Falcons *from page 1B*

"Once he breaks the line of scrimmage, with his speed, he has the potential to outrun people," Niskanen said.

The quarterback will be one of two juniors: Tim Streit (5-10, 169) or Sean Urquhart (5-10, 171). Neither attempted a pass last year and must follow the performance of Mike Tokar, who threw for 1,089 yards and nine TDs.

"Neither one has come to the forefront where I can say this one will be the starter," said Niskanen, who was waiting for the four-way scrimmage today to help him make a decision. "They don't have the physical size of Tokar, but hopefully one of them will take charge."

The quarterback should have good protection from a veteran line that includes four returning starters: senior left tackle Pete Moceri (6-5, 217), junior left guard Adam Tanielian (6-3, 230), senior right guard Curt Katsis (5-9, 190) and senior right tackle Corey Noble (5-9, 246). Junior Pat Seremet (5-7, 184) will play center.

"And we have backups at all positions; that's what is great," Niskanen said, referring to senior center Tom Jarvis (5-10, 184), junior guards Justin Fisher (6-0, 205) and Pete Hutchinson (5-9, 197), senior tackle Mark Bewernitz (6-2, 210) and junior tackle Mike Foreman (6-3, 246).

"In our league, you need big bodies to move big bodies. We run power where we double team people, but we also run a lot of traps. If Tanielian pulls and traps, the guy he's trapping had better break down."

Wide receiver Stan Lewis and tight end Dan Bojicic were key players in a potent passing attack, combining for 51 receptions, nearly 900 yards and eight TDs, but both have graduated.

Senior Eric Rotenheber (5-9, 158) will be the wideout, junior ex-guard Dave Dilworth (6-2, 183) the tight end and senior Tim Wheelis (6-1, 165) the flanker.

"Right now our passing game is not where we want it to be, but we expect big things from the running game," Niskanen said, adding the Falcons have all of their rushing offense in place unlike a year ago.

"Last year we crawled; this year we're sprinting. I think the potential (to run the ball) is outstanding if we stay healthy and the kids up front block like I think they can."

On defense, Lewis returns to outside linebacker where he played as a sophomore, and Jarvis started on the opposite side last year. Lewis was second on the team in tackles with 57.

Senior *Corey Minous* (5-11, 180) also plays outside linebacker as well as fullback. Senior Sam Melnyk (6-4, 155), junior Ben Lewis (5-10, 169) and juniors Matt Niskanen (6-1, 166) add depth.

"The key to our front seven is the two outside linebackers," defensive coordinator John Bechtel said. "They're key players in the odd-front defense. All three are experienced and know how to play. That's the basis of our defense, and we have to build from there."

Senior Ken Johnson (5-11, 173) moves from strong safety to inside linebacker, and Dilworth became a regular at the other inside position at the end of last season.

Senior John Economy (5-5, 145) returns at noseguard. The tackle prospects are co-captain Noble, senior Brandon Maki (5-10, 230), Tanielian and Fisher.

Siskosky was an outside linebacker last year but will play strong safety. Wheelis or Rotenheber will be the free safety, and Rotenheber can also play on the corner as will senior Phil Carson (5-11, 140) and juniors Wes Cornwell (5-11, 153) and Tom Mondoux (5-9, 155).

"Technically, they're pretty good, and they play the pass well," Bechtel said. "Rotenheber and Wheelis are the only kids with any experience, but we think we have a pretty good group out there."

Senior Sean Noble was 13-of-13 on extra points last year and kicked a 45-yard field goal. Junior John Hoad will do the punting.

Farmington has a new opponent for the season opener and will travel to Waterford Mott on Friday, Sept. 2.

JOHN STORMLAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

QB prospect: *Tim Streit is battling with fellow junior Sean Urquhart for the starting quarterback job.*

Madonna volleyball team looks just as strong in '94

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

The losses seem considerable.

Gone from a volleyball team that finished fifth at the NAIA national tournament are the team's setter and player of the year, Mazie Pilut (12.7 assists to kills per game), and the team's leader in kills (with 697, 4.2 per game), kill percentage (.455) and total blocks (343), Kari VanDeusen.

And yet, Madonna University is at a stage in which it seems poised enough to overcome those losses. Which is why it is ranked fourth in the preseason NAIA coaches poll.

One reason — or, more accurately, two — for the optimism is a pair of superb sophomores who filled considerable parts in the Lady Crusaders' success in '93: Julie Martin, from Livonia (Stevenson), and Kelly McCausland, from Redford (Union).

"They are two of the best sophomores in the nation," said Madonna coach Jerry Abraham, who guided the Crusaders through a 46-8 campaign last year. "They've both raised their games quite a bit."

Martin, a 6-foot-2 middle hitter, was second on the team in kills (634, 4.2 per game, a .398 average) and total blocks (326); McCausland, a 5-11 middle and outside hitter, was third in all categories (477 kills, 3.0 per game, .359 average and 229 blocks).

Their development will certainly make VanDeusen's departure easier to absorb. So will the "sizable" additions of freshmen like 5-10 Vicki Toth, from Redford (Union); 5-11 Nicole Scharrer of Davison; 5-10 Erin Comment, from Monroe (St. Mary's Catholic Central); and 5-10 sophomore transfer Heather Steinhelper, from Clarkston.

With 5-11 setter/middle hitter Emily Marlow, from Carleton (Airport), and 5-8 Erin Gregoire, from Monroe (St. Mary's CC), Abraham has a team that is solid everywhere. Indeed, Gregoire could become a regular. As Abraham said, "She will be one of our best passers."

And that's just the youngsters. Team leadership falls to Maureen Paulin (Livonia/Farmington Hills Mercy), a 5-9 senior co-captain who is the team's top defender, and to Julie Wood (Harper Woods Lutheran East/Schoolcraft College), a 5-9 senior outside hitter and solid all-around contributor. Both are returning starters.

The biggest question mark is replacing Pilut at setter. That task falls to 5-6 junior Laura Fisher of Wayne (Memorial), who was a defensive specialist last season.

"Laura's been a starter, but in a different capacity, that's all," said Abraham. "She'll do fine. She's shown me nothing but signs of how she'll shine at this."

Abraham knows his team's success this season may rest with how well Fisher fills her new role. "The setter's the quarterback of the team, and we have a new quarterback," he said.

With five of the top seven contributors back from last year, a superb recruiting class, and a talented lineup everywhere else, Madonna will be in the running, no doubt. There is no NAIA District 23 to compete in any longer; the Crusaders are independent, which means they'll have to qualify for the NAIA regional in an independent tournament.

Tribute slated for Holowicki

A tribute to former Redford Catholic Central basketball coach Bernie Holowicki will be held Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Knights of Columbus Hall-Monaghan Council, 19601 Farmington Road in Livonia.

Cocktails start at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 and an evening of speakers. Cost of each ticket is $30. For more information, call 446-6341.

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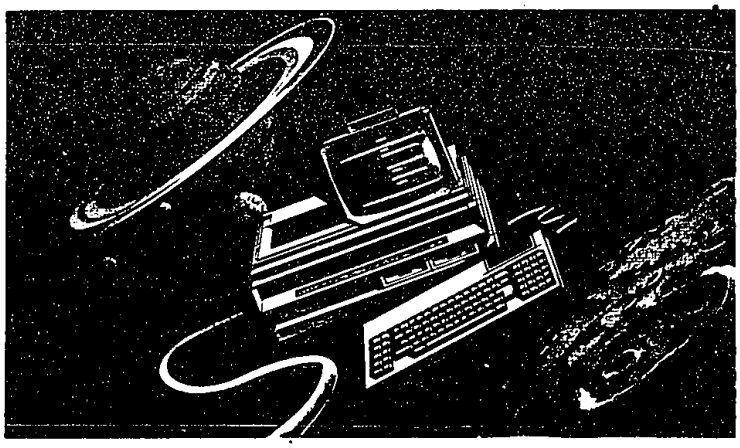

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