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## **Spartans' Offense on Mend**

**By Bob Lueder**

Marian will be a completely healthy ball team for the first time this season when it travels to Mundelein to meet Carmel high Saturday.

"Both Joe Kalinowski and Claudio Cerulli will be ready for action this week and maybe this can get our offense rolling," Coach Norm Mack said.

The Spartans have received as much help from the defensive unit as they have from the offense in scoring points this season.

"We need a break-away runner and you could say the backfield positions are as wide open as they were at the start of the season," Mack commented.

Greg Lee and Jerry Schultz are rated a toss-up for the quarterback duties. The juniors are staging a close dual and much will depend on who throws the accurate pass patterns.

The other backs will be Cerulli, Mike Platt, Mark Klausner, Jack Thar, Tim Massey and Greg Maher, with everyone expected to make a game appearance.

Platt leads the Spartan offense with 318 yards in 86 carries for a 3.7 average, while Klausner ranks second, but neither back has the speed to get past the secondary.

While the offense causes Mack and his staff the biggest problems, the Marian coach reported that he is pleased with the defense.

"This Carmel game will be a real test to see how improved they are," Mack remarked. "We will have a big, strong and fast opponent on our hands."

Last year Marian broke loose in the second half behind Jerry Nicolas to roll over Carmel 23-6, but Nicolas and other Spartans have graduated, while the Mundelein club has all its players back.

Ken Autry is the ace of the Carmel backfield and the team is also able to go to the air with the passing of quarterback Dave Bretzlaus and capable receiving of Autry and end Joe Tyler.

Tyler is also a standout on defense and it is hard to gain yardage up the middle on Carmel with guard Tom Weaver leading that charge.

Things do not look too bright for Marian's future as not only Carmel, but next week's opponent Crete-Monee would like to gain revenge.

The Spartans close out their schedule on Sunday, November 14 at Chicago DeLaSalle with a morning game and this could be the toughest opponent.

Marian's defense gave up only 91 yards in their last start and limited St. Francis DeSales to a total of 22 during the second half, when Mack felt his team "came to life."

One switch that appeared to payoff was moving end Steve Grivish to a guard position.

Together with some fine performances by tackles Dave Mattio and Joe Marconi and linebacker John Towle, the chances to gain yardage over the center of the line was slim.

Mattio, the Spartans co-captain, corrected one account of the 9-0 win over DeSales. “John (Towle) blocked that punt for the safety, not me.”

The 6-2 senior did block another of Mike McGuire’s punt attempts and recovered a fumble to help keep the Spartan defense sharp.