

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 3, 1963

Spartans See No. 3 As a 1st

By Bob Lueder

Marian will exhibit its 1963 football squad to home town fans when they host Little Flower in a Catholic Metropolitan conference game Saturday afternoon.

The Spartans hope to add another victory to a string of two straight at the Bloom high school field, with kickoff time set for 2 p.m.

Marian was stunned by the razzle-dazzle type offense at Maryville and dropped the season opener, but came back strong against Lockport West and St. Francis of Wheaton.

"I know Little Flower will be out fighting for a win all the way," Coach Joe DeSoto said. "They have never beaten us and were the only team we could top last year."

Little Flower opened on the winning side of the ledger with a 13-0 conquest of Holy Cross and were then bombed by St. Viator, 47-0.

"The scouting report showed they looked pretty good last week, when Maryville got a couple lucky breaks to beat them 26-13," DeSoto remarked.

The CMC foe counts mainly on the work of three key personnel. When they go to the air, quarterback John Clakis is hoping to find his end Bob Gianome open, while the big ground gainer is halfback Jim Fennell.

Marian has two squad members on the injured list with badly sprained ankles. Out of action, but expected to return for Saturday's game is halfback Mike Schreiber and center Larry Pilotto.

DeSoto is also hoping that the doctor will release Captain Joe Krusinski from the disabled list before Saturday. Krusinski has been out with an eye injury suffered two weeks ago.

If the Spartans can come through with another win, it can be the start of a new school record in football. A Marian team has never won more than two straight games and never had a .500 season finish.

The top thing going for Marian at the present time is a solid defensive unit.

At the ends for the "Black team," the name for DeSoto's defensive specialists, are Ken Alger and John Mulhollan, with Ed Scott as the top replacement.

Tackles are Dean Bartolin and Joe Wojdula, with either Terry Prokop or Charley Carolo covering the middle of the five man line.

Working in the corner line backer positions are Schreiber and Steve Bergstrom with Tom Bijak, Greg Rohlf and Bob McEwen sharing the middle man duties.

The halfbacks in the 5-3-3 arrangements are Tim Tierney, Jerry Nicolas and Dennis Schmal. This trio has been able to give the Spartans a strong pass defense, something they lacked earlier in the season.

"We still are making a lot of mistakes," DeSoto pointed out. "But a marked improvement has been made with each game."

For the season, Marina has allowed opponents only 295 yards on the ground, while their own backfield has scampered off gains that amount to 580 yards.

With Schreiber slowed down by the banged up ankle in the St. Francis game, the Marian rushing department was taken over by Nicolas with 225 yards, with Bergstrom only 14 behind.

Most observers at the St. Francis game called the rushing tactics of Bergstrom the most improved of the season. The 5-9 junior, who weighs 155 pounds, scored two long touchdowns.

Just in case Schreiber will not be able to play in the Little Flower game, DeSoto said he will move Tierney from his usual quarterback spot to fullback.

This would give Schmal the fulltime signal calling job and the other time he was given the opportunity it resulted in a 25-20 win over Lockport West.