

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Nov. 4, 1962

Crete Tips Marian in Thriller

Kick Return By Balogh Is Clincher

Halfback Joe Balogh's first touchdown of the 1962 football season was a big one Friday as his 75 yard kickoff return led to the climax in Crete-Monee's 21-20 victory over scrappy Marian of Chicago Heights.

The Warriors from Crete-Monee were trailing 20-14 late in the third quarter when Balogh gathered in the football on his own 25 yards line, faked two tacklers and angled toward the end zone unmolested.

Balogh's thrilling dash was the second explosive touchdown of the game by the Warriors. They initiated the scoring in the first quarter when all-state nominee Bob Keller took a handoff from quarterback Bob Blaha and raced off tackle for 67 yards.

Keller bulled his way through the Spartans line for two extra points, including the deciding point in the third quarter. Balogh accounted for the other extra point.

Twice Crete-Monee had to come from behind as Joe DeSoto's young but rugged Marian squad served notice early in the contest that it was to be reckoned with.

Final unofficial figures showed the Spartans with a dozen first downs on the ground to seven on the ground and one in the air for Crete-Monee.

Following the first quarter kickoff, Marian crunched out three first downs, mainly on the running efforts of Jarring Joe Bijak. But, a hot-and-cold Crete-Monee forward wall stiffened and held on its own 29-yard line.

On third down, Keller burst through tackle for his 67-yard home crowd thriller.

Bijak, halfback Jack Shreiber and sophomore quarterback Tim Tierney paced Marian's drive for a touchdown following the kickoff. Tierney sneaked over from the 1 and Bijak blasted through for the tying extra point early in the second quarter.

Two minutes later, Tierney again scored on a keep-it play, this time from the 2 yard line. Bijak bulled his way through for the extra point.

The scoring thrust by the Spartans was set up on the third play from scrimmage after the kickoff when tackle Dean Bartolini pounced on a Crete-Monee fumble on the Warriors' 19-yard line.

Marian kicked off and Warrior's fullback Merle Weber returned the ball to his own 38-yard line. A pass from Blaha to end Gary Borman netted a first down at midfield.

Weber then took a handoff from Blaha and scooted off tackle for 48 yards before he was jostled out of bounds on the 2-yard line. Two plays later, Blaha skirted left end for the touchdown.

Keller's dash around end tied the game at 14-14 with seven minutes left in the first half.

A Marian threat late in the second quarter was thwarted when Keller leaped between two Spartan eligible pass receivers to bat away a Bob Dyke pass on the goal line.

A Bad pass from center on punt formation in the third quarter set up Marian's final touchdown. The ball was downed on Crete-Monee's 6 yard line after the play had started from the Warriors' 40-yard line.

With less than four minutes to play in the third quarter, Marian halfback Jack Schreiber slanted into the end zone from the 1 yard line. Crete-Monee's line rose to the occasion when Bijak was wrestled to earth short of the goal line on a try for the extra point.

Balogh, who was homecoming king when Crete-Monee humbled Lemont a week ago 32-6, then ran the kickoff 75 yards to set the stage for Keller's game-winning extra point.

Crete-Monee coach John Folta described his defense as "sluggish" but had praise for the offense that "I am glad was explosive." The Warriors finished a winning season with a 4-3 won and lost record and one tie against Bradley.

DeSoto lauded his two sophomore quarterbacks, Tierney and Dyke who ware alternated freely in the Crete-Monee game. They both showed deft handling of the pigskin as they concentrated on racking up yardage through the Warriors' line.

The Marian quarterbacks were expected to fill the air with footballs, but a steady drizzle apparently changed DeSoto's strategy. The Marian coach also had high praise for sophomore Emery Harmon- who filled in at center for injured regular Larry Pilotto.

Marian has a remaining game with Marmion Academy. "We've improved since the season started," DeSoto commented in stressing that his squad will lose only three starting seniors.