MINKAH FITZPATRICK - CB

More Minkah.

How he's a perfect match for Alabama and how his Prep background helped.
Begins p. 5

Football Monday

6–St. Peter's Prep

St. Peter's Prep (35) at Union City (7) - Football

By The Star Ledger
on October 23, 2015 11:14 PM

Johnathan Lewis threw two touchdown passes and ran for a TD to power St. Peter's Prep, No. 7 in the NJ.com Top 20, to a 35-7 victory over Union City at Roosevelt Stadium in Union City.

Lewis, who finished with 110 yards on 10 carries, opened the scoring with a 27-yard rushing score in the second quarter. He then built the St. Peter's Prep lead up to 28-0 with second half TD passes to K.J. Gray (7 yards) and Kolton Huber (3 yards).

Lewis completed 14-of-20 passes for 149 yards. Huber, a Pennsylvania commit, hauled in 10 receptions for 131 yards while the Boston College-bound Gray added three catches for 34 yards. Maasai Maynor completed 8-of-9 passes for 86 yards, highlighted by a fourth quarter TD pass to Brendan Poppovich. Sa'id Boykin had eight carries for 45 yards and a TD and Jorge Portorreal added seven catches for 43 yards.

On defense, Huber and Shayne Simon recorded interceptions and Damion Abrams recovered a fumble.

St. Peter's Prep at Union City
Fri, Oct. 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Team	1	2	3	4	Final
St. Peter's Prep	0	14	7	14	**35**
Union City	0	0	0	7	**7**

SCORING & STATS

FINAL
2nd: St. Peter's Prep: Jonathan Lewis 27 run (Joe Henry kick)
2nd: St. Peter's Prep: Sa'id Boykin 10 run (Joe Henry kick)
3rd: St. Peter's Prep: KJ Gray 7 pass from Jonathan Lewis (Joe Henry kick)
4th: St. Peter's Prep: Kolton Huber 3 pass from Jonathan Lewis (Joe Henry kick)
4th: Union City: Juan Cruz 40 run (Marvin Vargas kick)
4th: St. Peter's Prep: Brendan Poppovich 8 pass from Maasai Maynor (Joe Henry kick)

Offense
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	TOT-PTS
Sa'id Boykin	6
KJ Gray	6
Joe Henry	5
Kolton Huber	6
Jonathan Lewis	6
Brendan Poppovich	6

Passing
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	COMP	ATT	YDS	TD
Jonathan Lewis	14	22	149	2
Maasai Maynor	7	9	86	1

Receiving
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
KJ Gray	3	34	11.3	1
Kolton Huber	10	131	13.1	1
Brendan Poppovich	2	23	11.5	1
Jorge Portorreal	7	48	6.9	-

Rushing
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	TD
Damion Abrams	1	23	-
Sa'id Boykin	9	51	1
Malcolm Brunson	3	35	-
Kolton Huber	1	9	-
Jonathan Lewis	11	110	1
Jorge Portorreal	1	13	-

Special Teams–K/P/PAT
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	XPA	XP
Joe Henry	5	5

***

NJSIAA football power points through Monday, Oct. 26:

By Chris Ryan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
on October 26, 2015 9:14 AM

NON-PUBLIC

Group 4: St. Augustine (7-0) 123; Bergen Catholic (5-2) 121; Don Bosco Prep (4-3) 108; St. Peter's Prep (5-2) 105; St. Joseph (Mont.) (5-3) 100; Seton Hall Prep (4-2) 92; Notre Dame (4-3) 91; Paul VI (5-1) 89; Paramus Catholic (3-4) 86; St. Joseph (Met.) (3-3) 49.

Video Highlights from Prep's Win Over Union City:

SHAYNE SIMON'S 0:58

KOLTON HUBER'S 1:26

SA'ID BOYKIN'S 0:39

NAME
MINKAH FITZPATRICK

HEIGHT // WEIGHT
6'1" 194 LBS

POSITION
CORNERBACK

HIGH SCHOOL
ST. PETERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL // N

00:45   01:12 HD

http://www.scout.com/college/alabama/story/1601383-fitzpatrick-jackson-epitomize-the-process

The 'process' playing out for Fitzpatrick, Jackson

JOHN GARCIA, JR.
Tuesday at 10:31 AM

Nick Saban's recruiting philosophy is proving worthy, again, with the standout campaigns of Minkah Fitzpatrick and Eddie Jackson.

Nick Saban doing something right on the recruiting trail isn't breaking news.

It may not even be news in any must-see category at this point.

His prowess on the trail, equipped with an elite staff who can resonate with kids coast to coast, has been well-documented, analyzed and probably over-analyzed over the years.

But the 2015 season, with UA's secondary in particular, has brought to light a pair of major constants within his rarely-changing plan most around him call "the process." A standard of skill at the position he works with most and finding elites who are willing to buy into multiple spots, like a long-standing television series that requires auditions every year.

The traits were ever-present in a five-star like freshman Minkah Fitzpatrick, who has become Alabama's version of the Honey Badger (the 'Bama Badger?) with his ball skill, timely turnovers and ability to convert those turnovers into points simultaneously.

It works the other way, too, like with late-emerging three-star prospect Eddie Jackson in the class of 2013. It doesn't matter when the Crimson Tide decides prospect X is a major target, it's about sealing the deal and getting him to Tuscaloosa from just outside of New York City or from down in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, respectively.

It's about the traits. Yes, each satisfies the skeleton desire for most Saban defensive backs -- be around 6-foot tall, in the 180-plus pound range. Fitz and EJ had the other elements of the plan locked down as well, mainly position versatility and the ability to play offense at a high level. Neither would likely see any time on the other side of the ball while donning crimson and white, but starring there at the prep level helped set the precedent for game-changing plays not only Saturday on the road at Texas A&M, but all season long.

Each was fostered by a big position switch.

Fitzpatrick did it last fall, in 2014, as he looked to get more involved for New Jersey powerhouse St. Peter's Prep after seeing teams avoid the cornerback earlier in his accolade-heavy career. He was still the go-to guy for now Notre Dame quarterback Brandon Wimbush on offense, either at wide receiver or running back, but something needed to be different on D during his senior season.

It's almost as if Saban knew he'd be an interior secondary-man, at least early in his Alabama career, creating a win-win situation for the budding star.

"The switch to safety made complete sense because it allowed him to play all over the field instead of being isolated at cornerback, where nobody would test him," Scout National Recruiting Analyst Brian Dohn said. "It allowed him to gain valuable experience and not only see things in the passing game right in front of him, but also how to read the run.

"His big impact at Alabama so far has been in the passing game, skills he started to hone at St. Peter's Prep because of his ability to break quickly on the ball and his understanding of how to read receivers and their routes. He was also a very good running back and receiver there and that shows in his ball tracking skills at Alabama."

There's buying in with a reliance, like many high school elites can do because they are simply bigger and better than most all of their competition. But Dohn, who was as close to the program and to Fitzpatrick as anyone in the industry, says the former No. 1 player in New Jersey did it with college in mind, not simply for Friday nights. He had to take the transition to the next level.

"One thing that got overlooked with him in high school was his off the field work," he said. "He put in a ton of time in the film room and in the weight room. In the film room he needed to learn how to play the safety position and how to keep his eyes in the backfield and also track receivers.

"If he did not have that year of experience at St. Peter's Prep, I don't think he'd have the success he's having right now at Alabama."

It's almost like Saban knows what he's doing on the recruiting trail with defensive backs. Length, ball skill, position versatility and most importantly, finding elites who are willing to help Alabama win games today, no matter the position.

The process continues to work in many ways, perhaps none more evident in Alabama's secondary. Jackson may be an NFL cornerback in the end and Fitzpatrick could be the same, but each adjusting to playing inside shortly after a transition is a big win for Saban's theory on recruiting defensive backs and a bigger win for Alabama's dominant defense in 2015.

Minkah Fitzpatrick

The duo has a combined seven interceptions, including four returned for touchdowns.

Fitzpatrick also has a blocked punt he returned for a score at Georgia and has a pair of sacks to his name as well. Both he and Jackson sit with 24 tackles, good for fifth on the team, while sitting first and second on the roster in passes defended

***

St. Peter's Prep Football Roster

Mascot Marauders **Team** Varsity 15-16 **Colors** Maroon, Silver
Coach Rich Hansen **Address** 144 Grand St, Jersey City, NJ 07302
Overall 1-0 **League** 0-0 **National Rank** 166 **State (NJ) Rank** 5

- (C) = Captain
- Click the column headers to sort the roster

# ▲	Name	Position	Gr.	Ht	Wt
1	Johnathan Lewis	QB, SS	Jr.	6-2	200
2	Jorge Portorreal	RB, WR, CB	Jr.	5-10	170
3	Shayne Simon	QB, SS	So.	6-3	195
4	Johnny Yorey	RB, OLB	Jr.	5-9	215
5	K.j. Gray	WR, CB	Sr.	6-2	190
6	Sa'id Boykin	RB, CB	Sr.	5-9	190
7	Eddie Reaves	FS, SS	Sr.	5-11	173
8	Miles Strickland	MLB, TE	Sr.	6-2	225
9	Maasai Maynor	QB	Fr.	5-10	165
10	Kolton Huber	WR, SS	Sr.	6-2	200
11	Luke Bedell	WR, CB	Sr.	5-9	170
12	Alijah St. vil	RB, CB	Jr.	5-9	215
12	John Armwood III	CB, QB	Sr.	5-10	184
13	Austin Burk	RB, CB	Sr.	5-10	160
15	Brendan Popovich	WR, SS	Sr.	6-1	185

16	Jordan Francullo	WR, FS	Sr.	5-9	150
17	Masaki Aerts	WR, FS	Jr.	6-2	175
18	Michael Hester	WR, FS	Sr.	6-2	165
20	Luca McLaughlin	FB, MLB	Sr.	5-6	160
21	Jeremiah Lynch	WR, CB	Sr.		
22	Damion Abrams	RB, MLB	Jr.	5-10	220
24	Dominic Meleo	RB, LB	So.	5-10	185
25	Zamir Mickens	WR, SS, FS	So.	6-1	175
26	Justin Ademilola	TE, OLB	So.	6-2	235
27	Charles Mainor	RB, SS	So.	5-9	138
28	Cameron Clarke	WR, FS	Jr.	6-0	150
29	Dakari Falconer	RB, FS	Jr.	5-11	170
30	Malcolm Brunson	RB, WR, OLB	So.	6-0	180
31	Benji Mowatt	TE, OLB	Jr.	6-2	220
32	Jacob Mirlas	MLB, RB	Jr.	5-10	205
33	Spencer Nuzman	RB, OLB	So.	5-9	200
34	Mike Mangual	MLB, FB	So.	5-9	188
35	Michael Richards	WR, SS	So.	6-0	150
37	Peter Stokes	WR, FS	Jr.	5-11	175
39	Markus Bagley	WR, FS	So.	6-0	150
40	Judah Wehner	FB, MLB	So.	5-9	190

40	Michael Leber	WR, DB	Jr.	5-9	150
41	Jordan Blassingame	WR, CB	Jr.	6-2	175
42	Cameron Blair	WR, FS	So.	6-0	165
43	Seth Mclaughlin	CB, RB	So.	5-9	175
44	Tommy Mcintryre	WR, OLB	Sr.	6-7	230
47	Christian Tanas	K	Jr.	6-1	165
48	Christopher Shaw	RB, CB	So.	5-5	150
49	Rj Oben	TE, DE	Fr.	6-2	190
49	Xavier Posso		Jr.	6-1	130
50	Ricardo Colon	DE, G	So.	6-3	220
50	Stanley Dennis	G, DE	Fr.		
51	Adam Scagliarini	OLB, TE	Jr.	6-2	220
52	Brian Richards	G, DE	So.	6-0	185
53	William Woltmann	G, DE	So.	5-11	215
54	Elijah White	DT, G	Fr.		
55	Richard Doren	FB, MLB	So.	5-7	200
57	Jayson Ademilola	DE, DT	So.	6-3	256
58	Freddie Recio	NG, G	Sr.	6-2	275
59	Zachary Lewis	G, DE	So.	6-3	180
60	Johnathon Butler	T, G, DT	Sr.	6-1	231

64	Samuel Pellot	TE, DE	Jr.	6-0	190
65	Andrew Marrero	T, DT	Fr.		
66	Benjamin Petrula	G, T	Jr.	6-6	295
67	Harley Monteiro	G, DT	Jr.	6-2	251
68	Philip Grimaud	T, DE	Fr.		
69	Mike Desousa	G, NG	Jr.	5-6	215
70	Krishen Khurana	T, DT	Sr.	6-1	285
72	Chris Stultz	NG, G	Fr.		
73	Aaron Coleman	T, DE, DT	Jr.	6-3	266
74	Andrew Chiurazzi	G, DT	So.	6-2	260
74	Andrew Chiurazzi	T, DT	So.	6-2	260
75	Max Telemaque	T, DT	So.		245
76	Paul Weeks	NG, G	So.	6-1	252
77	George Dawoud		Jr.	6-1	
78	Jan Brentjens	T, DT	Jr.	6-4	280
81	John McAndrew	WR, FS	Jr.	5-8	160
85	Joe Henry	K, P	Jr.	5-11	
88	Brendan Ekwughalu	WR, FS	So.	5-11	180