

GAME 2: Marian Catholic 22, Bloom Township 0

Kickoff: 6 p.m. Friday at Sarff Field, Bloom Township High School.

Where: 10th & Chicago Road, Chicago Heights.

Streaks: Spartans- 1 loss; Blazing Trojans- 1 win.

Last week: H-F 42, Marian 28; Bloom 14, Morton 10.

Week 3: Carmel at Marian (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Bloom at Fenton (Fri, 7 p.m.).

Last meeting: Marian Catholic 15, Bloom 6 (1989).

The series: The Spartans have won four straight to take a series command of 6-1, with Bloom's last victory coming with a 14-12 decision in 1974. Marian also owns a 1-0 record against Bloom Trail.

Notes: Friday's contest will be followed by the City of Chicago Heights fireworks display at 9 p.m. at the Bloom North field... four of the last five meetings in the series have been decided by nine points or fewer... Prior to the building of Spartan Stadium, Bloom's Sarff Field served as Marian Catholic's home field... The last meeting featured future NFL players John Holecek and Rodney Harrison from Marian and Bryant Young from Bloom.

Tickets: Pre-sale tickets priced at \$4 are available this week at Marian in the main office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (public) and during school hours in Room 213 (students).

Sept. 1	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	14	6	2	-22
at BLOOM TOWNSHIP	0	0	0	0	-0



Chicago Heights Mayor Anthony DeLuca flips the coin Friday night at Sarff Field prior to the Spartans' 22-0 victory over crosstown rival Bloom Township.

Spartan defense fires blank at crosstown rival Bloom

With the defensive front doing a strong job on Friday night at historic Sarff Field, Marian Catholic's secondary knew it was going to get its opportunities against Bloom Township.

The secondary not only took advantage of opportunities, but led a Spartan defense that made a statement with a 22-0 blanking of the crosstown rival Blazing Trojans. The third Marian shutout in the series improved the Spartans' record to 1-1 going into next Friday's ESCC opener against Carmel in Chicago Heights.

A Spartan secondary of Andres Rodriguez, Greg Janes, Kevin Kammert, Matt Dee and Mike Berens limited Bloom to a 28 percent completion rate and less than 3 yards per passing attempt.

"The coaches always prepare us with the right scheme," explained senior Dee, who pulled in two interceptions. "The difference tonight was that we came out and had fun. It was playing in a Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving. We just came out and had a heckuva time.

"Getting a shutout was huge for our defense. The last couple years we've been giving up a lot of points in some games- too many. So a shutout is really big and it will help our confidence a lot."

The 22-0 final matched a 22-0 shutout for the Spartans in 1973 in the series. Marian also notched an 8-0 win in 1981. The victory, Marian's fifth straight in the series, improved the Spartans' series record to 7-1. On Marian's former home field at Sarff, Head Coach Dave Mattio improved his record on the field to 35-11.

The Chicago Heights' fireworks display followed the contest, but both defenses ensured there wouldn't be much fireworks on the field.

Although Marian got strong offensive efforts from tailback Clifton Gordon, quarterback Jack Krause and receiver Aaron Evans, the Spartans hit paydirt twice on drives of less than 40 yards and took a 14-0 lead into halftime after Julian Williams got behind the defense for a 57-yard scoring toss from Krause.

Marian didn't need much, however, as Bloom (1-1) never penetrated the Marian 35-yard line. Thanks to a Marian strong effort up front from Josh Forney, Jon Jack, Matt Golubski, Kirk Roberts and Paul Zarlengo, the Blazing Trojans gained less than 3 yards per crack on the ground.

The Marian defense put the icing on the victory with a safety for the game's final points. A 9-yard sack by Josh Howe backed up Bloom to its own 3-yard line and Blazing Trojan quarterback Ray Besst stepped out of the end zone rather than trying to punt from the end line.

For the night, Bloom had as many plays go for negative yardage (nine) than gains of more than 8 yards.

Marian used a short field to break the ice after a scoreless first period, as Gordon culminated a 31-yard drive by following Jack and Jason Bruno into the end zone on a 1-yard plunge. The conversion pass failed, but Marian tallied on its next possession.

After a sack backed up Marian to its own 31, Krause hit Nnanna Alozie in the flat for a 12-yard passing gain. Then Krause did a brilliant job of scrambling until he found Williams behind the defense for a bomb and 57-yard scoring strike. Gordon added the conversion run for a 14-0 halftime advantage.

Dee's first interception set up Marian for its third-quarter score, a drive that was keyed by Krause's 20-yard strike to Evans. Fullback Howe polished off the 37-yard yard drive with his 1-yard touchdown plunge.

Gordon compiled 111 yards on the ground for his second 100-yard rushing effort of the year, while Krause finished an efficient 9-of-15 for 150 yards. Evans was on the other end of most of his aeriels with six catches for 73 yards.

For many, including Chicago Heights resident Dee, finding success across town at Sarff proved to be something special.

"This is a big night," Dee explained. "In grade school at St. Agnes, all of our games were on this field. So to come back and get a victory, it really hits home and it's very special."

Marian will hit its home field for the first time next Friday when the Spartans celebrate Decade of Champions and entertain Carmel in their home opener at 7:30 p.m.

Sophs: Evan Watson threw for a touchdown and scored the deciding two-point conversion and Frank Tambrini added a score in a 14-13 decision over Bloom Township.

Freshmen: Michael Mohan rushed for two scores and QB Tommy Doane hit Jesse Steward for a passing touchdown to lead Marian to a 19-6 Frosh A victory over visiting Bloom Township. Matt Finnin threw for two touchdowns and Alex Evans added another to lead Marian to a 21-12 Frosh B victory over Bloom Township.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Bloom
First downs	12	10
Rush attempts / yards	38-138	32-92
Passing yards	150	74
Pass completions	9	7
Pass attempts	15	25
Had intercepted	0	2
Fumbles / lost	1-0	1-1
Penalty yards	7-65	7-41
Next	CARMEL	at Fenton

SCORING

MC- Clifton Gordon 1-yard run (pass failed), 7:28 second.

MC- Julian Williams 57-yard pass from Jack Krause (Gordon run), 1:28 second.

MC- Josh Howe 1-yard run (kick failed), 5:02 third.

MC- SAFETY (Bloom QB stepped out of end zone), 2:56 fourth.

Passing: MC- Krause 9 of 15, 150 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT: BT- Ray Besst 7 of 25, 74 yards, 0 TD, 2 INT.

Rushing: MC- Gordon 21-111 (TD), Derrick Middleton 4-16, Nnanna Alozie 4-7, Jeremy Mattio 2-6, Malcolm Allen 1-5, Howe 1-1 (TD), Mark Scott 2-1, Andres Rodriguez 2-(minus 2), Krause 2-(minus 7). BT- Corey Harris 15-55, Besst 8-25, Ryan Tobicoe 2-7, Martin Baylor 7-5.

Receiving: MC- Aaron Evans 6-73, Williams 1-57 (TD), Alozie 2-20. BT- Sam Washington 3-48, Marcus House 1-19, Tommy Kargas 1-7, Baylor 1-(minus 1); #27- 1-1.

Interceptions: Matt Dee, MC (2).

