

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 22, 1964

Faces DeSales

Marian Eyes Second Place

Marian will be shooting for a second place tie in the Catholic Metropolitan conference Friday when it travels to Gately Stadium, 103rd street and Cottage Grove, Chicago.

The Spartans have a date with St. Francis DeSales, which has won both of its CMC contests this season, but rates underdogs when they face Marian.

For a comparison, DeSales nursed out a 14-13 victory over Maryville, a team the Spartans swamped 37-0 last week.

“We are going to be cautious with DeSales,” Coach Tom Mitchell said. “It’s their Homecoming and they still have a shot at the title.”

Jerry Nicolas, the Spartans top offensive weapon, will be looking for a good night to protect his CMC scoring lead and a chance to break some of his own school records.

The Marian full back ran for five touchdowns and gained 216 yards in his last game to wipe out marks set in 1962 by Bob McEvoy.

Nicolas set records last year with 779 yards and 76 points and has picked up 502 yards and 44 tallies this season.

“There is no doubt we’ll use Jerry as much as possible in the remaining four games,” Mitchell said of Nicolas, who he claims is the best runner in the area.

Marian’s offense was perked up by the return of senior Steve Bergstrom, who made a pair of short running gains and caught two passes for 47 yards.

“Cerulli (Claudio) is still my other running back,” Mitchell stated. “We will use Bergstrom as a relief man and mainly for his speed on downfield passing.”

Quarterback Tim Tierney has completed 27 passes for 399 yards, but he has not had that receiver for the long aerial.

Heading the pass catching department is Cerulli, who has 144 yards on 12 receptions, while end Ed Scott is second with six grabs and 129 yards.

The 8.7 yard per carry average of Nicolas is easily the best with Cerulli’s 158 yards in 31 attempts second. The next total dips to 19 yards from Mike Platt.

One of the real bright spots in Mitchell’s improving Spartans is the work of the defense that started to shine when they became the first team to hold Gary Andrean to less than 21 points in a 7-0 loss two weeks ago.

Maryville was able to gain only 22 yards in the air and 49 on the ground last week and most of that came off the second unit.

“We now the DeSales game is our last hope for a piece of the crown. There is always a chance,” Mitchell pointed out. St. Francis will meet Andrean next week.

The Spartans end conference play Friday and will have home contests with Carmel of Mundelein and Chicago DeLaSalle along with a road game at Crete-Monee to complete the schedule.