

**GAME 5: Benet Academy 29, Marian Catholic 20 (HOMECOMING)**

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

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

**2005/ESCC records:** Benet 0-4; Marian Catholic 0-4

**Streaks:** Redwings- 5 losses; Spartans- 8 losses.

**Week 4:** St. Patrick 49, Benet 35; Marist 10, Marian Catholic 7.

**Week 6 (Fri.):** Notre Dame at Benet (Sat., 1:30 p.m.); Marian at St. Patrick (Fri., 8 p.m.).

**Last year:** Benet 35, Marian Catholic 13.

**The series:** Last year's decision broke a five-game winning streak for the Spartans, who own a 14-5 overall command in the series.

**Notes:** Hoping for a season turnaround, Marian next three opponents own a combined 3-9 record. . . The Spartans are a minus-4 (6-2) in turnover ratio this year, as they forced their first turnovers of the season in week 4. . . Benet represents one of five 2004 playoff teams on Marian's schedule this year.

Sept. 23	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>BENET REDWINGS</b>	14	12	3	0	<b>-29</b>
<b>MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	0	14	0	6	<b>-20</b>



**The Marian offense put up a pair of scores in the first half Friday, but Marian still fell short in a 29-20 Homecoming loss.**

## **Marian can't complete comeback against Benet**

Host Marian Catholic had designs on pleasing a Homecoming crowd with a strong comeback on Friday night.

The Spartans limited visiting Benet Academy to just three second-half points and put themselves in a position to rebound from an early 14-point deficit.

As well, in a match of 0-4 squads, both teams benefitted from some lucky bounces and interesting calls.

However, the same old nemesis followed Marian, as missed tackles and dropped passes played a large role in the Spartans' 29-20 ESCC loss to the Redwings.

Entering the contest with no receptions for the year, John Mitrovich pulled in his second touchdown catch with 8:42 to play in the contest and pull Marian (0-5, 0-5) within 29-20.

"Zack (Stevenson) threw some great passes to me tonight," praised Mitrovich, who had four catches for 76 yards. "I got open a lot, but I give Zack a lot of credit for putting the ball in there."

The Spartans had two more opportunities to pull closer.

Matt Dee set up the home team at the Benet 32 after returning an interception 28 yards. However, Marian managed just one first down before turning the ball over on downs.

After the defense held, Marian got one more shot starting at its own 35-yard line. The Spartans gained a pair of first downs and moved the ball to the Redwing 44-yard line before an interception dashed any final hopes.

Benet (1-4, 1-4) was efficient early and took advantage of a Marian defense that allowed 295

yards (249 on the ground) in the opening half. The Redwings scored four of the first five times they had the ball and put Marian in a 26-7 hole.

In terms of energy, neither team played like a winless squad.

Marian initially rallied early in the second quarter. After Andrew Zerante pounced on a Benet fumble, it took the Spartans six plays to travel 28 yards and pull to within 14-7 when Cliffton Gordon took a pitch and scored from 6 yards out. Dennis Kelly booted the first of two conversion kicks.

Gordon had a strong effort Friday. Behind the blocks of Jon Jack, Jeremy Hess, Marc Novak, Ben McDonnell, Jason Bruno and Kelly, Gordon was a workhorse with 122 yards on 23 carries.

The Spartans rallied again in the second quarter, as Mitrovich's first catch of the year was a 34-yard touchdown catch down the sideline from Stevenson. The connection completed a nine-play, 65-yard drive and pulled Marian within 26-14 going into the intermission.

"It's the first time all season I've had a chance to play and catch a pass, so it feels good," Mitrovich explained. "But the burden of the loss is just too much to take. It's a real come down."

The Marian defense stiffened to allow just 133 yards in the second half, courtesy of a half a sack each for Josh Howe and Zerante, and several big tackles by Andrew Eagan.

The Spartans allowed only three points after the intermission, but those three were costly. They gave the visitors a 15-point lead at the time, plus the initial drive of the second half consumed almost nine minutes of clock during a 17-play drive.

Marian converted nine times on third down and once on fourth down Friday, but still suffered with inconsistency in the passing game.

Stevenson finished 10 of 32 for 126 yards and the two scores. Nnanna Alozie caught a pair of passes for 24 yards and Evan Williams also grabbed two for 14 yards.

The Spartans will seek that elusive first victory next Friday when they visit St. Patrick on Friday at Hanson Stadium at 8 p.m.

**Sophomores:** Marian rolled to a 35-6 victory over the Redwings.

**Freshmen:** Dan Roque rushed for a score and threw to Joe Swanson for another, while Keithan Hedrick scored twice to key a 36-6 win over Benet. Jacob Cohn also ran for a score and Mario Earnest kicked a pair of conversions.

The **B Squad** improved to 4-0 with a 12-0 shutout of Benet, as the defense was ignited by Jake Newman (sack), Caleb Dyson, Austin Perry and Mike Gergel. On offense Mac Stevenson scored on a sneak and tossed a 6-yard touchdown pass to Arthur Riley. Jeremy Machlin and Walter Cunningham also rushed well for Marian.

CATEGORY	Benet	Marian Catholic
First downs	18	15
Rush attempts / yards	53-317	33-143
Passing yards	111	126
Pass completions	7	10
Pass attempts	11	32
Had intercepted	1	2
Fumbles / lost	1/0	0/0
Penalty yards	1-15	4-29
Next	at St. Patrick	Notre Dame

## SCORING

**B-** Bob Brown 36-yard run (Brendan Hannigan kick), 6:59 first.

**B-** Brown 65-yard run (Hannigan kick), 2:35 first.

**MC-** Cliffton Gordon 6-yard run (Dennis Kelly kick), 9:15 second.

**B-** David Case 2-yard run (kick failed), 6:10 second.

**B-** Case 3-yard run (pass failed), 3:47 second.

**MC-** John Mitrovich 34-yard pass from Zack Stevenson (Kelly kick), 0:55 second.

**B-** Hannigan 22-yard field goal, 3:13 third.

**MC-** Mitrovich 22-yard pass from Stevenson (kick failed), 8:42 fourth.

## INDIVIDUALS

**Passing:** B- Brown 15-174 (2 TD), Mike Liwanag 23-115, Dan McGue 7-19, David Case 8-9 (2 TD). MC- Gordon 23-122 (TD), Stevenson 9-20, Josh Howe 1-1.

**Rushing:** B- Case 7 of 11, 111 yards, 1 INT. MC- Stevenson 10 of 32, 126 yards, 2 TD, 2

INT.

**Receiving:** B- Jim Schmieder 3-47, Tom Elsner 1-44, Brown 1-12, McGue 1-8, Liwanag 1-0. MC- Mitrovich 4-76, Nnanna Alozie 2-24, Evan Williams 2-14, Michael Brooks 1-8, Gordon 1-4.

**Interceptions:** Schmieder 2 (Benet); Matt Dee.