

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 25, 1962

'Meetin' of the Beaten'

Spartans Looking Up

By Dave Nightingale

The 1962 Metropolitan Catholic conference football log book will be closed somewhat fittingly this week-end with action at both ends of the totem pole.

It is the lower end of this pole with which we. . . and Marian Coach Joe DeSoto. . . and his Spartans are concerned.

Before Maryville Academy (3-0) and St. Francis deSales (3-0) square off for the league championship Saturday afternoon at DesPlaines, the circuit's permanent basement resident will have been determined. Contenders for the undistinguished honor are Marian and Little Flower.

Barring a deadlock, something's got to give when these two winless denizens of the Metro deep clash at 8 p.m. Friday on the turf of Shrewbridge field, 74th street and Racine.

Each school will enter this "meetin' of the beaten' with 0-3 conference standards and 0-6 season marks.

Strictly on the basis of comparative scores, the Spartans will enjoy a heretofore unknown favorite's role. While Marian has averaged only four points a game in three conference encounters and allowed an average of 21.3 points, their Friday hosts have even less to show.

Little Flower's defense has been pierced for an average of five touchdowns and three extra points a league game this season. It has yet to score a single point against the likes of Maryville, deSales and St. Francis of Wheaton.

Marian won last year's engagement between the two, 34-0.

DeSoto, whose strategy usually calls for plenty of head-knockin' in practice, reversed his field this week and let his charges take things easier than usual in early drills.

"Let's face it," he admitted. "There's not much to be salvaged out of this season. That doesn't mean we're throwing I the towel by any means— no sir! But I am gong to give some of my younger kids a chance in the last three weeks so they can get some experience for next season.

"In spite of the fact Little Flower hasn't scored (in conference play) this year, they won't be pushovers. I imagine they'll really be 'up' for us.

"But on the other hand— if we don't win this one. . ."

One thing is certain: If Joe Bijak has an encore for last week's act, the Spartans are home free. The Marian fullback ground out 133 yards in last Saturday's 13-0 loss to TF South.

Bob Dyke, Jack Schreiber and Jerry Nicholas will join Bijak in the Spartans' starting backfield while ailing Mike Schreiber (injured hip) is still a doubtful performer.

On offense, the line will include Dick Hamilton and either John Patti or Jim Theis as ends, Jim Pierson and Dean Bartolini at tackles, Joe Wojdula and Joe Krusinski at guards- and probably- Larry Piolotto at center.

Pilotto faced TF South with an infected toe last Saturday. The infection was lanced Monday and, barring complications, the beefy center should see action Friday night.

On defense, end Jim Sands is hobbled by a twisted ankle and may not be in top shape for the contest.

DeSoto's primary worry, as he readies his team for Friday's game, is the Spartans' inability to move the ball close to the opponents' goal. Marian has yet to put together a sustained scoring drive on the ground this year.

Three of the five Spartan tallies have come on long passes, one on a kickoff return and the other on a short plunge after a fumble recovery two yards from paydirt.

"It looks as if we're going to have to start throwing the ball around a little more near the other team's goal if we're going to score," DeSoto observed.