

Oct. 17	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
BENET REDWINGS	0	0	6	7	6	-19
MARIAN SPARTANS	7	0	6	0	7	-20



**Marian Catholic's Brad Wisowaty led a defensive effort that spelled a 20-19 overtime victory over visiting Benet Academy on Friday.**

## **Harris, Marian (6-2) solve Benet, 20-19, in overtime**

After missing an extra point and a potential game-winning 21-yard field at the end of regulation, Marian Catholic senior kicker Matt Harris was probably ready to crawl under the school's "Rock."

But Harris and his teammates were all smiles when his conversion kick sailed through the uprights to give the Spartans (6-2) a 20-19 overtime victory over Benet Academy (5-3) on Senior Night in Chicago Heights.

"I was just thinking I failed the team," Harris said of the missed field goal that was essentially a conversion kick. "But I was able to make it up to them and we pulled out the win. I just got the other kick out of my mind. The others had been going through and I knew the last one would too."

Harris' heroics salvaged a couple tremendous efforts on Friday.

Without the overtime recovery, Marian may have wasted a 243-yard rushing effort and 93-yard touchdown jaunt (the longest in Marian history) from tailback Chris Rodriguez. The Spartans also could've wasted a stingy defensive showing that yielded only seven Benet first downs and 179 total yards.

Ironically, Marian's second home victory of the season came by the same score as its season-opening victory over Notre Dame. . . with the same connection for the winning touchdown.

Benet followed up a 61-yard punt return by Chris Martin to tie the game late in regulation by using just two overtime plays to take the lead on Aaron Zaluzek's 2-yard run. However, the snap on the conversion was bobbled and Marian smothered the ball before the Redwings had a chance to recover.

Things didn't look good when Spartan quarterback Joe Grubisic was sacked on Marian's first overtime snap for a 3-yard loss. Yet, Grubisic connected with Bryan Smith in the right corner of the end zone on the next play with the identical play the produced the game-winning score against Notre Dame.

Unlike the Notre Dame win, Harris had to add the finishing touches Friday to guarantee Marian its fourth playoff appearance in five years and the Spartans' 16th overall.

"This gives us great confidence to keep it going into the playoffs," Harris explained. "Now, we're looking to go 7-2 and we're on that path."

"The team was doing a good job and I knew I had to do the job. When I missed the field goal, I was thinking 'Oh, my God,' but we came through when it mattered. I couldn't have done it without my line."

Speaking of the line, Marian got a superb performance in the trenches on Friday.

With an offensive front of Tim Kelly, Dan Kwiatkowski, Keith Clark, Jon Scudella and Evan White providing gaps, the Spartans rushed for 286 yards and compiled 392 yards overall against a Benet team that had allowed an ESCC-stingiest 58 points.

Meanwhile, the defensive line of Kelly, Ian Turak, Jacob Zsuppon, Brian Aldeza and Noe

Arroyo, along with linebacker Brad Wisowaty and Ryan Vaughan, limited the Redwings to 2.6 yards a crack on the ground.

Even with Marian's potent passing attack derailed on Friday, the Spartans still outgained Benet via the air, 106 to 104.

The Spartans tallied first late in the opening quarter on a quick drive that covered 98 yards. After Rodriguez picked up 5 yards to get Marian out of the shadow of its goal line, the Spartan senior outraced everyone down the left sideline for a 93-yard touchdown and 7-0 Spartan lead that carried to halftime.

In the opening half, Marian limited the Redwings to just two first downs and 48 totals yards as the visitors snapped the ball just 20 times before intermission.

Benet responded with a 76-yard scoring drive to open the second half, but special teams played a huge role again as the conversion kick was wide right.

Marian increased its lead to 13-6 with one minute to play in the third quarter as Grubisic stormed in on a 3-yard sneak. But the missed conversion eventually set up the tying score and the overtime session.

**Sophomores:** Marian (4-4) jumped to a 28-0 command and held on for a 28-20 victory.

**Freshmen:** Marian (8-0) locked up at least a tie for the ESCC crown with a 25-20 at Benet on Saturday. Derek Middleton scored on two touchdown runs, Clifton Gordon had 150 rushing yards and a score, and quarterback Joe Barker also scored on a sneak. Jack McCormick added a conversion kick, as Marian rebounded from a 20-13 deficit.

CATEGORY	Benet	Marian
First downs	7	16
Rush attempts / yards	29-75	44-286
Passing yards	104	106
Pass completions	8	8
Pass attempts	16	21
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles / lost	1 - 1	0 - 0
Penalty yards	5 - 35	3 - 25
Next	NOTRE DAME	at St. Patrick

### SCORING

**MC-** Chris Rodriguez 93-yard run (Matt Harris kick), 3:54 first.

**BA-** Dan LeFevour 13-yard run (kick failed), 7:39 third.

**MC-** Joe Grubisic 3-yard run (kick failed), 1:00 third.

**BA-** Chris Martin 61-yard punt return (Jim Marek kick), 3:38 fourth.

**BA-** Aaron Zaluzek 2-yard run (run failed), OT

**MC-** Bryan Smith 13-yard pass from Joe Grubisic (Harris kick), OT

### INDIVIDUALS

**Passing:** BA- LeFevour 8 of 16, 104 yards. MC- Grubisic 3 of 11, 39 yards, 1 TD; Mike Jedlicka 5 of 10, 67 yards.

**Rushing:** BA- LeFevour 14-38 (TD), Matt LeMay 7-15, Zaluzek 4-19, Kyle Gillen 2-8, Martin 2-(minus 5). MC- Rodriguez 19-243 (TD), Grubisic 21-36 (TD), Collin McKillip 1-5, Jedlicka 3-2.

**Receiving:** BA- Gillen 3-35, Brett Chamernik 2-30, Martin 1-28, Pat Woodring 1-8, LeMay 1-3. MC- Andy Lietz 4-60, Smith 2-27 (TD), Ryan Owens 2-19.

**Interceptions:** none.