerritos Junior College before transferring to Missouri Western University, where he excelled as a key player for the Griffons from 2018 to 2021. Burrell's skills took him overseas to play for the Allgäu Comets in 2022, followed by stints with the Leipzig Kings and Seamen Milano in 2023, showcasing his versatility and adaptability on the field. In 2024, he joined the Panthers Wrocław, bringing his experience and expertise to the team. Throughout his career, Burrell has amassed impressive statistics, including 162 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, 2 forced fumbles, 1 interception, and 12 pass break-ups during his college years. In 2022, he continued to make an impact with 77 tackles, 1 tackle for loss, 3 interceptions, and 2 pass break-ups in 10 GFL games. Off the field, Burrell's athletic prowess extends beyond football, as he played basketball at Centennial High School, winning the Sunset League Championship twice with the Bulldogs. He also played basketball at Cypress College and Cerritos College in California before focusing on football at the collegiate level.

**Last season's stats:** 63 tackles, 1 TFL, 3 INT, 7 pass-break-ups

## **Notable Performances:**

### **Stadium:**

#### **Tarczyński Arena:**

The Wrocław Stadium known for sponsorship reasons as the **Tarczyński Arena Wrocław** since 2021, is a UEFA Category Four association football stadium built for the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship. The Stadium is located on Silesian Avenue in the district of Fabryczna, Wrocław. It is the home stadium of the Śląsk Wrocław football team playing in the Polish Ekstraklasa. The stadium has a capacity of 42,771 spectators, all seated and all covered.

The Wrocław Stadium is the largest arena in Ekstraklasa and the third largest in the country (after the Stadion Narodowy in Warsaw and the Stadion Śląski in Chorzów).

Stadium construction began in April 2009 and was completed in September 2011.

## **Coaching Staff:**

### **Head Coach - Dave Christensen:**

Born on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1961, in Everett, Washington, Christensen played at the University of Washington from 1980-1982. He started coaching in 1983 and worked at the high school and collegiate level. Christensen coached at multiple Division I FBS schools, including stints as the offensive coordinator for Toledo (1997-2000), Missouri (2001-2008), with whom he won the New Mexico Bowl, and Utah (2014). He most recently worked as Offensive Line coach for Arizona State, before joining the Panthers.

Christensen has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in sports science.



### **Offensive Coordinator - Gabe Landa:**

Gabe Landa, a former wide receiver coach for Panthers Wrocław, is stepping into a new role as the team's offensive coordinator for the 2024 season. This promotion comes as a result of his outstanding work with the wide receivers last season and his deep understanding of offensive strategies. Head coach Dave Christensen expressed his excitement about Landa's promotion, emphasizing his invaluable contributions to the team's success.

Landa, who previously coached at Arizona State Sun Devils in the NCAA's first division, is eager to build upon the foundation established in the previous season.

### **Defensive Coordinator - Craig Kuligowski:**

Craig Kuligowski, a seasoned coach with a rich background in American football, is joining the coaching staff of Panthers Wrocław as the defensive coordinator for the 2024 season. With over 30 years of experience, including stints at prestigious universities like Toledo, Alabama, Miami, and Missouri, Kuligowski brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the team.

Throughout his career, Kuligowski has mentored numerous players who went on to have successful careers in the NFL, earning him recognition as one of the best defensive line coaches in the NCAA. His impressive track record includes 13 championship rings across various conferences, along with the development of multiple All-American players.

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