

GAME 4: Marian Catholic 42, Nazareth Academy 20

Kickoff: 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Nazareth Academy.

Where: 1209 W. Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park.

Streaks: Spartans- 1 loss; Roadrunners- 2 losses.

ESCC records: Marian 0-1; Nazareth 0-1.

Last week: Carmel 73, Marian Catholic 55; Benet 46, Nazareth 28.

Week 5: St. Viator at Marian (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Nazareth at Notre Dame (Fri., 7:30 p.m.).

Last year: Nazareth 26, Marian Catholic 20.

The series: The Spartans are 2-1 in the short series, with Marian's last victory coming in a 31-27 decision in 2004.

Notes: Marian owns a 1-1 record in contests played at Nazareth, including a 40-0 decision in 2003... The Spartans' total of 55 points vs. Carmel was the third highest for a losing team in IHSA history... Marian has a rushing and passing touchdown in each of its three contests this season... The Spartans' first three opponents have a combined record of 8-1.

Sept. 16	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	19	8	15	-42
at NAZARETH R'RUNNERS	0	6	7	7	-20



Marian's Matt Golubski, Kirk Roberts and the defensive front put on the pressure to key a 42-20 ESCC romp over host Nazareth Academy on Saturday.

Spartans rush for 474 yards to roll past Nazareth

By design, Marian Catholic's new offense is supposed to be deceptive to opponents.

By statistics on Saturday's visit to Nazareth Academy, the multi-threat offense is becoming nightmarish for opponents.

For the first time in 47 years of recollection, the Spartans had three running backs- Clifton Gordon, Nnanna Alozie and Derrick Middleton- eclipse the 100-yard rushing mark. Couple that with three touchdown passes from senior quarterback Jack Krause and the Spartans equaled their 2005 win total with a 42-20 ESCC romp over the Roadrunners in LaGrange Park.

With an offensive front that included Jon Jack, Ben McDonnell, Rudy Rinas, Richard Wilson, Jason Bruno and Dennis Kelly, the Spartans amassed 474 rushing yards. Along with Krause's 133 passing yards, Marian easily rolled up more than 500 yards on offense for the second straight week.

"We try to use a lot of misdirection to get our running game going and then we'll come back the other way," said Alozie, who scampered 52 yards for the Spartans' last score to become the third back over the century mark on the day. "It's new, but it's working pretty well.

"I dropped a couple passes, but I ran the ball pretty well today. Clifton and Derrick did a great job too. And the offensive line did an excellent job opening holes, and that's the key."

Marian's offensive game plan netted near-perfect results, as the Spartans gained 23 first-downs via the ground attack. The dominant rushing performance led to the visitors eating up

huge clock and running 32 more snaps (79-47) than Nazareth for the day.

Gordon proved to be the workhorse with 204 yards on 30 carries. Much of his success came after Alozie (nine rushes, 121 yards) and Middleton (14 carries, 115 yards) spread out the Roadrunner defense with their prowess on the perimeter.

The mismatch in plays is also a credit to a Spartan defense that kept constant pressure on Nazareth quarterback Phillip Kaiser. With a strong push up front from Paul Zarlengo, Kirk Roberts, Josh Forney, Elliott Echols and Richard Wilson, Marian limited Nazareth to 72 rushing yards- with 50 coming on a double-reverse for a score.

Zarlengo netted a pair of sacks for his efforts, while the secondary benefitted with a pair of interceptions from Greg Janes and another pickoff by Matt Dee. While the Roadrunners did manage 23.9 yards per completion, the Spartans also forced 18 incomplete pass attempts. Linebacker Josh Howe also pounced on a fumble for Nazareth's fourth turnover.

Marian never trailed in the contest, and despite the success on the ground, the Spartans took a 19-6 halftime courtesy of three first-half touchdown passes from Krause.

Dee's interception set up the first Krause to Evans scoring toss of 5 yards, as Jeremy Mattio's conversion boot gave the Spartans the lead for good at 7-0 with 11:54 to play in the half. Two possessions later, a 36-yard aerial connection to Evans gave Marian a 13-6 command.

Marian completed the first-half scoring when Krause hit Alozie from 25 yards out with 4:12 to play before intermission. The Spartans had a 197-4 advantage in rushing yards at the half, and it was only a sign of things to come.

The visitors struck first in the third quarter, as Gordon completed a 65-yard scoring drive when his second effort netted a 12-yard touchdown run. Krause hit Dennis Kelly on the conversion. However, Nazareth used scoring plays of 50 and 60 yards to pull within 27-20 midway through the third period.

Marian immediately responded with the clinchers, however, on quick drives of 73 and 70 yards. Gordon romped 44 yards for a score before Krause hit Middleton on the conversion. Then a three-and-out was followed by Alozie's 52-yard scoring jaunt. Both of Janes' interceptions came in the second half to help keep the Roadrunners in check.

The Spartans host 4-0 St. Viator on Friday, but they'll do it with an offense that has produced 147 points- the second best four-game offensive output since 1980.

"This was real important today," Alozie said of Marian returning to the .500 mark. "Now, we're a lot more upbeat and looking to make a run at the playoffs. We need to take everything one at a time, but we want to get things going and run the table."

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Nazareth
First downs	25	12
Rush attempts / yards	61-474	19-72
Passing yards	133	239
Pass completions	10	9
Pass attempts	28	18
Had intercepted	0	3
Fumbles / lost	2/0	1/1
Penalty yards	14-120	7-57
Next	ST. VIATOR	at Notre Dame

SCORING

MC- Aaron Evans 5-yard pass from Jack Krause (Jeremy Mattio kick), 11:54 second.

Nz- David Murphy 75-yard pass from Phillip Kaiser (kick failed), 8:43 second.

MC- Evans 36-yard pass from Krause (kick failed), 7:24 second.

MC- Nnanna Alozie 25-yard pass from Krause (pass failed), 4:12 second.

MC- Clifton Gordon 12-yard run (Krause to Dennis Kelly), 9:06 third.

Nz- Murphy 50-yard run (Andy Muscarello kick), 7:46 third.

Nz- Rodney Payton 60-yard pass from Kaiser (Muscarello kick), 7:03 fourth.

MC- Gordon 44-yard run (Krause to Derrick Middleton), 6:33 fourth.

MC- Alozie 52-yard run (Mattio kick), 4:05 fourth.

Passing: MC- Krause 9 of 18, 133 yards, 3 TD, 0 INT. Naz- Kaiser 10 of 28, 239 yards, 2 TD, 3 INT.

Rushing: MC- Gordon 30-204 (2 TD), Alozie 9-121 (TD), Middleton 14-115, Mark Scott 1-14, John DiGiovanni 4-12, Mattio 1-10, Krause 1-(minus 1), Malcolm Allen 1-(minus 1). Naz-

Payton 9-27, Murphy 1-50 (TD), Mike Voss 3-4, Kaiser 6-(minus 9).

Receiving: MC- Evans 4-65 (2 TD), Alozie 1-25 (TD), Kelly 2-19, Julian Williams 1-15, Middleton 1-9. Naz- Murphy 5-120 (TD), Payton 2-83 (TD), Dominic Mendicino 1-17, Patrick Reardon 1-15, Voss 1-4.

Interceptions: Greg Janes (MC), 2; Matt Dee (MC).

