

Schilling is quintessential Izzo recruit

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By Reggie Rankin | ESPN.com

One of the most sought-after frontcourt stars in the Class of 2013 is off the board as Gavin Schilling (Chicago, Ill./Findlay Prep) committed to Michigan State Wednesday over the likes of UCLA, Minnesota and Villanova.

It was the first 2013 pledge for Tom Izzo, but Schilling was well worth the wait and should be a good fit for the Spartans on both ends of the floor.



Senior center Gavin Schilling will continue his career at Michigan State.

For starters, Schilling is a true center who immediately fills a need. With the graduation of big-body post Derrick Nix, the 6-foot-9, 235-pound Schilling will provide some needed beef in the post for the Spartans.

Schilling runs pretty well for his size and has excellent length. He can finish above the rim with the advantage of a clear path or post angle, which coach Izzo will be able to provide in the variety of set plays the Spartans feature in their playbook. Schilling will also be able to pull down rebounds in a crowd and provide his share of tips-ins on the offensive glass – a pair of attributes Izzo's teams have hung their hat on.

On defense Schilling will be asked to be a presence in the middle. Izzo will want Schilling to be as physical as the officials allow in moving opposing big men off their sweet spots and aggressively hedge out on ball screens in the team's aggressive man-to-man scheme.

Schilling has the size and ability to do the important things in Izzo's system: Be a relentless physical defender, rebound like a mad man and finish around the basket. I think it's safe to say that while Izzo only has one recruit in his incoming class, he managed to land the right one to kick-start his 2013 incoming class.