

GAME 3: Marian Catholic 21, Carmel 0

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 at Marian Catholic High School.

Where: 700 Ashland Ave., Chicago Heights..

Records: Carmel 2-0; Marian Catholic 2-0.

Last week: Carmel 15, Gordon Tech 14; Marian Catholic 48, St. Joseph 20.

Last year: Marian Catholic 34, Carmel 14.

The series: The Spartans have captured eight of 11 meetings between the teams, with the Corsairs last victory coming in 1998.

Tidbits: Marian is seeking its second straight 3-0 start. In two weeks of non-league play, the CMC-White has a combined record of 12-4.

Sept. 8	1	2	3	4	Final
CARMEL CORSAIRS	0	0	0	0	0
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	6	8	7	21

Spartans (3-0) blank Carmel

With senior standout Eric Papp stifling the Carmel option on Friday night, the Marian Catholic defense turned in a brilliant effort to spark a 21-0 Catholic Metropolitan White victory in the Spartans home opener.

Despite a slow start, the offense contributed as well with Deon Bradley returning from an injury to carry 30 times for 172 yards and two scores.

The decision improves Marian to 3-0 heading into next Friday's showdown at Joliet Catholic.

"We just need to try to stay focused because it's going to be a big test and they'll be a tough opponent," Papp said of Joliet Catholic. "We can't show up lackadaisical. We'll have to be ready right from the opening kickoff."

The defense turned in the shutout by holding Carmel (2-1) on downs at the 2-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. Then Marian marched 98 yards in 12 plays for the back-breaking score.

The Spartans led just 6-0 at the intermission, but Bradley seemed to gain steam in the second half. A blocked punt by Papp set up the Marian offense for its initial score of the second half.

Taking possession at the Corsair 14, Bradley needed just two totes before he followed Chris McDonnell and Matt Bartolini into the end zone from 2 yards away. When holder Don Busse hit Tom O'Brien with the conversion toss, the Marian lead swelled to 14-0 with 0:07 to play in the third quarter.

The final score came on a 12-yard Bradley jaunt with 4:20 to play. Sergio Flores added the conversion boot.

"Everybody backed me 100 percent and I was just happy to be playing," Bradley said. "The whole line gave me everything, and I was able to play with a lot of confidence. When they do their job, all I have to do is run hard. We also picked up the pace on offense and that was a large part of the game."

With sparkling play from a defensive front of Brian Munde, Jonathan McMahon, Matt Johnson and Pat Carroll, the Corsairs were limited to 30 total yards and two first downs in the opening half.

The home team was finally rewarded for the stellar defensive play late in the second quarter. Marian completed a nine-play scoring drive when quarterback Mike Gavin hit tight end Tom O'Brien from 19 yards out for the score. Gavin finished six of 10 for 59 yards.

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian
First downs	9	18
Rush att./yards	38/114	51/239
Passing yards	42	59
Pass completions	3	6
Pass attempts	9	10
Had intercepted	0	2
Fumbles/lost	2/0	0/0
Penalty yards	30	55
Next	McNAMARA	@ JCA

SCORING

MC- Tom O'Brien 19-yard pass from Mike Gavin (kick failed), 4:18, second.

MC- Deon Bradley 2-yard run (Don Busse to O'Brien pass), 0:07, third.

MC- Bradley 12-yard run (Sergio Flores kick), 4:20, fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: C- Matt Roe 2 of 8, 13 yards; Eric Luna 1 of 1, 29 yards; MC- Gavin 6 of 10, 59 yards, 1 TD, 2 INT.

Rushing: C- Ben Lawrence 14-48, Jim Scherman 6-35, Luna 6-24, Roe 8-17, Patrick Adrien 4-(minus 10); MC- Bradley 30-172 (2 TD), Gavin 14-32, Mike DiGiulio 2-22, Joe Marias 4-17, Devon Clark 1-(minus 4).

Receiving: C- Dexter Reid 1-29, Sean Walker 1-10, Luna 1-3; MC- Clark 2-23, O'Brien 1-19, Dave Carcelli 1-7, Bradley 1-5, Bris Dawkins 1-5.

Interceptions: Lawrence (C), 2