



Falcons ready for Iola this Friday

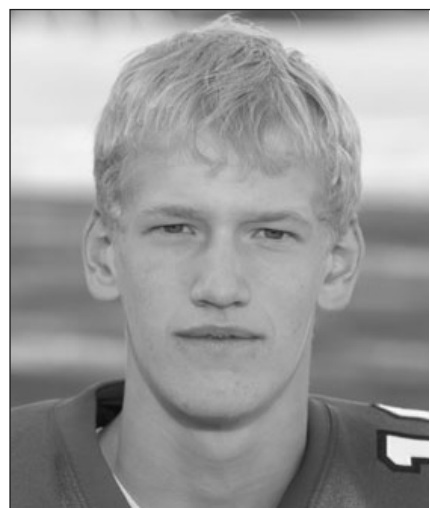
The Amherst Falcons open up their 2006 season against rival Iola-Scandinavia on Friday. The game will allow the Falcons to unveil a new-look offense and fans can expect plenty of thrills. This year's senior class has several capable stars, and the team's corps of juniors, sophomores and freshmen give Amherst what many believe will be its most talented squad in some time.

The Falcons' first opponent is a worthy one. The Thunderbirds are one of the defending champions of the Central Wisconsin Conference-Small Schools Division after posting a 10-2 overall record and losing just once in conference play. Iola-Scandinavia's lone CWC-S loss came at the hands of Wild Rose in a 20-13 nail biter. The Thunderbirds' only other defeat of the season was in the

third level of the state playoffs, a 22-16 loss to Saint Mary's Springs of Fond du Lac.

Iola-Scandinavia handled CWC-S opponents last year, outscoring them 264-52 (overall, the Thunderbirds posted 415 points, while giving up just 90 in 12 total contests). Iola-Scandinavia scored an average of 34.6 points per game (including 74 points against Bowler and 63 points against Gibraltar) and allowed opponents to score an average of just 7.5.

Friday's game in Amherst will get underway at 7 p.m. Fans can begin tailgating at the park at 5:45 p.m.



Sophomore Nate Martin begins his second season as the Falcons starting quarterback

About the opponent

- Iola-Scandinavia Head Coach: Scott Erickson
- 2005 record: 10-2 (6-1 CWC-Small)

- Shared 2005 CWC-S Title with Shiocton and Wild Rose
- Last Meeting: August 26, 2005 (Iola 21, Amherst 0)

MEET THE FALCON



Nate Demski
SR • DE/LT

Senior year of high school football is a bittersweet experience. Despite playing time and recognition increases for an athlete, knowledge that once the final whistle blows a player's career may be over can be disheartening.

Nate Demski doesn't let cons outweigh the pros of his senior year at Amherst High School. In fact, Demski is taking every opportunity to ensure that he continues playing football after AHS.

Demski has already participated in two college scouting combines. An avid workout participant, Demski completed over

100 weightlifting sessions and another 100 "Sparq" workouts this offseason, increasing strength and speed.

However, it is the off-field accomplishments that are most vital to the program.

"Nate is a great example of what a student-athlete is all about," head coach Brian Toelle said of his senior captain. "He excels in the classroom and in the community."

Toelle feels that Demski's ability to lead will vault him to the next level.

"His leadership has been valuable to myself and our coaching staff," he said.