

Raiders from page 1C

after transferring from Detroit Catholic Central, will likely start at tailback.

"He doesn't have blazing speed, but he's a hard runner," O'Leary said.

Feldman was to have been the regular tailback last year after a great JV season, but he suffered a broken leg in a preseason scrimmage and didn't play again until late in the year.

Senior tri-captain Jeff Fraser is the upback, a position he played when Leesway was at tailback.

Fraser carried just six times for 51 yards, but he has 4.65 speed in the 40. He's also one of four players -- the others being Banks, Altefong and Clark -- who can bring 320 pounds.

"I think we'll move the ball much better," O'Leary said. "We can block better, trap better and we have a better balance of running backs. Last year we had one back; this year we can bring three or four at you."

One of those backs and the

best athlete, according to O'Leary, is junior swingback Kyle Moundros (6-1, 160). "He can block; he can run, and he can tackle," the coach said. "He can do it all. He's one of those athletes you love having around."

The wide receiver is senior tri-captain Josh Hawkins (6-3, 180). He's not just a pass catcher but a hitter who can also block, O'Leary said.

The vastly-improved Banks compares favorably with any defensive tackle to play for North in the last 15 years, according to O'Leary. "I think he can be a dominating force," Cumulaj said.

Clark also started at defensive tackle but moves to inside linebacker. He's still learning the position but is a hard-nosed player and a good defensive coordinator Todd Schultz said.

The only other returning starter on defense is Fraser at outside linebacker.

"He goes 100 percent all the

'The first few weeks will be a big factor, especially with a lot of young kids ... If they play well and get better, we'll be a good football team by the end of the year.'

Jim O'Leary
-North football coach

time," O'Leary said. "Everything he does is all out."

The front seven includes St. Charles or junior Justin Hawkins (5-10, 150) at nose-guard, senior Kyle Kroason (6-1, 205) at tackle and either Lewis or senior Paul Gaffey (6-2, 180) at outside linebacker.

Juniors Colin Parks-Fried (5-6, 165) and Wayne Falerio (6-1, 180) will rotate at the other inside linebacker. Campbell could play a lot there, too.

In the secondary, Josh

Hawkins is the free safety, Moundros the wide-side halfback and either Kraas or Feldman the short-side halfback.

Senior Nick Gluski (5-10, 165) was supposed to start at the Raider (monster) position but is injured. That job goes to either junior Tom Moran (6-2, 170) or senior Tony Fore (6-11, 170).

North starts Friday, Sept. 6; at Hartland and plays defending Western Lakes Activities Association champ Farmington Harrison again in the crossover game the following week.

"Overall, we're a better football team, but we have a tough schedule," O'Leary said, adding the Raiders have replaced South Lyon in the season finale with Howell.

"The first few weeks will be a big factor, especially with a lot of young kids. If they have success early, it could snowball."

"If they play well and get better, we'll be a good football team by the end of the year."



Defensive pursuit: Senior linebacker Jeff Fraser chases down a ball carrier while fighting off a blocker.

Falcons from page 1C

nen said. "He has a nose for the ball. He's an old-style football player."

Junior quarterback Joel Lewis (5-9, 170) directed the JV team to the Lakes Division title and also will do the punting and start in the defensive secondary.

Senior Jared Fitzpatrick (6-0, 166) made the transition from backup quarterback to starting flanker, and the wide receiver is junior Don Leonard (6-11, 166).

"I think we're a run-oriented team, so we'll have to use play-action, misdirection and counters so teams don't gang up on us," Niskanen said. "We have a fullback who can run trap and dive, and he loves to mix it up."

Smartt (6-1, 188) moves from tackle to guard in the offensive line. Senior Chad Fernandez (5-8, 160) takes over at center, and senior Chuck Archambeau (5-9, 212) is the other guard.

The tackles are senior Jason Cavicchioli (6-0, 198) and junior Bryan Seloske (6-4, 270). Taking the place of Weber at tight end will be either junior Bryant Bronner (6-0, 170) or junior James Webb (6-2, 174).

"I think (Smartt) is the guy who has to bring that offensive line together, along with Chad Fernandez," Niskanen said. "All of them played as freshmen and sophomores; most were on the team last year and got a year of training with our system."

The defensive front will have senior Nick Bieri (5-8, 219) at noseguard, Smartt and senior David Kim (5-9, 220) at the tackles. Chad Fernandez can play any of the three positions, too.

"At this point, I think they're the strength of our defense," defensive coordinator Jon Bechtel said. "Our style of defense is based on linebackers making plays, but they're good enough I think they can make plays before the linebackers."

In place of Weber at stronside linebacker, the Falcons have junior Joe Small (6-5, 200) with

Bronner on the opposite side.

"(Small) may end up being a helluva player," Bechtel said. "He's a big kid and people will have trouble knocking him out of their knee."

"I know (Bronner) was a good football player, but he's more physical than I thought. He'll come up and knock you down."

The inside linebackers are Guth and senior Mike Johnston (6-1, 176).

"(Guth) is the perfect kid for that position; he can find the seams, and he'll get after you," Bechtel said. "Johnston just keeps getting better. Every day in practice he's better than the day before."

Corey Fernandez is the leader at stronside cornerback in an otherwise inexperienced secondary.

"He's an ideal kid to coach," Bechtel said. "He does everything you tell him to do. He takes charge back there, and the other kids look up to him."

Junior Colin McGahan (5-8, 163) is the stronside safety; Leonard is the weakside cornerback, and Lewis is the free safety with Zomphier able to play there, too.

"They're pretty good athletes," Bechtel said. "They're an intelligent group; they just need game time and experience."

"The problem (overall on defense) is the same as offense: we're just so inexperienced. The question is how will they perform? The seniors didn't have a lot of playing time."

Kickoff for the Falcons is Friday, Sept. 6, at Novi. Farmington plays at Livonia Churchill in the league crossover the following week.

"Our kids' motto is to prepare like champions," Niskanen said. "We prepare our kids to win during the week. We're not putting all our eggs in one basket, but we're going to prepare them to beat Novi."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday, Sept. 6

Churchill at Dearborn, 4 p.m.

Clarencville at G.P. Liggett, 4:30 p.m.

Adrian at Wayne, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City at Crestwood, 7:30 p.m.

Thurston at Bridgport, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin at S.H. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.

Redford Union at Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.

Salem at Belleville, 7:30 p.m.

Algonac at Canton, 7:30 p.m.

Farmington at Novi, 7:30 p.m.

Harrison at Oxford, 7:30 p.m.

Farmington at Hartland, 7:30 p.m.

John Glenn vs. Det. Mackenzie at Martin Luther King, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 7

Harper Woods at Luth. Wald, 1 p.m.

Redford CC vs. Det. Pershing at Pontiac-Silverdome, 7 p.m.

Biograph Borgess vs. Ecorse at Garden City Jr. High, 7:30 p.m.

St. Agatha vs. Holy Redeemer at Riverview Field, 7:30 p.m.

Southeastern at St. Agatha, 5:30 p.m.

Flat Rock at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.

Clarencville at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Lakeland at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

John Glenn at Thurston, 7 p.m.

South Lyon at Farmington, 7 p.m.

Rochester at Harrison, 7 p.m.

Ypsilanti at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Romulus at Garden City, 7 p.m.

RU at Crestwood, 7 p.m.

Farmington at Farmington, 7 p.m.

Ladywood at Flint N.Western, 7 p.m.

Flint Northern at Borgess, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8

Huron Valley at St. Agatha, 5:30 p.m.

Det. Union at Clarencville, 6:30 p.m.

Flat Rock at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.

Churchill at Redford Union, 7 p.m.

Franklin at Trenton, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at Thurston, 7 p.m.

Farmington at Westford Wood, 7 p.m.

N. Farmington at Brighton, 7 p.m.

Novi at Harrison, 7 p.m.

Wayne at Romulus, 7 p.m.

Garden City at Allen Park, 7 p.m.

(Mercy Hoops Classic)

Rochester vs. Canton, 5:30 p.m.

Mercy vs. Lakeshore, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 9

Bishop Borgess at Salem, 5:30 p.m.

Mercy Hoops Classic, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Sept. 3

Redford CC at A.A. Pioneer, 4 p.m.

Wayne, Sept. 4

Garden City at Taylor Center, 4 p.m.

RU at Divine Child, 4 p.m.

Thurston at Trenton, 4 p.m.

Churchill at N. Farmington, 5:30 p.m.

John Glenn at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.

W.L. Western at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.

Canton at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 7

Redford CC at Edsel Ford, 4 p.m.

Luth. Wald at Luth. N.West, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8

Wayne at John Glenn, 4 p.m.

Taylor Truman at Garden City, 4 p.m.

N. Farmington at RU, 4 p.m.

Luth. Wald at Fairlane, 4:30 p.m.

Huron Valley at Warren Zee, 4:30 p.m.

Ply. Christian vs. Ply. Agape at Hagedorn Field, 4:30 p.m.

Redford CC at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Redford CC at St. Richard, 11 a.m.

Canton at Brighton, 1 p.m.

Harrison at R.O. Dondero, 1 p.m.

MICHIGAN COLLEGE SOCCER

Wednesday, Sept. 4

Schoolcraft at EMU, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 5

Albion at Farmington, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 7

Lakeland at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

WOLVERINE COLLEGE SOCCER

Wednesday, Sept. 4

EMU at Schoolcraft, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 5

Schoolcraft vs. Marquette (Mo.) at DuPage (Ill.), noon.

Friday, Sept. 6

Schoolcraft vs. Florio Valley at DuPage (Ill.), noon.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Friday, Sept. 6

Rio Grande at Madonna, 9-7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 6-7

Madonna Invitational, TSA, TSA. Time to be announced.

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