

3 juniors perform on big football stage

Greg Jones

High school sports editor

Three Fort Wayne high school juniors took a trip last week to San Antonio to participate in a workout with the best of the best in an effort to prove they fit right in with other talented football players from around the nation.

Remound Wright and Tony Springmann from Bishop Dwenger and Kenny Mullen from Bishop Luers took part in the U.S. Army National Combine on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with the hopes of getting noticed by the gathered college scouts and media.

"I felt like me, Tony and Remound performed real well out there against the nation's best competition," said Mullen, who has a scholarship offer from Purdue. "I think we put Fort Wayne on the map where it is supposed to be because we have great athletes here, but we don't get credit for half the things we do up here."

The 5-foot-10, 190-pound Mullen, who helped the Knights to the Class 2A state football championship in November, worked out as a defensive back, with the 6-7, 240-pound Springmann an offensive lineman and the 5-9, 190-pound Wright at running back.

The players went through a series of workouts including a 40-yard dash, short shuttle run, vertical jump testing and 1-on-1 competitions as well as seminars and meetings.

"You only have the best guys in the country," said Springmann, who has offers from Michigan State, Purdue, Indiana, Iowa and Northwestern.

"You have guys committed to SEC schools and ACC schools and from all over the place. You just have to be able to test yourself against them. That's the whole point to it, exposure."

While there weren't any college coaches in attendance, Wright said several of the recruiting experts watching the combine commented about how many coaches were in constant contact.

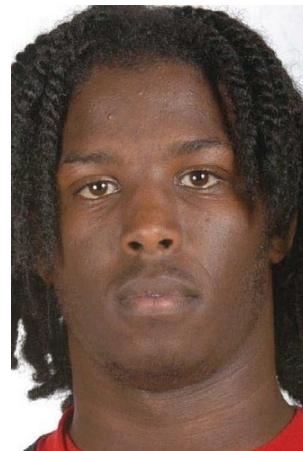
"I felt I performed to the best of my ability and just enjoyed it the whole time I was down there," said Wright, who has received interest from Iowa, Northwestern and Indiana. "I think it helps a great deal. Just performing well just gives people an opportunity to see me against other top kids in the nation. It is a great experience and a great measuring stick."

The three players, with their families, stayed in the same hotel and ate meals and socialized together. They spent the previous two months working out together in preparation for the combine, which is run in conjunction with the All-American Bowl high school all-star game.

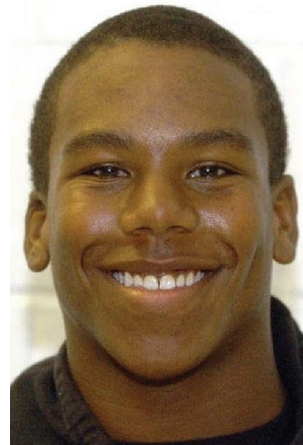
"It was really cool to know someone down there, especially a teammate," Springmann said. "We were all ready."

All three said they are hoping the added exposure helps get more schools involved in their respective recruiting processes, especially after Signing Day on Feb. 3 for the top seniors in the country.

"After Signing Day, it should pick up pretty heavy," Springmann said.



Kenny Mullen



Remound Wright



Tony Springmann