

Marian's Elgin Trip Is Upsetting

Maybe Marian was looking ahead to Saturday's Illini-8 conference "championship" game with Joliet Catholic.

Perhaps the Spartans were figuring Elgin would be an easy touch.

On the other hand, it just might be that the Maroons are the better team.

WHATEVER the reason, Marian, unbeaten in five I-8 starts, the only undefeated football team in the south suburbs (not counting Joliet Catholic) got whipped Friday at Elgin by the Maroons, who had lost four of their first five games.

It was an omen when Richard Hersey ran the opening kickoff back 90 yards for a touchdown. No one in the park could have accepted that, however, Marian led at the half, 14-13.

The final score: Elgin 34, Marian 14.

Hersey scored three touchdowns, gained 175 yards in 22 carries and caught a pass for a 14 yard game, a truly outstanding performance.

MEANWHILE, Elgin's defense contained the Spartans, at least with room to spare for an offense that registered five touchdowns.

Joe Zarlengo, while 43 yards in 12 tries is nothing to sneeze at, was held below his usual 100 yards per game rate.

Marian was out gained on the ground, 412 to 1001 yards, but outdistanced Elgin in passing, 162 to 69.

Even though he was under a heavy rush throughout, Marian quarterback Nick Calvi completed six 13 passes for 71 yards. To counter the rush, Coach Dave Mattio went to the halfback pass, Matt Scott going 3-for-3 for 82 yards and Tom Foote

one for nine yards.

CALVI scored from 13 yards on a quarterback rollout, still in the first quarter, but a run for a two-pointer failed, so Elgin still led because Don Kwasniewski booted the conversion after Hersey's gallop with the opening kickoff.

Elgin extended its lead, Hersey plunging three yards for a tally in the second period. The try for point failed.

On the final play of the first half, Calvi passed 16 yards to Janus for a score and Calvi then hit Mark Blankenberger for a two-point conversion and the Spartans went to the locker room with a 14-13 advantage.

Mattio said later that, "We would have liked to have driven for a touchdown to start the third quarter and put Elgin on the defensive." It didn't happen that way.

A 15-YARD clipping penalty on the kickoff return put Marian back on its own 14 and a fourth down punt didn't quite make it to the midfield.

Hersey carried three times for 25 yards to the 23 and from there Hersey gathered in a pass from quarterback Jerry Powers for the score. The same combination repeated for a two-point conversion and 21-14 Elgin lead.

In the last period, Elgin nailed down the victory. Barney Spates ran 75 yards for one touchdown and Hersey 45 yards for another and both times Kwasniewski kicked the point.

THE STAR
Sunday, October 17, 1976