

Oct. 10	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATH. SPARTANS	7	7	6	8	-28
MARIST REDHAWKS	3	7	0	0	-10



Marian Catholic's Ryan Owens had three catches for 137 yards Friday to key a 28-10 ESCC victory at Marist.

Marian (5-2) uses big plays to throttle Marist, 28-10

Both teams made a commitment to running the ball when Marian Catholic visited Marist for an East Suburban Catholic Conference test on Friday night.

But it was a handful of big plays in the passing game that ultimately determined the outcome.

Marian senior Zach LoMonaco made two of Marian's three interceptions and quarterback Joe Grubisic set the school record for game passing yards for the second time this season, as the Spartans (5-2) moved to the brink of a playoff berth with a 28-10 victory. Five wins will likely net Marian a playoff berth.

Grubisic clicked for three passing plays of 57 yards or more, as he finished with 287 yards through the air to break his own yardage mark of 270. The senior signal-caller threw to Andy Lietz (25 yards) for one second-half score and ran 2 yards for another, as Marian pulled away from a slim 14-10 halftime edge.

Both of Marian's second-half touchdowns came after pickoffs from LoMonaco.

"Both times I got a good look at the ball and just wanted to be as aggressive as I could,"

LoMonaco explained. "Against a good team like this, we knew we had to play with a lot of heart because we knew we had to match their intensity."

Marian doubled up Marist (3-4) in yardage in the opening half, but had just a slim lead to show for it. In the second half, however, the Spartans got a good push from a defensive front of Jacob Zsuppon, Brian Aldeza, Ryan Vaughan, Russell Rivers, Tim Kelly and Matt Harris.

The result was limiting the RedHawks to 110 second-half yards, a shutout over the final two quarters and interceptions from LoMonaco and Joey Siegert.

Meanwhile, Grubisic scrambled and continued to come up with big plays to compliment a 102-yard rushing night from tailback Chris Rodriguez.

The Spartans converted for first downs five times on third down and once on fourth down, as all of receiver Ryan Owens' touches for the night resulted in big plays. Owens caught only three passes, but they went for 58, 57 and 22 yards in a 137-yard night. His 57-yarder set up the final Marian score of the night, as the Spartans improved to 12-2 all-time against Marist.

Marian, which improved to 4-0 on the road this year, never trailed on Friday.

The Spartans scored on their initial possession, as Rodriguez followed Jon Scudella and Dan Kwiatkowski into the end zone from a yard out to complete an 87-yard march.

Marist answered with a field goal to make it 7-3, but Marian extended the lead in the second quarter when Grubisic got loose for a 39-yard score on a quarterback sneak.

The RedHawks trimmed the margin to 14-10 at the intermission, but had their Homecoming spoiled when Marian gained a 464-235 yardage differential for the evening.

With Rodriguez (20 carries) and Grubisic (75 rushing yards) churning out yards on the ground and Grubisic misfiring on just one pass in the second half, Marian limited the RedHawks to three

second-half possessions-- all resulting in interceptions.

"Our offense is very good if we can put them in a position to score," LoMonaco said. "We know our offense is capable of scoring a lot of points. So we don't need to go out and get a shutout every night, but we need make the plays to give our offense a chance."

Grubisic finished an efficient 13 of 20 for 287 yards while hitting four different receivers. Bryan Smith finished with five catches for 87 yards, Andy Lietz made three grabs for 44 yards and Mike Jedlicka pulled in two aerials for 20 yards.

FRESHMEN: Quarterback Joe Barker threw for 100 yards and Clifton Gordon scored on runs of 21 and 2 yards to lead the Spartans (7-0) to a 21-6 win over Marist. Jack McCormick kicked one extra point and Matt Dee threw a two-point conversion to Jim Lundstrom (two interceptions. Aaron Evans and Steve Azre also picked off passes.

CATEGORY	Marian	Marist
First downs	16	12
Rush attempts / yards	32-177	26-103
Passing yards	287	132
Pass completions	13	12
Pass attempts	20	23
Had intercepted	0	3
Fumbles / lost	2 / 0	1 / 0
Penalty yards	2-15	4-25
Next	BENET	at Notre Dame

SCORING

MC- Chris Rodriguez 1-yard run (Matt Harris kick), 5:21 first.

Mst- Brian Jachimek 31-yard field goal, 1:14 first.

MC- Joe Grubisic 39-yard run (Harris kick), 6:59 second.

Mst- Brian Palascak 1-yard run (Jachimek kick), 2:32 second.

MC- Andy Lietz 25-yard pass from Grubisic (kick blocked), 1:30 third.

MC- Grubisic 2-yard run (Mike Jedlicka to Lietz), 9:39 fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: MC- Grubisic 13 of 20, 287 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT. Mst- Jeremy Zientek 12 of 23, 132 yards, 0 TD, 3 INT.

Rushing: MC- Rodriguez 20-102 (TD), Grubisic 12-75 (2 TD). Mst- Palascak 19-90 (TD), Zientek 5-17, Nick Syska 1-0, Dan Brown 1-(minus 3).

Receiving: MC- Ryan Owens 3-137, Bryan Smith 5-87, Lietz 3-44 (TD), Jedlicka 2-20. Mst- Tom Sullivan 8-95, Donnie Skelly 2-15, Palascak 1-15, George Shaw 1-4.

Interceptions: Zach LoMonaco (MC), 2; Joey Siegert (MC).