

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Sept. 19, 1963

Face Lockport West

Can Marian Bounce Back?

By Bob Lueder

Can Marian's football team bounce back after losing its first game? Are their fans going to witness a winning season? A lot will depend on how things go Saturday.

The Spartans travel to Lockport West to visit that town's version of Spartans in their new locality on Route 66A with kickoff time set for 2 p.m.

Marian scored first, but could not stay on top in losing to Maryville 26-6 last week, while Lockport West lost its opener to Geneva 12-0.

"We have nothing to be ashamed of," Coach Joe DeSoto said. "There were just some mental mistakes that cost us the ball game."

DeSoto thought the squad knew more than he did about the value of heads up play after the loss to Maryville and would be ready.

Two deep Marian scoring drives were halted by penalties, while two Maryville touchdowns were aided by rule infractions against the Spartans.

"One time we let a pass receiver get behind us and they scored. Then we tried to run a punt return out of the end zone and fumbles, so they got six more points," DeSoto reminded.

Lockport West will be no easy opponent. West has a big line that averages near the 200 pound mark.

They operate from a slot-T and in the Geneva contest quarterback John Berger let fly with 30 passes, completing only eight.

At the ends, West high has a pair of 6-2 performers in Ken Beno and Charley Brieden with the latter being the target for 11 of Berger's passes last week.

Berger, Beno and Brieden all lettered last year for the Lockport Porters as did other West starters Charley Harris, a back, and linemen Wally Helis, Ira Brainerd and Joe Sutherland.

Marian reported only two minor injuries. Tim Tierney has a bruised thigh and linebacker Bob McEwen suffered a sprained ankle. Both will be ready for Saturday, it was reported.

The change in the lineup could put Larry Pilotto back to his usual center position after an experiment at fullback.

With the move, the Spartans would shift senior Mike Schreiber to fullback and with Jerry Nicolas and Steve Bergstrom at halfback spots Marian would have a swift moving backfield.

Nicolas picked up 59 yards, Bergstrom 54 and Schreiber 53 as the trio alternated at halves last week.

"We may do some other shifting around in the line, but I won't know for sure until it is near game time," DeSoto stated.

The Spartans gained 154 yards on the ground to 79 for Maryville, but lost in the air battle 124-41 to the Terriers' razzle-dazzle type formations.

It was the only game played so far in the Catholic Metropolitan conference as Little Flower, St. Francis DeSales and St. Francis of Wheaton await action. Maryville has won the title two straight years.