

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 28, 1962**

**Happy Ride**

**Marian in ‘Winsville’**

**By Jack Jeneson**

Marian’s football express, stuck on rusty rails six times this year, finally got up a head of steam Friday night and rolled into Winsville for the first time in 1962.

The happy ride came via a 33 to 21 win over the hapless, yet Homecoming incensed, Lancers of Little Flower at Shewbridge field in Chicago.

Directing the victory controls was Spartan senior fullback Joe Bijak, who rolled up 133 yards, scored two touchdowns and banged in for two extra points.

At the end of the contest, it was Bijak who rightfully was to be carried off the field by his teammates and jubilant, yet half-frozen, fans.

The game was complete with wide-open running, two disputed Little Flower pass patterns and the brilliant come-from-behind Marian victory march in the final half.

Another story was the Marian locker room following the “must” win. Cheers and slaps on the backs of Spartan grid warriors were in order— and Coach Joe DeSoto was the right man to be offering the praise.

“We got this one— but we have some more hard work left— there are two more games,” said DeSoto and happy assistant Norman Mack. Marian has remaining games with Crete-Monee and Marmion academy of Aurora before the season ends.

The game had its eye-opening excitement, which was truly of the explosive nature.

If the spectator had blinked his eyes too often, it is conceivable he might have missed most of it.

Before the game was one minute old, Lancer halfback Bill Harris scooped up a Marian fumble and rambled 90 yards unmolested for the opening tally. John Clakis added the point and it was 7 to 0 Little Flower.

Seven plays and 45 yards later Marian had deadlocked the score. Bijak cut off tackle and went the final 17 yards for the first Marian score. He added the point after. The halftime score was Little Flower 21 Marian 20.

But how the halftime score was realized is too another story.

Three touchdowns, two by Marian, were scored with just 1:38 remaining in the first half.

Little Flower led 14 to 7 with a shade more than a minute left in the half. But the scoreboard was immediately upped to 14-13 Little Flower after Marian’s Bob Dyke took a lateral from Bijak and raced five yards for a score.

On the ensuing kickoff, Little Flower’s Bill Kozicki went 73 yards for a touchdown. Clakis added the point and Little Flower had its Homecoming fans screaming over the 21-13 Lancer edge.

Following the Little Flower kickoff to its own 48, Marian's Jerry Nicholas circled end and ran 48 yards for a Spartan score. This ended the fast-moving first half presentation.

Bijak was already the hero at halftime— netting 90 yards on runs from scrimmage. Little Flower's second touchdown came on a 52 yard "sleeper" pass play from quarterback Clakis to end Bill Dietz.

The scoring pass was vehemently discussed by DeSoto and the officials as to being illegal. The officials noted that Dietz was in a legal pass-catching position, even though it looked as though he was out of bounds when he caught the ball.

The first half statistics showed Marian had gained 267 yards from scrimmage and the Lancers only 40, excluding the 90 yard fumble return and the 73 yard kickoff return.

Marian went in front for the first time 26-21 in the third period when Bijak went 18 yards for the score. The drive covered 45 yards and was executed in seven plays.

The Spartans added the insurance touchdown in the final period when halfback Jack Schreiber went over from the 1.

The winners needed five plays to go 29 yards for the final score with the big play Schreiber's 16 yard run to the Lancer 1. Bijak added the point after.

"When we block we win football games," said DeSoto, "we should have played this well long ago."

It was a happy Marian grid camp— they had reached Winsville.