

MSU's championship expectations in 2014



March, 21, 2013, 9:15 AM ET

By Nic Reiner | ESPN.com

Michigan State landed its first recruit in 2013 with yesterday's commitment of three-star big man Gavin Schilling (Chicago/Findlay Prep). It had been a quiet year on the recruiting trail thus far for Tom Izzo. He and his staff were unable to land Jabari Parker (Chicago/Simeon) or James Young (Rochester, MI/Rochester). But even with a recruiting class of just one player now, the Spartans will have very high expectations for next season

Schilling is a big get for the Spartans and will likely contribute immediately. Next year could be a massive one for the Spartans. Michigan State is in line to bring nearly every important piece back for 2013. Gary Harris has skyrocketed up draft boards and, at the moment, it looks like he could go top 15 in this year's draft. It's unclear if he'll come out this year, though, as Izzo traditionally is able to keep impact players for more than one year. If he stays, that means Michigan State will have three players returning who are projected by DraftExpress as first round picks in 2014, in Harris, Adreian Payne, and Branden Dawson, in addition to one projected as a second rounder in point guard Keith Appling. Though this year's recruiting class is small, it's now powerful and may be enough to complement a squad that should be a national championship contender in 2014. Here's Reggie Rankin with more on what Schilling brings to the program.



Reggie Rankin

Schilling elevates Spartans on Day 1

"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 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. 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."