

Sept. 26	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATH. SPARTANS	14	14	7	14	-49
ST. VIATOR LIONS	0	0	16	0	-16



Marian Catholic's Matt Harris booted five extra points to help key the Spartans's 49-16 ESCC victory at St. Viator on Friday.

Marian improves to 4-1 with win at St. Viator

Marian's Friday visit to St. Viator and Forest View Educational Center was a set-up.

The Marian defense forced three first-half turnovers to set up the offense for some quick strikes and 28-0 halftime lead, en route to a 49-16 East Suburban Catholic Conference victory.

The Spartans (4-1) used the run to set up the pass Friday, just one week after quarterback Joe Grubisic had thrown for a school-record 270 yards in a win at Nazareth.

With a focus on quality over quantity in the passing game, Marian produced extremely efficient results.

Grubisic threw just nine times, but four of his five completions went for touchdowns. He found tailback Chris Rodriguez for scores of 12 and 59 yards, connected with Bryan Smith on a 23-yard touchdown toss and also found paydirt on a 31-yard aerial to Mike Jedlicka.

"It was kind of our plan to run, but the defense set us up with some great position to do it," explained Rodriguez. "Our line did a great job of blocking and I was able to locate some holes. Then when Joe needed to, we beat them with the pass."

Rodriguez was a key cog in all facets of the offense. He finished with three catches for 86 yards in the passing attack. Plus, his 80-yard touchdown burst in the final quarter capped a banner rushing night that included 17 carries for 168 yards and two scores.

It all added up to a 3-0 record on the road, with a scoring differential of 142-22.

It also set up a Homecoming showdown next Friday with rival Joliet Catholic.

"We still need to keep working hard," Rodriguez added. "We still need to eliminate some mistakes. Now, it's important to keep a focus and get ready for a great Joliet Catholic team."

Overall, Marian finished with 279 yards rushing as Grubisic added 90 yards on the ground and a 28-yard score on a quarterback sneak.

With the likes of Tim Kelly, Dan Sandrick, Jon Scudella and Stephen Peternell opening up holes up front, Marian had 13 rushing plays that netted 8 yards or more.

The defense set the table on Friday, as it forced fumbles and turnovers on three of the first four possessions by St. Viator. Mike Izguerra pounced on a pair of fumbles and Kelly on another, as big hits by Ian Turek and Brad Wisowaty jarred the ball from the Lions.

Marian also kept consistent pressure on the Lions, as Turek (two), Wisowaty and Kelly registered sacks. After St. Viator went on a 16-0 scoring run, Zach LoMonaco picked off a Lion pass to thwart another threat and create the fourth turnover of the night.

For awhile, it looked like Marian might be getting "set up" on the Lions' Homecoming. St. Viator responded to a 35-0 deficit in the third quarter with back-to-back scores and a pair of two-point conversions. Marian also committed 11 penalties, allowed St. Viator to recover a pair of onside kicks and fumbled the ball away once itself.

However, the early command and clinching scores from Jedlicka and Rodriguez allowed the Spartans to claim their ninth victory over the Lions in 10 tries.

Grubisic finished five of nine for 140 yards and four scores to give Marian 419 yards in total offense. And while Lion quarterback Jared Funk threw for 231 yards, the Spartans yielded just 66 yards on the ground in 48 attempts.

"Our line did a great job pass blocking and run blocking," Rodriguez assessed. "And the defensive line got a great push all night too. Our offensive line got up the field to open some holes and also did a great job of giving Joe plenty of time."

FRESHMEN: The Spartans improved to 5-0 with a 19-16 victory over St. Viator, as Josh Howe and Jack McCormick led the defense in the late going. Sam Izguerra and Nick Lococo added sacks to stop drives. On offense, Cliff Gordon ran wild with a 53-yard scoring jaunt and another 40-yard run. Derek Middleton and Don Settle had the other Marian scores, while Justin Rosandich added a conversion kick.

The Spartan **B squad** (3-1) overcame four turnovers to topple St. Viator, 7-0, as Justin Rosandich ran 33 yards for the only score and Jeremy Mattio kicked the extra point.

CATEGORY	Marian Cath.	St. Viator
First downs	16	19
Rush attempts / yards	28-279	48-66
Passing yards	140	231
Pass completions	5	11
Pass attempts	9	29
Had intercepted	0	1
Fumbles / lost	1-1	3-3
Penalty yards	11-95	7-73
Next	JOLIET CATH.	at Notre Dame

SCORING

MC- Chris Rodriguez 12-yard pass from Joe Grubisic (Matt Harris kick), 9:21 first.

MC- Bryan Smith 23-yard pass from Grubisic (Harris kick), 4:30 first.

MC- Grubisic 28-yard run (kick failed), 7:30 second.

MC- Rodriguez 1-yard run (Mike Jedlicka to Andy Lietz), 0:55 second.

MC- Rodriguez 59-yard pass from Grubisic (Harris kick), 6:45 third.

SV- Brent Tomlinson 16-yard pass from Jared Funk (Funk to Tomlinson), 3:15 third.

SV- Tomlinson 14-yard pass from Funk (Funk to Tomlinson), 1:47 third.

MC- Mike Jedlicka 31-yard pass from Grubisic (Harris kick), 8:33 fourth.

MC- Rodriguez 80-yard run (Harris kick), 4:11 fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: MC- Grubisic 5 of 9, 140 yards, 4 TD, 0 INT. SV- Funk 11 of 28, 231 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT; Dan Hower 0 of 1, 0 yards.

Rushing: MC- Rodriguez 17-168 (2 TD), Grubisic 9-90 (TD), Collin McKillip 1-13, Sean Whitfield 1-8. SV- Anthony Bono 26-76, Kevin Kuhn 6-8, John Menges 4-5, Nick Lemantia 1-(minus 3), Jeff Catrambone 1-(minus 9), Funk 10-(minus 11).

Receiving: MC- Rodriguez 3-86 (2 TD), Jedlicka 1-31 (TD), Smith 1-23 (TD). SV- Tomlinson 6-159 (2 TD), Catrambone 4-52, Kuhn 2-11, John Leahy 1-9.

Interceptions: Zach LoMonaco (MC).