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Add Defensive Strength

Rookies Help Marian

By Jack Jeneson

Untested performers have been playing key roles in Marian's sudden football upswing and head coach Joe DeSoto, a rookie himself, plans to keep it that way.

The Spartans will attempt to springboard from their 2-won, 2-lost record Saturday when they invade Angel Guardian orphanage of Chicago.

Freshmen and sophomores showed well in Marian's 12-6 win over St. Francis de Sales Saturday and DeSoto indicated the underclassmen would play major defensive roles in Saturday's game.

Of great concern to DeSoto are the injuries plaguing key personnel and the lack of depth in the Spartan line, which of late has been most pleasing to the young Marian mentor.

Bogged down with injury are sophomore backs Mike Schreiber and Jocko McEwen, senior lineman John Lussier, and end Don Curran.

Sophomore linebacker Bob Elger came out of the St. Francis game with a scraped hand, adding more woes to DeSoto's personnel picture.

DeSoto hoped that Curran, McEwen and Elger would be ready for action against Angel Guardian. Schreiber is scheduled to be out of action for two weeks, DeSoto said. Curran and Lussier have been bothered by boil problems.

Marian's rookie setup includes Larry Pilotta at center; freshman linebacker Tom Bijak, and defensive backs Steve Bergstrom, Tim Tierney and Bob Dyke, all freshmen. Junior Bill Adler, who plays defensive middle guard, is also receiving praise from DeSoto.

Bijak was in on 50 per cent of the Marian tackles against de Sales and Dyke completed a 25-yard pass in his first game.

Marian will be meeting an Angel Guardian team that has won on of four games. The Guardian win was a 12-0 job over Glenwood, the same team the Spartans whipped 12-7 in their first game of the season.

One-point Angel Guardian defeats came at the hands of Mendel Catholic's junior varsity and Francis Parker. Loyola beat Guardian 18-12.

Junior quarterback Zigmund Gac leads the Guardian attack along with fullbacks Ken Madison (150) and Walter Auer (150) and fullback Lou Kostakis (160).

The Angel Guardian line averages 150 pounds with Mike Maeda (175) anchoring it on offense and defense. Terry Meinganser, a senior end, is Gac's favorite passing target from the wing-T and spread formations. Gac has completed 60 per cent of his passes this season.

DeSoto was quite pleased with the running of his halfbacks in the de Sales game Saturday.

He individually praised halfback Bob McEvoy, who gained over 130 yards and Carl Swanson, who made shreds of the St. Francis line.

Marian is scheduled to line up offensively as follows: Dick Hamilton and Curran at ends; Jim Osika and Dean Bartolini at tackles; Bob Bergin and Joe Wojdula at guards and Jim Christ at center. Joe Bijak will direct the team at quarterback with McEvoy and Jack Schreiber at halfbacks and Swanson at fullback.