

# *Marian Voted Out*

By JOHN E. MEYERS

When Illini-8 coaches met Saturday night at a special meeting in Joliet to resolve a three-way tie for first place, they picked a champion and named a second place representative for the state playoffs.

The champion they selected was Joliet Catholic, sending the Hilltoppers back to defend the state 4A title they won last year.

Prior to the vote, Rollie Bollatino, I-8 secretary, reported the Illinois High School Association decided to admit Joliet Central to the playoffs even if the Steelmen weren't the No. 1 pick by the conference.

GEORGE Legan, Central coach, immediately accepted the at-large berth, leaving the choice of champion between Marian and Joliet Catholic.

When the regular season ended the day before, Marian, Joliet Central and Joliet Catholic were tied for first place, each with 6-won, 1-lost conference records.

- Catholic defeated Central 22-8 September 10, first game of the season
- Marian defeated Catholic 16-6 October 23
- Central defeated Marian 16-14 in overtime last Friday night

WHILE the two Joliet teams had 8-1 season marks, Marian lost non-conference game to Elgin and wound up 7-2. However, Elgin made the playoffs as runner-up in the Upstate Eight.

Prior to last weekend's games, conference coaches, recognizing the possibility of a three-way tie, decided on a roll call vote by telephone if it turned out that way.

It did and the roll call vote came out 4-4-1, Marian

getting the one, the vote cast by its coach, Dave Mattio. A second go-around came out the same way, so the coaches go together Saturday night in Joliet.

But when he learned his team was in the playoffs by IHSA decree, Legan readily opted for the at-large berth.

"CHANCES are," said Mattio, "Legan went for the at-large berth and gave up the championship because he didn't want to face Hillcrest in the first round."

If that was Legan's projection, he hit it right on the head. Joliet Catholic drew Hillcrest for yesterday's playoff opener.

With Joliet Central no longer under consideration, Marian and Joliet Catholic remained in the running for the championship and a spot in the playoffs.

Automatic, since Marian beat the Hilltoppers' Gordon Gillespie, Joliet Catholic coach objected.

THE COACHES agreed. They voted Joliet Catholic 7-1-1.

"That way they had two representatives from the Joliet area," said Mattio. "Instead of the orphans from Chicago Heights."

"The rest of those people didn't want to go up against Gillespie," Mattio added, "I guess they thought he might take it out on them next season."

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