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Cadets March on Spartans

Marian Seeks To Make Best Mark Better

By Bob Lueder

Marian's football team will have a dual purpose in mind when it hosts Marmion Military at Bloom field Saturday afternoon in the final game of the season.

Top item Marian gridders will be after is to improve on the best record in the school's history.

At present the Spartans hold a 5-won, 2-lost and 2-tied record, first time that a Marian football team has ever had a winning season.

Another concern for the Marian players is to make Jerry Nicolas the area scoring leader. Nicolas trails Rich Easts' Dave Carty 78-75.

"Sure, maybe Jerry will have one more game than Carty," Marian coach Joe DeSoto said. "But, whoever has the most points would be the scoring leader and we hope it's Nicolas by Saturday evening."

The Spartans will be up against their toughest opposition when they play Marmion, which drubbed St. Edwards 39-7 last Sunday to win the Suburban Catholic title on a perfect 5-0 record.

"It's east to figure that I was not happy with the showing we made last week," DeSoto remarked in reference to the 20-all tie with Crete-Monee.

DeSoto said that there would be some defensive changes made for the Marmion game, but wanted to hold off on the strategy.

Offensively, the Spartans are going to use a lot more of converted guard Tom Bijak at the fullback position, where he operated with success in the second half of the Crete-Monee game.

The only senior end finishing up this week is outstanding defensive workhorse, Ken Alger. Three tackles, Joe Wojdula, Dean Bartolini and Charley Carolo will be in their last contest.

Captain Joe Krusinski is the only guard to depart, while center Larry Pilotto completes the graduating linemen.

Three backfield performers, all who have been plagued with injuries this season will be at the finale. One of them, Bob "Jocko" McEwen, is already finished.

Kicking specialist Julio Guzzo and fullback Mike Schreiber are the other two who have been in the lineup regularly.

Reserve tackles Tom McNamara and Jim LaChapella along with guard Jim Sands and back Allan Zeller are the other squad members who hope to see a Marian victory in their last appearance.

"Most of these fellows have been with me for three years and I'm proud of all of them," DeSoto pointed out. "They'll all be missed."