

**GAME 8: Carmel 56, Marian Catholic 30**

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

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

**2005/ESCC records:** Carmel 5-2; Marian Catholic 1-6.

**Streaks:** Corsairs- 1 win; Spartans- 1 win.

**Week 7:** Carmel 35, Benet 14; Marian Catholic 40, St. Joseph 0.

**Week 9 (7:30 p.m. Friday):** Carmel at Marist; Notre Dame at Marian Catholic.

**Last year:** Carmel 21, Marian Catholic 10.

**The series:** The Corsairs have averaged 33 points in winning the last four contests to narrow Marian's command of the series to 9-7.

**Notes:** Marian seeks its first back-to-back victories since weeks 4-5 of the 2004 season. . . The Spartans' 41 points last weekend was the most scored in the last 14 games. . . Marian's last victory over the Corsairs came in 2000, when the Spartans won a regular season and Prep Bowl meeting. . . Spartans' Clifton Gordon and Derrick Middleton are tied for 13th place in ESCC scoring with 38 points.

Oct. 14	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>CARMEL CORSAIRS</b>	14	21	14	7	<b>-56</b>
<b>MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	0	6	8	16	<b>-30</b>



**Marian's offense tried to get things rolling Friday, but the Spartans eventually dropped a 56-30 ESCC decision to visiting Carmel.**

## Strong Marian offensive effort foiled by Carmel

Battling against a playoff qualifier on Friday night in Chicago Heights, the Marian offense proved every bit up to the test.

Following up a 41-point effort, six days later the Spartans churned out more than 500 yards of offense when powerful Carmel visited.

However, the visitors' offense proved up to the challenge as well, as Carmel jumped to a 35-0 command and outslugged Marian, 56-30, to halt the Spartans' winning streak at one.

With the Corsairs (6-2) scoring on their first five possessions, Marian never had the opportunity to get back in the contest.

However, the Spartans didn't come out of halftime like a team staring at a 1-7 record.

Marian took the second-half kickoff and marched 80 yards in three plays, as Clifton Gordon got loose on the outside and rambled for a 72-yard touchdown. Derrick Middleton's conversion run pulled the home team within 35-14 with plenty of time to play.

Running behind the likes of Jon Jack, Jason Bruno, Marc Novak, Rudy Rinas, John Holzhauser and fullbacks Jack McCormick and Josh Howe, Gordon toted 32 times for 236.

"We came out and gave it all we had tonight, but we just came up a little short," explained Gordon, who has scored seven touchdowns in the last two contests. "The offensive line kept motivating us and Marc Novak did a great job of encouraging everybody. In the second half,

we finally got it going."

However, Carmel kept it going by answering Marian's touchdown with two quick scores to pull away to a 49-14 margin.

The Spartan offense didn't give in, however, as Marian found the end zone for the first two scores of the fourth quarter.

A pair of Zack Stevenson to Middleton passes, along with a toss to John Mitrovich, helped orchestrate an 80-yard drive. Gordon finished things off on the first play of the final period when he followed Jack, Howe and tight end Dennis Kelly into the end zone to make the score 49-22 after a Gordon conversion.

The next Marian possession resulted in a 69-yard scoring drive, as Gordon did most of the work and culminated the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run. Stevenson hit Kelly with a conversion toss to make it 49-30.

Unfortunately, the Spartans were in no position to trade scores, which Carmel did with the capping 25-yard touchdown run with 4:42 to play.

Marian got the opportunity to travel long distance courtesy of five touchback kickoffs from the foot of Carmel kicker Kevin Cook.

Several Spartans helped uphold their end of the bargain. Along with Gordon's big night, Nnanna Alozie rushed for 33 yards and Middleton added 13 more.

Middleton also pulled in Marian's first-half score, as he outran a 19-yard aerial from Stevenson, who finished the night 15 of 25 for 209 yards. Targets included Mike Brooks (three catches, 56 yards), John Mitrovich (four catches, 46 yards), Middleton (three for 45) and Kelly (two for 38).

Overall, Marian moved the chains for 25 first downs.

The Marian defense got some big hits from Andrew Eagan and welcomed the brief return of McCormick at linebacker, as well as forcing two fumbles (Carmel recovered both). However, the Corsairs finished with 552 yards of their own.

The Marian offense clearly put up a great fight against a playoff team.

However, the Spartans are left to play their playoff game next Friday when they conclude the season by hosting Notre Dame at 7:30 p.m.

"It's back to the practice field and get ready for Notre Dame," a business-like Gordon said. "We want to end the season with a win."

**Sophomores:** The Spartans took an early second-half lead, but eventually dropped a 21-13 decision to the Corsairs.

**Freshmen:** Despite a good start on Dan Roque's quarterback sneak and Mario Earnest's conversion kick, Marian dropped a 37-14 decision to Carmel. Keithan Hedrick added a fourth-quarter score for the Spartans.

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian Catholic
<b>First downs</b>	22	25
<b>Rush attempts / yards</b>	44-375	47-289
<b>Passing yards</b>	177	214
<b>Pass completions</b>	5	16
<b>Pass attempts</b>	9	27
<b>Had intercepted</b>	0	1
<b>Fumbles / lost</b>	2/0	2/0
<b>Penalty yards</b>	3-25	4-20
<b>Next</b>	<b>at Marist</b>	<b>NOTRE DAME</b>

#### SCORING

C- Jimmy Patempa 74-yard run (kick failed), 11:44 first.

C- John Brennan 59-yard run (Sean Lees run), 1:45 first.

C- Chris Weinke 9-yard run (Kevin Cook kick), 9:41 second.

C- Cory Stonelake 19-yard pass from Weinke (Cook kick), 7:27 second.

C- Stonelake 18-yard pass from Brennan (Cook kick), 4:26 second.

MC- Derrick Middleton 19-yard pass from Zack Stevenson (kick blocked), 1:11 second.

MC- Clifton Gordon 72-yard run (Middleton run), 10:28 third.

C- Stonelake 40-yard pass from Tyler Ankney (Cook kick), 9:08 third.

C- Ankney 6-yard run (Cook kick), 2:50 third.

MC- Gordon 1-yard run (Gordon run), 11:57 fourth.

MC- Gordon 10-yard run (Zack Stevenson to Dennis Kelly), 5:56 fourth.

C- Ankney 25-yard run (Cook kick), 56-30.

**INDIVIDUALS**

**Passing:** C- Brennan 4 of 7, 118 yards, TD; Ankney 1 of 1, 40 yards, TD; Weinke 1 of 1, 19 yards, TD. MC- Stevenson 15 of 25, 209 yards, TD, INT; Jack Krause 1 of 2, 5 yards.

**Rushing:** C- Patempa 12-145 (TD), Brennan 7-89 (TD), Ankney 6-58 (2 TD), Weinke 7-34 (TD), Lees 4-28, Dave Venegoni 7-19, J.P. Wagner 1-2. MC- Gordon 32-236 (3 TD), Nnanna Alozie 6-33, Middleton 3-13, Stevenson 6-7.

**Receiving:** C- Stonelake 5-177 (3 TD). MC- Mike Brooks 3-56, John Mitrovich 4-46, Middleton 3-45 (TD), Kelly 2-38, Don Settle 1-5, Jack McCormick 1-5, Gordon 1-4.

**Interceptions:** Mike Morrissey (C).