

GAME 5: Marian Catholic 36, St. Viator 34

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

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

Overall records: St. Viator 4-0; Marian Catholic 2-2.

ESCC records: St. Viator 2-0; Marian Catholic 1-1.

Streaks: Lions- 4 wins; Spartans- 1 win.

Last week: St. Viator 46, Benet 29; Marian Catholic 42, Nazareth Academy 20.

Week 6: Notre Dame at St. Viator (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Marian at Joliet Catholic (Fri., 7:30 p.m.)

Last year: St. Viator 52, Marian Catholic 21.

The series: Last year's decision halted a nine-game winning for the Spartans, who still maintain an overall series command of 10-2.

Notes: Marian is on a pace to score 330 points, the fourth highest total in school history.

The three higher totals came in seasons of 12 games or more... The Spartans first four foes have a combined record of 11-5, while St. Viator's first four opponents are 4-12...

Marian is looking to establish its third straight contest with more than 500 yards of offense... The Spartans have scored in 10 of their last 11 quarters played.

Sept. 22	1	2	3	4	Total
ST. VIATOR LIONS	0	7	14	13	-34
at MARIAN SPARTANS	7	14	0	15	-36



Marian's defense held on just enough Friday night, as the Spartans handed visiting St. Viator its first loss of the season in a 36-34 ESCC decision.

Spartans stun previously unbeaten St. Viator in shootout

Marian Catholic's explosive offense was true to form on Friday night when the Spartans hosted unbeaten St. Viator. Marian Catholic's much-maligned defense came up with some huge plays at critical times on Friday.

As a team, Marian Catholic displayed resiliency on Friday after the Spartans allowed the Lions to come back from a 21-0 deficit.

But, in the end, Marian used a clutch interception from Matt Dee, some big play from captain Josh Howe and another 200-yard rushing effort from Cliffton Gordon to pull off a 36-34 ESCC upset of the Lions.

Marian (3-2) will now have playoff thoughts on its mind when the Spartans visit rival Joliet Catholic on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Friday's victory didn't come easily, however.

With Marian holding a slim 29-27 lead late in the fourth quarter, defensive back Matt Dee picked off a pass and returned it to the St. Viator 15-yard line. One play later, Gordon burst around left end for a 15-yard score. Jeremy Mattio's conversion kick gave the Spartans a 36-27 command with 2:19 to play.

Still not East Street.

St. Viator took just more than a minute to travel 65 yards to pull within 36-34 with 1:09 to play.

Then it was Jared White's turn to come up big, as he sustained major pressure to fall on an onside kick.

It still wasn't over.

Against an 11-man rush, Howe managed to get off a key punt to pin in the Lions at their 12-yard line with 12 seconds to play.

Two plays later, Paul Zarlengo sacked St. Viator quarterback Dante Warren (338 passing yards) and it was finally over.

"I just wanted to kick and get it off," explained Howe, who came up with a few solid punts and added an interception of his own. "It was pressure, but it was a good snap, good blocking and we got the punt off.

"This feels great. We came out and played hard. We practiced well this week and we finally came out and executed. It's about time."

Facing a 4-0 squad after a lightning delay, Marian came out with no fear. The Spartans scored on three of their four first-half to take a 21-0 command.

With a strong mix of run and pass, Marian scored first-half touchdowns on a 21-yard pass from Jack Krause to Julian Williams, a 5-yard run by Gordon and Krause's 17-yard scoring aerial for an acrobatic catch by Derrick Middleton. The first-half jump also received a jolt with Howe's interception and a fumble recovery by Kevin Kammert.

St. Viator salvaged a 21-7 halftime deficit on the final play of the first half. Then the Lions scored on two of their first three second-half possessions to knot the contest at 21-21.

"It was a little nerve-wracking," Howe said of the Lion comeback. "The offense has been putting up points all year and we needed to step up on defense. It was nerve-wracking, but we stuck with it, showed a little heart and came out of it."

Marian's offense helped stem the tide. After St. Viator's tying score, the Spartans marched 78 yards in 11 plays to take the lead for good. Gordon culminated the drive with a 4-yard plunge, and after Gordon added the conversion run, Marian owned a 29-21 lead.

That left matters to the late-game heroics.

Gordon finished with 201 yards on 30 carries for his second straight 200-yard effort and fifth 100-yard game of the year. Krause finished with 135 passing yards, as Middleton pulled in three passes for 64 yards.

CATEGORY	St. Viator	Marian Catholic
First downs	19	19
Rush attempts / yards	29-111	49-245
Passing yards	338	135
Pass completions	19	9
Pass attempts	32	14
Had intercepted	2	1
Fumbles / lost	3/1	2/0
Penalty yards	6-48	6-36
Next	NOTRE DAME	at Joliet Catholic

SCORING

MC- Julian Williams 21-yard pass from Jack Krause (Jeremy Mattio kick), 6:28 first.

MC- Clifton Gordon 5-yard run (kick failed), 11:54 second.

MC- Derrick Middleton 17-yard pass from Jack Krause (Krause to Dennis Kelly), 1:04 2nd.

SV- Dante Warren 4-yard run (Jonathan Harris kick), 0:00 second.

SV- Pat Guth 20-yard pass from Warren (Harris kick), 4:26 third.

SV- Pat McAvoy 15-yard pass from Warren (Harris kick), 0:21 third.

MC- Gordon 4-yard run (Gordon run), 7:33 fourth.

SV- Warren 3-yard run (pass failed), 5:35 fourth.

MC- Gordon 15-yard run (Mattio kick), 2:19 fourth.

SV- Eric Huber 26-yard pass from Warren (Harris kick), 1:09 fourth.

Passing: SV- Warren 19 of 31, 338 yards, 3 TD, 2 INT; Eric Huber 0 of 1, 0 yards. MC- Krause 9 of 14, 135 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT.

Rushing: SV- Warren 17-62 (2 TD); McAvoy 11-48, Mike Landuyt 1-1. MC- Gordon 30-201

(3 TD), Nnanna Alozie 6-27, Middleton 7-23, Krause 6-(minus 6).

Receiving: SV- Huber 7-138 (TD), Austin Szfranski 3-70, Guth 5-69 (TD), McAvoy 3-40 (TD), Landuyt 1-21. MC- Middleton 3-64 (TD), Kelly 2-25, Aaron Evans 2-22, Williams 1-21 (TD), Alozie 1-3.

Interceptions: SV- McAvoy. MC- Josh Howe, Matt Dee.

