

College gridiron lures few area prep football players

Only a small percentage of high school football players have the chance to go on to play the game on the intercollegiate gridiron.

Whether awarded a scholarship at a university or college or on the team as a walk-on, the college football competitor is a chosen lot.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY will field three former area players. Matt Foster, a Livonia Churchill graduate, will hold down a key position on the Spartan line. Foster will start at center. Last year, Foster played both linebacker and offensive guard, earning his second letter with State.

Carl Griffin, a former member of the Birmingham Brother Rice squad, is in his senior year with the Spartans. Moved from defensive back to outside linebacker this season, Griffin will have his work cut out for him.

As a sophomore out of West Bloomfield, Brett Sheeran will also have his work cut out for him. Sheeran is in contention for starting spot as middle guard for State but the competition is tough. Sheeran prepped at Groves High during his prep.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN has four players from the area on its roster.

Jim Breugh and Bob Holloway are veterans on the U-M team. Both are from Bloomfield Hills. Breugh, a sophomore, is a quarterback, while Holloway is an outside linebacker. They are graduates of Andover High.

Two freshmen are attempting to earn a place on the Wolverine squad. Mike Patch from Redford Union and Jim Padorek from Orchard Lake St. Mary may have the qualities needed to be U-M football starters.

Patch is a candidate for tight end. At RU, he played football, basketball and ran track. Padorek is another quarterback. He was all-state in football.

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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY will have three area high school athletes among its 1978 contingent. Sophomore Terry Elisk is expected to be a top linebacker candidate for the Hurons. Elisk graduated from Lahser High but missed most of his freshman year at EMU because of an injury.

Rick Kruger is also a sophomore. Kruger graduated from Livonia Franklin and was one of Eastern's top recruits last year. This season Kruger is expected to start as a defensive tackle.

Westland John Glenn grad Jeff Preston is expected to find a spot in the defensive secondary for the Hurons. Preston won all-state honors in high school and will be in his sophomore year at Eastern.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY is another college that draws from the area.

Tom Henry, a junior out of Birmingham Brother Rice, will control the duties at tight end for Western. Henry won all-state honorable mention in high school.

Plymouth Salem graduate Doug Ward is in his senior year at Western. Ward, a small but tough defensive halfback, has started for two years and will do so again this year.

The Broncos also have three incoming freshmen for this year's squad. They are Les Garrett from Birmingham Groves and Randy Rienes and Mike Nyhus from Plymouth Canton.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, the home of the Chippewas, has its own crop of young area high school athletes, four to be exact.

Senior Bob Miller out of Farmington Hills will start as a defensive end, while senior Kevin Collins will hold down the other defensive end position.

Collins, a resident of Troy, graduated from Birmingham Brother Rice. Tim Hollandsworth will also start on Central's defensive unit. Hollandsworth, a graduate of Livonia Franklin, is a linebacker. Joe Maiorana, a resident of Livonia, graduated from Catholic Central and is looking for a job at offensive tackle. Maiorana is in his sophomore year.

Tony Vitale, from Plymouth Canton, is a member of Central's incoming freshman crew. Vitale is a defensive tackle.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY has the largest crop of former area prep players. Eleven will be on the roster, not including eight freshman.

Three Westland John Glenn alumni in Mark Grabowski, Terry Johnson and Chuck Squires head the list. Grabowski is a sophomore defensive tackle. Squires is a senior safety and Johnson is a junior defensive tackle.

Two Livonia Stevenson graduates are also starters on the Wayne State squad. Mark Lapham is a senior defensive tackle and Bruce Nichols is a junior fullback.

Other returnees include Phil Emery, Garden City East, a sophomore offensive guard; Don Cothman, Plymouth Canton, a junior tight end; and Dave Thorne, Farmington Harrison, a junior defensive back.

Kevin Smith and Ken Widner from Troy also return to the Wayne State squad. Smith is a sophomore and Widner is a senior.

Incoming freshman for the Tartars include Dave Bowen, Livonia Franklin; Lance Farkas, Southfield Lathrup; Tom Jurawicz, Westland John Glenn; Tim McCamant, Clarenceville; Jim Neff, Troy Avondale; Kevin Respecki, Clarenceville; Kevin Schneider, Livonia Bentley; James Spala, Livonia Stevenson.

HOPE COLLEGE has two former prep athletes from North Farmington. Freshman Chris Koltz and Mark Thompson will be on the Hope roster. Koltz is a guard and Thompson is a defensive back.

ALMA COLLEGE has four returning letter winners and three incoming freshmen on the gridiron squad.

Todd Friesner, Birmingham Groves, is a defensive linebacker in his fourth year at Alma. Friesner started each year and will be the team captain this season.

Matt Prisk, a Clarenceville graduate, will also see work as a linebacker. Prisk is a sophomore at Alma.

Greg Ambrose will see action as a field goal kicker and punter for Alma. Ambrose graduated from Rochester High and is in his sophomore season.

Todd DeLuca is a kick-off specialist. DeLuca averaged 33 yards as a sophomore and kicked off over 40 times. DeLuca is a junior from Westland John Glenn.

John Colley was back-up offensive guard last year. This season, however, he will see fulltime action in that position. Colley is a junior from Livonia Churchill.

Mark Merlo, Rochester High; Chris Whitfield, Rochester Adams; and Byron Onisko, Birmingham Groves are the freshmen on the club.

ALBION COLLEGE has four former prep stars in its ranks for the 1978 season.

John and Mark Lekar, from Livonia Stevenson will see action on the school's defensive unit. John is a junior defensive back, while Mark is a sophomore defensive end.

Bill Lindsay of Andover will also be on the Albion defensive squad. Lindsay is a junior defensive end.

Randy Siebert, Southfield Lathrup,

will go into the season as an offensive guard. Siebert is a senior.

Incoming freshmen include Brian Almas, Birmingham Groves; Marty Bonta, Farmington; Steve Cicurel, Groves; Gerald Collins, Westland John Glenn; John Crotty, North Farmington; Steve Grabner, Birmingham Seaborn; Don Hurtubise, Birmingham Groves; Steve Mitchell, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; and Jim Moynes, Seaborn.

GRAND VALLEY STATE is looking forward to a strong season and five area grads will be on the 1978 squad.

Joe Boes is a junior offensive tackle from Birmingham Brother Rice, while William Spehn is a sophomore offensive tackle from Brother Rice. Pat Collins is another Brother Rice graduate. Collins is a sophomore defensive back.

Joe Pollard and Dennis Smith will see action on the squad's defensive secondary. Pollard is a senior safety and Smith is a sophomore defensive back. Both players graduated from Livonia Franklin.

Freshman prospects for Grand Valley State include Larry Acton, Livonia Franklin, Bill Lee and Paul Svalik from Westland John Glenn.

FERRIS STATE has two natives of the area on its 1978 team. Scott Renner is a junior linebacker out of Garden City West, while Ken Schwaegerle is a sophomore defensive tackle also out of Garden City West.

MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY has two freshman prospects from the area in Chris Ritchy and Doug Rowe. Both players graduated from Plymouth Canton and will work-out as running backs.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY has three former high school athletes from the area in Fred Shoemaker, Bob

Yauck and Dean Jabara. Shoemaker is a junior offensive running back for Northern. He graduated from Westland John Glenn.

Yauck graduated from Dearborn Hagigas Robichaud and is a resident of Plymouth. He is a freshman offensive guard.

Jabara is a Salem High alumnae. He is in his sophomore year at Northern and will start as a wide receiver. Jabara didn't play football at Salem.

BESIDES THE players attending Michigan colleges there are also a number who have received scholarships for out-state schools.

Tom Dillon, a 1976 graduate from Plymouth Salem, is a member of the Miami of Ohio football squad. Dillon is a senior safety for the college.

Brian Clifford is a middle guard with the University of Arizona gridiron unit. Clifford attended West Bloomfield and is now in his junior year at the Arizona school.

Bob Dasher is a freshman hopeful for the University of Alabama. Dasher graduated from Plymouth Salem and played center for the Rockets.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY in Muncie, Ind., has two former area high school players on its squad this year.

Jim Casey is a junior defensive back out of Livonia Franklin. Karl Goebel is a junior linebacker out of Troy. Goebel graduated from Birmingham Brother Rice. Both were starters last year.

THE GOPHERS of the University of Minnesota can count on the kicking foot of Farmington Harrison graduate Paul Rogind again this fall. He has been Minnesota's No. 1 placekicker for the past two years.

Rogind handles kick-offs and all field goal attempts for the Gophers. He is a soccer style kicker.

Win Renaissance tourney

Schoolcraft spikers triumph

Schoolcraft College, which advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association volleyball finals last year, opened its 1978 season last weekend by winning the Renaissance Invitational at Wayne State University.

The Ocelots travelled the long road to claim the championship. They defeated Bowling Green University after losing two games to the Falcons in pool play and the first in their best-of-three title match.

"That's quite a feat for a community college to beat a four-year school like this," said Schoolcraft coach Tom Teeters.

"Our serving was exceptionally strong and our attack and our spiking were exceptionally strong," Teeters added. "And, we out-lasted the other teams."

The Ocelots won six of eight games during pool play to advance to the semifinals.

Schoolcraft defeated Lake Superior State College, 15-9 and 15-13, the University of Toledo, 15-13 and 15-7, and Eastern Michigan University, 15-9 and 15-8.

The Ocelots lost both games to Bowling Green, 13-15 and 10-15.

Schoolcraft College struggled past Wright State (Dayton, Ohio) in the semifinals, 13-15, 15-13 and 15-7, to earn the championship.

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