

## St. Francis

FROM PAGE 8

Rigan, who is called "Freak" by his teammates, had a breakout year as a sophomore in 2003, but he didn't seem to be himself last season. The reason became clear after the final game, when he underwent surgery to repair an injured shoulder.

Rigan played through the pain last year without complaint. In fact, few people knew he was hurt. Now the Michigan State-bound tackle is ready to make up for lost time.

Nostrant burst onto the scene last year by doing whatever was asked of him — and doing it well. He'll be counted upon at running back and safety, and will also handle the team's punting and kicking duties.

"Hunter is a great athlete," Sellers said. "He's also football smart. He has great instincts."

Nostrant was given much of the credit for the Gladiators' 12-7 win over Muskegon Catholic Central in Week 2 last September.

With St. Francis trailing 7-6 late in the fourth quarter, Nostrant's 57-yard punt pinned the Crusaders at their own 13-yard line and set up the Gladiators' go-ahead touchdown with 4:31 remaining. Two minutes later, he scrambled after a high snap, broke a tackle at his own 5-yard line and lofted an off-balance kick 50 yards into MCC territory — and the St. Francis defense held on for the win.

Nostrant averaged 50.1 yards per punt and earned All-State honors at the conclusion of the season.

"I just go where they tell me to," Nostrant said modestly. "They use me as they need me and fit the pieces together however they think they'll work best."

Nostrant, who led the Gladiators in tackles last fall, was second on the team in receptions and fifth in rushing — on only 21 carries.

"I'm just going to leave it

all on the field — with no regrets," Nostrant said of his goals for the season.

Nostrant and Biggar will be joined in the fullhouse backfield by senior Nate Farley.

Junior Ben Wheelock (6-3, 180) will take over at quarterback.

"Ben has a ton of athleticism," Sellers said. "You watch him move — in whatever sport he's playing — and he moves like an athlete.

"He has smarts, great vision and he makes great cuts. He's a real threat to run the ball. He's also very capable throwing the ball."

Sophomore Spencer Ambrosius was promoted from the junior varsity to serve as Wheelock's backup. It was against Sellers' better judgment, but he said Ambrosius earned a look.

"You hate to bring someone up like that and have them lose a year (of playing time on JV)," Sellers said. "But the way he's played, he'll force us to play him."

The Gladiators' talented backfield will run behind an experienced line that includes left tackle Bill Auxier (5-11, 185 senior), left guard Jacob McManus (5-11, 170 senior), center Dane Moeggenberg (5-11, 185 senior) and right tackle Rigan.

Sellers is still undecided about who will play right guard.

Tight ends are senior

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— Josh Sellers, head coach

Egan Quinn (6-2, 175) and junior Ian Wicksall (6-1, 190).

Junior running back/linebacker Cory Murphy (5-10, 170) and sophomore running back/defensive lineman Pat Deering (5-10, 170)



are also looking to make an impact.

Among the Lake Michigan Conference teams expected to challenge St. Francis, which opens the season with a home game against Kingsley on Saturday night, are Grayling, Boyne City and Charlevoix.

Sellers is particularly wary of Grayling, which finished second to the Gladiators.

"Their quarterback is back, their tailback is back,

skipped last season after taking over as the principal at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School.

"It's nice to have Cleo back," Sellers said. "He loves being around our kids, he loves the game, he loves St. Francis.

"He is such a great teacher. His message is clear and consistent."

So is the Gladiators' resolve to make the 2005 season one to remember.

Record-Eagle file photo/Douglas Tesner  
**St. Francis vs. Boyne City in 2004. The teams face each other again Sept. 9.**

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