

GAME 6: St. Patrick 38, Marian Catholic 13

Kickoff: 8 p.m. Friday at Hanson Stadium.

Where: Fullerton and Central, Chicago.

2005/ESCC records: Marian Catholic 0-5; St. Patrick 4-1.

Streaks: Spartans- 9 losses; Shamrocks- 2 wins.

Week 5: Benet Academy 29, Marian 20; St. Patrick 47, Nazareth 42.

Week 7: Marian at St. Joseph (1:30 Sat.); St. Patrick at Notre Dame (7:30 Fri).

Last year: St. Patrick 26, Marian Catholic 6 .

The series: The Shamrocks halted a two-game losing streak last year, but still trail by a 9-4 margin in the overall series.

Notes: Marian's last visit to the Hanson carpet resulted in a come-from-behind 21-17 Spartan victory. . . St. Patrick controls its own destiny for the ESCC title as it concludes the season against 5-0 Joliet Catholic and St. Viator. . . The Spartans last victory came in week five last year when they knocked off St. Viator, 27-15.

Sept. 30	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	6	7	0	-13
ST. PATRICK SHAMROCKS	10	0	7	21	-38



Marian's Jeremy Hess listens intently in a huddle Friday during the Spartans' 38-13 ESCC loss at St. Patrick.

Marian lead evaporates in loss at St. Patrick

Marian Catholic had some monumental odds stacked against it when the Spartans visited Hanson Stadium Friday to take on St. Patrick for the Shamrocks' ESCC Homecoming battle.

With starting quarterback Zack Stevenson (illness), running back Clifton Gordon and offensive lineman Ben McDonnell (injuries) sidelined, the Spartans were forced to call on new faces or bodies in unfamiliar positions.

For the better part of three quarters, the Spartans were every bit up to the challenge.

However, a wind-aided 81-yard punt seem to turn the tide for the Shamrocks, as once the Marian 13-10 advantage was erased, the home squad eventually rolled as St. Patrick improved to 5-1 with a 38-13 victory.

Marian (0-6) fended off rough field position by making some of its own breaks (three recoveries of fumbles and muffs) and put emergency starting quarterback Jack Krause in a position to lead the Spartans to an upset win.

Despite just having a couple days to work with the first team, Krause led Marian on a pair of scoring drives and a lead late into the third quarter. He was just 9 of 28 for 99 yards, but was sacked only one time and threw his lone interception when the contest was out of reach.

"Even with only two days of reps with the first team, he put us in the right place where we wanted to be late in the game," offensive coordinator Ron Guagenti said of Krause. "His reads and his checks were very good, but he just didn't have a lot of time tonight.

"He had guys in his face all night and that's a tough situation to put him in. But I think he did a heckuva job considering the conditions we were forced to put him in."

For much of the contest, Krause, emergency tailback Nnnanna Alozie and displaced receiver Derrick Middleton helped put Marian in more than just the position in which it needed to be.

With the Marian defense proving stingy after the Shamrocks took a 10-0 early lead, the Spartans stunned the homecoming crowd early in the second half.

After Brandon Sherman pounced on the ball when St. Patrick fumbled the second-half kickoff, Marian made quick work to turn around a 10-6 halftime deficit.

Middleton ripped off two of his biggest runs of the night, scampering 14 yards, then 17 more yards for his second touchdown of the evening with 9:44 to play in the third quarter. Dennis Kelly's conversion boot gave the Spartans their first second-half lead of the year at 13-10.

The Marian defense forced back-to-back three-and-outs for the Shamrock offense, but the home team eventually took advantage of the wind at its back.

Punting from his own 18, the Shamrocks' Michael Kotz used the wind and a great roll to pin the Spartans down inside their own 1-yard line. Marian was still at the 1-yard line when a short punt set up St. Patrick 24 yards away from the lead score.

After the Shamrocks took a 17-13 lead, Marian escaped disaster one more time. When Spartan punter Josh Howe had his boot blocked deep in Marian territory, St. Patrick gained temporary possession and then fumbled the ball out of the end zone for a touchback.

The reprieve was a short one, as Marian went three-and-out and the Shamrocks scored on their next two possessions to put the contest out of reach.

Marian answered in the second quarter after St. Patrick had taken a 10-0 lead. Starting from the Spartan 28, Krause displayed confidence in leading Marian on a 72-yard drive. Aerial connections to Kelly (42 yards) and Howe (30 yards) set up a first-and-goal at the 1, where Middleton covered the final distance to pull the Spartans within 10-6.

Middleton finished with 60 yards on 15 totes, while Alozie carried 10 times for 24 yards. Alozie also proved to be the popular target with four catches for 16 yards.

While Marian surrendered 38 points, the defense was much tougher than the score indicated. The Spartans yielded a modest 127 rushing yards and 155 passing yards. The final St. Patrick score came on an 82-yard interception return in the game's final minute.

Along with forcing four fumbles and recovering a muffed punt (Bryce Horath and Jovon Dixon also had recoveries), the Spartans forced five punts.

Unfortunately, one of those punts carried 81 yards to the Spartan 1-yard line.

Sophomores: The Spartans sustained a 23-12 loss to the Shamrocks.

Freshmen: Keithan Hedrick rushed 6 yards for one score and Dan Roque tossed a 30-yard pass to Joe Swanson for another, as Marian improved to 4-2 with a 13-0 decision over St. Patrick. Mario Earnest added a conversion kick. The defense was ignited by Kevin Linde, Nate Coburn, Nyko Palumbi, Nick Payne, Mac Stevenson, Bryan Golubski and Arthur Riley.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	St. Patrick
First downs	7	14
Rush attempts / yards	27-84	28-127
Passing yards	99	155
Pass completions	9	13
Pass attempts	28	22
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	4-2	1-0
Penalty yards	2-15	1-15
Next	at St. Joseph	at Notre Dame

SCORING

SP- Michael Kotz 4-yard pass from Thomas Barrett (Chris Gasiorek kick), 7:46 first

SP- Gasiorek 30-yard field goal, 0:48 first.

MC- Derrick Middleton 1-yard run (kick blocked), 9:40 second.

MC- Middleton 17-yard run (Dennis Kelly kick), 9:44 third.

SP- Dan O'Donnell 1-yard run (Gasiorek kick), 2:20 third.

SP- Kotz 8-yard pass from Barrett (Gasiorek kick), 7:54 fourth.

SP- Brian Ruiz 1-yard run (Gasiorek kick), 2:22 fourth.

SP- Jack McKenna 82-yard interception return (Gasiorek kick), 0:34 fourth.

INDIVIDUALS

Passing: MC- Jack Krause 9 of 28, 99 yards, 1 INT; SP- Barrett 13 of 22, 155 yards, 2 TD.

Rushing: MC- Middleton 15-60 (2 TD), Nnanna Alozie 10-24, Krause 2-0. SP- O'Donnell 11-66 (TD), Mike Lupa 7-33, Ruiz 6-19 (TD), Joey Walker 1-5, Matt Ledenbach 1-2, Adrian Mendoza 1-2, Barrett 2-1.

Receiving: MC- Kelly 1-42, Josh Howe 1-30, Alozie 4-16, Aaron Evans 1-8, John Mitrovich 1-3, Middleton 1-0. SP- Paul Lombardi 2-45, Walker 4-42, Ledenbach 2-39, Kotz 3-21 (2 TD), Timothy Mohs 1-10, O'Donnell 1-(minus 2).

Interceptions: Jack McKenna (SP), TD.