

# *Nothing Sheepish About Shepard*

By ALAN MACEY

"What a super feeling! We've all worked a long time for this day."

Shepard football coach Don Webster is the main speaker, which means only one thing - the Astros finally won their first game.

They couldn't have chosen a better moment.

STAGING A magnificent second half performance, Shepard - in only its second varsity season - upset heavily-favored Marian Catholic 206 yesterday afternoon in Palos Heights. The win snapped a 10-game winless journey.

Never was Webster's gang more effective in clutch situations.

"That's been our problem," shouted the emotional coach. "We weren't making the big plays, which decide winning and losing. Today we crossed the toughest hurdle."

The mission was accomplished without the aid of fancy movements, although a fake extra point kick play for sure helped out. Shepard challenged Marian in the line, where people like Mike Beaty, Gary Kadansky, Tim O'Mara, Dave Dresden, Fred Casey and Chris Mikes prevailed.

And they did it with the bruising running of tailback Steve Boman (28 carries, 134 yards), who often followed teammate Howard Shong through the middle.

THE SECOND time Boman followed these determined missionaries, the contest was still in its infancy (second play). Before the third play occurred, Boman had registered a brilliant 67-yard touchdown run, which seemed to set the tempo for the day.

The early advantage, which so many times has ended up being lost in the final outcome, lasted until 5:48 was left in the second quarter. That's when last week's Marian hero against Hillcrest (30-9 triumph), Karl Volkman, swept the right side for 40 yards to knot the issue.

In the second half, however, Shepards's battling characteristics surfaced to their highest plateau - even though the No. 1 sparkplug senior, Art Wolf, was sidelined, after being ejected in the second period.

Shepard's once timid offense didn't exactly roar, but it started to make the sounds of a winner. But as is so often the case, the defensive unit provided the impetus.

THIS ASTRO brigade, fortified by Beaty, Fred Casey, Kyle Randich, Al Garmon and Mitch

Sivertson, stopped Marian on its first possession. The next series, Tom Bibeau and Kevin Carter worked together for an interception.

Marian's offense, playing without an integral figure, halfback Jeff Martin (injured versus Hillcrest), couldn't move the third time, either. On the punt attempt, a high snap allowed Bibeau to nail Mike Petrarca at the Astros 40.

All of a sudden, Shepard was making the "big" play every play. The Astros proceeded to use up five minutes of the clock; marching 40 yards in 10 spine-tingling plays - Boman covering the final three for the score. The trek was Shepards's finest hour in sports.

Junior quarterback Dennis Dresden directed his troops like a seasoned General. He went to the air with confidence, hitting his receivers (Fred Stein and Kevin Carter) with regularity.

BUT WHEN the extra point attempt was to be made, Dresden took a back seat to backup Dave Bruns, the latter rolling left after a great fake and finding Sivertson open for two points and 14-6 lead. Sivertson had reason to be elated, since he had already dropped two perfectly thrown passes earlier in the struggle.

Marina's fourth period comeback bid was a nightmare.

Linebacker Garmon pounced on Volkman's fumbled snap to start the stanza. That set up the clinching tally seven plays later, an 11-yard connection between Stein and Dresden. This drive showed Shepard's avalanche in its most awesome form. A Boman fumble was recovered by teammate Dennis Dresden. A face mask penalty gave the Astros a first down at the 14. Stein and Dennis Dresden did the rest.

From this point, only outcome was in doubt. Volkman had no place to go but the sky, as passed filled the airways on 11 of Marian's last 12 plays - the final snap ending up in Garmon's possession for second fumble recovery.

In all, the visiting Spartans lost four fumbles and had two pass interceptions.

As for Webster, he was last seen riding high above his players into the sunset. It was a ride that was well-earned, indeed.

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