

GAME 1: Marian Catholic 21, Andrew 7

Kickoff: 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25 at Andrew High School.

Where: 171st and 90th Avenue, Tinley Park.

1999 records: Marian Catholic 10-4; Andrew 7-3.

Last year: Marian Catholic 14, Andrew 7.

The series: After splitting a pair of 14-7 decisions, the Spartans took a 2-1 edge in the series with the 2000 victory..

August 25	1	2	3	4	Final
MARIAN SPARTANS	14	7	0	0	21
ANDREW T-BOLTS	0	0	0	7	7

Spartan defense keys opening victory

Friday's nonconference visit to Andrew clearly had the look of an opening game.

An offense that fizzled and 145 yards in penalties proved that.

However, a defense that was one play short of perfection, a veteran quarterback and a surprise in the backfield added up to a 21-7 Marian victory in the season opener.

While the defense wasn't allowing a first down through three quarters, junior transfer running back Joe Marias proved to be the spark on the offensive side of the ball. The workhorse carried 23 times for 101 yards.

His 3-yard touchdown run late in the first half gave the Spartans a 21-0 lead.

"It's my first year hear, so I was just hoping for a chance to play," said the Colorado transfer who seized opportunity when starting back Deon Bradley came up lame this week.

"It was a perfect chance to show what I've got. I'm just going to work hard for more playing time when Deon gets back."

Senior quarterback Mike Gavin ran for the first score and tossed a 60-yard pass to David Carcelli for another to guide Marian to the end zone on its first two drives.

However, the defense turned in a staggering effort early. With linebackers John Sandrick (blocked punt) and Jared McMahon leading the way and Brian Munde, Jonathan McMahon, Patrick Carroll and Mark Rueth applying pressure up front, Andrew managed just 21 total yards in the first half.

The T-Bolts didn't complete a pass in nine attempts for the evening, as the last one was picked off by Ryan Adams. Including a 75-yard fourth-quarter touchdown burst by Matt Maxwell, Andrew managed just 101 yards for the evening.

While the offense sputtered in the second half, it continued to take pressure off the defense. Marian marched for almost 12 minutes to open the second half, as the Spartans gained a 66-30 advantage in plays from scrimmage.

"We made some mental mistakes, but overall we did a real good job tonight- especially in the first half," Marias assessed. "We'll build from the first-half effort."

Despite not finding the end zone in the second half, Gavin finished a solid 12

of 18 for 175 yards. He led Marian to scores on three of its first four possessions.

The Spartans used almost seven minutes to go 84 yards on their first possession before Gavin plunged in from a yard out. Sergio Flores booted the first of three conversion kicks.

Things were quicker the next time Marian touched the ball, as Gavin hit Carcelli for the 60-yard catch-and-run in a three-play drive.

The advantage swelled to 21-0 with 1:03 when Marias followed Tom O'Brien and Eric Papp into end zone for Marian's third score.

CATEGORY	Marian	Andrew
First downs	18	4
Rush att./yards	49/182	21/101
Passing yards	175	0
Pass completions	12	0
Pass attempts	18	9
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles/lost	0/0	2/1
Penalty yards	145	30
Next	at St. Joseph	at L.-Way

SCORING

MC- Mike Gavin 1-yard run (Sergio Flores kick), 3:08, first quarter.

MC- David Carcelli 60-yard pass from Gavin (Flores), 0:34, first.

MC- Joe Marias 3-yard run (Flores), 1:01, second.

A- Matt Maxwell 75-yard run (Colin Manning kick), 9:55, fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: MC- Gavin 12 of 18, 175 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT; Andrew- Mirus 0 of 3, 0 yards; Ripoli 0 of 6, 0 yards, 1 INT.

Rushing: MC- Marias 23-101 (TD), DiGiulio 6-30, Gavin 11-28 (TD), Williams 3-13, Busse 1-4, Clark 1-3, Papp 1-0, Holmes 3-(minus-3); Andrew- Maxwell 6-83 (TD), Guisinger 3-14, Zylka 4-10, Markowicz 3-1, Kenney 1-(minus-1); Mirus 1-(minus-2); Ripoli 3-(minus-4).

Receiving: MC- Carcelli 2-68 (TD), Clark 5-62, Dawkins 2-30, DiGiulio 1-6, O'Brien 1-6, Williams 1-3; Andrew- none.

Interceptions: Adams (MC); Bernard (A).