

GAME 3: Carmel 73, Marian Catholic 55

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

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

Streaks: Corsairs- 2 wins; Spartans- 1 win.

Last week: Carmel 49, Mundelein 6; Marian Catholic 22, Bloom Township 0.

Week 4: Notre Dame at Carmel (Fri, 7:30 pm); Marian at Nazareth (Sat, 1:30 p.m.).

Last year: Carmel 56, Marian Catholic 30.

The series: The Corsairs have averaged 38 points in winning the last five contests to narrow Marian's command of the series to 9-8. Marian's last victories came in 2000 when the Spartans swept Carmel, 21-0 and 19-7 (Prep Bowl).

Notes: Friday will feature Marian's annual [Decade of Champions](#), as the Spartans honor football players and cheerleaders from the years 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996 at halftime... Both schools have won state championships, Marian claiming the 4A title in 1993 and Carmel the 6A crown in 2003... The Spartans will honor their senior class and parents prior to the start of the varsity contest.

Sept. 8	1	2	3	4	Total
CARMEL CORSAIRS	28	17	14	14	-73
at MARIAN SPARTANS	13	8	8	26	-55



It was certainly a full moon on Friday night in Chicago Heights, as Carmel opened the season by defeating Marian in a 73-55 ESCC shootout.

Spartans fall to Carmel in home-opening shootout, 73-55

Seventeen minutes into Friday's home opener for Marian Catholic, the Spartans had limited Carmel to less than 30 yards of total offense. Yet, the Corsairs next score gave the visitors a 38-13 lead late in the second quarter.

Carmel scored in seven different fashions in the opening half to take a 45-21 lead, then both teams got involved in the shootout in the second half for a record-setting ESCC finish.

Carmel 73, Marian Catholic 55.

The Corsairs improved to 3-0, while Marian fell to 1-2, but the contest may say a lot about the futures of both squads.

Playing against one of the Top 10-rated teams in the Chicago area, the Spartan offense amassed 538 total yards, including two running backs, a receiver and a quarterback that eclipsed the century mark in yardage.

However, those numbers and a strong defensive start couldn't even keep the Spartans close.

The Corsairs rolled up the 45 first-half points in almost every way imaginable.

They took a 7-0 lead on a 79-yard punt return for a score. After Marian knotted the contest, Carmel took the lead for good on a 2-yard run. That came after a 43-yard interception return—about the only way the Corsairs didn't score in the opening half.

The other Carmel scores came on a blocked punt return, a fumble return, a kickoff return, a

33-yard field goal by Billy Janssen (10 conversion kicks) and a passing touchdown.

While Marian never got close enough to think upset in the second half, the Spartans showed plenty of character on Friday and the offense appears to be coming of age.

Right from Cliffton Gordon's 39-yard rushing score that tied the contest at 7-7 when Jeremy Mattio booted the conversion, Marian displayed fight playing from behind all night. Other first-half scores included Derrick Middleton's 75-yard run and Paul Zarlengo's 8-yard fumble return.

The Spartans also marched 65 yards on the opening possession of the second half, as Gordon finished off the drive with a 33-yard burst. That made it 45-29, but Carmel punched it in the end zone twice for a 59-29 command.

Marian wasn't done battling. While Carmel was compiling the most points against a Marian team since 1962 when Andrean scored 81, the Spartans remained relentless in posting their fifth highest scoring total in school history.

The Spartans rolled up 26 points in the final quarter, as Gordon scored on a 10-yard run, quarterback Jack Krause hit Aaron Evans with a 71-yard scoring bomb, Evans returned a kickoff 93 yards for a score and Mark Scott broke off a 48-yard run for the game's final score.

In the end, Gordon rushed 18 times for 153 yards to lead the way for Marian. Middleton chalked up 133 rushing yards, 20 receiving yards and 126 return yards. Evans finished with four catches for 119 yards to go with 164 yards in returns. Krause finished 8 of 18 for 164 yards and a score.

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian Catholic
First downs	15	15
Rush attempts / yards	44-335	38-374
Passing yards	29	164
Pass completions	2	8
Pass attempts	6	18
Had intercepted	0	1
Fumbles / lost	3/2	1/1
Penalty yards	1-5	8/70
Next	NOTRE DAME	at Nazareth

SCORING

C- John Brennan 79-yard punt return (Billy Janssen kick), 7:54 first.

MC- Cliffton Gordon 39-yard run (Jeremy Mattio kick), 6:54 first.

C- Jim Potempa 2-yard run (Janssen kick), 3:34 first.

C- Geoffrey Fields 16-yard blocked punt return (Janssen kick), 1:07 first.

C- Ryan Williams 42-yard fumble return (Janssen kick), 0:12 first.

MC- Derrick Middleton 75-yard run (kick failed), 0:00 first.

C- Sean Lees 87-yard kickoff return (Janssen kick), 11:46 second.

C- Janssen 33-yard field goal, 2:43 second.

MC- Paul Zarlengo 8-yard fumble return (Jack Krause run), 0:41 second.

C- Chris Wienke 5-yard pass from David Venegoni (Janssen kick), 0:12 second.

MC- Gordon 33-yard run (Krause to Nnanna Alozie), 7:40 third.

C- Potempa 38-yard run (Janssen kick), 4:41 third.

C- Potempa 8-yard run (Janssen kick), 0:38 third.

MC- Gordon 10-yard run (pass failed), 8:41 fourth.

C- Lees 54-yard run (Janssen kick), 7:22 fourth.

MC- Aaron Evans 71-yard pass from Krause (Krause to Evans), 5:37 fourth.

C- Matt Berg 38-yard run (Janssen kick), 4:10 fourth.

MC- Evans 93-yard kickoff return (pass failed), 4:02 fourth.

MC- Mark Scott 48-yard run (run failed), 3:52 fourth.

Passing: C- Venegoni 2 of 6, 29 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT. MC- Krause 8 of 18, 164 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT.

Rushing: C- Potempa 19-137 (3 TD), Lees 7-95 (TD), Berg 3-50 (TD), Venegoni 6-19, Brennan 6-18, Geoffrey Fields 3-16. MC- Gordon 18-153 (3 TD), Middleton 9-133 (TD), Scott 2-51 (TD), Krause 5-31, Alozie 4-6.

Receiving: C- Brennan 1-24, Wienke 1-5 (TD). MC- Evans 4-119 (TD), Middleton 1-20, Alozie 2-19, Dennis Kelly 1-6.

Interceptions: Adrian Dodds (C).

