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Crete-Monee Ties Marian On 55 Yard Run by Borman

By Bob Lueder

For the second straight year Crete-Monee put a damper on the Homecoming celebration of Marian, this time by holding the Spartans to a 20-all tie.

The Spartans led 14-7 at the end of the half and were on top 20-7 with 6:50 remaining in the third period before the Warriors fought back.

Jerry Nicolas scored two touchdowns and added a pair of extra points to run his season total to 75 and ranks second to Rich East's Dave Carty, area leader with 78.

Nicolas had to share the spotlight with a pair of Crete-Monee backs Joe Balogh and Gary Borman, who did an outstanding job for John Folta's Warriors.

It was Balogh who ran back a kickoff last year against Marian to give the Warriors a 21-20 victory, the first time the Spartans held a homecoming.

Marian nearly pulled the game out in the last three minutes when Tim Tierney hit Nicolas with a 48 yard pass that would have been a score.

However, the officials spotted a holding penalty back at the line of scrimmage and cancelled out the play.

Spartan Coach Joe DeSoto and Folta both agreed it was not the best game played but, the contest kept the fans on edge.

Crete-Monee fumbled twice early in the first period and the second time it led to a touchdown.

After Dennis Peters lost the ball and Spartan Dean Bartolini recovered on the 23 yard line, Tierney tossed a touchdown pass to Ed Scott on the next play.

Nicolas ran the conversion to put the Spartans in the lead with 8:24 left in the first quarter.

Midway in the second quarter Nicolas took a hand off from reserve quarterback Dennis Schmal and went six yards. Jerry went over tackle on the extra point and Marian led 14-0.

Crete-Monee gained the ball on the Marian 21 yard line with 1:45 left in the first half and with the aid of an interference penalty made a first down.

Tom Maletz was held to no gain and Peters threw an incomplete pass before Balogh dashed over guard for a score and Peters added the extra point to make if 14-7 at the half.

The Spartans opened the third period with a 80 yard drive that was completed on a 22-yard jaunt from Nicolas to make it 20-7.

Crete-Monee marched right back and in three series of downs Balogh dashed 12 yards to the end zone, but the important extra point kick was wide.

The Warriors pieced together their own 80-yard drive with 3:45 left in the game with the big play coming on a 55 yard run to pay dirt by Borman, who was aided with fine blocking by Balogh.

Borman added the extra point for the tie and the clock ran out on both teams.