

GAME 8: Marian Catholic 10, Notre Dame 0

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Notre Dame School for Boys.

Where: 7655 Dempster Street, Niles

Records: Marian Catholic 5-2; Notre Dame 3-4

CMC White: Marian Catholic 3-2; Notre Dame 2-3

Streaks: Spartans- 1 loss; Dons- 1 win.

Last week: McNamara 15, Marian Catholic 0; Notre Dame 18, St. Patrick 0.

Last year: Notre Dame 7, Marian Catholic 6.

The series: The Dons had captured back-to-back one-point victories in the series, but Marian's 2000 decision gave it a 5-2 overall command.

Tidbits: Marian has captured three straight in Week 8 contests. The Spartans are 5-0 when they have a back rush for 75 or more yards.

Oct. 13	(Final)	1	2	3	4	Final
MARIAN CATHOLIC		3	0	7	0	10
at NOTRE DAME		0	0	0	0	0

Spartans (6-2) blank Notre Dame

With reserve junior quarterback Don Busse coming on to provide a spark, Marian Catholic finally gained a cushion for a brilliant defensive effort, as Busse used a great block from Tom O'Brien to score on a 6-yard run with 27 seconds to play in the third quarter to give the visiting Spartans an eventual 10-0 victory at Notre Dame Friday.

A fourth-quarter interception by Jimmy Siegert kept the Dons' offense in check, as the host team did not pick up its initial first down until 11:41 remained in the contest.

Marian improved to 6-2 overall and to 4-2 in the Catholic Metropolitan White with the victory and virtually secured itself and IHSA playoff berth.

Ignited by three sacks from Quentin Sykes and two from Jonathan McMahon, the Spartans limited Notre Dame (3-5, 2-4) to 16 total yards on Friday. On 24 attempts on the ground, the Dons were held to minus-9 yards.

"Our defensive line basically controlled their whole line," Sykes explained after Marian collected its second shutout of the campaign. "They couldn't do anything in the first half and we gave them no chance to throw the ball because we kept constant pressure on them."

Marian Catholic jumped to a 3-0 lead after one half courtesy of Sergio Flores' 27-yard field goal with 57 seconds to play in the opening quarter. Spartan quarterback Mike Gavin completed 3-of-3 on the drive for 29 yards.

The Marian defense had a superb first half, holding the Dons to minus-10 yards, as McMahon and Sykes (two) recorded quarterback sacks.

Although three turnovers hampered the Marian offense on Friday, the Marian ground game churned out 207 yards as Deon Bradley toted 36 times from 149 yards. In any case, the final result was a welcome answer to last weekend's 15-0 homecoming setback at the hands of Kankakee McNamara.

"This was very important tonight because it establishes our season," Sykes

added. "We needed to win a tough one to get ourselves into the playoffs. From last year we know, if you get into the playoffs anything can happen."

The Spartans had seven first-half first downs to none for Notre Dame, although the Marian offense was stifled by a pair of turnovers. Marian advanced the ball to the Dons' 25-yard line late in the second quarter, but eventually turned over the ball on downs.

Deon Bradley's 53 rushing yards on 12 carries led Marian to 125 first-half yards.

Starting quarterback Gavin left the contest in the second quarter with back spasms after tossing for all of Marian's 29 passing yards. Devon Clark pulled in a pair of passes for 24 yards.

Marian used a 13-play, 57-yard drive to advance to the Dons' 7-yard line early in the third quarter, but was eventually foiled when Notre Dame's Matt Gallagher recovered a fumble.

CATEGORY	Marian	Notre Dame
First downs	14	2
Rush att./yards	55-207	24-(minus 9)
Passing yards	29	25
Pass completions	3	4
Pass attempts	6	8
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles/lost	2/2	2/0
Penalty yards	4-30	3-25
Next	St. PATRICK	at McNamara

SCORING

MC- Sergio Flores 27-yard field goal, 0:57, first.

MC- Don Busse 6-yard run (Flores kick), 0:27, third.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: MC- Mike Gavin 3 of 4, 29 yards, 1 INT; Don Busse 0 of 2. ND- Joe Marrese 4 of 8, 25, 1 INT.

Rushing: MC- Deon Bradley 36-149, Mike DiGiulio 10-38, Don Busse 3-18 (TD), Joe Marias 3-9, Gavin 3-5. ND- Derk Duszak 3-1, Brian Brosnan 12-(minus 2), Matt Signa 1-(minus 3), Marrese 8-(minus 5).

Receiving: MC- Devon Clark 2-24, DiGiulio 1-5. ND- Paul Szczesny 1-16, Chris Grot 1-6, Pat Gavin 1-3, John Sandoval 1-3..

Interceptions: Jimmy Siegert (MC); Matt Gallagher (ND).