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Daring DeSoto Says Spartans to Succeed

By Bob Lueder

Marian heads into its opening football battle at DesPlaines Saturday afternoon confident of a victory and a winning season.

“We’ll beat Maryville by at least a touchdown” was the solid prediction of Coach Joe DeSoto.

Not only did DeSoto think this would be the key game in the Catholic Metropolitan conference, but the spark to ignite the Spartans for the entire schedule.

Marian never had a winning season with the best mar posted being a 4-won, 5-lost record in 1961.

“Some of this year’s team are in their third season and I think they are plenty hungry to get even for some of the losses,” DeSoto claimed.

Maryville topped the Spartans by a touchdown the first time they met and laced Marian with a 30-0 trimming last year.

John Abraham’s Terriers have won the CMC crown for two seasons and will be out on defense of the title when kickoff time approaches at 2 p.m.

Giving the Spartans a big boost is the signal calling work of Tim Tierney. The junior quarterback has the knack of mixing plays and possesses an accurate passing arm.

In the backfield, DeSoto has Mike Schreiber, Steve Bergstrom and Jerry Nicholas set for equal duties at the halves, with big 220-pound Larry Pilotto at fullback.

“The backs have put in a lot of extra work and I think they will do some exploding through the Maryville line,” DeSoto remarked of the offensive backfield.

John Mulhollan, a 170-pound junior, will go both ways at one of the end positions for the Spartans, with junior Ed Scott on offense and senior Ken Alger with the defensive group. DeSoto pointed to the work of three line men as not only tough players, but a trio that is able to “fire up” the team.

Included is Captain Joe Drusinski, a senior, and junior Tom Bijak, both 165-pound guards, who will start on offense. Bijak is also with the defensive unit, with the other guard being either Bob “Jocko” McEwen or Greg Rohlf.

Joe Wojdula, a 190-pound senior tackle, is another keeping the squad hustling. Wojdula will see full time service with Dean Bartolini as his partner on offense and Jim Ranieri or Terry Prokop aiding in the defensive duties.

Starting at center spot is 150-pound junior Emery Harmon. When it come to defense however, big Charley Carollo, a 250-pound senior will plug up the center of the line.

This is part of the group of 38 squad members who are hungry for a winning season and believe they can do it. Saturday can answer a lot of questions.

“I know I’m sticking my neck out and may have to eat my words for the remainder of the year,” DeSoto pointed out. “But these guys are determined and so am I that this is going to be a good year for Marian football.”