

**GAME 5: Marian Catholic 27, St. Viator 15**

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

**Where:** Joe Orr Road at Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights.

**ESCC records:** St. Viator 1-3; Marian Catholic 2-2.

**Streaks:** Lions- 1 loss; Spartans- 1 loss.

**Week 4:** Benet 17, St. Viator 7; Marian Catholic 31, Nazareth Academy 27.

**Week 6 (Fri., 7:30 p.m.):** Notre Dame at St. Viator; Marian Catholic at Joliet Catholic.

**Last year:** Marian Catholic 49, St. Viator 16.

**The series:** The Spartans own eight straight victories and a 9-1 series command, as the lone St. Viator victory came in 1967.

**Notes:** Marian has scored at least 32 points in its last four meetings vs. St. Viator... The Spartans are 2-0 on home turf this season and have won three straight at home... Marian has one its last four contests decided by less than a touchdown... Zach Denny's 260 passing yards vs. Nazareth were just 24 shy of Joe Grubisic's single-game record of 284 yards.

Sept. 24	1	2	3	4	Total
ST. VIATOR LIONS	0	0	7	8	-15
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	14	0	13	-27



**Marian's Zach Denny rushed and passed for a score in the host Spartans' 27-15 ESCC win over St. Viator on Friday.**

## Marian trips up St. Viator to improve to 3-2

Marian Catholic was all business when it hosted St. Viator Friday in the middle contest of the East Suburban Catholic Conference season.

The Spartans took the first lead, held it throughout the night and mixed a balanced offense with a big-play defense to produce a 27-15 victory. The win puts Marian above the .500 mark at 3-2 for the first time this year heading into a week six showdown at rival Joliet Catholic.

The Spartans got two touchdowns from Sean Whitfield and Marian quarterback Zach Denny added a passing and rushing score to keep the Lions at a comfortable distance most of the night.

"Our intent was to run the ball, but when we started to do that well it opened up the passing game for us," explained Whitfield, who broke off a 74-yard scoring run early in the second quarter to break open a scoreless contest.

"The pass and the run complemented each other very well tonight."

The numbers back up Whitfield, who benefitted from some big holes produced by an offensive line of Patrick McNamara, Jon Scudella, Dan Kwiatkowski, Jonathan Jack and Stephen Peternell.

Although the stats weren't staggering, they were enough to keep the Lions (1-4) off-balance. Whitfield led a 133-yard rushing attack with 109 yards on 11 carries. Meanwhile, Denny used six different receivers to toss for 182 yards.

Whitfield likely had Marian's two most crucial scores- the one to break the ice and a 4-yard TD burst on the drive immediately after St. Viator pulled within 14-7.

"Any team can beat you on any day and I'm sure they felt like they could beat us when they scored right away in the second half," Whitfield said. "But we came right back with a score and we

shut them down."

Marian's defense also didn't boast brilliant numbers, as the Spartans yielded 216 yards via the air.

However, big plays frustrated the Lions throughout the night. With linebackers Mike Izguerra, Jack McCormick, Jake Zsuppon and Josh Howe leading the way, the Spartans held St. Viator to negative yardage on 15 snaps.

Meanwhile, strong efforts up front from Ian Turak, Noe Arroyo, Ron Freeman and Steve Ajdinovich helped limit the visitors to 31 rushing yards on 31 attempts.

The Marian defense helped ignite a second first-half score that sent the Spartans into the locker room with a 14-0 command. Ajdinovich picked up a Lion fumble to start a drive that concluded when Denny hit Walter Fisher on an 18-yard scoring strike. Arroyo's second of three conversion kicks made it 14-0 midway through the second quarter.

The Spartans also got fumble recoveries by Freeman and Mike Buxbaum, along with a Buxbaum interception. Plus, Spartan sacks came from Turak and Justin Lynch.

Whitfield's second score answered the Lions early in the fourth quarter, then Denny scored on a sneak with 1:26 to play to apply the clincher.

Denny finished 16 of 30 for 182 yards, as Fisher pulled in four passes for 61 yards. The well-spread aerial attack also included Clifton Gordon (three catches, 34 yards), Malcolm Parker (two, 30), Matt Swanson (three, 22), Cameron Williams (two, 22) and Whitfield (two, 12).

The Spartan **sophomores** also improved to 3-2 on Friday with a 20-12 ESCC decision over the Lions.

**Freshmen:** Mark Scott scored on a 45-yard run, but it was all the points Marian could muster in a 47-6 setback at St. Viator. The Marian **B Team** prevailed over the Lions, 14-6, as Rasean Fenner scored on a 40-yard run and threw a 25-yard touchdown pass fro Steven Mitchell. Sean Daley hit Mitchell with a conversion pass as well.

CATEGORY	St. Viator	Marian
First downs	11	19
Rush attempts / yards	31-31	29-133
Passing yards	216	182
Pass completions	14	16
Pass attempts	27	30
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles / lost	3 / 3	2 / 1
Penalty yards	5-50	8-50
Next	NOTRE DAME	at Joliet Cath.

### SCORING

**MC-** Sean Whitfield 74-yard run (Noe Arroyo kick), 10:53 first.

**MC-** Walter Fisher 18-yard pass from Zach Denny (Arroyo kick), 6:59 second.

**SV-** Matt O'Connor 4-yard pass from Mike Cortese (Brent Tomlinson kick), 5:27 third.

**MC-** Whitfield 4-yard run (Arroyo kick), 11:46 fourth.

**MC-** Denny 2-yard run (kick failed), 1:26 fourth.

**SV-** Dan Carter 50-yard pass from Cortese (Cortese run), 0:05 fourth.

### INDIVIDUALS

**Passing:** SV- Cortese 15 of 27, 216 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT. MC- Denny 16 of 30, 182 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT.

**Rushing:** SV- Anthony Bono 12-32, Dave Daniels 2-19, John Menges 1-1, Pat McAvoy 5-(minus 5), O'Connor 1-(minus 7), Cortese 10-(minus 9). MC- Whitfield 11-109 (2 TD), Clifton Gordon 5-11, Denny 12-7 (TD), Mike Buxbaum 1-6.

**Receiving:** SV- Tomlinson 5-124, Carter 3-75 (TD), John Leahy 1-15, Joe Stanley 1-14, O'Connor 1-4 (TD), McAvoy 1-3, Bono 3 (minus 10).

**Interceptions:** Cortese (SV); Buxbaum (MC).