

PREP BOWL: Marian Catholic 19, Carmel 7

Kickoff: 7 p.m. Wednesday at Spartan Stadium.

Where: Joe Orr Road and Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights

Records: Carmel 9-4; Marian Catholic 9-3.

Last week: Carmel 31, St. Rita 14; Marian 32, St. Viator 12.

Winner: Advances to play at Holy Cross Saturday.

Sept. 8, 2000: [Marian Catholic 21, Carmel 0](#).

The series: The Spartans have captured nine of 12 meetings between the teams, with the Corsairs last victory coming in 1998.

History: Marian Catholic has participated in the Prep Bowl playoffs on three previous occasions, compiling an overall record of 5-3. The Spartans' last visit was 1997 when they advanced to the Prep Bowl title game at Soldier Field. Marian and Carmel have never played in the Prep Bowl playoffs.

Nov. 15	1	2	3	4	Total
Carmel	0	0	7	0	7
AT MARIAN CATHOLIC	7	6	0	6	19



The Marian Catholic defense pitched a first-half shutout Wednesday, as the Spartans jumped to a 13-0 halftime lead en route to a 19-7 victory over Carmel.

Spartans (10-3) throttle Carmel

The leader of Marian Catholic's defense rose to the challenge when visiting Carmel threatened the Spartans on Wednesday night-- on both sides of the ball.

Along with blocking a punt to set up a score and igniting an inspired defensive effort, senior defensive back Eric Papp also took a handoff and scampered 38

yards for the clinching score in Marian's 19-7 victory over Carmel of Mundelein in Chicago Heights.

The win sends the Spartans (10-3) into a Saturday 1 p.m. meeting with Holy Cross (11-1) in River Grove, with a berth in the Prep Bowl finals at Soldier Field on Thanksgiving Friday at stake.

"I just want to help the team win any way I can," a modest Papp said. "I get as much thrill for making a big block that springs Deon Bradley for a big run. We wanted to come out on top no matter how it happened."

Papp also led Marian on the defensive side of the ball. After the Corsairs (9-5) scored for the first time in seven quarters against Marian to pull to within 13-7 in the third quarter, the Spartans defense came up with several big plays.

Limiting scrambling option quarterback Matt Roe to just 6 second-half yards, Marian got a big sack late in the game from Quentin Sykes, along with key knockdowns against the elusive quarterback from Brian Munde and Pat Carroll. Papp also corralled Roe for a 9-yard loss in the second half.

"We knew we had to step up after they scored," Papp explained. "We said if they don't score in the second half, they can't beat us. They shouldn't have gotten the first score, so we picked it up a notch when they did get the one score."

Actually, the defense didn't do a poor job on that touchdown. Carmel had been set up 28 yards away after a blocked punt.

Papp also had a huge hand in the opening score of the game. On Carmel's initial possession, Marian forced a punt. The boot was blocked by Papp, who scooped up the ball and rambled to the 1-yard line.

Deon Bradley (28 carries, 103 yards) needed just one tote and a Sergio Flores conversion boot to give Marian a 7-0 lead with less than two minutes elapsed. Marian gained a 13-0 halftime cushion with 38 seconds to play in the second quarter, as Mike Gavin (nine of 15, 84 yards) hit Devon Clark (six catches, 57 yards) with a 9-yard scoring toss.

With the defense doing its job in the second half, the offense responded as well. With the likes of Mike Romeli, Chris McDonnell, Ryan Cyrkiel, Matt Bartolini and Tom O'Brien opening holes, Marian executed some key ball control in the final 24 minutes.

A victory on Saturday would send Marian to its second Prep Bowl final at Soldier Field in four years.

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian
First downs	10	12
Rush att./yards	33-79	40-156
Passing yards	87	84
Pass completions	9	9
Pass attempts	19	15
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles/lost	1-1	2-1
Penalty yards	1-5	4-40
Next	season over	@ H. Cross

SCORING

MC- Deon Bradley 1-yard run (Sergio Flores kick), 10:14, first.

MC- Devon Clark 9-yard pass from Mike Gavin (kick blocked), 0:38, second.

C- Matt Roe 2-yard run (Jon Mikrut kick), 5:54, third.

MC- Eric Papp 38-yard run (pass failed), 2:53, fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: C- Matt Roe 9 of 19, 87 yards, 1 INT. MC- Mike Gavin 9 of 15, 84 yards, 1 TD.

Rushing: C- Roe 19-39 (TD), Eric Luna 8-25, Ben Lawrence 5-11, Patrick Adrien 1-4. MC- Deon Bradley 28-103 (TD), Eric Papp 3-46 (TD), Gavin 8-4, Mike DiGiulio 1-3.

Receiving: C- Sean Walker 5-39, Jack Simmons 3-19, Adrien 1-29. MC- Devon Clark 6-57, David Carcelli 3-27.

Interceptions: Jimmy Siegert (MC).