

Appalachian State University men's basketball head coach Jason Capel announced the signing of four players to a National Letter of Intent on Friday.

"I am incredibly excited and pleased to add 4 student-athletes to our program who are very talented ball players and high-character kids that will represent Appalachian State University in the highest regard both on and off the court," said Capel.

"All four come from great families, winning programs, have been well coached and are truly driven

to be accomplished student-athletes. I am thrilled to be able to work with each one of them, and contribute to their continued growth as young men," he said. "This group has a chance to leave an imprint on Appalachian State basketball and continue to build on our goal of being a program that competes for championships each year."

The four players consist of Devonte Graham (Raleigh, N.C./Broughton), Mike Kobani (High Point, N.C./High Point Christian), Aaron Scott (Columbia, S.C./Richland Northeast) and Ty Toney (Alpharetta, Ga./Alpharetta).

Devonte Graham

6-1 • 165 • Guard

Raleigh, N.C.

Broughton High School

Garner Road AAU

Graham will join the Mountaineers following his senior season at Raleigh's Broughton High School, where he helped lead Jeff Ferrell's Capitals to a 20-8 record as a junior. He averaged 14.8 points, 4.3 assists and 2.2 steals per game last season and helped his squad to a 19-6 record as a sophomore.

Capel's Comments: "Devonte is a kid who is very talented but also works tirelessly to improve upon that talent. That is the key, understanding that you must work hard to fulfill the talent that you possess. Devonte' is a multi-faceted point guard at 6-1 with long arms and a great handle. He can score from anywhere on the court, shoot the three, lead a team, go off the bounce or change the complexity of a game with his ability to be disruptive on the defensive end. He is a very athletic player from the point guard position and loves to compete. What I value most in Devonte is that he is a humble kid, from a great family, who makes others around him better. Watching him throughout the summer, Devonte played his best when his team needed it the most, in whatever category necessary. I believe Devonte is not only one the best point guards in the state of North Carolina, but in the country. I am looking forward to working with him and

watching his continued growth as a player.”

Mike Kobani

6-8 • 250 • Forward

High Point, N.C.

High Point Christian Academy

CP3 AAU

Kobani comes to Boone via High Point Christian Academy, where future Appalachian teammate Michael Obacha also played high school ball. As a junior, Kobani earned all-state honors for Caldwell Academy before electing to play his senior season at High Point. In his first action with Brandon Clifford's Cougars, the 6-8 Kobani scored 12 points and hauled in nine rebounds against Oak Hill in the season opener on Tuesday.

Capel's Comments: "Mike is a really good kid who had a great summer playing on the highest level of competition. When you see him the first thing you come away with is his size. He is a big boy, at 6-8, 250 pounds of muscle. But he also knows who he is as a player and relishes that role. Mike is a player who loves contact, rebounds everything, and can finish through contact and above the rim. Mike will give us a presence inside with his physicality and will assist in us being a great rebounding team. I believe Mike has a huge ceiling to be an even better player because he understands the process of hard work. A guy his size, with great hands and a nose for the ball will be a great asset to what we are building here with our program.

Aaron Scott

6-4 • 180 • Guard

Columbia, S.C.

Richland Northeast High School

TMP AAU

Scott will join the Mountaineers following his senior season at Richland Northeast High School in Columbia, S.C. a season following Jason Powell's Cavaliers' run to the second round of the SCHSL playoffs. Scott earned all-conference honors as a sophomore and has averaged better than 10 points per game since his freshman season. As a junior, he averaged 15 points, five rebounds and three assists for the Cavaliers.

Capel's Comments: "Aaron is really good kid who we targeted to continue to add to our teams athleticism and versatility. At 6-4, Aaron is a big time athlete who is starting to realize how good he can be. Aaron is a kid who scores the ball naturally, with his quick first step and has the

ability to make shots from the perimeter. I think Aaron will become a very good defender while in college and use his athletic ability to be disruptive in passing lanes as well as on the offensive glass. Aaron is also a very competitive kid who played his best in the biggest moments throughout the summer. He has a confidence in himself that exudes onto his teammates, and allows any team he is a part of to play at a high level.”

Ty Toney

6-2 • 185 • Guard

Alpharetta, Ga.

Alpharetta High School

Atlanta Express AAU

Toney will join the Apps after his senior season at Alpharetta High School, where he helped lead Fred Hurt’s Raiders to the semifinals of the GHSA playoffs as a junior. Last season, Toney averaged 31.0 points per game in Alpharetta’s playoff as he led his squad to its first-ever Georgia State playoff final-four. As a junior, Toney was named as a second-team Class 5A all-state selection.

Capel’s Comments: “Ty is a very talented kid, and a great young man. He is strong, quick and explosive on both ends of the court. He is the type of player who can help a team in so many ways because of his competitiveness and versatility. In our system, it is important to have guards that can do multiple things especially off the bounce and Ty gives us a player that can do just that. He scores the ball from all over the court and has the ability with his strength and quickness to get mid-range and elevate over defenders. He is also explosive enough to get in the paint and finish through contact or make the right pass to an open teammate. Ty led Alpharetta to the state semifinals last season with one of the best playoff runs in Georgia high school basketball history. His is a player that will be a joy to coach on both sides of the ball.”

Photo Courtesy: Jason Capel, ASU Athletics