

1963 SEASON

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Letdown at Marian

No Depth, No Bumps

By Bob Lueder

Anxiety surrounds Marian Catholic high school as preparations for the opening football game of the 1963 unfold.

The team is reported to be at a natural letdown, which comes about this time of the of the early season and strengthened by the fact of no new injuries.

“What we need right now is a good scrimmage, but with the way we lack depth, there is no way to get it,” Coach Joe DeSoto reported.

The Spartans will get a first chance to “bump heads with someone” as DeSoto puts it, when they battle Maryville in the Catholic Metropolitan tilt Saturday.

John Abraham’s Maryville club has been the power of the CMC the past two years and started Marian on the road to a 1-won, 8-lost record last year with a 30-0 drubbing.

On the injury side of the ledger, Marian will apparently have all players able and willing to go, unless misfortune should strike them this week in practice.

Ends Ed Scott and Tony Scrementi were figured to miss the opener, but are back with the squad and slated to see service, according to word from DeSoto.

Also going at full speed after a few days of rest is Mike Schreiber, who was bothered by a minor leg injury, and Tom Bijak, slated to see duty on both offense and defense in the line.

Marian will run its offense out of a T-formation with variation DeSoto stated. “On the whole, the bulk of our plays will be fairly simple,” he said.

Running the show from the players standpoint will be junior Tim Tierney, a letterman, considered a threat with his passing or running game when he is not handing off to a mate.

Tierney’s backfield partners include halfbacks Steve Bergstrom, Jerry Nicholas and Schreiber along with 220-pound Larry Pilotto at fullback.

The battle for offensive center appears to be headed down to the wire for the Spartans this year as juniors Emery Harmon and Tom Czech figure in the picture.

Harmon rated as the favorite until the end of last week when the 180-pound Czech, who was figured to see some service on defense, moved up to the first squad.

The remainder of the positions in the line have three and even four players still fighting it out for the jobs and the next three days will be the determining factors.

“We’re going to have to go into that first game real hungry for a win and I’ll use the personnel that will battle all the way,” DeSoto said.

DeSoto figures that if his club could get off to a win at DesPlaines, they could have a strong chance for a .500 season over their 10-game schedule.

The Spartans' coach, at present in his third year at Marian, will field a team with a majority of underclassmen and with an even split on the year the outlook would be bright.