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Play Again Wednesday

Spartans Tie Tigers in Last 29 Seconds

By Bob Lueder

Marian's Spartans put the damper on a Homecoming celebration at Herscher Friday night when they tied the Tigers 13-13 with a touchdown in the closing seconds.

Jerry Nicholas, who was the Spartans offensive standout, caught a pass from Tim Tierney and raced for a score on a play that covered 75 yards with only 29 seconds left.

The Spartans will be back in action again on Wednesday when they face St. Francis DeSales at Chicago Heights.

The St. Francis DeSales game will be the first at the Spartans' home field on Joe Orr road. Kick-off time is set for 4:15 p.m.

Marian on Friday lacked much of the hustle that brought it three straight wins and, though on top in all statistics, was headed towards defeat when the tide turned.

One factor that slowed the Spartans was the loss of guard Tom Bijak, also a linebacker on defense. Bijak suffered a knee injury late in the week.

Marian launched its biggest passing attack of the year as Tierney threw 16 aerials, the same as the Herscher total, and Dennis Schmal tossed one.

Although Tierney was on target most of the night, his receivers left an even dozen slip off their finger tips while the four that were grabbed gained a total of 138 yards.

Herscher was the first to score as end Bob Rathman broke through to hit Tierney's arm as he faded to pass and guard Mike Piper intercepted and ran 28 yards for a touchdown. George Howard ran the extra point to put the Tigers out in front 7-0 with 4:29 left to play in the opening quarter.

Each team was held and forced into a kicking position on their next series of downs before Marian got the ball back on its own 24 yard line with just about a minute to go in the period.

Nicolas took the ball after Tierney faked to Steve Bergstrom and slanted over left tackle on the speed and racing 76 yards to the end zone. Tierney ran the extra point to even things at 7-all.

The Marian pass defense that had eight completions against them let Mike McDonald slip behind them and the younger of the McDonald boys, Timmy, hit his brother with a pass that moved the ball to the 1-yard line.

On the next play, Mike went over center for the score. The PAT run was stopped and Herscher owned the lead 13-7 with 7:22 left in the half.

The Spartans had a great scoring chance when they had a first and goal to go in the third quarter, but the drive was stopped at the 1-foot line by the Tiger defensive wall. Then when everything seemed lost, Marian halted Herscher's bid to run out the clock and had the ball at the 25 yard line.

On the first play Tierney spotted Nicolas deep and let fly with the successful toss that evened the score. Tierney tried to run over the point try for victory, but it failed.