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Strong Andrean Perils Spartans

By Bob Lueder

Marian will be shooting for the biggest celebration in the school's history when it battles Gary Andrean in a Homecoming game at Bloom field Saturday.

The Spartans know this is a "must" game if they expect to capture the Catholic Metropolitan conference title and that the Fighting 59ers are the team to beat.

Andrean, in its first CMC season, has already won a pair of games, whipping both Maryville and Little Flower.

The Indiana school was rated fifth in the state and last week knocked off third ranked Gary Roosevelt 27-12.

Off to an earlier start than Illinois schools, Andrean has also defeated Gary Frobel, while tying Horace Mann this year.

The Spartans have only met Andrean on one other occasion and that was a well remembered 81-6 pasting suffered in 1962.

"We should be physically ready for Andrean," Coach Tom Mitchell reported. There was concern over the service of Tom Bijak, Tom Czech and Tim Tierney.

Tierney suffered a leg injury as Marian rolled over Little Flower 27-7 Sunday. Bijak and Czech did not see action in the game due to injuries.

This will be the first home appearance for Mitchell and his crew. The Spartans Isot 24-6 at Homewood-Flossmoor, and played a 12-all tie at Lockport West before gaining their first win.

"Little Flower wasn't able to move on the ground," Mitchell said. "I'm still not completely happy, though, with our play."

Claudio Cerulli scored touchdown runs of six and 43 yards to pace the Spartans drive. Jerry Nicolas picked up a loose punt for another score.

The longest score of the day came on a 53 yard pass play, quarterback Tim Tierney to end Ed Scott.

Marian was able to use the Little Flower game to go ahead of the opponents in all offensive departments, owning a 676 to 619 advantage in total yards.

Nicolas is the individual rushing leader with 254 yards in 32 carries for a 7.9 average, but Cerulli had his best day of the season against the Knights.

The swift Spartan junior now has gained 153 yards to sport a 6.1 average. However, Marian has little running after that.

In the passing category, Tierney has completed 19 of 50 attempts for an overall gain of 255 yards. His favorite targets have been Scott for 129 yards and Cerulli for 116.

Veteran back Steve Bergstrom was figured to be one of the leaders, but suffered a preseason knee injury.

"They removed the cast from Steve's leg and now it will be a matter of his getting back in playing shape. We don't want to try to rush him," Mitchell said.