

State football crop deep in talent

By TOM SILVERSTEIN
Sentinel staff writer

Madison — In terms of numbers, this year's recruiting crop of high school football players may be the deepest in some time.

The talent is very raw, however, especially among the big people. Only a few, like running back/defensive back Wagner Lester of Racine St. Catherine's and tight end/linebacker Dave Czech of Chippewa Falls are legitimate blue-chippers.

The job Wisconsin and other schools will have is determining which players have the potential to grow into top-notch Division I play-

ers and who will not have an impact on their programs.

"There just seems to be a good mix of in-state kids as far as linemen and skill kids," Wisconsin Coach Don Morton said. "It's not just all linemen. We feel very good about the state. Most of the kids were in our camp. We've known these kids since they were sophomores. We have a good rapport with them. It just gets better each year because you're around and we've had a lot of contact with them."

As many as 25 players in the state could receive Division I scholarships. Here is a list of the best of those players:

SKILL PLAYERS

JEFF ANTILA, Maple Northwestern, WR-DB, 5-foot-11, 175 pounds, 4.46 seconds 40-yard dash time. Had 1,179 yards and 23 TDs in '88. Could play wide receiver, cornerback or safety. Wisconsin has shown great interest. Also, Minnesota.

CHARLIE DAVIDSON, Racine Horlick, DB, 6-0, 185, 4.6. Gained 1,000 yards rushing in '88. Led team in tackles. Big Nine defensive player of the year. Good speed and good aggressiveness. Grades will force him to go to junior college.

RANDY KLEINHANS, Harland Arrowhead, WR-DB, 6-3, 193, 4.48. Great athlete with track speed. Runs hurdles, sprints and relays. Wants to play in the Big Ten. Father went to Michigan State. Wisconsin has shown great interest. Also, Michigan State, Michigan and Iowa.

WAGNER LESTER, Racine St. Catherine's, DB-WR, 6-3 1/2, 200, 4.5. One of the best skill athletes to come out of the state in some time. Played running back, defensive back and some quarterback. Wants to play running back in college. A priority for Wisconsin. Also, Notre Dame, Nebraska, Iowa, Stanford, Illinois, Ohio State and Michigan State.

SCOTT NELSON, Sun Prairie, DB-WR, 6-3, 180, 4.6. An I-formation tailback for Cardinals. Great kick returner. Might be most effective on defense. Wisconsin has shown interest. Also, Northwestern.

DEON POLK, Milwaukee Tech, DB-WR, 195, 4.6. Gained 55 yards as team's halfback. Played linebacker on defense. Went to Wisconsin camp. Projected as cornerback. Wisconsin is interested. Also, Northern Illinois.

BRIAN SCHULTZ, Waukesha North, WR, 160. Will be recruited as an athlete. Has good speed, but not much size. Won 100- and 200-meter state championships in track last year. Wisconsin is very interested. Also, Stanford, Iowa, Michigan and Michigan State.

TIGHT ENDS AND LINEBACKERS

PAT CLEARY, Oconomowoc, TE-LB, 6-5, 247. Played running back and free safety. Great blocker. Grew four inches and gained 40 pounds from sophomore to senior year. Wants to play in the Big Ten. Wisconsin is very interested. Also, Michigan State, Stanford, Iowa and Northwestern.

DAVE CZECH, Chippewa Falls, TE-LB, 6-7, 225, 4.7. Next to Lester, may be top prospect in the state. A force on defense. Second in state in sacks. Attended Oklahoma football camp. Top Wisconsin's list. Also, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Minnesota, UCLA, Arizona State Washington, Iowa State, Notre Dame and Arkansas.

KEVIN JOHNIKIN, Cudahy, LB, 6-3, 240, 4.7. Transferred from Milwaukee Tech. Sprinter on the track team. Dominating on defense. Wisconsin probably won't be able to recruit because of grades. LSU, Miami, Iowa State and Northern Illinois.

IAN JOLLEY, Whitefish Bay, LB, 6-2, 215, 4.7. Could be this year's sleeper. An excellent linebacker with great instincts. Good soccer player who could receive college offers. Wants to play in the Big Ten. Wisconsin has shown interest. Also, Northwestern and Dartmouth.

ULYSSES MORAN, Delafield St. John's, TE-LB, 6-7, 230, 5.0. Tremendous athletic body. Might be better defensive end. Could receive Division I basketball offer. Wisconsin probably won't be able to recruit because of grades. Michigan, Ohio State, Iowa State and UCLA have shown interest.

PAT RUPAR, LB-DL, Menomonee Falls, 6-7, 220, 4.6. Very quick for size. Could be sleeper on defense. An accurate place-kicker from 40 yards in. Runs hurdles and wrestles. Wisconsin is very interested. Also, Michigan State and several Division II schools.

LINEMEN

TYLER ADAM, Sheboygan Falls, T, 6-4, 258, 5.3. At start of sophomore year weighed 300 pounds. Has lost baby fat and is particularly strong in legs. Father is from Texas, prompting new SMU Coach Forrest Gregg to express interest. Wisconsin is very interested. Also, Illinois, Northwestern and Minnesota.

RICH ANDRUS, Oconomowoc, T, 6-7, 280, 5.3. Good pass blocker. Comes off ball strong. Not fast, but very quick. Has potential to be great lineman. Wisconsin is very interested. Also, Illinois, Iowa, Iowa State, Minnesota have shown interest.

CORY BRYE, Westby, G, 6-3, 255, 5.1. Has potential to be an offensive guard or defensive tackle. Good run blocker. Also wrestles. Wisconsin is very interested. Also, Iowa, Notre Dame.

PETE DEBOER, Kettle Moraine, G, 6-5, 256, 5.0. Played mostly on the defense side, but should end up on offensive line in college. Came in and blocked on passing downs. Good pass rusher. Six sacks and one interception in '88. Wisconsin has shown some interest. Also, Iowa, UCLA, Tennessee and Navy.

JOE DEMERIT, Port Washington, OT, 6-4, 260, 5.2. Intelligent player with good size, but fair speed. Played both offense and defense in high school. Three-year starter. Wisconsin has shown slight interest. Also, Michigan, Iowa, Northwestern, Illinois and Minnesota have sent mail.

CHRIS FOY, Beloit Memorial, OL, 6-2 1/2, 253, 4.9. Excellent speed for a big man. Could play center in college. Wisconsin has shown some interest. Also, Notre Dame, Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan State.

TOM FRYE, Waukesha South, T, 6-7, 220, 5.0. Good technician with quick feet. Needs more strength. Experienced in pro-style pass blocking. Starting center on basketball team. Wisconsin has shown interest. Also, Stanford, Northwestern, Iowa State and Iowa.

ERIK HAYES, Cedarburg, T, 6-8, 230, 5.2. Played almost exclusively on offense. Very big, but could use more strength. Wisconsin has shown some interest. Also, Iowa, Notre Dame.

LUKE HICKCOX, Grafton, OT-OG, 6-3, 275, 5.2. Was named outstanding lineman at Michigan camp. Good quickness and agility. Needs more strength. Three-year starter. Wisconsin has shown slight interest. Also, Michigan, North Dakota State and several Mid-American schools.

BILL MAXSEN, Kenosha Tremper, T, 6-6, 255, 5.3. Very hard worker and very coachable. Needs to improve quickness and strength. Good coordination. Benches 300 pounds. Wisconsin has shown interest. Also, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa State.

MIKE MARTIN, Oconomowoc, T, 6-5, 225, 5.0. Better athlete than Andrus, but not better football player. At same stage former Badger Glenn Derby was as a high school senior. Wisconsin has shown some interest.

DAVE WIEGERT, Amery, T, 6-8, 220, 4.9. Big, quick feet. Played outside linebacker and tight end. Will look at possibility of playing basketball at Division II level. Wisconsin has shown interest. Also, Wyoming, Minnesota and Stanford.

ROB WENDLICK, Menomonee Falls, DE, 6-5, 220, 5.0. Only 16 years old. Has good growth potential. Plays basketball and runs hurdles. Wisconsin has shown interest. Also, Notre Dame and Stanford.