

<b>GAME 9: Notre Dame 7, Marian Catholic 6</b>
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**Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m. Friday at Niles Notre Dame High School.

**Where:** 7655 Dempster Street, Niles.

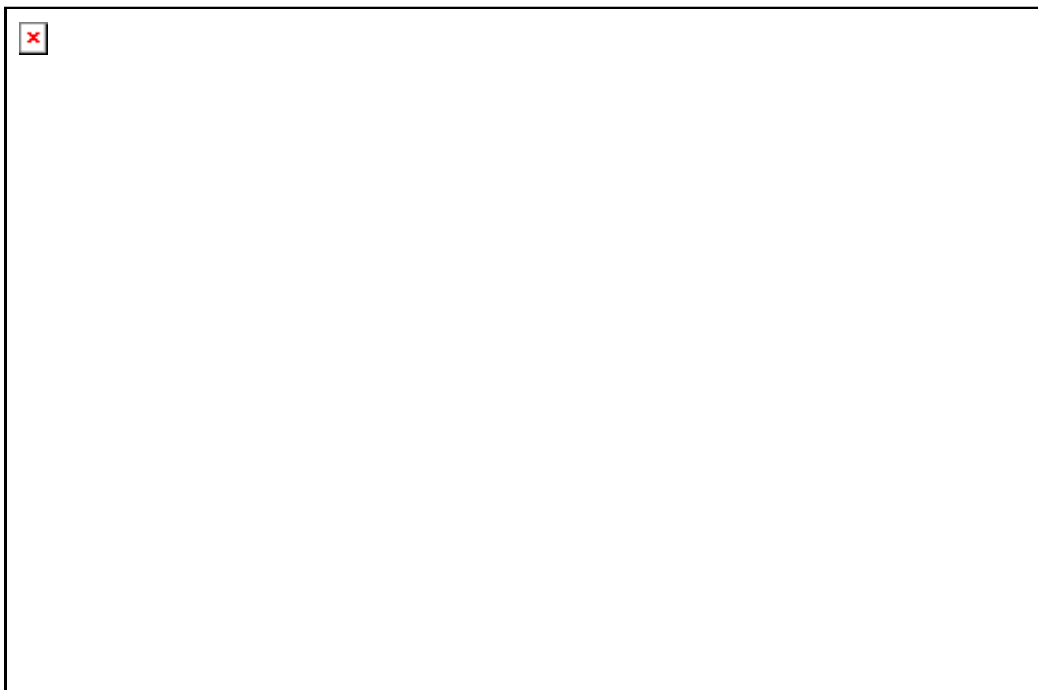
**Records:** Marian Catholic 6-2; Notre Dame 4-4.

**Last week:** Marian Catholic 14, St. Rita 9; Notre Dame 28, Benet Academy 0.

**Last year:** Notre Dame 14, Marian Catholic 13

**The series:** After Marian won the first four games in the series, Notre Dame has captured the last two to narrow the Spartans' series edge to 4-2..

Oct. 22 (Final)	1	2	3	4	Final
<b>MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	0	0	0	6	<b>6</b>
NOTRE DAME DONS	0	7	0	0	<b>7</b>



**Playoff-bound Marian Catholic sought a seventh victory Friday night, but wound up on the short end of a 7-6 loss at the hands of Notre Dame in Niles.**

## Spartans fall to Notre Dame

Marian Catholic was nearly back on the bus by the time it was able to get its offense going Friday night in a nonconference visit to Niles Notre Dame.

The Spartans got a late touchdown pass from Tom Raczka to Luke Carreras—a 9-yarder with 3:51 to play. However, the tardy start left no margin for error. Consequently, a missed extra-point kick and an interception on Marian's next possession allowed Notre Dame (5-4) to escape with a 7-6 victory.

Marian moved the ball to the Dons' 28-yard line on its final possession, but an interception by Notre Dame's Matt Koegler sealed the Spartans' fate.

With the setback, Marian fell to 6-3 and will have to settle for a contest on the road when the IHSA Class 5A playoffs begin next weekend.

"I think the kids will bounce back and look at next weekend as an opportunity for us," Marian defensive coach Don McKillip said. "This was a step back, so we have a lot of work to do to get back to where we need to be."

While Marian went scoreless for three quarters, the Spartan defense was almost equal to the task. The Dons took a 7-0 lead into halftime after Brian Brosnan tallied on a 3-yard run with 6:34 to play in the second quarter. Rich Gorzelany's conversion boot eventually proved to be the difference in the contest.

The Marian defense yielded just 99 yards and the Spartans had two more first downs (12-10). However, the visitors generated only 13 yards on the ground and had a pair of interceptions.

"Our inability of the offense to get anything going and the defense not making some things happen hurt us tonight," McKillip assessed. "We didn't take advantage of some opportunities we had."

Statistically, Raczka came off the bench at quarterback to toss for 94 yards and the score. Sean Palumbo pulled in three passes for 41 yards, while Rod Middleton led the ground attack with 24 yards on eight carries. Yet, Marian had three turnovers to none for the Dons.

The final score marked the fifth time this season that Marian has held a foe to single-digit scoring. However, it was the first time in 17 games the Spartans did so and lost.

After last year's 2-7 campaign, a return to the playoffs for the eighth time in the 1990s will be a welcome experience. Marian owns a 9-3 mark in playoff openers.

CATEGORY	Marian	Notre Dame
<b>First downs</b>	12	10
<b>Rush att./yards</b>	24/13	46/78
<b>Passing yards</b>	127	21
<b>Pass completions</b>	10	3
<b>Pass attempts</b>	21	5
<b>Had intercepted</b>	2	0
<b>Fumbles/lost</b>	2/1	2/0
<b>Penalty yards</b>	57	55
<b>Next</b>	<b>Playoffs</b>	<b>TBA</b>

#### SCORING

**ND-** Brian Brosnan 3-yard run (Rich Gorzelany kick), 6:34, second.

**MC-** Luke Carreras 9-yard pass from Tom Raczka (kick failed), 3:51, fourth.

#### INDIVIDUALS

**Passing:** MC- Gavin 3 of 9, 33 yards, 1 INT; Raczka 7 of 12, 94 yards, 1 TD, 1INT. ND- Cutro 2 of 4, 14 yards; Baker 1 of 1, 7 yards.

**Rushing:** MC- Middleton 8-24, Bradley 10-19, Raczka 2-0, Gavin 4-(minus 30). ND- Brosnan 25-53 (TD), Gallagher 13-29, Heitman 1-5, Halvorsen 1-4, Masciopinto 1-(minus 5), Cutro 1-(minus 8).

**Receiving:** MC- Palumbo 3-41, Clark 2-29, Guch 2-24, Middleton 1-17, Carreras 3-16 (TD). ND- Anderson 3-21.

**Interceptions:** Masciopinto, Koegler (ND).

### Catholic Metropolitan Conference- Blue Division

1999	Standings			
School	CMC		Overall	
Mt. Carmel	5	0	8	1
Providence	4	1	8	1
Marian	3	2	6	3
Loyola	2	3	5	4
St. Rita	1	4	5	4
Marist	0	5	2	7

#### WEEK SIX

Providence 48, **Marian** 21  
 St. Rita 25, Marist 6  
 Mount Carmel 20, Loyola 7

#### WEEK SEVEN

**Marian Catholic** 21, Marist 6  
 Providence Catholic 24, Loyola 0  
 Mount Carmel 7, St. Rita 0

#### WEEK THREE (Saturday)

**Marian Catholic** 17, Loyola 10  
 Providence 25, St. Rita 21  
 Mount Carmel 20, Marist 15

#### WEEK FOUR

Mt. Carmel 38, **Marian Cath.** 7  
 Providence 32, Marist 7  
 Loyola 15, St. Rita 10

#### WEEK TWO

##### Friday

**Marian Catholic** 34, Carmel 14  
 Providence 14, Gordon Tech 7  
 Notre Dame 14, Marist 3

##### Saturday

De La Salle 21, Loyola 17  
 Mount Carmel 43, Leo 0  
 St. Rita 45, Benet Academy 23

#### WEEK NINE

##### Friday

St. Rita 23, Leo 16  
 Mount Carmel 45, De La Salle 21  
 Notre Dame 7, **Marian Catholic** 6  
 Providence 35, Carmel 7

##### Saturday

Loyola 22, Benet Academy 15  
 Marist 20, Gordon Tech 6

#### WEEK EIGHT

##### Friday

Loyola 13, Marist 7  
 Mount Carmel 17, Providence 12

##### Saturday

**Marian Catholic** 14, St. Rita 9

*Playoff pairings will be  
 announced on Sat., Oct. 23*

#### WEEK FIVE

##### Friday

Marist 52, De Sales 0  
**Marian Cath. 21**, Holy Cross 6  
 St. Rita 42, St. Viator 41

##### Saturday

Loyola 41, Hales Franciscan 0  
 Mt. Carmel 37, St. Joseph 12  
 Providence Catholic OFF

#### WEEK ONE

##### Friday

Brother Rice 21, Marist 6  
 Providence 12, McNamara 0  
**Marian Catholic** 14, Andrew 7  
 Loyola 27, Elgin 0

##### Saturday

St. Rita 37, Morgan Park 16  
 Joliet Catholic 10, Mount Carmel 7