

1964 SEASON

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Split Ends, Slot Back

Pro Offense for Spartans

By Bob Lueder

Optimism runs high at Marian Catholic high school as the Spartans prepare for the coming football season under a new coach and with a new offense.

Tom Mitchell will be making his varsity coaching debut at Marian, taking over reins from Joe DeSoto, who moved to TF South in Lansing.

"We'll operate with a pro type offense, using split ends and a slot back," Mitchell said. "The squad will have to adjust, but then we should be all right."

The Spartans will be playing the toughest schedule in the school's history and Mitchell was quick to echo the thoughts of most of its followers.

"Maybe if we come up with a winning record and knock off the big name schools, Marian can lose that little brother image," Mitchell said.

The Spartans reported to their new coach in excellent physical condition and are looking forward to the opening game on Saturday, September 19, at Homewood-Flossmoor.

Marian will be on the road the next two weeks and will not play a home contest, at Bloom field, until October 10, when it meets powerful Gary Andrean in a Homecoming match.

The Spartans will be at home four times and on the road in five contests including four games in the Catholic Metropolitan conference.

Battles for starting positions are already beginning to shape up, with the first coming as reserve signal caller Dennis Schmal makes a strong bid to wrestle that job from last year's starter Tim Tierney.

At halfback will be Steve Bergstrom, with last year's frosh-soph ace Claudio Cerullio as the second choice. Jerry Nicolas is slated to operate from fullback.

Nicolas and Bergstrom, a pair of senior speedsters, led the Spartans in all offensive departments a year ago and are counted on a strongly again.

Three juniors Jack Thar, Tim Massey and John Meno each seek the slot back position, with Thar holding a slight edge.

Tom Czech, a senior letterman, may win the center job from classmate Emery Harmon, who was a starter with the Spartans for part of the 1963 season.

Senior regular Ed Scott and junior Joe Kalinowski are top candidates at the ends. Mike Platt, a transfer student from Indianapolis Cathedral, Stan Jendrasek and Paul Mazzocco also rate.

John Mulhollan, a regular end, has been shifted to tackle and joins with junior Dave Mattio as a front runner.

Pushing the pair will be senior Jerry Bozenich along with Chuck Urewicz and Matt Insalaco, who started on the frosh-soph squad last year.

Aggressive Tom Bijak will head up the group of guards as Mitchell ended the speculation that Bijak would be moving to the backfield.

Tony Schrementi, Jim Corradette and Jim Ranieri, all seniors, are all trying for guard positions as will junior John Towle, who is reporting late, due to illness.