

1962 SEASON

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Sept. 9, 1962

'Soft Sell'

Better Team, Marian Faces Tougher Card

By Dave Nightingale

Coach Joe DeSoto, opening his second season at the Marian high football helm, has replaced the "hard sell" with the "soft sell" this season.

The Spartans had won only one game in three seasons when DeSoto took over in the fall of 1961 and, as he puts it, "we really had to push the idea hard that we could win. . . we had to get rid of a defeatist complex."

Marian won four games in DeSoto's initial season and the 16 lettermen from that team who'll handle most of the load this year don't take quite as much convincing that victory is possible.

The Spartans' coach, however, approaches the forthcoming seasons with mixed emotions for several reasons.

1. Though his team apparently is stronger than in 1961, the 1962 schedule is tougher (Plainfield, Thornton Fractional South, Crete-Monee and Marmion Academy of Aurora replace Glenwood Boys School, Wilmington, Luther South and Angel Guardian. Glenwood and Angel Guardian were two of Marian's four 1961 victims).

2. Though he does have 16 lettermen, 10 of them are in the backfield- leaving a decided lack of depth in the line. ("We could find ourselves in trouble if any of our top seven linemen come up with a bad injury," says Bloom-Northern Illinois university graduate Norm Mack, DeSoto's line coach.)

3. Though the principles in Marian's 1961 passing attack return for the 1962 campaign, the Spartans one-two rushing and scoring punch from last year has graduated (Gone are halfbacks Bob McEvoy, who gained 579 yards for a 7.5 average and topped *The Star* area scorers with 52 points, and fullback Carl Swanson, who gained 438 yards for a 6.2 average and tallied 24 points. The next four top rushers totaled only 620 yards in 1961.)

"Our goal this year is a winning season," DeSoto says. "I'm pretty confident we can achieve it."

Marian's backfield letterman corps is headed by co-captain Joe Bijak, the team's regular quarterback in 1961, who will play fullback this year.

Others are sophomore quarterbacks John (Tim) Tierney and Bob Dyke; senior halfbacks Jack Schreiber and Mike Kuhl; junior halfbacks Mike Schreiber, Steve Bergstrom and Bob (Jocko) McEwen; junior fullback Bob Alger and soph linebacker Tom Bijak.

The 1961 freshman scoring leader, Jerry Nicholas, also figures in DeSoto's plans, as does senior fullback Ed Lithicum.

Tierney, Jack Schreiber, Kuhl and Joe Bijak probably will comprise the starting backfield in the Saturday opener with Maryville Academy, while Tom Bijak, Alger, Bergstrom and Dyke will join Tierney and Jack Schreiber in the defensive secondary.

Dyke may well share quarterback duties with Tierney, as he did in the latter part of 1961. "We're trying to make and end out of him, looking to the future," says DeSoto, "but he's done awfully well at quarterback this fall."

Tom lineman is senior end Dick Hamilton, Marian's only all-Metropolitan Catholic performer in 1961. Veterans joining Hamilton up front are junior Dean Bartolini and senior Jim Pierson at tackles, senior Jim Addyman (co-captain) and junior Joe Wojdula at guards and junior center Larry Politto.

Senior John Patti is slated for an offensive end berth, Gene Mulderink for a defensive end slot.

Addyman will be playing for the first time in a year. He broke an ankle in the 1961 opener against Glenwood.

DeSoto, a graduate of Gary Horace Mann high and St. Ambrose college (where he was a small college all-American gridder), figures that a good share of Marian's 1962 success must come from an aerial game.

Tierney, Dyke and Joe Bijak completed 18 passes for 519 yards last season. Hamilton caught 10 for 214 yards, Jack Schreiber five for 116.

"Our basic offense will be the T-formation with a belly series, but we'll also use some split-T and single wing formations," says DeSoto. "And I'm counting on 150 yards passing a game."