

Sept. 3	1	2	3	4	Total
CARMEL CORSAIRS	0	0	0	14	14
MARIAN SPARTANS	14	20	0	0	34

Gavin, Spartan defense bash Carmel

With the Marian Catholic defense turning in its second straight effort of sheer dominance Friday night, the Spartan offense decided to deliver an exclamation point of its own against visiting Mundelein Carmel.

Junior quarterback Mike Gavin hurled three first-half touchdown passes to pace the Spartans (2-0) to a 34-0 halftime bulge en route to a 34-14 romp over the Corsairs (0-2). Gavin finished an economical 8-of-13 for 98 yards. Marian also scored on 1-yard run by Deon Bradley and a 65-interception return by Rod Middleton (four conversion kicks).

"This means a lot to the offense because we proved to ourselves we could do it," Gavin explained. "We knew we could get it done all along and it was just a matter of going out and doing it. We need to earn respect from people."

When Gavin hit Devon Clark from 4 yards out for the second such touchdown connection for the duo, it started a blitz of 20 points in the final 4:05 of the half. Gavin had earlier tossed scoring strikes of 9 yards to Jason Guch and 23 yards to Clark.

Middleton added his interception return with 2:15 to play in the half and Bradley punched it in with 55 ticks remaining on the first-half clock.

Meanwhile, the Spartan defense was spectacular. Carmel had one first down (via penalty) and minus-11 yards in the opening half. With linebackers Mike Parro, Ted Karagias, Phil Long and Justin McMulin flooding the Carmel backfield, the Corsairs were still at minus-8 yards through three quarters.

Although Marian finished with just three sacks (Long, Parro, Jonathan McMahan), the likes of Eric Papp and Marcus Taylor also helped hold Carmel to zero or negative yardage on 28 plays.

Marian next visits Loyola on Saturday for a Catholic Metropolitan Conference Blue opener, as the Spartans continue a payback trail after a 2-7 campaign last year.

"Revenge is our primary motivation," Gavin explained. "We can play with every team on our schedule. We've worked too hard in the summer not to."

Tom Bijak led the Spartan ground game with 57 yards in 12 carries.

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian
First downs	11	14
Rush att./yards	35/67	36/141
Passing yards	69	98
Pass completions	5	8
Pass attempts	19	17
Had intercepted	1	2

Fumbles/lost	1/0	2/1
Penalty yards	25	35
Next	DELASALLE	at Loyola

SCORING

MC- Guch 9-yard pass from Gavin (Middleton kick), 6:15 (1st quarter).

MC- Clark 23-yard pass from Gavin (Middleton), 1:12 (1).

MC- Clark 4-yard pass from Gavin (Middleton), 4:05 (2).

MC- Middleton 65-yard interception return (Middleton), 2:15 (2).

MC- Bradley 1-yard run (kick failed), 0:55 (2).

C- Kivland 12-yard pass from McMahon (Mikrut kick), 9:51 (4).

C- McMahon 5-yard run (Mikrut), 4:01 (4).

Passing: C- McMahon 5 of 18, 69 yards, 1 TD, 1 int.; Lawrence 0 of 1. MC- Gavin 8 of 13, 98 yards, 3 TD, 1 int.; Raczka 0 of 4, 1 int.

Rushing: C- Strickland 8-45, Lawrence 9-25, Luna 8-22, Henry 2-4, McMahon 7-(minus-1), Tekampe 1-(minus-28). MC- Bijak 12-57, DiGiulio 2-19, Bradley 7-18, Raczka 4-18, Butler 6-14, Gavin 2-8, Lovejoy 3-7.

Receiving: C- Muto 2-48, Kivland 2-19, Lawrence 1-2. MC- Clark 3-39, Palumbo 2-37, Carreras 1-15, Guch 1-9, Bijak 1-(minus-2).

Interceptions: Wilson, Levy (C), Middleton (MC).