

# *Tiny Mike's Dynamite*

By PETER TESTA

Mike Petrarca's best day as a running back combined with a defense that has shown consistent improvement enabled Spartan fans to enjoy a happy homecoming yesterday at Sarff Field, Marian blanking Romeoville 12-0 to give Dave Mattio's squad an outstanding opportunity to finish in the upper reaches of the Illini-8's first division.

With the Spartan offensive unit being decimated by numerous injuries, Petrarca, a 5-foot 6, 165 pound junior halfback, was given no choice but to be the workhorse of Marina's backfield, and he responded to the challenge with 114 yards in 25 carries.

Petrarca capped his day with a 26-yard touchdown jaunt with 3 ½ minutes left to play that iced the fourth Spartan win in seven outings, and the third triumph in five I-8 games.

KARL VOLKMAN, the Spartans' senior quarterback, tallied his third touchdown of the season from six yards out at the close of the first half following the first of a pair of interceptions by senior defensive back Tony Jiganti, to put Marian out to a lead they never lost in what had been an even game up to that point.

Dropping back to pass early in the third period, Volkman was sacked by Romeoville on a third down and long yardage situation, apparently suffering a shoulder injury. He was carried off the field by ambulance, as was halfback Jeff Martin in the season opener against Hillcrest.

Petrarca also contributed to the victory with his punting, successfully getting off six boots, with the longest return on any of them just eight yards by Romeoville's Jamie Galindo.

The game featured as many punts as first downs, 12 of each, with the Spartans rushing for half of their eight first downs in the final quarter.

Romeoville only managing four first downs against a punishing Marian defensive unit.

LED BY tackle Todd Bruni, noseguard Jerral Stringer, end Dennis McCarron, and linebacker Mike Broderick, Marian almost completely stopped the Romeoville ground attack that is usually paced by tailback Kevin McCarthy, who went into the game as the fourth-ranking rusher in the conference play with 254 yards. Bruni and his cohorts held McCarthy to merely eight yards in 13 attempts.

Junior Mark Jurczyk stopped Galindo cold on an attempted first half punt return to give Romeoville possession on its own 41-yard line.

After tackle Jeff Schied held Romeoville's Brian White to only a one-yard pickup, quarterback Greg Ulman dropped behind the line to throw over the middle. But Jiganti was in position to make a running catch of the errant toss, and never stopped going until he was downed at the Romeoville 7.

Volkman was held to a one-yard advance on first down before he rolled out on the next snap of the ball. The 6-1, 170 pound signal-caller had originally planned to pass but found a gaping hole in the center of the field and instead took off directly through the gap for a 6-point Marian edge.

Petrarca's 23-yard return of Galindo's last punt of the afternoon set Marian up at its own 49 halfway through the final period, and the Spartans began an eight-play drive with junior signal-caller Brian Blue at the controls. On a third down and nine call, Petrarca started out off tackle, but continued to carry around the left side, winding up sweeping the end untouched for his second score this season.

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