

# Prep Bowl 2000

**PREP BOWL: Marian Catholic 23, Simeon 14** ([PHOTOS](#))

**Kickoff:** 1 p.m. Friday at Soldier Field, Chicago.

**Records:** Marian Catholic 11-3, Simeon 10-4.

**Last game:** Marian Catholic 21, Holy Cross 0; Simeon 20, Dunbar 14.

**Winner:** Captures Chicagoland Prep Bowl Championship.

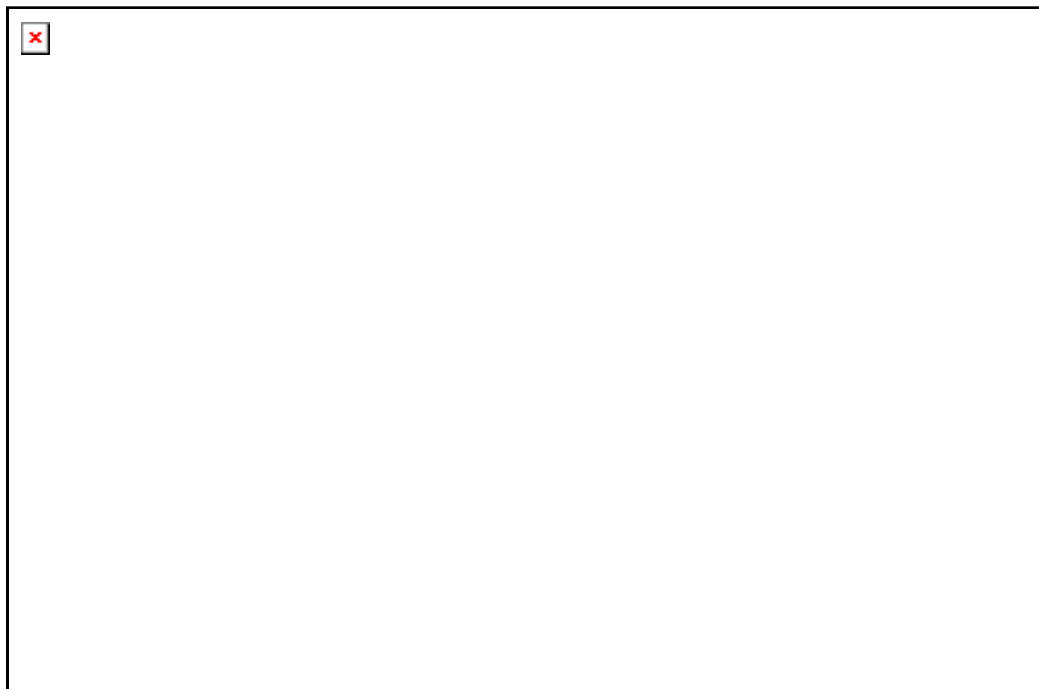
**Streaks:** Spartans- 3 wins; Wolverines- 7 wins.

**Last meeting:** Marian Catholic 13, Simeon 6 in 1995.

**The series:** The Spartans have captured both previous meetings (each an IHSA playoff contest), including a 28-20 victory in 1988.

**History:** Marian Catholic has participated in the Prep Bowl playoffs on three previous occasions, compiling an overall record of 7-3. The Spartans' last visit was 1997 when they advanced to the Prep Bowl title game at Soldier Field. Marian fell to Dunbar, 28-21, in its lone Prep Bowl Championship game.

Nov. 24 (Soldier Field)	1	2	3	4	Final
<b>MARIAN CATHOLIC</b>	10	6	0	7	<b>23</b>
vs. Chicago Simeon	0	8	0	6	<b>14</b>



Marian Catholic quarterback hoists the Prep Bowl Championship trophy Friday after the Spartans defeated Chicago Simeon, 23-14, at Chicago's Soldier Field. Gavin scored the game-clinching touchdown in the fourth quarter on a sneak.

## Spartans (12-3) win Prep Bowl

The long roller-coaster ride for Marian Catholic's seniors came to an end with the Spartans at the top of the heap on Friday at Soldier Field.

Marian responded to a Chicago Simeon comeback effort with the clinching score with 5:04 to play, as the Spartans captured their first Prep Bowl title in school history with a 23-14 victory.

On the heels of an appearance in the Class 5A state title team a year ago, this squad became the second winningest at Marian with a final mark of 12-3.

Marian prevailed in fitting fashion.

Three-year senior quarterback Mike Gavin bulled in from the 1 for the clinching score after tossing earlier touchdown passes to Mike DiGiulio (14 yards) and Bris Dawkins (58 yards).

Meanwhile, the heart and soul of this Marian squad, Eric Papp, ignited a defense that was stingy when it needed to be. Papp reeled in a pair of Marian's four interceptions, including one in the final seconds that took the last gasp out of Simeon (10-5).

"We just started this thing over after the playoffs and the seniors said we just didn't want to stop playing," Papp explained. "We went to state last year, but I don't think it was nearly as much fun as this."

Marian bolted to a 16-0 lead courtesy of the two touchdown hurls by Most Valuable Player Gavin (eight of 14, 117 yards). However, Simeon pulled within 16-14 midway through the fourth quarter.

That's when the Spartans went on a nine-play, 70-yard drive to complete their four-game run through the Prep Bowl playoffs. Bottled up for much of the contest, senior tailback Deon Bradley (21 carries, 89 yards) came to life on the critical drive.

Carrying six times, Bradley finally busted loose for a 25-yard scamper to the Blue Machine 4-yard line. After Bradley carried again for 3 yards, Gavin followed Nick McDonnell and Josh Vittori into the end zone. Sergio Flores, who had earlier split the uprights with a 36-yard field goal, kicked the crucial conversion for the nine-point surplus.

"The key was tempo on that drive," Gavin explained. "They were sucking for air and we just kept pushing. We knew we had to run the ball and have a balanced attack.

"We saw this as an opportunity to finish off the year with a win and prove something to people. We didn't want to be known as the team that was 'supposed' to be good."

While the Marian defense yielded more than 250 yards, it raised its level for big plays on several occasions. John Sandrick and Sergio Flores joined Papp in the interception department.

Marian had seven quarterback sacks of Simeon signal-caller Kurtis Ellison, with Pat Thomas, Quentin Sykes, Cedrick Middleton, Nick Schneider, Duane Harrigan, Jonathan McMahon and Brian Munde (fumble recovery) all getting in the act.

"Their quarterback gave us some trouble with his scrambling," Papp admitted. "But we were ready for everything they did."

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Marian</b>	<b>Simeon</b>
<b>First downs</b>	12	19

<b>Rush att./yards</b>	36-109	30-66
<b>Passing yards</b>	117	186
<b>Pass completions</b>	8	12
<b>Pass attempts</b>	14	30
<b>Had intercepted</b>	0	4
<b>Fumbles/lost</b>	2/1	3/2
<b>Penalty yards</b>	10-106	8-59

### MARIAN CATHOLIC 23, CHICAGO SIMEON 14

#### SCORING

**MC-** Mike DiGiulio 14-yard pass from Mike Gavin (Sergio Flores kick), 7:43, first.

**MC-** Flores 36-yard field goal, 1:18, first.

**MC-** Bris Dawkins 58-yard pass from Gavin (kick failed), 1:02, second.

**S-** Andre Morris 10-yard pass from Kurtis Ellison (Ellison run), 0:00, second.

**S-** Ellison 5-yard run (run failed), 6:41, fourth.

**MC-** Gavin 1-yard run (Flores kick), 5:04, fourth.

#### INDIVIDUALS

**Passing:** MC- Gavin 8 of 14, 117 yards, 2 TD. S- Ellison 12 of 30, 186 yards, 1 TD, 4 INT.

**Rushing:** MC- Bradley 21-89, DiGiulio 5-10, Gavin 9-4 (TD), Devon Clark 1-4. S- Terrance Robinson 9-39, Ellison 15-30 (TD), Andre Morris 6-(minus 3).

**Receiving:** MC- Dawkins 2-66 (TD), Tom O'Brien 2-21, DiGiulio 1-14 (TD), Dave Carcelli 1-11, Clark 1-7, Bradley 1-(minus 2). S- Chris Williams 3-83, Morris 4-35 (TD), Avery Jarrett 1-30, Danny Calhoun 2-21, Tom Gray 2-17

**Interceptions:** (All Marian)- Eric Papp 2, John Sandrick, Sergio Flores.

	<b>Simeon (10-5)</b>	
8	<b>East St. Louis</b>	18
0	<b>Wheaton North</b>	34
48	<b>Senn</b>	8
14	<b>Dunbar</b>	32
24	<b>Hyde Park</b>	0
30	<b>Kenwood</b>	8
14	<b>Morgan Park</b>	16
32	<b>Vocational</b>	0
42	<b>Carver</b>	19
	<b>PREP BOWL</b>	
48	<b>Flower</b>	8
26	<b>Harper</b>	8
26	<b>Marshall</b>	14
28	<b>Curie</b>	0
20	<b>Dunbar</b>	14
23	<b>Marian at Soldier Field</b>	14

	<b>Marian (12-3)</b>	
21	<b>Andrew</b>	7
48	<b>St. Joseph</b>	20
21	<b>Carmel</b>	0
18	<b>Joliet Catholic</b>	34
21	<b>Benet Academy</b>	6
30	<b>Marist</b>	14
0	<b>McNamara</b>	15
10	<b>Notre Dame</b>	0
33	<b>St. Patrick</b>	7
	<b>5A Playoffs</b>	
42	<b>Chicago Dunbar</b>	10
20	<b>Richards</b>	24
	<b>PREP BOWL</b>	
32	<b>St. Viator</b>	12
19	<b>Carmel</b>	7
21	<b>at Holy Cross</b>	0
14	<b>Simeon at Soldier Field</b>	23