

1997

Dunbar Defeats Marian Catholic, 28-21

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Saturday, November 29, 1997

DUNBAR EXORCISES DEMONS

BY PATRICK Z. MCGAVIN

On the second-to-last carry of his high school career, Rausell Harvey pulverized the ghosts. The Dunbar running back ran 4 yards off tackle to give the Mighty Men the winning touchdown in their thrilling 28-21 victory over Marian Catholic Friday afternoon at foggy Soldier Field.

The victory was the first in four Prep Bowl tries for Dunbar (12-3) and the Public League's first since Mather beat Brother Rice 15-6 in 1992.

"We just had to win," Harvey said. "This was our 'baby' state championship."

Last year the sight of a broken Harvey, tears streaming down his face as he limped off the field in Dunbar's 21-6 loss to Loyola, is one of the few times the state's career rushing leader has appeared mortal.

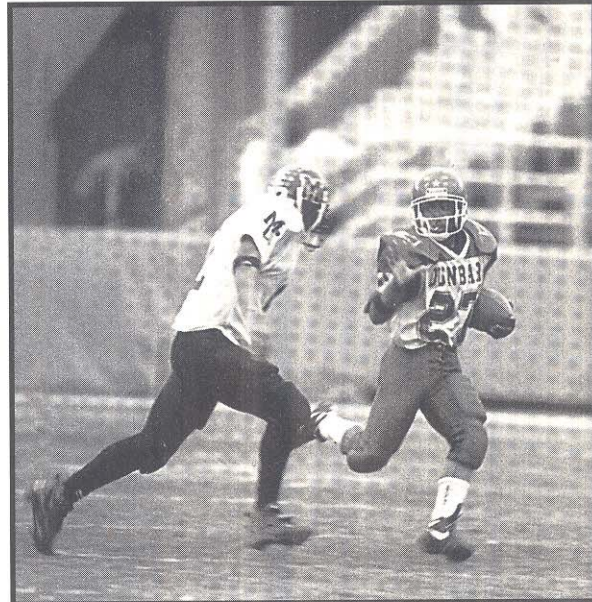
Harvey gained 166 yards Friday and scored three touchdowns on 20 carries, giving him career totals of 7,411 yards and 108 touchdowns. He finished his senior season with 2,789 yards and 38 TDs.

Marian's passing combination of Phil Wail and Jamie Rossie nearly upstaged Harvey. Wail (16 of 32, 211 yards, two TDs and, like Harvey, a Prep Bowl MVP) hooked up with Rossie on 10 occasions for 150 yards, turning what appeared to be a Dunbar rout into a barnburner.

After Wail's first TD pass, an 18-yarder to Erick Middleton, gave the Spartans a 7-0 first-quarter lead, Dunbar scored 20 unanswered points.

On his first carry, Harvey burst 61 yards down the left sideline. Dunbar missed its conversion but got the ball back when Marian fumbled the ensuing kickoff. It took just three plays to score, Landon Turner pounding in from the 1. Turner also ran in the two-point conversion for a 14-7 Dunbar lead.

Harvey's second touchdown, a 24-yard gallop, gave the Mighty Men a 20-7 edge with just under 9 minutes in the second quarter. The momentum shifted when Marian defensive back Kevin Hanifin intercepted a Steve Thrash pass and the Spartans unleashed their passing attack.



Tribune Photo - 1997

Wail's 14-yard hookup to Rossie made it 20-14 at the half.

Marian (10-4) opened the second half with a nine-play, 69-yard drive helped by a fortunate roll. On third and goal from the Dunbar 20, Wail hit Middleton on a wide receiver screen. Middleton was hit at the 3 and fumbled, but an alert Jon Jagielski fell on the ball for the touchdown. Tim Cassata's extra point gave Marian a 21-20 lead.

The Spartans appeared to shut the door when they again advanced deep into Dunbar territory, but linebacker Scott Russell intercepted Wail to kill the drive.

On the game-winning 10-play, 71-yard drive, Harvey opened the possession with a 15-yard pass reception and an 18-yard run.

Photo and text ©1997 Chicago Tribune Company.