All-Michigan small college team

By GEORGE SIPPLE

Offense
QB Phil Butler, Hope
RB Joe Johnson, Saginaw Valley State
RB Michael Tennessee, Grand Valley State
WR Glenn Martinez, Saginaw Valley State
WR Andy Graham, Kalamazoo
WR Pat Rouzard, Northern Michigan
OL Nick LaFear, Saginaw Valley State
OL Matt McCoy, Ferris State
OL Scott Martin, Grand Valley State
OL Josh Peters, Alma
OL Casey Koss, Adrian
PK Andy Cline, Albion

Defense
LB Rob North, Hillsdale
LB William Gray, Grand Valley State
LB Matt Beaver, Hope
DL Keyonta Marshall, Grand Valley State
DL Leo Wells, Wayne State
DL John Loveland, Alma
DL Glen Brittich, Albion
DB Scott Mackey, Grand Valley State
DB Ron Shiels, Adrian
DB Andy Bonk, Michigan Tech
DB Corey Gonzales, Saginaw Valley State
P Ryan Prochnow, Saginaw Valley State
Great Lakes scouting report

FERRIS STATE
Coach: Jeff Pierce, ninth season.
Last season: 5-5, 4-5.
Strengths: Everyone returns at the skill positions, led by senior running back Derek Fudge (1,016 yards, 10 TDs) and junior quarterback Tom Marsan (2,350 passing yards, 10 TDs). The linebackers -- junior Kevin Myers on the outside and Piepkow in the middle -- will lead the defense.
Weaknesses: The Bulldogs must replace a pair of all-conference defensive linemen and have only one returning starter in the secondary, senior strong safety Vito Ciaramellano (41 tackles).

GRAND VALLEY STATE
Coach: Brian Kelly, 13th season.
Last season: 14-0, 9-0.
Watch: Junior RB Michael Tennessee.
Strengths: Eight of the top 10 tacklers return for the defending NCAA Division II champions. If the league’s top defensive player isn’t junior defensive tackle Keyonta Marshall (12 sacks, 23 tackles for loss), it is senior strong safety Scott Mackey (71 solo tackles, three interceptions). Tennessee and sophomore Brandon Langston are proven ballcarriers.
Weaknesses: Five players who accounted for 6,074 of Grand Valley’s 8,183 all-purpose yards last year are gone. And that doesn’t include departed quarterback Curt Aanes, the Division II player of the year.

HILLSDALE
Coach: Keith Otterbein, second season.
Last season: 4-7, 4-6.
Watch: Senior LB Rob North.
Strengths: Nine starters on defense and eight starters on offense return. Senior quarterback Bill Skelton is back for his fourth year as the starter. He completed 62.2 percent of his passes last year (173 of 278) and threw for 1,942 yards with 17 touchdowns and five interceptions. North ranked third in the nation last year with 139 tackles.
Weaknesses: The offense must replace workhorse running back Kevin Clive, who rushed for 1,350 yards and had a league-high 2,093 yards of total offense.

MICHIGAN TECH
Coach: Bernie Anderson, 17th season.
Last season: 3-7, 3-7.
Watch: Senior S Andy Bonk.
Strengths: Six starters return on offense, led by junior quarterback Dan Mettlach (1,433 yards) and junior running back Chris Lomasney (526 yards, two TDs). The defense is led by Bonk (100 tackles, four INTs).
Weaknesses: The program was nearly folded in the offseason and some players, chief among them running back Joe Johnson, chose to jump ship.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN
Coach: Doug Sams, second year.
Last season: 6-5, 6-4.
Watch: Senior QB Kyle Swenor.
Strengths: The Wildcats return 30 lettermen and 11 total starters. Swenor set several offensive records last season. He’ll try to improve on last year’s 2,839 passing yards.
Weaknesses: All-league punter Ryan Wettstein (41.8 yards a punt) blew out his left knee playing softball this summer and is out for the season.
NORTHWOOD
Coach: Pat Riepma, 11th season.
Last season: 7-4, 7-3.
Watch: Senior FB Bryant Lawrence.
Strengths: The woodbone offense returns senior running back Pernell Jackson (643 yards, five TDs) and Lawrence (595 yards, seven TDs). Seven defensive starters return, including safety Joe Horn (87 tackles), last year's conference freshman of the year.
Weaknesses: For the first time in six seasons, Riepma said he would start the fall unsure of his starter at quarterback.

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE
Coach: Randy Awrey, fifth season.
Last season: 9-3, 8-2.
Watch: Senior RB Joe Johnson.
Strengths: The Cardinals received an offensive boost when Johnson transferred from Michigan Tech. He rushed for 1,278 yards and nine touchdowns and will run behind four of five returning linemen. Seven starters return to a defense that allowed just 18.7 points a game.
Weaknesses: The offense will be led by a new quarterback. Junior Mark Radlinski, a backup the past two seasons, is expected to take the helm. He threw for 1,013 yards and 12 touchdowns in 11 games last season.

WAYNE STATE
Coach: Steve Kazor, fourth season.
Last season: 3-8, 3-7.
Watch: Senior RB Craig Duppong.
Strengths: The offense is led by Duppong (1,315 yards, 12 TDs). More is expected this year from junior quarterback Randy Hutchison, who started three games last year and completed 61.2 percent of his passes (63-of-103) for 788 yards and eight TDs.
Weaknesses: Sophomore defensive end Leo Wells (nine sacks, 19 tackles for loss) and junior linebacker Mohamad Bazzi (102 tackles, 12 tackles for loss) are gems on a defense that gave up a league-high 433.5 yards a game last year.
Volleyball team has a daunting challenge

SERIES: UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA; HILLSBOROUGH

ROD GIPSON
TAMPA

The University of Tampa's volleyball program has won or shared the past seven Sunshine State Conference championships.

The Spartans return four starters this season from a squad that went 28-7 in 2002 and advanced to the NCAA Division II national semifinals.

But UT might not even be the best team in its league.

With six international players, all experienced, Barry will unseat the Spartans this season, according to the league's preseason poll, as voted by its coaches. The rivals also were recognized nationally with the preseason American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, with UT at No. 2 and Barry at No. 8.

"Barry has a very talented team while we return a group of experienced players," Tampa coach Chris Catanach said. "It's going to make for an exciting race."

But the Spartans won't lack for talent.

Senior outside hitter Ania Ruiz is a three-time All-American. She will be joined in the starting lineup by sophomore outside hitter Amber Langston, sophomore hitter Stephanie Rivera and senior setter Gretchen Naruta.

The Spartans open the season Friday against Northern Kentucky in the North Florida Classic in Jacksonville. The home opener is Sept. 2 against Michigan Tech at the Bob Martinez Sports Center.

UT and Barry don't meet until Oct. 12 in Miami Shores.

BEATTIE IMPRESSIVE: Spartans pitcher Eric Beattie had an eventful summer. Playing for the Bourne Braves in the Cape Cod Baseball League, Beattie led the team with a 4-0 record.

He struck out 51, walked just six and posted a 0.39 ERA, the second-lowest in Cape Cod League history.

As a sophomore last season, Beattie led UT with a 15-3 record and 2.55 ERA.

UT plays Missouri Southern Sept. 5 in the home opener. The Spartans will sport a new look with 14 freshmen and six transfers.

They join senior forward Roy Fink and junior midfielder Ingo Fochler on a team that, despite last season, is ranked 18th nationally in the NSCAA poll.

The UT women start the season at the Belmont Abbey tournament Friday in Belmont, N.C., before returning home to face Central Arkansas on Sept. 12. - ROD GIPSON
In brief

Honors

Borseth named to U.P. sports hall

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich. -- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay women’s basketball coach Kevin Borseth has been selected to join the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame.

Borseth, a native of Bessemer, Mich., has a 114-39 record since taking the Phoenix job in 1998. Last season, he led UWGB to its first victory in the NCAA Tournament during a school-record 28-4 season. He was 72-45 at Gogebic Community College (1982-86) and 225-97 at Michigan Tech (1987-98).

Also among the 10 inductees are Becky (Drake) Cecconi of Florence, a three-sport standout at Kingsford, Mich., and Joe Johnson, the Menominee, Mich., High School gymnastics coach.

The induction banquet will be April 24, 2004 at the Premiere Center in Iron Mountain.

Soccer

Preble boys alumni game is Tuesday

The Green Bay Preble High School boys alumni soccer game will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Edison Middle School.

Contact Jordan Gindt at (920) 468-9337 or email wgindt@hotmail.com for information.

-- Staff reports
Packers 2003 ticket winners announced

Sheboygan Press staff

Janet Steffensmeier and Mark and Jennifer Mand were the winners of Green Bay Packers season tickets in the Sheboygan North High School Packers Raffle, which was drawn Friday night.

Each winner received two season tickets for 2003.

The raffle was sponsored by the North High boys and girls basketball teams, boys golf team, boys soccer team and girls volleyball team, and the Sheboygan County United Soccer Club.

Falls man earns spot in U.P. Hall of Fame

Sheboygan Falls resident Clay Willman has been inducted into the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame.

Willman was drafted by three football teams: Boston (AFL), Minnesota (NFL) and Saskatchewan (CFL).

His career ended with a leg injury in the Vikings’ camp, where he competed with Fran Tarkenton for a backup spot.

The Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame is located in Iron Mountain, Mich., in Famers Restaurant at Pine Mountain Lodge.

Among the previous inductees are Lions coach Steve Mariucci, Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo and Notre Dame coaching legend George Gipp.

Anchor Lanes seeking teams for fall season

Anchor Lanes in Elkhart Lake is seeking teams for its leagues this fall.

The following nights need teams: Monday -- two women's teams; Tuesday -- two men's teams; Wednesday -- two women's teams; Friday -- mixed three-person teams.

For more information call (920) 876-3339.

Willman, a native of Kingsford, Mich., was a 10-time letterman in football, basketball and baseball at Kingsford High.

He also started four years at quarterback at Michigan Tech, setting school records and earning small college All-American honors. He was team most valuable player in 1959.
In brief

staff

Junior hockey

Nicholson gets job with the USHL

Green Bay Gamblers President Rob Nicholson has been named the chairman of the United States Hockey League as part of a reorganization of the junior hockey league's corporate structure.

As chairman, Nicholson will act as the head of the league's board of governors, giving him the authority to speak and act on behalf of the group.

The position of commissioner was removed. Gino Gasparini, who spent eight seasons as the USHL's commissioner, has been named the league's president.

Nicholson has been a part of the Gamblers' front office since 1999.

"I'm very honored and excited with this new leadership position," Nicholson said. "I'm looking forward to working with Gino to take the USHL to the next level."

* Goaltender Chris Holt, acquired by the Gamblers in a trade with the River City Lancers, will go to college this season instead of playing in the USHL.

Holt, who had committed to Nebraska-Omaha for the 2004-05 season before being traded to the Gamblers, decided to attend UNO this season when the Mavericks' top goaltender left for the pros.

"This is definitely a setback for our club, especially since it happened so close to the regular season," Gamblers coach Mark Osiecki said. "But that's part of the game, and we'll just have to forge ahead."

The Gamblers open training camp on Sept. 1. The regular season starts with a home game against the Lincoln Stars on Sept. 27.

College basketball

Kiss leaves UWGB to join Huskies staff

Former University of Wisconsin-Green Bay star Luke Kiss has been named Michigan Tech's assistant men's basketball coach.

"We're happy to have a person of Luke's caliber join our program," said head coach Kevin Luke. "He will be a great fit because of his passion for the game and his background in all aspects of running a successful program."

Kiss played for the Phoenix from 1995 to 1999. He led the Midwest Conference in assist-to-turnover ratio and was named to the league's all-defensive team as a senior. He also had been assistant men's basketball coach at St. Norbert College, and spent last season as director of men's basketball operations for UWGB.

-- Staff reports