

<b>Sept. 24</b>	1	2	3	4	Final
<b>H. CROSS CRUSADERS</b>	0	0	0	6	6
<b>MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	14	0	7	0	21

## Spartan defense stifles Holy Cross

Just six seconds separated Marian Catholic and its first shutout in two seasons Friday night. The blanking eluded the Spartans when visiting Holy Cross scored with six ticks left on the clock.

However, priority number-one was to get back on track for Marian Friday, and the Spartans did that with a 21-6 nonconference victory to improve to 4-1 overall.

"We said this game was pivotal for our season," explained Marian linebacker Ted Karagias, who recovered a fumble for one of four turnovers Marian forced Friday. "This will lead us into the next game and we've got that positive attitude back."

Along with serving as a rebound from last week's 38-7 loss to Mount Carmel, the decision allowed Marian to avenge a third loss (Carmel, Loyola) from last year.

While Holy Cross (3-2) did its scoring late, Marian wasted little time in getting the scoring under way early.

On just the second play from scrimmage, Rod Middleton picked up a fumble and raced 37 yards to a score only 49 seconds into the contest. On Marian's initial offensive possession, Tom Bijak plunged into the end zone from a yard out to culminate a 14-play, 66-yard drive.

The Spartans took a 14-0 lead into halftime, then scored on their first possession of the second half. Junior quarterback Mike Gavin hit Jason Guch from 4 yards out and Middleton's conversion boot gave the Spartans a 21-0 command with 6:45 to go in the third quarter. Gavin finished seven of 11 for 64 yards, hitting Luke Carreras five times for 47 yards.

The Marian defense took care of chores from there, as the first-string denied Holy Cross on four occasions after it had advanced inside the Marian 25-yard line.

Jonathan McMahon, Justin McMulin, Mike Parro, Patrick Carroll, Quentin Sykes and Phillip Long all got into the act with tackles for losses, while Duane Harrigan broke up a pass in the end zone. Meanwhile, Bijak and Parro picked off passes deep in Spartan territory.

"We had some breakdowns here and there, but we did everything pretty well tonight," Karagias assessed. "As long as we get the job done, we don't mind if we bent, but don't break sometimes."

Deon Bradley was the leading ground-gainer for Marian with 59 yards on 11 totes.

CATEGORY	Holy Cross	Marian
<b>First downs</b>	11	8
<b>Rush att./yards</b>	40/174	36/132
<b>Passing yards</b>	169	64

<b>Pass completions</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Pass attempts</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Had intercepted</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fumbles/lost</b>	<b>3/2</b>	<b>0/0</b>
<b>Penalty yards</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Next</b>	<b>open</b>	<b>@ Providence</b>

**SCORING**

**MC-** Middleton 37-yard fumble return (kick failed), 11:11 (first quarter).

**MC-** Bijak 1-yard run (Carreras pass from Raczka), 0:12 (first).

**MC-** Guch 4-yard pass from Gavin (Middleton kick), 6:45 (third).

**HC-** Coleman 63-yard pass from Brock (kick blocked), 0:06 (fourth).

**Passing:** HC- Antonik 5 of 9, 106 yards, 2 INT; Brock 1 of 1, 63 yards, 1 TD. MC- Gavin 7 of 11, 64 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT.

**Rushing:** HC- Coleman 23-133, Antonik 11-17, Conlee 3-10, Bleke 1-7, Hanley 1-5, Johnson 1-2. MC- Bradley 11-59, Bijak 14-45 (TD), Gavin 8-24, Raczka 2-2, Butler 1-2.

**Receiving:** HC- Russo 3-84, Coleman 1-63 (TD), Hanley 1-11, Brock 1-11. MC- Carreras 5-47, Bijak 1-13, Guch 1-4 (TD).

**Interceptions:** Hanley (HC); Bijak, Parro (MC).

**MC tackle leader:** Mike Parro, 3 solos, 12 assists, 1 tackle for loss.