

# Smolinski hopes time has come at MSU



Scott Selzer

By C.J. Rlack  
staff writer

There's more than a hometown shared by Farmington Hills natives Scott Selzer and Brian Smolinski.

Both are relatively small, by NCAA Division I football standards (Selzer is a 5-foot-10, 185-pound tailback; Smolinski, a split end, is 5-11, 171). Neither are particularly fast for their positions (Selzer runs a 4.48 40-yard dash, Smolinski 4.6), and both are battling for significant playing time in '89 at Michigan State.

Smolinski has the best chance to start. As his time in the 40 indicates, the Farmington Harrison grad (1984) is a possession receiver, most of his catches will come on short and medium passes.

"But I do have the speed to go deep," insisted Smolinski. "And I have elusive speed, too."

THE FORMER HAWK came out of MSU's spring game as the No. 1 split end after catching three passes. The Spartans have lost Andre Rison, Willie Boyer and Bernard Wilson, their top three wide receivers in '88. Sophomore Courtney Hawkins is listed as the starting flanker; Smolinski, a junior, is battling junior James Bradley, a transfer from Ellsworth (Iowa) CC, at split end.

"I think all four receivers (sophomore Darrin Eaton backs up Hawkins) are going to play a lot," predicted Smolinski. "We're going to rotate."

Whoever plays or starts may not matter much. Last year, almost all of MSU's passing attack was aimed at Rison. The Indianapolis Colts' No. 1 draft choice caught 39 passes for 981 yards and eight touchdowns; MSU totaled just 67 completions and nine TDs. Only one other player, fullback Steve Montgomery, reached

## football

double-figures in receptions. He had 19.

"I DON'T really know," said Smolinski when asked why the passing attack was so singular. "Those are the plays the coaches called."

Smolinski did catch two passes for 33 yards in '88. His outlook for '89 isn't overly optimistic, considering MSU's usually conservative attack.

"It all depends on what plays the coaches call," he said. "If the running game is developed, the passing game will take care of itself. (The coaches) want to control the line of scrimmage first. They figure if they can do that, they can control the game."

Smolinski has put effort into im-

proving. "I've been working on my routes and on catching the ball with my hands," he said. "I'm concentrating on coming back to the quarterback and running good, crisp routes."

He likes what he sees in new Spartan quarterback Dan Enos, a junior. "He looks real good. He's a good passer, a good runner — he's just a good athlete."

Enos is also Smolinski's roommate, which can't hurt.

WHILE SELZER, a sophomore from North Farmington (1987 grad), had more impressive statistics than Smolinski last season, he probably won't get as much playing time.

True, in limited time Selzer gained 339 yards on 84 carries (a 5.3 average), scoring two touchdowns, in '88. He collected a team-best 107 yards on 16 attempts against Northwestern.

But two returning tailbacks are rated ahead of him. Senior Blake Ezor (1,496 yards and 11 TDs) is an All-American candidate; junior Hyland Hickson (885 yards, two TDs, a 5.2 average) is bigger (214 pounds) and about as fast (4.8 in the 40).

But the former Raider is undaunted. "I'm hoping to get more time than last year," he said. "(Coach George Perles) said 'whoever he thinks is hot is going to get the ball.'"

Selzer is determined to provide the hot hand when called on. "A lot of people doubted me," he said of his arrival at MSU. "But I worked really hard last summer. I worked hard this summer, too. I was very confident."

How far that confidence carries both Selzer and Smolinski — the Spartans have the No. 1 and 4-ranked teams among their first four opponents, and they have lost four offensive line starters — will be worth watching.

## Kiel paces Farmington runners

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Farmington is the defending Lakes Division champion in girls' cross country, and it will be no surprise if the Falcons finish on top again this year.

Coach John Barrett is working with a veteran team that includes senior Jennifer Kiel, who was an All-Observers, all-state runner last year. She also is the school record holder. "Jennifer is a dedicated and determined athlete," said Barrett, entering his seventh year. "She could be the No. 1 runner in the area."

Farmington was 7-0 in dual meets and hopes to extend its winning streak of 20 consecutive meets. The Falcons once again will have to battle two-time defending champion Plymouth Canton for the Western Lakes Activities Association title, however.

"Our biggest goal is to return the entire team to the state meet," Barrett said. "Last year was the first time in four years the team didn't qualify."

In addition to Kiel, seniors Margaret Martin and Amy Trunk begin their fourth year of cross country. Martin missed much of last season with mononucleosis but is in good running shape this year, Barrett said.

With those three leading the way in terms of experience, the Falcons also return a large group of underclassmen with a year of competition behind them.

Juniors Jenny Derwinski and Cheryl Casaroli and sophomores Allison Davis, Sherri Yitalo, Carrie Walters, Tiffany Kalastian and Jodi Van Ord are back. Barrett is espe-

## Karcher signs baseball pact

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Karcher swung an aluminum bat during his sandlot days but said he is prepared to adjust to swinging a wooden bat.

"A lot of people overexaggerate that it's so hard to hit with a wooden bat," said Karcher, who spent one year at Indiana University (Bloomington) before transferring. "If you can hit, you can hit. There's definitely a smaller sweet spot on the wooden bat, but I don't see it as a problem."

"If anything, I've got to work on my defensive skills. With my size and with me being left-handed, first base seems like a perfect place for me."

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cially optimistic about the potential of Derwinski and Davis.

In fact, the pair is expected to join Kiel and Martin as regulars in Farmington's top five, with Trunk, sophomore Jennifer Jones, and Gretchen Clappison and Walters contending for the fifth spot.

Lovell is a junior who last competed as a runner for her middle school track team, and Clappison, another junior, last ran for the freshman Sophomore Kelly Cameron is another first-year runner who could help.

### NORTH FARMINGTON

The Raiders also return an outstanding runner and all-state performer in senior Lisa Rives, who owns the North school record, too.

Rives, who was runner-up in the WAAA and a member of the All-Observers team, is the one the Raiders are pinning their hopes on as they try to improve on last year's 5-4 record and sixth-place league finish.

"We should be stronger than we were last year with the girls being a year older and more experienced," coach Bill Pinnell said.

North also returns seniors and second-year runners Kara Higley, Angie Martin and Adrienne Moele, but the Raiders lost Lisa Alvarado, a senior, and sophomore Julie Ritter. Leo has run track the last three years, and Ross was a middle-distance runner for the track team last season.

"We can only improve as the year goes on," Thorne said. "We have a core of three distance runners who are committed."

"With the addition of Jenny Weh, she will help us up front," Pinnell

## cross country

said. "We'll be looking for consistent improvement throughout the season. "Barring injury, we are looking to finish in the top half of the conference. We're also striving to get a couple of girls to state."

### FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON

Three runners with experience is better than none. Second-year Harrison coach Dan Thorne believes.

Two years ago, the Hawks didn't have enough runners to have a team. This year Harrison has six and can only get better, according to Thorne.

The veterans on the team are second-year runners Joanne Kloter, Joanne Hannawa and Alyssa Imami — all juniors. The Hawks, however, suffered a setback when junior Tracy Del Bussio decided not to run cross country again, according to Thorne.

"This was a total surprise and will affect our team drastically," he said, adding Del Bussio was 10th at the regional meet and qualified for state last year.

Harrison's trio of newcomers includes seniors Nicola Leo and Michelle Ross and sophomore Julie Ritter. Leo has run track the last three years, and Ross was a middle-distance runner for the track team last season.

"We can only improve as the year goes on," Thorne said. "We have a core of three distance runners who are committed."

### FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY

At Mercy coach Gary Servais' running camp this summer, four of the top six runners were from defending Catholic League champion Dearborn Divine Child.

"So they're going to be tough," Servais said. "But we haven't had a team finish worse than second in the league, and we'd like to keep that going."

The Marlins did have the No. 2 runner at the camp, senior Brigitte Dery, who begins her third year on the team after earning all-Catholic honors last year.

Mercy also returns seniors Sander Taylor, a four-year cross country runner, Carrie Goebel and Kelly Moore. Servais doesn't know if Wendy Knight, bothered by injury-related problems, will be able to run.

Other seniors include Katie Padilla and Stephanie Ache, both of whom ran on the JV team last year, and first-year runners Jenny Andes and Lauren Hood, an excellent middle-distance runner in track. Servais is hopeful first-year sophomore Cindy Neun, returning sophomore Cara McDonald and freshman Nicole Schleuter will help.

Dery is the only one certain to be among the top five, and the field is wide open after her, according to Servais.

"Sometimes (his runners are) their own worst enemy, doubting themselves," he said. "Trying to get them to believe in themselves is the biggest thing."

## Falcons win golf invite

Farmington's 1989 golf season had a rousing start as the Falcons, led by medalist Brian Link, won the Farmington Invitational last Friday at Kensington Golf Course.

Link shot 76 with rounds of 37 and 39 and finished two strokes ahead of the nearest competitor.

The Falcons also were greatly helped by Adam Hibbs' 79. Chris Zbuzek shot 85 for the winners. Jim Smith and Tim True also played.

As a team, Farmington claimed a four-stroke advantage over Detroit Country Day, 415 to 419. Milford was third in the 12-team tournament at 421, North Farmington eighth (452) and Farmington Hills Harrison last (520).

The kids have been playing all summer long, and it's really shown up," Farmington coach Gene Schoenech said. "They've been getting involved in a lot of junior tournaments, and it's paid off."

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