

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Sept. 20, 1962**

## **DeSoto Goes Into Action To Solve Spartan Faults**

**By Dave Nightingale**

If Marian football coach Joe DeSoto's muscles are a little sorer than usual this week, it's because he believes in going to the root of his team's troubles personally.

Extremely dissatisfied with the Spartans' "fundamentals" in a 31-0 opening game loss to Maryville Academy last Saturday, DeSoto donned the pads himself this week in an effort to give his gridders a first-hand idea of what these things called "tackling" and "blocking" are all about.

The reason DeSoto risked reaching for his liniment bottle is simple: He thinks Plainfield, next Saturday's foe (2 p.m. at Bloom field), is considerably tougher than Maryville.

Does this mean the Spartans are in for another drubbing?

"Unless my kids wake up all of a sudden," DeSoto admits. "They know they didn't do a good job last week. How much better they can do this week remains to be seen."

About the only thing to please DeSoto in last Saturday's fiasco was the Spartan ground game, which outgained Maryville, 134 yards to 132.

But a passing attack which produced only three yards ("we tried too many long ones"), a sieve-like pass defense (which permitted seven completions in 11 throws) and an inability to cope with end runs ("our linebackers were sleeping") have produced a good deal more concern.

"If Plainfield scouted us last week, they'll be pounding at our ends from the opening gun," DeSoto says frankly.

But that doesn't mean he's throwing in the towel. A revised defensive alignment and some good old-fashioned tackling can work a wonder or two, he figures.

No changes from the opening-day Spartan lineup had been made by midweek, but it was no secret that second-string halfbacks Jerry Nicolas and Mike Schreiber enjoy at least "alternate first string" status. Nicolas gained 63 yards against Maryville, Mike Schreiber 50. The remainder of the backfield corps netted a grand total of 21 yards.

Awaiting Saturday's opening gun will be ends Dick Hamilton and John Patti, tackles Dean Bartolini and Jim Pierson, guards Joe Wojdula and Jim Addyman, center Larry Polotto, alternating quarterbacks Bob Dyke and Tim Tierney, halfbacks Jack Schreiber and Mike Kuhl and fullback Joe Bijak.

Plainfield, like Marian, was an opening game loser. But DeSoto, who did some personal scouting, was very much impressed with the Wildcats, despite their 19-12 loss to rugged Wilmington.

Coach Tom Williams' invaders run from a pro-type slot T offense with junior quarterback Randy Dewar the siege gun.

Dewar gained two seasons worth of experience in 1961 when he played regularly for both the Plainfield varsity and frosh-soph teams—permissible under the unique Fox Valley Conference rules.

To running back is senior letterman Dale Mayfield, who averaged nearly five yards a crack in 60 carries last season. He is joined in the deuce backfield by letterman fullback Roger Seby, a junior.

Senior letterman Rick Jewett, who caught 22 passes for 248 yards and carried the ball 68 times for 318 yards in 1961, is the slotback.

Up front, the Wildcats have letterman Dave Harshbarger (a converted tackle) and Bob Hill at ends. Other veterans are tackle Bob Searle (“an outstanding lineman,” says DeSoto), guard Jerry Brands and center Jim Johnson.

Rounding out the forward wall are tackle Jim Warmbier and 220-pound guard Rich Webb. For good measure, 6-3, 240-pound soph lineman John Smith is available for defensive duty.