

Good Debut, Mattio Wants Much More

By BILL O'CONNELL

Dave Mattio's debut as Marian's head football coach was a successful one. But the Chicago Heights native isn't dwelling on the accomplishment.

The 28-year old Mattio, after serving a five-year term as an assistant under Bob Voss, guided the Spartans to a 20-0 victory over Illini-8 conference opponent Bolingbrook Saturday at the Raiders' home field.

But instead of preserving the past, Mattio is looking toward the future. "The feeling of getting my first win as a head coach sunk in Saturday night, but at about 6:30 I started thinking about Joliet East, our next opponent," said Mattio, Marian's athletic director for the past three years.

"I STARTED diagramming... putting X's and O's on paper. We have to get ready for the next one."

The Spartans and Mattio will seek their second straight win of the young 1976 season Saturday at 2 p.m., against the visiting Kingsmen at Sarff field.

Marian, which has lost to East only twice in seven confrontations with the Joliet school, turned in an excellent offensive showing in the first half against Bolingbrook, scoring all of its 20 points.

The Spartans' newly-installed power attack was spearheaded by the running of senior fullback Joe Zarlengo and junior halfback Mark Blankenberger.

ZARLENGO, a 5-10, 208-pounder, who started at linebacker last season, bulled his way to 127 yards on 19 carries and scored one touchdown. Blankenberger, a shifty 5-10, 160-pounder, picked up 103 yards on just eight carries.

Spartan halfback Tom Chisholm, a 5-8, 160-pound senior, opened Marian's first half scoring spree in the first quarter with a two-yard touchdown run.

Despite the scoreless second-half battle, Mattio was happy with Marian's 316 yards rushing, compared to just 96 for Bolingbrook.

"I was pleased we controlled the line of scrimmage," said Mattio. "That was our game plan. We'll set that as a goal every game. The line of scrimmage is where games are won and lost."

"OUR LINE did the job and we showed a lot of depth in the backfield. By chucking five or six backs into the game we can have fresh horses coming at you all the time."

Besides Zarlengo and Blankenberger, Chisholm gained 37 yards up on seven carries and Mike Ciarlo added 22 yards on six carries.

East, which defeated I-8 foe Argo 22-8 in its home opener last Friday, is headed by all-conference wide receiver Bobby Boyd and running back Tippy Gayfield. Boyd led the Joliet area in receiving a year ago and Gayfield rushed for over 100 yards in the first outing.

"East is not big, but they are very consistent in size," said Mattio. "They have a lot of people around 190 pounds with a lot of speed. They are very quick off the football. People who have seen them say they execute extremely well. They dismantled Argo with good execution."

ALTHOUGH East has traditionally presented few headaches for Marian, Mattio isn't looking too far into the future.

"We're working our people hard, just like we did the four weeks prior to the Bolingbrook game," said Mattio. "If we, as coaches, take any game too lightly, then the kids will become complacent. We work them hard all week and then let them have a good time on Saturdays."

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