

GAME 7: Bishop McNamara 15, Marian Catholic 0
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Homecoming kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Spartan Stadium.

Where: 700 Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights.

Records: McNamara 4-2; Marian Catholic 5-1.

CMC White: McNamara 2-2; Marian Catholic 3-1.

Streaks: Fighting Irish- 1 win; Spartans- 2 wins.

Last week: McNamara 21, Benet Academy 7; Marian 30, Marist 14.

Last meeting: McNamara 22, Marian 18 (1992 IHSA playoffs.)

The series: The teams have played only twice previously with the Spartans earning a 19-7 victory in their 1987 regular-season meeting.

Tidbits: Marian owns a six-game winning streak on its own turf. The Spartans have not posted four conference victories since 1997..

Oct. 6	1	2	3	4	Final
BISHOP McNAMARA	0	0	0	15	15
MARIAN CATHOLIC	0	0	0	0	0

Spartans (5-2) foiled by Irish

With an enthusiastic crowd on hand, Marian Catholic was hoping to turn some outstanding defense and explosive offense into a Homecoming victory on Friday night against Bishop McNamara.

However, the only fireworks the faithful saw out of the home team Friday were the post-game variety in the air. The visiting Irish (5-2, 3-2) used a 1-yard run by Mike Kimberlin and a defensive score- both late in the fourth quarter- to emerge from the defensive struggle with a 15-0 decision.

The setback spoiled Homecoming activities for Marian, which fell to 5-2 overall and to 3-2 in the Catholic Metropolitan White.

The Spartan defense was brilliant for most of the night. The Irish had only 5 total yards in a scoreless first half and managed less than a 2 yards per carry on the ground.

However, the visitors managed to construct a 78-yard drive midway through the final quarter, culminated when Kimberlin (32 carries, 107 yards) burst into the end zone from a yard out.

On the next series, hobbled Marian quarterback Mike Gavin was picked off for the third time, as Jarrod Nowman's second interception resulted in an 18-yard return for the clinching score.

The setback was a bitter pill for Marian, which got outstanding defensive efforts from the likes of Jared McMahan, Eric Papp, John Sandrick, Jonathan McMahan, Nick Schneider and Quentin Sykes, who returned Friday from a back injury.

"We did the best we could," said a disappointed Jonathan McMahan. "They drove on us and we just kept stopping them. We did our best. When you give up eight points, you expect a victory. They just eventually pushed our wall back. You have to give their defense credit too. They did a great job."

The McNamara defense was up to Marian's challenge.

The Spartans managed just 110 total yards, with only 19 coming after

halftime. Using an effective blitzing scheme, the Irish kept constant pressure on Gavin, who finished seven of 21 for 44 yards. The Spartan quarterback was also sacked four times.

Marian outgained McNamara, 91-5, in the opening half, but misfired both times it advanced inside the Irish 20. Both drives stalled at the Irish 15, one on downs and one via an interception.

Deon Bradley had a solid rushing night for Marian, carrying 20 times for 60 yards. However, it was not enough to take pressure off a Spartan defense that posted four sacks of its own (Jared McMahan 2, Jonathan McMahan, Papp).

Marian will now need to regroup by winning one of its last two contests to secure a playoff spot. The Spartans visit Notre Dame next Friday.

"Our defense is fine; we're where we want to be," McMahan assessed. "We just need the offense to step up and the offensive line has to do the job to protect the quarterback."

CATEGORY	McNamara	Marian
First downs	11	6
Rush att./yards	44-63	31-66
Passing yards	77	44
Pass completions	7	7
Pass attempts	10	22
Had intercepted	0	3
Fumbles/lost	3/1	1/1
Penalty yards	15	45
Next	St. PATRICK	at N. Dame

SCORING

McN- Mike Kimberlin 1-yard run (Jonathan Dole pass to Drew Laurenti), 5:39, fourth.

McN- Jarrod Nowman 18-yart int. return (John Locke), 1:35, fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: McN- Jonathan Dole 7 of 10, 77 yards; MC- Mike Gavin 7 of 21, 44 yards, 3 INT; Don Busse 0 of 1.

Rushing: McN- Kimberlin 32-107 (TD), Brandon Shipp 1-4, Nowman 1-(minus2), Dole 10-(minus 46); MC- Deon Bradley 20-60, Mike DiGiulio 2-6; Gavin 8-5, Devon Clark 1-(minus 5).

Receiving: McN- Nowman 3-26, Laurenti 2-16, Drew Bufford 1-29; Locke 1-7; MC- Clark 2-12, DiGiulio 2-7, Bris Dawkins 1-14, Tom O'Brien 1-6, Dave Carcelli 1-4.

Interceptions: McN- Nowman 2 (TD), Laurenti..