

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 7, 1962**

## **They Pile Up Yards, But Letdown Costs Spartans**

**By Dave Nightingale**

According to Webster, a “Spartan” is a “person of great fortitude.”

For some 38 minutes Saturday, Marian’s football Spartans lived up to their name. But the 10 minutes in which they didn’t cost them a ball game.

Victory in the Metropolitan Catholic conference game at Bloom field went to previously winless St. Francis of Wheaton, 13-6. The win gave the Knights a 1-1 Metro record and a 1-3 season mark. Marian has lost four straight, three of them league games.

For the second straight week, Marian had a decided statistical advantage in defeat— (nine first downs to seven for St. Francis, 145 yards to 104 for the Knights). But then, there was that third quarter letdown. . . and what a doozy it was.

Let’s set the scene. The Spartans and St. Francis came off the field at halftime in a 0-0 deadlock. Marian’s defense allowed the Wheaton team one yard rushing in the first period, the only 20 more in the second. The Knights drew a black in the passing department.

Meanwhile, Marian’s offense had chalked up 103 yards. The Spartans had one scoring thrust halted by a fumble and missed a first down at the St. Francis 4 yard line by six inches in the waning moments of the half.

Out came Marian for the second half, confident and full of fire. They huddled a their own 40. . . and huddled. . . and huddled. The next thing they knew, they were huddling at the 35— thanks to a delay of game penalty.

So, Julian Grozzi finally put his toe to the ball and the pigskin finally nestled in the arms of St. Francis fullback Jim King on the Knights’ 35.

Mr. King, who was converted from an end to a halfback to a fullback, will never win any prizes for his sprinting ability. But he was fast enough to show his heels to the entire Marian team on a 65-yard touchdown jaunt. Jim Sullivan quickly added the extra point.

Marian still had that 103-21 edge in scrimmage yards but it didn’t have that seven points on the scoreboard.

Moments later, Marian’s defensive line folded like an accordion as St. Francis moved 72 yards in 11 plays for its second score. “Features” of the lackluster Knight attack were simple handoff plays, which Spartan defenders had rolled up like a carpet earlier in the game.

Halfback Ed Boss circled right end for the final eight yards of the St. Francis march to make it 13-0.

Instead of folding even more at this point, however, the Jekyll-Hyde Spartans completely reversed themselves. They took the ensuing kickoff and immediately went 72 yards for their only score.

Twenty penalty yards against the winners got the drive rolling and with Jack Schreiber toting most of the mail, Marian advance to the Knights’ 20. Here, Tim Tierney rolled out and lofted a pass to Joe Bijak who caught the ball on the two, evaded one defender and stepped into the end zone.

Marian's defense twice forced punts after the touchdown, but the Spartans couldn't get their offense rolling. They had the ball at midfield with two minutes remaining, but one pass fell incomplete and Tierney and Bob Dyke were thrown for losses on the next two plays.

Soph halfback Jerry Nicholas was Marian's leading ground-gainer with 48 yards in five carries. Jack Schreiber, filling in for injured brother Mike, had 46 yards in 11 trips.

Mike Schreiber left the game in the second period after injuring his hip. X-rays were taken at St. James Hospital revealed no fracture.