

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Sept. 14, 1961**

## **Marian, New Coach, Begin at Glenwood**

New Marian football coach Joe DeSoto will make his bow into south suburban area football society Saturday when he brings his Spartan charges into Glenwood for a season-opening battle with Glenwood School for Boys. Festivities are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

Spartan footballers plan to make DeSoto's first game party a most special one, complete with trimmings.

On Spartan missing from the housewarming show for DeSoto will be Tom Novelli, senior halfback, and the team's leading scorer last season. Novelli decided not to concentrate his interests on football in his final high school year.

Marian will be playing Glenwood for the second straight season, but it will be the first under DeSoto, who came to the Chicago Heights school from Hammond Bishop Noll, where he was freshman football coach.

In pre-season workouts the new mentor has drilled his athletes in the art of the split-T attack, complete with wide open variations. With what is now a fairly sound ball club, DeSoto plans to unveil his attack in Saturday's opener.

Desoto, a former small college All-American at St. Ambrose college in Iowa, will send onto the field a club that lacks tremendous size, but one that has apparent speed to burn.

Due to Novelli's departure, DeSoto has signaled junior Jack Schreiber to the right halfback post. Schreiber will be a new entry to a veteran backfield that boasts of having Carl Swanson at fullback, nifty Joe Bijak at quarter and speedy Bob McEvoy at left halfback. Swanson, a 175 pounder, was named the team's most valuable player last season.

DeSoto calls Bijak a fine runner and passer, "who should reach his peak at mid-season." Joe is a junior while McEvoy and Swanson will finish high school play this year as seniors. Swanson will be the team's "bread and butter" carrier, while McEvoy can be typed as the "home run" runner, who likes long gainers.

One sophomore, Joe Wojdula (pronounced Y-dula) seems to be the only underclassman to break into DeSoto's starting lineup. He is an 178 pound tackle. Another sophomore lineman Dean Bartolini also could see action, said DeSoto.

The interior line positions will be manned by senior guards Jim Addyman and Bob Bergin, and senior center Jim Christ. Addyman and Bergin are both 160 pounders, while Christ tips the scales at 179. All are lettermen.

At the other tackle is co-captain Jim Osika, a veteran who will anchor the line. Osika is a fiery competitor and like it best when the going is a bit rugged. He and his hard-nosed compatriots Addyman and Bergin will also see a majority of action on Marian's defensive line.

“I have a lot of praise for this first unit,” said DeSoto, “they’ve worked hard and show a lot of drive and determination.”

Drive and determination have been the keynote in the battle for starting end positions at Marian. At present it appears that Don Curran and Bill Hamilton will make the start, but not without a fight from senior Frank Rossi and junior Mike Mancini.

Hamilton saw a lot of service with Marian’s frosh-soph team a year ago, while Curran, top hurdler on Marian’s track team, is a converted halfback. Curran is the type of player that always gives his best, said DeSoto.

Two other linemen receiving praise for their efforts have been Frank Vesci and John Lucyer, both centers. Huge athletes, weighing as much as 250 pounds, both were placed on liquid diets by DeSoto. They now have dropped their weight down to where they’re in contention for playing positions, the coach said.