

<b>Oct. 4</b>	1	2	3	4	<b>Total</b>
<b>MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	0	0	14	0	<b>14</b>
<b>NOTRE DAME DONS</b>	7	10	0	0	<b>17</b>



**The Spartans sustained their first blemish of the season Friday, as a second-half comeback fell short in a 17-14 Catholic Metropolitan White loss at Notre Dame.**

**Marian (5-1) stunned by Dons**

Just how would Marian Catholic's football team handle adversity?

The Spartans found out on Friday night when they faced their first deficit of the season.

Trailing 17-0 at halftime on its Catholic Metropolitan Conference White visit to Notre Dame, Marian rallied for 14 consecutive points only to see the rally fall short in a 17-14 loss to the Dons.

The setback left Marian at 5-1 overall and 2-1 in CMC White play.

Behind a stingy defense keyed by a Collin McKillip interception, Marian had its chances to complete the comeback in the fourth quarter. However, the Dons maintained the lead with help from a Marian muffed punt and a fumble at midfield.

The Spartans were able to turn the tables in the third quarter. Marian took the opening kickoff of the second half and marched to a score as Ryan Williams pulled in an 11-yard Joe Grubisic pass for the Spartans' first points of the night. A Tim Rhoads conversion boot pulled Marian within 17-7 halfway through the third period.

Marian scored again in the final seconds of the quarter, as a 58-yard drive culminated in Chris Rodriguez' 3-yard scoring burst to pull the visitors within 17-14 entering the final quarter. A 33-yard connection from Grubisic to Williams set up the score.

A deficit was not familiar territory to Marian in building its 5-0 record. The Spartans had led their first five contests by scores of 45-0, 49-0, 41-0, 21-0 prior to an opponent score before last Friday's 35-0 shutout. The 17 first-half points scored by Notre Dame were the first scored against the Spartans in the opening half all year.

The Dons (3-3, 1-2) used the foot of Sean Collins to knock Marian from the unbeaten ranks. His 41-yard field goal late in the opening half proved to be the difference in the contest.

Collins also had conversion boots after first-half rushing touchdowns from John Cullotta (6 yards) and Josh Piazza (60 yards).

While a menacing wind helped limit Marian's passing game, the Notre Dame defense shut down the Spartans' ground game. With Rodriguez leading the way with 45 yards on 20 totes, Marian was limited to just more than 2 yards per carry on the ground for a total of 76 rushing yards.

Grubisic finished 10 of 17 through the air, as Williams pulled in six pass for 81 yards.

Meanwhile, the Dons didn't need a passing game that amounted to just two complete passes for 10 yards. With Piazza leading the way with 123 yards, Notre Dame finished with 207 yard on 40 carries.

Notre Dame's 17-0 halftime command was an impressive accomplishment, as Marian had outscored the opposition, 130-0, in the first half through five contests.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Marian</b>	<b>Notre Dame</b>
<b>First downs</b>	14	10
<b>Rush attempts / yards</b>	32-76	40-207
<b>Passing yards</b>	137	10

<b>Pass completions</b>	10	2
<b>Pass attempts</b>	17	10
<b>Had intercepted</b>	1	1
<b>Fumbles / lost</b>	3/2	1/0
<b>Penalty yards</b>	1-15	4-47
<b>Next</b>	<b>MT. CARMEL</b>	<b>at Fenwick</b>

**SCORING**

**ND-** John Cullotta 7-yard run (Sean Collins kick), 3:51 first.

**ND-** Josh Piazza 60-yard run (Collins kick), 7:53 second.

**ND-** Collins 41-yard field goal, 0:02 second.

**MC-** Ryan Williams 11-yard pass from Joe Grubisic (Tim Rhoads kick), 6:02 third.

**MC-** Chris Rodriguez 3-yard run (Rhoads kick), 0:13 third.

**INDIVIDUALS**

**Passing:** MC- Grubisic 10 of 17, 137 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT. ND- Dan Bukal 2 of 8, 10 yards, 1 INT.

**Rushing:** MC- Rodriguez 20-45 (TD), Williams 2-14, Forrest McCain 3-11, Grubisic 6-6, Evan White 1-0. ND- Piazza 11-123 (TD), Cullotta 14-49 (TD), Bukal 15-35.

**Receiving:** MC- Williams 6-81 (TD), Rodriguez 2-26, Andy Lietz 1-22, Milan Curry 1-8. ND- Tom Draths 2-10.

**Interceptions:** Collin McKillip (MC); Joe Pauley (ND).