

Malvern Captain Jumpy on the Sidelines

# Two-Way Player Really 'In There'

By ED CONRAD

Mike Cappelletti was a two-way player on Malvern Prep's first undefeated football team which won its first Inter-Academic League championship this fall.

Hard work, this double duty? Naw, Mike wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

"To tell you the truth, I not only didn't mind, I really liked playing both ways," said Mike, the team captain. "I get kind of jumpy on the sidelines, so I'd rather be right in there."

**CAPPELLETTI, WHOSE BROTHER** John is a possible second team All-American at Penn State University this year, definitely was right in there. Not only did he average almost 100 yards rushing in eight games but also was a defensive standout with an average of six unassisted tackles.

"That's why we used Mike as much as we did," remarked coach Jack McGuinn. "He was too good a football player to keep off the field, and he's as hard a worker as you'll find anywhere. He has earned everything he's got."

It includes the distinction as the Most Valuable Player in the Inter-Ac this season, as selected by the coaches.

"Having a lot of fine guys to play with is one of the reasons I had a fine year," he explained. "That's the big thing, being surrounded by a lot of good guys. You just can't help but play well in a situation like this."

**AND HOW ABOUT THE HONORS** which have come his way? Wasn't it tough playing in the shadow of John, a halfback who starred at Monsignor Bonner.

"It just gave me something to work for," answered Mike, 6-1 and 190. "I hoped, with hard work, maybe I could be almost as good as John. I never had John's speed, so I had to compensate in other ways."

Actually, Mike is the third of four brothers, all of whom played football at different high schools. Martin, 21, played at St. Joe's Prep.

"It's just a matter of personal preference as to where we went to high school" he explained. "I had attended Lawrenceville and coach McGuinn used to come to my games. He persuaded me to attend Malvern.

McGuinn can only look back and smile, because Cappelletti has attained the high standard the coach envisioned.

**"WE FINISHED 9-0**, including a forfeit, so Mike's 785 yards rushing was accumulated in only eight games," said McGuinn. "And then, the way he was playing defense, we just couldn't keep him out of there.

"The problem, oftimes Mike isn't really appreciated because of his name. Yet he blossomed into what he is by hard work, since I don't think he has John's overall talent."

McGuinn had the good fortune of having six other players make All-Inter-Ac Cappelletti, defensive tackle Mike Riordan and defensive end Bob Carey are the seniors.

Juniors include halfback Wally Shields and defensive back Joe Rosati, and sophomores include massive linemen Dan Rearden and Herb Beck. Beck is the son of Ernie Beck and both he and Dan Riordan, Mike's brother, are only 15.

"Having seven on an All-Star team is only indicative of the kind of well-balanced club we had," commented McGuinn. "We were strong all over, not just one or two outstanding football players."



MIKE CAPPELLETTI

And he wasn't even counting Cappelletti twice.

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