

Hot Spartans Stop Kings Cold

By PETER TESTA

The usual factors which determine the outcome of most games took a back seat to the combination of heat and humidity which engulfed both Marian and visiting Joliet East yesterday at Sarff Field.

Clinging to a three-point edge gained by guard Rich Fordon's field goal on the first half's final snap, the Spartans' continued pounding of the Kingsmen defense eventually began to reap gaping dividends, leading to a pair of fourth quarter touchdowns which locked up Marian's second straight Illini-8 success by a 15-0 margin.

The burden was squarely placed on the shoulders of the Spartan defenders during the game's early stages as Joliet East launched two sustained drives before Marian could generate any punch.

TROUBLE WAS first averted when Joliet East punter Mike Larson surrendered 30 yards due to an errant snapback, and later linebacker Tom Zarlengo's recovered fumble broke up a 12-play run by Joliet East.

Marian's secondary group of seniors Bob Klupchak, Mike Joyce, Don Zych and junior Mike Prior were instrumental. Only four of Joliet East's 16 passes found the range, and a quartet of throws were intercepted.

Prior stole two of the throws, the second of which set Marian up on its own 46-yard line as the second period was winding down. A face-mask violation pushed the Spartans across midfield, but Joliet East seemingly had squelched the surge by forcing a fourth down and eight yards to go predicament on the Kingsmen 31.

Marian quarterback Mike Matchinis, who was limited to one six-yard connection in four attempts, scrambled away from pressure to barely attain the vital extra set of downs. Senior fullback Tom

Zarlengo's 10-yard burst moved Marian to the 9, but time was short, necessitating Fordon's 20-yard try with six seconds remaining. The boot cleared the posts with plenty of room to spare.

TOM KLUPCHAK, who accounted for 83 of 188 yards Marian amassed on the ground, was called on to keep the Spartans in control of the ball, a task made easier by brother Bob's 64-yard return of the second half kickoff. A fumble on Joliet East's 19 stalled that march; however, Marian gained another chance by forcing a 20-yard punt with three minutes left in the third period.

Klupchak took off on four of his 21 jaunts, picking up 17 of the 25 yards Marian gained to the Kingsmen 22. On the final period's opening scrimmage play, Matchinis broke free from a misdirection pattern to the right, skirting left end instead for the 26-yard keeper to the end zone which elevated the Spartans ahead 9-0. Fordon's try for the extra-point kick sailed wide to the left.

Bob Klupchak hauled back the punt from Joliet East's next series 18 yards down to the Kingsmen 27. Brother Tom took over from that point to sew up the decision, as after carrying for seven and 11-yard advances, the younger Klupchak swept an additional 10 yards around right end to complete the scoring, since Fordon's placement kick again flew wide of the target.

Thefts by Don Zych and Mike Bamonti kept Marian's shutout intact, while Spartan coach Dave Mattio employed his second unit to pile up 96 of their 194 total yards in the last quarter.

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