

# *Martin's a Marian Star*

By BILL O'CONNELL

Dave Mattio kept his promise.

The first-year Marian Catholic head coach unveiled a few offensive surprises during the Spartans' 14-6 Illini-8 conference victory over Romeoville Saturday afternoon at Sarff Field.

But the biggest surprise was the play of junior halfback Jeff Martin. The 5-8, 165-pound Martin scored one touchdown and set up another with a 25-yard pass reception to spark Marian's homecoming victory.

IN HANDING Romeoville its first I-8 loss in three starts. Marian stretched its unbeaten conference mark to 4-0. Romeoville dropped to 2-2 overall.

"Jeff Martin just did a super job for us today," said Mattio, who earlier in the week said his offense had "to open up a little more" as the season progressed.

"But it was our offensive line which reacted to the pressure. I expected Romeoville to give us trouble because of the distractions homecoming brings. But when we had to score, the offensive line did the job."

Martin's eight-yard touchdown run with 2:23 left in the second quarter and Tom Chisholm's two-point conversion run erased a 6-0 Romeoville lead.

THE SCORE remained 8-6 in Marian's favor after three quarters of play before the Spartans put together a 10-play, 54-yard drive, climaxed by Chisholm's three-yard TD run at the 4:09 mark and highlighted by the 25-yard screen pass from Nick Calvi to Martin.

Although Marian managed 162 yards total offense compared to 104 for Romeoville, Coach Tony Fazio's squad had the Spartans backs to the wall in the first half.

On Marian's third play from scrimmage in the first quarter. Calvi fumbled the snap from center and Romeoville's Cory Modersohn recovered at the Marian 33.

Romeoville capitalized on the mistake as quarterback Greg Ulmah drilled a 13-yard touchdown strike to halfback Bob Blum. The conversion pass

failed, giving Romeoville a 6-0 lead at the 5:09 mark of the first period.

MODERSOHN wasn't through. On Marian's next possession, Chisholm couldn't handle an end-over-end pitch from Calvi and Modersohn moved up from his linebacker spot to pounce on the loose ball at the Spartan 17.

But with a first-and-goal situation at the 6, Romeoville's Ulman fired a pass just off the fingertips of Paul Pearson and Marian's Shawn Janus made a diving interception in the end zone.

"Janus, Jim Greer (linebacker) and Mike Seibt (defensive end) all played great games today," said Mattio. "Janus' interception was a big play. That was probably the difference. It got a little scary in the early going."

After both teams took turns putting in the third quarter and midway through the fourth quarter, Marian's offensive line went to work.

CENTER Dave Goss, guards Jack Weishaar and Mike Wilczynski and tackles Todd Bruni and Tony Mitchell opened the gates after Marian took over at its own 44.

Chisholm took advantage of the fine blocking to gain 23 yards on four carries during the drive, while fullback Joe Zarlengo gained 13 yards on two carries.

On a third-and-15 situation at the 35, one of Mattio's new wrinkles was successful as Calvi dropped back, waited for the rush and threw perfectly to Martin who followed a wall of blockers to the 10-yard line.

"We didn't accomplish everything we wanted to do offensively, but I'm satisfied," said Mattio.

Chisholm picked up 46 yards on nine carries, while Calvi added 32 on 11 attempts, and Martin contributed 26 on just four carries.

**THE STAR**  
*Sunday, October 3, 1976*