

GAME 9: Carmel 43, Marian Catholic 7

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Spartan Stadium.

Where: Joe Orr Road and Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights.

Records: Carmel 8-0; Marian Catholic 6-2

CMC White: Carmel 5-0; Marian Catholic 3-2.

Streaks: Corsairs- 8 wins; Spartans- 1 win.

Last week: Carmel 28, St. Rita 20; [Marian Catholic 26, Fenwick 7.](#)

Week 10: Both teams have qualified for the IHSA playoffs.

Last year: Carmel 31, Marian Catholic 3.

The series: Last year's decision halted a three-game Marian win streak in the series, but the Spartans still hold the overall edge at 9-4.

Notes: Marian has blanked three of its last five opponents in the second half. . . The Spartans are seeking a seven-win season for the 10th time since 1990. . . Marian has passed for a touchdown in each of its eight contests, but the team to rush for more yards is 8-0 in Spartan games. . . Friday's contest will feature **Senior Recognition Night** for players, cheerleaders and parents. . . Both of Marian's representatives in the NFL led their teams to big wins last week. [John Holecsek](#) had a pair of tackles to lead the Atlanta Falcons to a 30-0 win over Carolina and [Rodney Harrison](#) improved his totals to 14 tackles, five assists for the first place San Diego Chargers (6-1).

Oct. 25	1	2	3	4	Total
CARMEL CORSAIRS	14	14	3	12	43
MARIAN SPARTANS	7	0	0	0	7



Marian defensive coach Don McKillip talks during a time out Friday, as the Spartans dropped a 43-7 CMC White decision to Carmel to end the regular season.

Marian (6-3) ripped by Corsairs

Host Marian Catholic ran off 16 plays before Carmel had its first offensive snap on Friday night. All the Spartans had to show for it on Senior Night was a 7-0 deficit.

That was the kind of night it would turn into for Marian, as the Corsairs scored the first three times they did get their hands on the ball en route to a 43-7 Catholic Metropolitan Conference White victory and a perfect regular-season at 9-0.

Despite dropping three of four after a 5-0 start to finish 6-3, Marian will join Carmel in awaiting a call for the IHSA playoffs on Saturday night.

The Marian defense did not force a punt all night and the offense managed just a 1-yard touchdown from Daniel Johnson.

With starting tailback Chris Rodriguez ailing, the Marian offensive line did an admirable job in leading a ground attack that churned out nine first-downs in the opening half.

Behind Gary Downing, Tim Kelly, Kyle Fischer, Jon Scudella and Dan Kwiatkowski, the Spartans got 48 yards rushing each from Johnson and Evan White (both on 14 carries). However, Carmel gained a 333 to 101 overall advantage on the ground as the better rushing team improved to 9-0 in Marian contests this season.

"We didn't play that badly at times tonight," White assessed. "Physically, I think we could play with them, but we didn't do it for four quarters. They're a great team and they played very well, but we made some costly mistakes in key situations tonight."

A 29-yard pass from Mike Jedlicka to Bryan Smith set up the 1-yard scoring plunge by Johnson, as Marian pulled to within 14-7 at the conclusion of one quarter. However, Carmel found the end zone two more times to take a 28-7 cushion into halftime.

Only a pair of fumble recoveries by Calvin Rowe seemed to thwart the Corsairs on Friday, as Carmel didn't need more than seven plays on any of its six touchdown drives.

The visitors only got tougher after the break, as Marian was limited to 32 rushing yards and 20 passing yards to go with two first downs in the second half.

Carmel relied on a modest passing attack that netted 123 yards, along with a three-pronged rushing attack. Jon Popovitch led Carmel with 115 rushing yards and a score, while quarterback Mark Venegoni rushed for 71 yards and a score to go with two touchdown passes. Mike Serio added 65 rushing yards.

Marian had passed for a touchdown in every contest, but managed only 82 yards through the air on Friday. Ryan Williams caught four passes for 29 yards.

With a 6-3 mark, the Spartans will enter the playoffs for the 15th time.

"We just have to go right back into practice and keep working hard," White explained. "Now, it's time to get ready for the playoffs. We'll remember this game for a long time, but now we have to approach it as a new season."

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian
First downs	17	11
Rush attempts / yards	41-333	37-101
Passing yards	123	82
Pass completions	6	9
Pass attempts	10	19
Had intercepted	0	3
Fumbles / lost	3/2	2/1
Penalty yards	2-13	4-35
Next	Playoffs	Playoffs

SCORING

C- Jack Simmons recovered block punt in end zone (Chris Miller kick), 10:47 first.

C- Sean Walker 17-yard pass from Mark Venegoni (Miller kick), 3:23 first.

MC- Daniel Johnson 1-yard run (Tim Rhoads kick), 0:27 first.

C- Simmons 14-yard pass from Venegoni (kick failed), 10:13 second.

C- Venegoni 1-yard run (Miller run), 3:49 second.

C- Miller 21-yard field goal, 5:51 third.

C- Jon Popovitch 3-yard run (kick failed), 10:50 fourth.

C- Jim Magna 12-yard run (kick failed), 2:21 fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: C- Venegoni 6 of 9, 123 yards, 2 TD; Simmons 0 of 1, 0 yards. MC- Mike Jedlicka 9 of 19, 82 yards, 3 INT.

Rushing: C- Popovitch 19-115 (TD), Venegoni 5-71 (TD), Mike Serio 4-65, Josh Robinson 4-65, Magna 3-28 (TD), Steve Stanchuck 3-12, Roberto Martinez 2-7, Travis Mumm 1-5. MC- Johnson 14-48 (TD), Evan White 14-48, Matt Harris 2-9, Jedlicka 7-(minus 4)..

Receiving: C- Miller 2-42, Serio 1-37, Walker 2-30 (TD), Simmons 1-14 (TD). MC- Ryan Williams 4-29, Bryan Smith 1-29, Andy Lietz 1-20, Mike Lennie 2-9, White 1-(minus 5).

Interceptions: Carmel- Walker, Dexter Reid, Pat Lynch.