

Verde, Marian Off To 2-0 Start



Marian football drills

Jonathan Miano, File, The Times

Marian Catholic is off to a 2-0 start under new coach Jerry Verde. The Spartans face Carmel Catholic Friday night.

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Marian Catholic and new football coach Jerry Verde are off to a 2-0 start and Verde said that is a confidence builder.

The Spartans have outscored opponents 91-6. They beat Hyde Park 42-3 and Shepard 49-3. While neither team is a power, "2-0 is 2-0."

"We are excited to be 2-0 regardless of who we have played," Verde said. "We do however understand we have a lot of work to put in order to get to where we want to be."

He said the skill positions have played well in the first two games. That includes Ki-Jana Crawford, Dillon Burns, Emilio Garza, Jared Rogers and Pat Schmidt.

Marian hosts an 0-2 Carmel Catholic team Friday in its East Suburban Catholic Conference opener.

But Verde, who has won 23 straight regular-season games and 16 in a row dating back to the 2011 and 2012 seasons when he was at Crete-Monee, knows the Corsairs will be a tough opponent.

"We play a very tough and talented Carmel of Mundelein team this week," Verde said. "They may be 0-2 but they've played both the runners-ups in 7A and 8A.

"It will be a great test to see where we are as a team.