

## Gavin Schilling is considered 'done' for season, will have a spot on 2017-18 roster



Gavin Schilling has missed Michigan State's entire 2016-17 season with a knee injury. *(Mike Mulholland | MLive.com)*

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EAST LANSING -- Tom Izzo has said since the fall that if the Michigan State basketball season reached the middle of January and Gavin Schilling weren't back on the floor, his 2016-17 season would likely be considered over.

Well, mid-January has come and gone.

"Unless he didn't want to be here (next season), there's no sense in taking a chance," Izzo said. "He does (want to return), so, in my mind, he's done."

Schilling, who has missed the entire season with a knee injury, is still not practicing with the Spartans. The senior suffered the injury in mid-October, during preseason workouts.

Now with one season of remaining eligibility, Schilling will be able to play a fifth season of college basketball.

Michigan State currently holds three open scholarships for next season. That's a number that could change with any departures.

Ten scholarships in 2017-18 are currently allotted to Tum Tum Nairn, Kenny Goins, Matt McQuaid, Kyle Ahrens, Miles Bridges, Josh Langford, Cassius Winston, Nick Ward, Jaren Jackson Jr. and Xavier Tillman. As it stands, Izzo and his staff have three known scholarship offers extended to remaining uncommitted recruits in the class: Brian Bowen, Brandon McCoy and Greg Elliott.

Nonetheless, Izzo said Tuesday that Schilling is assured a roster spot if he chooses to use his medical redshirt season at Michigan State.

"Oh yeah," Izzo said. "Yes. No problem."

Schilling, 6-foot-9 forward, also missed the first 13 games of the 2015-16 season with a torn ligament in his right toe. He returned to the lineup and, while trying to catch up, was promptly hit by back problems. He spent most of the second half of the season dealing with a bulging disc in his lower back.

The result: Schilling's playing time and production dropped. He went from averaging 5.1 points and 3.8 rebounds in 16.9 minutes per game as a sophomore to 3.8 points and 3.1 rebounds in 12.5 minutes per game as a junior.

Feeling healthy this offseason, Schilling slimmed down and looked as explosive as ever. He said he was as healthy as ever and ready for a final year of college basketball.

"I haven't shown anything (as a college player), really, to be honest," Schilling told MLive in July. "This year, I feel so much better and so much more confident. I feel great and I think people are going to see a whole new player this year."

Schilling, a Chicago native, has played 100 games in his Michigan State career, averaging 3.4 points and 2.8 rebounds in 12.0 per game.

Michigan State is scheduled to face Nebraska on Thursday night at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln (7 p.m., TV: ESPN).