

Mar Vista Duels With Escondido

By DAVE GALLUP

Escondido, defending San Diego Section CIF class AA football champion, and Mar Vista, one of the leading threats to unseat the Cougars, collide headon tonight at 8 o'clock on the Mar Vista field.

The game conceivably could decide the Metro League championship. Both clubs are unbeaten in three tests to date, including one start each in Metro play, and both are good bets to win the balance of their contests after tonight's meeting.

Escondido has defeated Lincoln, Point Loma and Chula Vista, while the Mariners knocked over San Diego, Mission Bay and well-regarded Hilltop.

While the Cougars and the Mariners settle their dispute, defending champion Helix and undefeated El Capitan clash in a Grossmont League showdown on the Mt. Miguel gridiron.

Helix opened its league business last Friday night with a 34-0 conquest of El Cajon after dropping a non-league curtain raiser to powerful Hoover, 14-13. El Capitan launched its season auspiciously with a 19-0 upset of formidable St. Augustine, then defeated Monte Vista, 10-0, in its first league effort Friday.

Mar Vista and Escondido own the county's first and second leading scorers, respectively, in fullback Mike Woolrich and halfback Dan Starr. Woolrich has ripped off seven touchdowns for the Mariners, while Starr has punched out six for the Cougars.

Two years ago, Escondido invaded Mar Vista favored to win almost as it pleased. The Cougars were the defending class AA champs that year, too, but an inspired Mar Vista defense stalled the vaunted Cougar attack and the Mariners came up with a 13-7 upset.

Mar Vista went on to compile an eight-game winning streak before losing to Sweetwater. Escondido, on the other hand could do nothing right thereafter and wound up

among the also-rans that year. The Metro race that season ended in a three-way tie for the title among Sweetwater, Chula Vista and Mar Vista.

Escondido was hard-pressed to beat Mar Vista, 6-0, last season.

Other Grossmont League action tonight pits leading contended Mt. Miguel, 1-0 in the league, against Granite Hills at Gillespie Field and El Cajon against Grossmont at Helix. Monte Vista moves out of the league for a game with newcomer Castle Park of the Metro circuit at Chula Vista High.

Sweetwater, beaten in all three of its non-league starts, hopes for better things in its opening Metro league effort against Hilltop tonight on the latter's grid. Sweetwater is co-defending champion with Escondido.

Tonight's other Metro action pits Chula Vista against newcomer Coronado on the Islanders' lot.



—San Diego Union Staff Photo

Gary Harse, 180-pound returning letterman end, is expected to play key role tonight for Hilltop as the Lancers take on powerful Sweetwater in Metro League prep football game on Hilltop's field.

Helix Shatters Vaquero Dream

By **ROGER CONLEE**

For 47 minutes and 25 seconds last night, it appeared El Capitan High had knocked off Helix and taken command of the Grossmont League football race.

But high-school games are 48 minutes long and, with 35 seconds to play on the Mount Miguel field, Helix scored to shatter what had been a beautiful dream for the Vaqueros, 12-9.

Coach Art Preston's El Capitan team came fully prepared, physically and mentally, to conquer the perennial Grossmont League champions and very nearly did. But Helix, which seems to have forgotten how to lose, came back from nine points behind to pull out the emotion-charged battle. About 3,500 fans sat through a misty rain to watch it.

When Helix halfback Dennis Milstead scored from the one-yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 9-6, El Capitan, a brawl broke out among the players. These were the first points scored against the Vaqueros all year.

El Capitan end Mike Arke and Helix guard Mike Simpson, who apparently threw the first blows, were assigned permanent seating on the bench.

El Capitan, which had been winning the battle of the lines, didn't seem in jeopardy, however, especially when Helix was forced to punt from its 40-yard line with only 1:54 remaining. The punt bounced off a Vaquero lineman and Helix' Mike Specht pounced on it at the El Cap 39.

The Vaqueros still seemed to be living right when their red-dogging linebackers threw quarterback Barry Bronk back to the Helix 49. But Bronk flipped a 10-yard pass to Bryan Olan-

der and an 18-yarder to Dick DiMeo. When DiMeo went down on the 23, El Capitan defender Chuck Bixby made the fatal mistake of grabbing his face mask.

The resultant penalty moved the ball to the 12-yard line. Bronk passed seven yards to DiMeo and then from the five hit Chuck Edwards with the clincher with 35 seconds left.

"We outhit 'em. We deserved to win," said El Capitan coach Art Preston, whose teams never have beaten the Highlanders. "We were prepared. How did we lose? How did we lose?"

"They blew us apart at the seams," agreed Helix headman Dick Gorrie. "They played a great game, but we won. I'd rather say we were lousy but we won, than we were great but lost."

Bronk, a second-stringer, was the man of the moment for the Scots. He was summoned from the bench early in the second quarter when starting quarterback Joe Lavage left with a knee injury.