

**CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Nov. 5, 1964**

## **Marian vs. Warriors at Crete**

### **Nicolas Out To Pass 2,000 Yard Mark**

Marian travels to Crete-Monee Friday night and for one Spartan, it could be a football game he will long remember.

Jerry Nicolas, the 5-9 senior halfback, will be out to become the first Marian player to ever gain 2,000 yards for a career total.

“There is no doubt in my mind that Jerry is one of the finest runners in the area,” Coach Tom Mitchell said. “He should go on to be great in college.”

What will the Warriors see in the 170 pound back? The answer is a little bit of everything. He averages 35 yards on punt returns and is a good pass receiver and can throw, too.

In 88 rushes, Nicolas has picked up 772 yards for an average of 8.8 yards and has scored 10 touchdowns and a pair of extra points for 62 points.

“Don’t forget the fact that Jerry has seven touchdown runs called back due to penalties and those amounted to 465 yards,” Mitchell said.

Nicolas started out as a sophomore with 436 yards and gained 779 in 1963. The up-to-date total shows 1,987, more than any Marian back in the school’s history.

Angelo Dabiero, the Carmel high of Mundelein coach and a former str at Notre Dame, whose team Marian topped 23-6 last week stated, “Nicolas is about the best back I’ve seen this year.”

No doubt about it, Mitchell is pushing his top runner for all-state honors and Crete-Monee fans will see the reason.

Backfield mates of Nicolas are quarterback Tim Tierny and halfbacks Claudio Cerulli, Steve Bergstrom, Tim Massey and Jack Thar.

Heading up the line is another veteran, Tom Bija, 5-10 senior who weighs in at 185 pounds and calls defensive signals.

Bijak averages 12 tackles a game and has blocked three punts along with intercepting the same number of passes. “There’s no doubt that Bijak is the backbone of our defense,” Mitchell said.

Marian has won its last three in a row, scoring 90 points to only a lone touchdown for the opponent to own a 4-won, 2-lost and 1-tied record.

The Spartans own a 1,743 to 1,080 advantage over the opposition for total yards with 1,087 coming in their ground game.

Tierny does the bulk of the passing and has attempted 101, completing 45 for 635 yards. End Ed Scott has been on the receiving side of 11 passes for 200 yards.

“There is no doubt that our offense is coming alive of late,” Mitchell reported “However, I think we can improve in the Crete-Monee and DeLaSalle games.”

The line play is also on the upswing as the figures show the Spartans have scored 135 points to 57 for the opponent.