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Marian Quits CMC: Seeks Suburban Catholic Berth

By Bob Lueder

Marian Catholic will relinquish its membership in the Catholic Metropolitan conference at the completion of the 1965-66 schedule, it was reported by Athletic Director Don Berg.

The future of the CMC is in doubt. Gary Andrean, the most recent addition, has already reported it will not be back next year.

This will leave Little Flower, Maryville of DesPlaines and St. Francis DeSales as league members, with the possibility of a new school.

Many reasons could be given for the apparent fold of the league, but Berg's chief on was that the conference failed to expand operations as planned.

"We feel that Marian is ready to step up its competition and play a tougher schedule to improve our own athletic program," Berg explained.

The CMC plays a varsity and frosh-soph schedule in football and basketball, offers varsity baseball season while track is nearly forgotten.

Marian has a bid in to enter the Suburban Catholic conference that now has Immaculate Conception, St. Francis of Wheaton, Joliet Catholic, Marian Central of Woodstock, Marmion Military, Notre Dame of Niles, St. Procopius and St. Edwards.

The Suburban Catholic has also received a bid from Carmel of Mundelein and a decision will be reached at the league meeting in November.

There is a strong possibility that the league will split into divisions and accept both schools.

"The Suburban Catholic officials have been out to inspect facilities and seemed pleased," Berg said.

Berg said the officials pointed out interest in a divisional set up to cut down on some of the long trips that are now made by the schools.

"This would give Marian Catholic a full sports program and would add cross country, wrestling and golf plus the four major activities," Berg pointed out.

While Marian was ready to move up its athletic program, Berg was a little upset that only Bloom and Homewood-Flossmoor among area schools gave the Spartans a chance to be on their schedules.

H-F has not informed Berg it will not schedule Marian in the future. If the Spartans have to play a year of independent sports, Berg will be kept busy.

"I am going to ask Bloom, Thornton and Eisenhower if they would be interested in playing us in football as we all have open dates," Berg said.

The present schedule in football for 1996 will show the Spartans meeting Andrean in the opener followed by Lockport West, but the only other team listed at present is Carmel.

"We may have to go back to some of our old CMC teams, but still hop to be in a league if things go right," Berg stated.

Crete-Monee was another team in the area on Marian's schedule, but the Warriors dropped the Spartans from future grid battles after this season.

This is not Marian's first try at pulling out of the CMC. It tried to join with Crete-Monee and the six other schools when the Southeast Suburban league was formed.

One of the reasons for denial on this venture was that Marian draws students from many of the other school districts in that league.

The Spartans made a bid to get into the Chicagoland Prep league a few years back and was turned down.

"They thought that with an enrollment of about 700 boys we would be too small to compete with larger schools," Berg said.

Berg saw no reasons that would keep Marian in the CMC. The rules state that a one year notice before the first league game must be given, and Marian fulfilled this.

"We have had good relations with the CMC and enjoyed being a part of the league, but just feel the time has come for us to advance," Berg concluded.

There is also thought with the Marian athletic staff, that once the Spartans draw a tougher schedule, they will be able to attract undecided prospects to their campus.