

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 1, 1964**

## **Marian to Play CMC Tilt Today**

**By Bob Lueder**

Marian will open its 1964 Catholic Metropolitan conference when it travels to Gately field Sunday to meet Little Flower.

Kickoff time for the grid clash will be 1 p.m. at the stadium located on Cottage Grove and 103<sup>rd</sup> street, Chicago.

“We’re starting to jell as a team,” Coach Tom Mitchell said, but cautiously added, “There is still a long way to go.”

The Spartans opened their season with a 24-6 lacing at the hands of Homewood-Flossmoor, but fought back to tie Lockport West 12-all last week.

Mitchell’s club received a pre-season blow when it was thought veteran back Steve Bergstrom could be lost for the season with a knee injury.

However, latest reports have it that that cast will be removed soon and he will return as quickly as he can get the leg back in shape.

Taking up the slack in the offense has been Jerry Nicolas, who has gained 226 yards in 24 attempts this year for an average of 9.4 yards per carry.

One injury that will keep a keyman out of full time duty hit Tom Bijak when he twisted his knee at Lockport West.

Bijak’s position was filled by junior John Towle in what Mitchell termed a “capable job.” Towle reported late for the team after the effects of an illness.

Nicolas will be joined in the backfield by senior classmate Tim Tierney at quarterback, while a pair of juniors Claudio Cerullio and Jack Thar are the halfbacks.

While this is the CMC start for the Spartans, the league is off to a fast beginning with a newcomer, Gary Andrean on top of the circuit with two straight wins.

Andrean, a real Indiana power, mopped up three time defending champion Maryville 59-0 in the opener and trimmed Little Flower last week, 37-6.

The Fighting 59ers will be Marian’s first home test on Saturday, October 10 at the Bloom field in a Homecoming contest.

Mitchell left no doubt about it that he is out to stop Andrean, and if his Spartans do, the CMC title can belong to them. The only time the teams met was in 1962 when Andrean won handily, 81-7.

Marian’s best offensive weapon behind the running attack of Nicolas is the passing arm of Tierney, who has hit on 10 of 29 tosses.

Tierney’s percentage may not appear to be shattering, but to the spectator he has been on target most of the time.

The most steady receiver has been Cerullio, who caught seven throws for 79 yards. The halfback is also second in rushing with a 3.9 average in 16 carries.