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For Marian

Football Is Full Time Job

By Bob Lueder

Marian embarks on a busy schedule of football that holds the key to just how successful the season will be Friday night at Herscher.

This starts a span that will find the Spartans playing three games in eight days, with two of the contests on the road.

“I saw Herscher when they defeated Milford,” Coach Joe DeSoto said. “They are a big team, but I don’t plan too many changes.” The one move that must come about is working in a new fullback to replace Mike Schreiber for at least the Herscher game.

Schreiber injured his ankle two weeks ago in the St. Francis of Wheaton game.

There will also be a defensive change due to a non-football injury suffered by Bob “Jocko” McEwen. McEwen suffered a concussion and it is not known how long he will be out.

Captain Joe Krusinski has been taken off the injured list and he will take up most of the slack left by the absence of McEwen. It is for certain that DeSoto would like to have both of the seniors ready.

“For the offensive move to replace Schreiber, I would have to say Julio Gozzi rates the best chance to get the start,” DeSoto reported.

Gozzi is the Spartans’ kicking specialist and set a new school record last week when Marian downed Little Flower 12-0 by getting off a punt of 73 yards.

DeSoto can also use starting quarterback Tim Tierney in Schreiber’s place and move up number two caller Dennis Schmal.

The Spartans have gained a total of 803 yards on the ground in posting a 3-won, 1-lost record for the season, while the opponents have been held to 325 yards.

The defensive squad, or the “black team,” as DeSoto calls them, is looking better with each game. Last week they held Little Flower to only 30 yards.

Although it would be difficult to single out any one man, Tom Bijak, Joe Wojdula, Ken Alger and Charley Carollo were in on most of the plays.

“Last week I worked the squad real strong on a play to rush the punter in hopes of getting a blocked kick and it worked,” DeSoto remarked. “This week we’ve done a lot of pass defense, I hope it pays off.”

The three wins posted by Marian all came after a season opening loss to Maryville and the string marked the first time the school has ever won more than two in a row.

One of the main ambitions of the current Spartans is to have a winning season and this could be solved by the eight-day, three-game schedule.

Next Wednesday will be a Catholic Metropolitan conference game with St. Francis DeSales on Marian’s field, followed by a trip to TF South on October 19.