

GAME 1: Marian Catholic 34, Homewood-Flossmoor 28 (OT)

Kickoff: 6 p.m. on Saturday at Spartan Stadium.

Where: Joe Orr Road at Ashland Avenue.

2006 records: Homewood-Flossmoor 6-4; Marian Catholic 7-4.

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

Week 2: Marian vs. Bloom Township (Fri., 6 p.m.); H-F vs. Thornwood (Fri., 7:30 p.m.).

Last meeting: Marian 20, Homewood-Flossmoor 14 (OT- 2006 8A playoffs).

The series: The teams split a pair of meetings last year, as Marian's playoff victory halted a four-game H-F winning streak and avenged a 42-28 decision in the season opener. The Vikings hold a 7-3 overall series advantage.

Notes: Seven of the teams' 10 meetings have been decided by no more than one score... The Spartans open their season vs. two neighborhood rivals as they host Bloom Township on Aug. 31 at 6 p.m... In each of the last five seasons the schools have met, H-F and Marian have both advanced to the IHSA state playoffs... Marian has three consecutive season openers, the first time that has happened 1962-1965 (two of those games losses to H-F).

| August 25 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | OT | Total |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|---|----------|------------|
| H.-FLOSSMOOR VIKINGS | 0 | 20 | 0 | 8 | 0 | -28 |
| at MARIAN CATHOLIC | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | -34 |



Marian's Dan Roque had an interception, fumble recovery and four PAT kicks to spark host Marian to a 34-28 overtime victory over visiting H-F on Friday.

Marian stuns rival H-F in overtime... Again

First-year Marian junior quarterback Evan Watson picked a good way to start his first varsity season.

The same way the Spartans finished their last game played at Spartan Stadium in 2006.

Watson scored on a 1-yard run in overtime for the deciding score, then Marian's defense held rival Homewood-Flossmoor on downs to give the host Spartans a 34-28 victory over the ranked Vikings.

Although Marian dropped the opener to H-F last season, the Spartans also scored a 20-14 overtime victory over H-F last season in the Class 8A playoffs.

"It was my first game on the varsity and it feels just great!" said Watson, who also rushed for Marian's first score and completed seven passes for 90 yards.

"It was a great win and really sets the tone for our season. It sends a good message for our opponents. Nobody seemed to believe in us, but we showed we have a lot of heart."

Marian sent an upset message early in the contest, then responded like a veteran squad after the Vikings put together a 20-point second-quarter blitz to take a 20-14 lead into halftime.

In the second half, trailing Marian sent a message that it meant business.

First, the defense rose to the occasion when Josh Forney came up with a big fourth-down sack to halt the Vikings deep in Marian territory. The Spartans had four sacks overall, as three

others were shared by Hugh Reynolds-Dominick Corsiglia, another by Forney-Richard Wilson, and one by Reynolds-Matt Marquez.

After the big sack, Marian responded in three plays. Following a 14-yard scamper by Watson, Allen busted off a 55-yard burst down the left sideline. One play later, Allen hit paydirt from 2 yards out. Dan Roque's conversion kick gave the Spartans a 21-20 edge with 26 seconds to play in the third quarter.

The defense ignited Marian again, as Roque set up the Spartans at the H-F 42 after a 16-yard interception return.

The home squad needed eight plays to travel the distance, as Allen burst into the end zone from the 1 to give Marian a 28-20 command.

"We ran the ball very well tonight," Watson assessed, giving credit to an offensive line of Bryan Zavala, Richard Wilson, Marc Bartolini, Dennis Julliano, John Holzhauser and Dennis Kelly.

"Our line really stepped up and we made some big plays. We made some mistakes tonight, but we came through when we needed it most. We played through some ups-and-downs because we played hard and we played with a lot of heart."

H-F rallied for the tie when it scored with 2:42 to play in regulation, setting up the second straight overtime thriller between the neighborhood rivals.

Despite an interception by Kevin Kammert and a 75-yard kickoff return by Julian Williams, Marian was unable to finish the deal in regulation.

In the extra session, Marian had the ball first and took three plays to score. After a 3-yard rush by Mark Scott, Brandon Sherman pulled in a 6-yard pass from Watson to take Marian to the 1. Watson finished the deal from there for a 34-28 lead.

After H-F advanced to the 4 on its first chance, Marian snuffed the next attempt for a 1-yard loss, then sniffed out an end around for a 10-yard loss. H-F's fourth-down attempt sailed through the end zone.

Marian had taken a 14-0 command early in the second quarter after Watson scored from 7 yards out and Sherman scored on a 4-yard sweep.

In the second quarter, H-F lived up to its lofty ranking with 20 unanswered points, 13 of them coming in the quarter's final 69 seconds.

Marian's Williams finished with three catches for 60 yards, while Sherman pulled in four aerials for 30 yards.

With a strong effort up front from the sack attack, Kirk Roberts, Kevin Linde, linebackers Greg Janes and Mike Berens, Marian held H-F to negative yardage on 12 plays.

Sophomores: Dan Vargas returned an interception 108 yards on the game's final play in a 12-0 victory over the Vikings. Marian had scored earlier on a touchdown pass from Tommy Doane to Austin Guaccio.

| CATEGORY | H-F | Marian |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|
| First downs | 13 | 16 |
| Rush attempts / yards | 39-163 | 41-244 |
| Passing yards | 183 | 90 |
| Pass completions | 11 | 7 |
| Pass attempts | 18 | 14 |
| Had intercepted | 2 | 1 |
| Fumbles / lost | 2 / 1 | 2 / 2 |
| Penalty yards | 11-65 | 2-10 |
| Next | THORNWOOD | BLOOM |

SCORING

MC- Evan Watson 7-yard run (Dan Roque kick), 4:51 first

MC- Brandon Sherman 4-yard run (Roque kick), 9:43 second

HF- Mark Franklin 7-yard run (Andrej Skiba kick), 5:22 second

HF- Franklin 80-yard pass from Russell Ellington (Skiba), 1:09 second

HF- Supo Sanni 29-yard pass from Ellington (pass failed), 0:16 sec

MC- Malcolm Allen 2-yard run (Roque kick), 0:26 third

MC- Allen 1-yard run (Roque kick), 6:37 fourth

HF- Ellington 49-yard run (Franklin run), 2:42 fourth

MC- Watson 1-yard run (kick failed), 1 OT

Rushing: HF- Ellington 15-97 (TD), Franklin 20-62 (TD), Aaron Phillips 3-14, Sanni 1-(minus

10). MC- Allen 24-179 (2 TD), Mark Scott 6-32, Watson 9-24 (2 TD), Brandon Sherman 2-9.

Passing: HF- Ellington 11 of 18, 193 yards, 2 TD, 2 INT. MC- Watson 7 of 13, 90 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT; Scott 0 of 1, 0 yards.

Receiving: HF- Sanni 5-85 (TD), Franklin 3-83 (TD), Phillips 3-15. MC- Julian Williams 3-60, Sherman 4-30.

