

Mattio, Spartans Set For Premier Showing

By FRED MITCHELL

The talking is over. Time to put three weeks of hard work to the test.

Marian is ready.

"The theme for this week is teamwork and unity," Coach Dave Mattio stresses. "It's pretty difficult keeping the kids up ever day when we're hitting each other."

THE SPARTANS travel to Bolingbrook on Saturday afternoon for Mattio's first game as head coach. Although Marian demolished Bolingbrook last fall 48-8. Mattio cautions that they may be a tougher match Saturday, the season and Illini-8 conference opener.

"Bolingbrook is very aggressive. Being a relatively new school, they're just starting to come around. They return a couple of good kids, including their quarterback Tom Schlegel. I expect a very difficult game," Mattio said.

Although Marian prides itself on being a "hitting team," Mattio is still looking for that aggressive edge in this year's team. "As long as I've been here I can't remember a Marian team being out hit. We've lost a few games over the years, but we've never been out hit."

The defensive personnel is certainly not lacking in size or skills to do the job.

AT DEFENSIVE tackle, for instance, Mattio points to Dan Ostroski, a 6-3, 255-pound sophomore who should be one of the best in the area if he can refine his techniques. Ostroski started last year for the Spartans as a freshman.

Leo Lindbloom, a quick 6-2, 185 pound senior will probably start at the other tackle slot. He has a knack of being around the ball. Todd Bruni, who

doubles as an offensive tackle and Rick Glomb, recovering from a leg injury, can also step in at tackle.

Defensive ends Mike Shilf, Mike Seibt, and Bob O'Meara are all quick off the ball in Mattio's 4-3-4 defense. And linebackers Shawn Janus, Jim Greer and Andy DeRosa are all 200-plus senior stalwarts. Janus will probably be the only two-way starter for the Spartans.

"Janus is the team leaders for us," Mattio praises. "He thinks and reacts under pressure better than anyone we've got," Mattio said.

MATTIO also listed linebackers Kyle Shane, Tom Foote, Tim Dunne and Joe Zarlengo as replacements. Zarlengo is the starting fullback and will see most of his action on offense. But a starting linebacker last year, Zarlengo can be inserted when an experienced defender is needed.

Mark Fagan is set to handle the roverback position.

The 5-10, 165-pounder is an especially sure tackler and strong competitor. Joe Billerbeck, 5-10, 175, is the strong safety and Don West and Matt Scott are the two senior defensive halfbacks.

West, 5-8, 155, will be replacing last year's standout Jeff Laporte, who graduated. West is quick, and a good sticker on defense. He was impressive in Sunday's Black-White intra squad scrimmage. Scott is a returning starter from last year on whom Mattio is counting heavily to stabilize the secondary.

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