

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 21, 1962

Wins Battle, Loses War

Marian Drops Sixth in Row

By Dave Nightingale

For the umpteenth time this season, Marian's football Spartans won the battle and lost the war.

The Spartans, led by battering-ram fullback Joe Bijak, gave their rain-soaked homecoming fans a full quota of thrills as they racked up the edge in statistics against TF South's Rebels Saturday in a Bloom field quagmire.

But when it came time to look at the scoreboard, it was an old familiar story. Marian was on the short end of the only important count for the sixth straight time this season, this time 13-0.

The big question for Marian fans last week was: Will the Spartans "quit" for the season after that horrendous 81-6 drubbing by Gary Andean?

As demonstrated Saturday, the answer was an emphatic "No!"

But while Marian churned yard after yard through the Bloom field bog, the Spartans simply could not generate any scoring punch (a season-long fault, it may be noted).

The losers made only one serious penetration, moving to the Rebel 5 yard line before losing the ball on downs on the last play of the game.

Bijak was magnificent in defeat, however. Twenty-seven times the senior fullback powered through the muck into a larger TF South line as he rushed for 133 yards (all but 44 of the Spartans' yardage total).

Marian's defensive platoon also did a complete turnabout from last week, putting forth perhaps its finest effort of the season.

In a game where the weather was the dominant factor, however, the issue was bound to be settled on breaks. And it was.

Breaks preceded both Rebel touchdowns— but the second one had nothing to do with the weather. That came late in the third quarter when Marian went into a 10-man line in an effort to halt a second-and-one thrust at the South 38.

Rebel halfback Dwight Ruthrauff, making his first start of the season, popped through the Spartan line in a quick opener and rambled 62 yards for the score. No Marian player came within five yards of him.

The first South tally came with four minutes left in the half as Marian gambled on a pass. The aerial, in the right flat to Mike Kuhl was complete. But Kuhl couldn't find any firm ground and dropped the ball when by three Rebels at the Marian 24. It was the only fumble all day for the Spartans— and how it hurt.

Lyle Sanford carried four of the five thrusts necessary to make the touchdown, going nine yards on the final one. John Lackey's toe provided the seventh point.

Oh yes, let's not forget the wound-salving statistics. Marian had the advantage in first downs (8-7), rushing yardage (167-155) and total yardage (177-155).

The inclement weather forced postponement of most of the halftime ceremonies (until Saturday night) and the Marian-South sophomore grid clash (until Monday).