

GAME 2: Marian Catholic 53, St. Joseph 0

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

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

ESCC records: St. Joseph 0-1; Marian Catholic 0-1.

Streaks: Chargers- 10 losses; Spartans- 2 losses.

Week 1: Benet Academy 53, St. Joseph 8; Notre Dame 21, Marian Catholic 7.

Week 3: Notre Dame at St. Joseph, 1:30 Sat.; Marian at Carmel, 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Last year: Marian Catholic 53, St. Joseph 6.

The series: The Spartans have won all 11 previous meetings, scoring more than 40 points in the last five contests.

Notes: The Spartans were 2-2 at home last year with both victories coming via a 20-19 score... The Chargers have not defeated a Chicago area school since 2001... Marian has not started a campaign with an 0-2 mark since 1995... Blanked for three quarters last week, the Spartans have not been shut out in 23 games.

Sept. 3	1	2	3	4	Total
ST. JOSEPH CHARGERS	0	0	0	0	-0
MARIAN SPARTANS	17	16	13	7	-53



Marian's Joe Siegert scored on special teams to get the ball rolling Friday during the Spartans' 53-0 ESCC victory over visiting St. Joseph.

Marian steamrolls St. Joseph in home opener

After the entire program managed just seven points in the opening week of the season, Marian Catholic made sure it would turn the tables in the Spartans' home opener on Friday.

After the sophomores rolled to a 50-0 victory over St. Joseph, the varsity scored with all prongs of its attack en route to a 53-0 steamrolling of the Chargers that improved Marian to 1-1 in the ESCC.

"We knew what we had to do and we came out and did it," explained senior defensive back Joey Siegert, who ignited a defensive unit that yielded just one first down for the night. "This was a good performance and should get us ready for next week (a visit to defending ESCC and state champ Carmel). We played hard and did what we had to do."

Siegert was the first Spartan to find the end zone.

Marian had taken a 3-0 lead on Noe Arroyo's 37-yard field goal and St. Joseph set up to punt three plays later. When the snap went awry and sailed over the punter's head, Siegert scooped up the ball and raced 13 yards for a 9-0 Spartan command.

The Marian attack was relentless, keeping its punting unit on the sidelines and scoring on the Chargers from all directions- through the air, on the ground, via the defense and more on special teams.

Marian took a 33-0 command into halftime, gained a 16-1 advantage in first downs, and invoked the running-clock rule (40-point margin) with 9:18 to play in the third quarter.

With strong play up front by Arroyo, Ian Turek, Robert Johnson, Ron Freeman and Jovon Dixon, Marian stifled the St. Joseph running attack. No thanks to the bad punt snap and a punishing sack from Arroyo, the Chargers netted minus-13 yards on 14 rushes.

Meanwhile, a defensive backfield led by Siegert, Michael Buxbaum, Tony Feminis and Josh

Howe was equally stingy. In 29 aerial attempts for the night, St. Joseph completed just eight passes for 31 yards. Highlighted by interceptions from Buxbaum, Feminis, Howe and Jake Zsuppon, the Spartan defenders yielded just 18 yards.

"Our defense really shut down their run and we weren't too bad against the pass," a modest Siegert said. "They don't score a lot of points, but they usually score on big plays and we didn't give any up tonight. The shutout is very nice for our defense."

With the Marian defense stifling the Chargers, the offense gained some nice opportunities, often starting deep in St. Joseph territory.

Sean Whitfield extended the Marian lead to 17-0 late in the first quarter with a 7-yard scoring run, then Zsuppon's pickoff set up Marian for its longest drive of the night. The 58-yarder was capped off by Zach Denny's 14-yard touchdown toss to Walter Fisher for a 24-0 Spartan lead.

Arroyo's second field goal, this one of 34 yards, boosted Marian to a 27-0 lead before Zack Stevenson tallied on a 1-yard sneak to give the home squad a 33-0 halftime bulge.

The first drive of the second half sent the clock into running mode, as Clifton Gordon capped an eight-play drive with a 12-yard touchdown run. Marian concluded the scoring on Buxbaum's 33-yard interception return and Cameron Williams' 20-yard touchdown burst on the opening snap of the final period.

The balanced attack led to modest numbers for the Spartan offense, as the offensive front of James Hofbauer, Pat McNamara, Dan Kwiatkowski, Jonathan Jack and Jon Scudella quietly opened holes for a 242-yard ground attack- often only having a short field with which to work.

Whitfield led the way with 75 yards on 11 carries, while Gordon gained 73 yards on 12 totes. Stevenson finished with 11 carries for 49 yards as Marian only put the ball in the air 13 times.

The strong performance leads right into a monumental challenge as Marian visits the Corsairs in week three. Along with the Class 6A state championship in 2003, Carmel will carry a 16-game winning streak into the contest.

"We're looking forward to playing Carmel and we really wish we could have played them tonight," Siegert concluded. "We've gotta carry over our play on defense to the next game and play hard to get that second win."

Freshmen: A defense led by Ryan Childs and Mike Behrens didn't allow a score as Marian improved to 1-1 with a 43-6 victory over the Chargers, who scored on a kickoff return.

A strong effort from the Spartan offensive line led to touchdowns for Mack Scott (25 yards, 12), Andres Rodriguez (20), Malcolm Allen (35) and quarterback Jake Pozywio (4). Pozywio also tossed a 3-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Studzinski, while Zack Roszak hit the mark with five conversion kicks.

CATEGORY	St. Joseph	Marian
First downs	1	16
Rush attempts / yards	14-(minus 13)	39-242
Passing yards	31	31
Pass completions	8	4
Pass attempts	29	13
Had intercepted	4	1
Fumbles / lost	1-1	0-0
Penalty yards	7-68	9-95
Next	NOTRE DAME	at Carmel

SCORING

MC- Noe Arroyo 37-yard field goal, 7:55 first.

MC- Joe Siegert 13-yard bad snap return (kick blocked), 6:55 first.

MC- Sean Whitfield 7-yard run (Zach Denny to Whitfield), 3:48 first.

MC- Walter Fisher 14-yard pass from Denny (Arroyo kick), 11:19 second.

MC- Arroyo 34-yard field goal, 5:42 second.

MC- Zack Stevenson 1-yard run (kick failed), 1:43 second.

MC- Clifton Gordon 12-yard run (Steve Ajdinovich kick), 9:18 third.

MC- Mike Buxbaum 33-yard interception return (kick failed), 6:17 third.

MC- Cameron Williams 20-yard run (Ajdinovich kick), 11:53 fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: SJ- Andrew Belluomini 8 of 25, 31 yards, 2 INT; Darryl Williams 0 of 4, 2 INT.

MC- Denny 2 of 6, 23 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT; Stevenson 2 of 7, 8 yards.

Rushing: SJ- Williams 1-1, Jessie Daniels 3-(minus 1), Calvin Thomas 5-(minus 2), Dan Hillsman 4-(minus 3), Belluomini 1-(minus 8); MC- Whitfield 11-75 (TD), Gordon 12-73 (TD), Stevenson 11-49 (TD), Denny 3-23, Williams 1-20 (TD), Andrew Eagan 1-1.

Receiving: SJ- Will Perkins 3-24, Alvin Cole 1-10, Ryan Hardman 1-1, Hillsman 1-(minus 1), Thomas 2-(minus 3). MC- Fisher 2-23, Malcolm Parker 1-10, Whitfield 1-(minus 2).

Interceptions: Michael Dixon (St.J); Jake Zsuppon, Josh Howe, Tony Feminis, Buxbaum (MC).