

SPECIAL TO THE HIBBING DAILY TRIBUNE

DULUTH--When the UMD grid season was still in toddling togs, ~~unbysmoking~~ rookie coach Jim Malosky, up from a sensational year at Edina-Morningside, in a more ~~passive~~ pessimistic moment, spoke dolefully ~~about~~ about a "long season" ahead.

With only a handful of veterans, he faced the staggering task of building a Bulldog squad made up largely of freshmen into a creditable entry into the tough Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic conference.

After the season's opening loss to Wisconsin State, ~~Superior~~ Superior, 14-6, and with it the loss through injury of star fullback Bob ~~Visina~~ Visina, ~~star~~ Duluth Cathedral product, Malosky expressed even more concern.

Rays of light began to break through the ~~dark~~ gloom, however, as the tireless Malosky and a willing band of gridgers put mind and muscle together to produce always interesting and, more recently, winning football.

Two of the brightest rays came from the western end of the Mesaba range in the persons of Martin Chupurdia, 19-year-old Hibbing freshman, and John Drazenovich, 22-year-old Bemidji State college transfer.

They'll be among UMD gridgers seeing their last home action of the 1958 season at 8 p.m. Saturday against Macalester in Public Schools stadium.

And they'll be among those upon whom Coach Malosky and Bulldog fans will be relying to help push the 1958 UMD scoring mark in MIAC competition to a new record.

For ~~himself~~ with two games to go, including the Augsburg game Nov. 1, UMD is within six points of ~~being~~ equalling the all-time Bulldog MIAC scoring mark of 114 in 1950.

Chupurdia, 190-pound left tackle, has proved an answer to Malosky's search for strength on the inside line. With newcomers filling the tackle-to-tackle span, ~~Mr~~ Malosky fretted openly about that critical area.

Chupurdia has combined his Hibbing high school experience under Herman Frickey and Malosky's drilling, with assistance ~~fr~~ from 1957 UMD all-conference tackle Dick Forbert, Bulldog line ~~man~~ coach, to become a virtually immovable force in the line.

Chupurdia's ~~determination~~ determination to help the Bulldogs win the latter part of their schedule at least has been seen in his line-shredding forays against ~~opponents~~ recent Bulldog foes.

He has been seen to open up big holes for important gains by UMD's fast-moving backs. His agility and ~~stamina~~ strength, demonstrated in stellar grid, basketball, track and baseball performances as an Ore Capital prepster, have come in good stead at UMD. In 1955 and 1956 Chupurdia pitched for the Hibbing American Legion team.

The Hibbingite is in the engineering program at U^MD.

The Visina loss put ultra-deep furrows in the already deep Malosky brow until Drazenovich began to round into shape at the fullback spot.

The 6 ft. ~~in~~ 1 in. 205-pound Nashwauk gridder, who learned his football with coach Angelo Taddie, soon gave plenty of proof that he could hold ~~the~~ down the key spot.

Since getting the fullback assignment, he has carried the leather 40 times for 129 yards--a 3-yards plus average. He has one touchdown and a two-point conversion to his credit.

"Big John" missed seeing action in the St. John's game because of a hip ~~injury~~ injury. The following week he showed full recovery, gained 35 yards in 11 carries and received the U^D Stat sman (student weekly) "back of the week" award for outstanding play in the St. Thomas game. The Bulldogs edged the Tommies 7-6 in a savory Homecoming victory.

It was ~~Drazenovich's~~ Drazenovich's ripping drives against the touted Tommie defense that forced the invaders to bunch ~~in~~ up and thus set the stage for a UMD aerial campaign that gave the Bulldogs a last-quarter win.

An all-conference, all-state selection at Nashwauk, Drazenovich lettered in 1954 at fullback at Bemidji. Then he entered the service and spent the next three years with the army in Germany. Drazenovich is majoring in elementary education.