

GAME 4: Joliet Catholic 34, Marian Catholic 18

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15 at Joliet Memorial Stadium.

Where: Jefferson Street, Joliet.

Records: Marian Catholic 3-0; Joliet Catholic 3-0.

AP Rankings: Marian #1 in Class 5A; Joliet Catholic #1 in Class 4A.

Last week: Marian Catholic 21, Carmel 0; Joliet Catholic 36, St. Patrick 0.

Last meeting: Joliet Catholic 8, Marian Catholic 7 in 1995

The series: The Spartans have won two of the last four meetings, but the Hilltoppers own an overall series advantage of 20-8-1.

Tidbits: Last week's shutout was the first in 31 games for Marian. The Spartans last 4-0 start came in 1993 when they won the Class 4A state championship.

Sept. 15	1	2	3	4	Final
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	0	6	12	18
JCA HILLTOPPERS	6	13	0	15	34

Spartans (3-1) fall to Hilltoppers

In a showdown for supremacy in the Chicagoland Catholic Metropolitan White division, Joliet Catholic's domination could be summed up with one statistic Friday night at Joliet Memorial Stadium.

The Hilltoppers (4-0, 2-0) ran off 30 more plays than the Spartans, 68-38, for a total dominance of the line of scrimmage in a 34-18 decision. The contest pitted a pair of teams ranked No. 1 in the state's Associated Press polls in their respective classes.

Joliet Catholic, which took a 20-9-1 lead in the series, churned out 300 yards on the ground in the contest. While taking a 19-0 halftime advantage, the Hilltoppers limited Marian (3-1, 1-1) to 32 total yards and one touchdown.

The Spartans gained life in the third quarter. On their initial possession of the second half, the Spartans rambled 88 yards in 10 plays to pull within 19-6 when quarterback Mike Gavin bulled into the end zone from 8 yards out. Deon Bradley toted for most of the drive, gaining 57 of his 67 yards for the night.

Joliet Catholic responded with an 81-yard drive of its own to swell the lead to 27-6, but Marian wasted little time in retaliating.

Senior Bris Dawkins took the ensuing kickoff at the 13-yard line, bolted to the middle of the field and then kicked it out to the right sideline for an 87-yard return and score. Quickly, Marian appeared back in the contest with a 27-12 deficit.

"I felt like everything was starting to go our way," Dawkins explained. "The energy was back. The offense was not on the field much in the first half, so we all still had a lot of energy. I was hoping that run would start a turnaround."

JCA nixed that idea. The Hilltoppers knocked more than six minutes off the clock on the following drive. While they came up empty, the Hill tallied on its next possession to make it 34-12. J.R. Zwierzynski scored from 25 yards out to cap a three-touchdown, 161-yard rushing evening.

Marian gained a consolation score, as reserve signal-caller Don Busse

engineered a 60-yard drive sparked by a 45-yard toss to David Carcelli. On a fourth-down play, Busse hit Carl Laurie with an 11-yard touchdown pass for the final scoring of the night.

The two second-half scoring drives for Marian accounted for 148 of its 167 yards for the evening. Marian quarterback Gavin (51 passing yards) was sacked on four occasions.

"This was a good experience," Dawkins concluded. "Now we have to get back to the weights and practice hard, and get ready for the next test. This was a big test."

CATEGORY	Marian	JCA
First downs	6	19
Rush att./yards	20-56	57-300
Passing yards	111	58
Pass completions	9	5
Pass attempts	18	11
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles/lost	0/0	0/0
Penalty yards	0	10
Next	BENET	@ McNamara

SCORING

JCA- J.R. Zwierzynski 1-yard run (run failed), 0:50, first.

JCA- Zwierzynski 2-yard run (pass failed), 5:34, second.

JCA- Jason Lynch 1-yard run (Craig Tomasino kick), 0:17, second.

MC- Mike Gavin 8-yard run (pass failed), 3:28, third.

JCA- Chris Gruber 4-yard run (Tomasino to Zwierzynski), 10:51, fourth.

MC- Bris Dawkins 87-yard kickoff return (run failed), 10:38, fourth.

JCA- Zwierzynski 25-yard run (Tomasino kick), 1:30, fourth.

MC- Carl Laurie 11-yard pass from Don Busse (run failed), 0:30, fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: MC- Gavin 6 of 11, 51 yards; Busse 3 of 7, 60 yards, TD; JCA- Tomasino 5 of 10, 58 yards; Zwierzynski 0 of 1, 0 yards..

Rushing: MC- Deon Bradley 10-67, Gavin 10-(minus 11); JCA- Zwierzynski 22-161 (3 TD); Brad Hudetz 16-90; Gruber 14-57 (TD); Lynch 2-1 (TD); Tomasino 2-(minus 4).

Receiving: MC- David Carcelli 1-45, Mike DiGiulio 3-24, Bradley 2-18, Dawkins 2-13, Laurie 1-11 (TD); JCA- Lynch 2-20; Pat McShane 1-16, Zwierzynski 1-16; Gruber 1-6..

Interceptions: none.