

**GAME 4: Marist 10, Marian Catholic 7**

**Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m. Friday at Marist High School.

**Where:** 4200 W. 115th Street, Chicago.

**2005/ESCC records:** Marian Catholic 0-3; Marist 1-2.

**Streaks:** Spartans- 7 losses; RedHawks- 1 win.

**Week 3:** Joliet Catholic 57, Marian Catholic 7; Marist 45, Benet Academy 20.

**Week 5 (Fri.):** Benet at Marian Catholic; Marist at Notre Dame.

**Last year:** Marist 19, Marian Catholic 0.

**The series:** The Spartans have captured the last four of the last five meetings and hold an overall series command of 12-3.

Sept. 16	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	0	7	0	0	<b>-7</b>
<b>MARIST REDHAWKS</b>	0	7	0	3	<b>-10</b>



**Marian's defense led a solid effort on Friday night at Marist, but the Spartans still dropped to 0-4 with a tough 10-7 ESCC setback .**

## **Solid defense, special teams effort foiled in loss to Marist**

Marian Catholic's defense may well have finally come of age Friday night at Marist.

After allowing more than 100 points in its last two contests, the unit appeared rejuvenated on Friday and was backed by a superb contest from punter Josh Howe.

However, Marian will have to wait until next Friday's Homecoming game to put all the pieces in place and try to formulate the first victory of the season.

Marist fended off several big plays by the Spartan defense by blanking Marian in the second half to escape with a 10-7 East Suburban Catholic Conference decision.

Despite knocking on victory's door Friday, Marian fell to 0-4 with Benet Academy next on the target list Friday in Spartan Stadium.

The defense not only proved true to the task on Friday, but wound up being the only Marian unit to find the end zone. After the teams traded a pair of scoreless possessions, the Spartans backed up the RedHawks near their end zone and produced the game's initial score.

On a second-and-13 from the Marist 8-yard line, Marian linebacker Paul Zarlengo sacked RedHawk quarterback Scott Slubowski. The ensuing fumble was pounced on in the end zone by Matt Golubski to break the scoreless tie.

Dennis Kelly's conversion boot gave the visiting Spartans a 7-0 lead with 5:25 to play in the second quarter.

On the night, Marian compiled five sacks and recovered a pair of fumbles for its first turnovers of the season.

The second turnover came in the contest's final minutes with the Spartans trailing 10-7.

With Marist trying to run out the clock, tailback Mike LaRocco coughed up the ball in his own territory and Nick Clark pounced on the fumble at the Marist 40-yard line with 1:45 to play.

"This was a huge stride for defense tonight," assessed Howe, who was involved in several snaps on both sides of the ball in addition to his punting duties. "We give up 50 points in back-to-back games and then give up only 10 tonight.

"We had a lot of guys play all-out and play well. We just need to keep practicing hard and there's some great things to come."

Struggling all night, the Marian offense was unable to take advantage of the RedHawk miscue. After consecutive incomplete passes, Marian lost 22 yards on a sack and intentional grounding call. Then, Redhawk Kevin Durkin picked off a fourth-down pass to dash all Marian hopes.

For the night, the Spartan offense managed just 92 total yards, as Clifton Gordon's 55 rushing yards on 16 carries was the lone bright spot. Marian managed just five first downs, had only 36 offensive snaps and was 2-for-12 in the passing game.

While Marist averaged only 4.3 yards per play, the RedHawks came up with enough big ones.

With only 39 seconds to play in the half, LaRocco burst into the end zone from the 1 to forge a 7-7 halftime stalemate.

Early in the final stanza, Jack Marks got behind the Marian defense for a 56-yard aerial gain. Marist quarterback Scott Slubowski was initially flagged for being over the line of scrimmage, but the officials changed the call. Consequently, the completion eventually resulted in Andy Kurgis' 23-yard field goal for the game's deciding points.

Marian- and Howe- got their kicks as well on Friday. With the Spartans struggling to move the ball, Howe consistently salvaged field position with his punts. Of six attempts, Howe saddled the RedHawks with no return on five occasions with boots of 30, 42, 45, 50 and 53 yards.

"I couldn't kick at all when I was warming up, so I kicked away from them and I kicked toward the sideline," Howe explained. "I just got some good bounces and everybody on the special teams played really well tonight."

Howe also helped spark a defense that got sacks from Zarlengo, Justin Lynch (two), Andrew Eagan and Bryce Horath.

The Spartans have not had an 0-4 start since 1967 when they responded with a victory in game five. A homecoming crowd on Friday night will hope that Benet provides the tonic in 2005.

**Sophomores:** The Spartans dropped a 33-22 decision to the RedHawks.

**Freshmen:** Jacob Cohn scored a pair of touchdowns, but Marian dropped a 20-14 decision to Marist. Mario Earnest added a pair of conversion kicks.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Marist
First downs	5	15
Rush attempts / yards	24-76	51-147
Passing yards	16	116
Pass completions	2	5
Pass attempts	12	10
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	0-0	3-2
Penalty yards	3-29	5-30
Next	Benet	at Notre Dame

#### SCORING

**MC-** Matt Golubski fumble recovery in end zone (Dennis Kelly kick), 5:25 second.

**Mst-** Mike LaRocco 1-yard run (Andy Kungis kick), 0:39 second.

**Mst-** Kungis 23-yard field goal, 7:47 fourth.

#### INDIVIDUALS

**Passing:** MC- Zack Stevenson 2 of 12, 16 yards, 1 INT. Mst- Scott Slubowski 5 of 10, 116 yards.

**Rushing:** MC- Clifton Gordon 16-55, Stevenson 8-21. Mst- LaRocco 38-139 (TD), Slubowski 12-8, Pat Jedrey 1-0.

**Receiving:** MC- Michael Brooks 1-9, Josh Howe 1-7. Mst- Jack Marks 3-85, Jeremy Nash 2-31.

**Interceptions:** Durkin (Marist) .