

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Sept. 13, 1962

League Start for Marian DeSoto Tells His Defense, Stop Abraham

By Dave Nightingale

Rarely does a football coach find himself equipped with such first-game psychological weapons as does Marian's Joe DeSoto this week.

The Spartans will rush right into Metropolitan Catholic conference action on opening day Saturday when they play host to Maryville Academy of Des Plaines in a 2 p.m. clash at Bloom field.

DeSoto will be quick to remind his charges that they have two scores to settle with Maryville personnel; one for the controversial 25-19 loss in 1961 which may have cost Marian a conference title; another- a more personal matter- with Academy backfield star John Abraham.

Maryville won the 1961 Metro crown with a 3-0-1 – to 2-1-1 for St. Francis de Sales and 2-2 for Marian. But if a quick whistle had not nullified a Marian touchdown, the final standings could have read: Marian 3-1, Maryville 2-1-1, St. Francis de Sales 2-1-1.

The controversial play from the 1961 game is well etched in the minds of Marian fans: a fake to the fullback, a handoff instead to Mike Schreiber (who broke free for the goal), a fooled official (who thought the fullback had the ball) and the play-ending whistle.

It was just one of those things. . . but costly for Marian nonetheless.

The score to settle with Maryville backfield ace Abraham? That's easy. All the son of the Academy coach did in 1961 was to take part in each of Maryville's four scores against the Spartans.

He ran 10 yards for one touchdown, caught two long scoring tosses and passed for the deciding tally.

He added 20 points in three other conference outings last season to finish league play with 38 points and totaled 62 points for the entire campaign as the Academy finished with a 5-1-1 record.

Now a senior, young Abraham is starting his fourth season as a Maryville regular. He'll play fullback when the visitors line up in the T formation, tailback when they shift to the single wing.

Joining Abraham in the Maryville backfield are junior quarterback Pete Kaiser, a converted end who has lettered twice, and two speedy halfbacks, senior Xavier Terrazas and sophomore Ron Singleton. Terrazas also has won letters the last two seasons.

Maryville linemen will be Bill and Mike Spencer at ends, Phil Webb and Ed Sands at tackles, Joe Brady and Tom Berger at guards and Angelo Bernar at center. Brady has won two letters, Bill Spencer and Berger one each.

DeSoto's starting offensive lineup will have only one non-letterman, and John Patti.

Veteran starters include end Dick Hamilton, tackles Dean Bartolini and Jim Pierson, guards Jim Addyman and Joe Wojdula, center Larry Politto, quarterback Bob Dyke, halfbacks Jack Schreiber and Mike Kuhl and fullback Joe Bijak.

Waiting in the wings will be such seasoned backfield performers as Tim Tierney, Mike Schreiber, Tom Bijak, Bob Alger, Steve Bergstrom and Jocko McEwen.