

CHICAGO HEIGHTS STAR- Oct. 24, 1965

Blocked Punt Is Key To Marian's Triumph

By Bob Lueder

Marian capped off its Homecoming celebration with a 9-0 win over St. Francis DeSales Saturday afternoon at Bloom field.

It closed out the Spartans as a football member of the Catholic Metropolitan conference, where they have won their only two games of the season.

The Spartans' only touchdown came in the closing seconds of the game when quarterback Greg Lee went over the goal line from inches away.

To that point it appeared co-captain Dave Mattio was going to be the game hero. The 6-2 senior blocked a punt attempt that rolled in the end zone for a safety with 7:08 left in the first quarter.

The first half lacked aggressive play by both sides. The Spartans gained only 29 yards, while the Pioneers reeled off 46.

Both teams were slowed by injuries. Marian was without the services of end Joe Kalinowski for the second straight week and quarterback Lee was used sparingly by Coach Norm Mack.

DeSales had six members of its starting team out of action and Coach Bill Stycynski had to bring up some members from the frosh-soph unit, including signal-caller Ed Scanlan and halfback Larry Harrison, who were important members in the Marian game.

The Spartans kicked off and held DeSales on the first series of downs to take over control of the ball at the Pioneer 42 yard line.

Marian failed to move, but got an early break when Mike Platt's punt went out of bounds at the 3 yard line.

This put DeSales in the hole and gave Marian the lead when Mike McGuire was rushed by Mattio on his punt and blocked it for a safety.

The next thing to arouse the Marian fans came when Cindy Hybiak, a Spartan cheerleader, was crowned queen of the Homecoming at halftime.

Ball control was important in the second half, as Marian put together a pair of good drives and DeSales was also on the move.

DeSales moved the ball to the 20 yard line and completed the only two passes of the game before the end of the third period, but had to face the wind in the final quarter and was stopped.

Mattio was aided in the line by some key plays from fellow tackle Joe Marconi and linebackers John Towle and Mike Fanning.

The first Spartan drive in the second half was stopped after Mark Klausner fumbled and Mary Paryl recovered for St. Francis.

Marian took over the ball again shortly after the start of the final period and ground out short yardage until it was stopped two yards short of the goal line with 1:57 left to play.

The Pioneers gave up the ball at the 18 yard line, where Platt gained short yardage and Lee skirted end for 10 to give Marian a first and goal at the 5.

Platt went up the middle, being stopped just short of the goal, before Lee's quarterback sneak took the ball in with 11 seconds left in the game.

The Spartans only other win of the season came on a 13-6 decision over Little Flower.