

GAME 2: Marian Catholic 27, Bloom Township 14

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

Where: Joe Orr Road at Ashland Avenue.

2007 records: Bloom Township 1-0; Marian Catholic 1-0.

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

Week 1: Bloom 43, Morton 8; Marian Catholic 34, Homewood-Flossmoor 28 (OT).

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

Last year: Marian 22, Bloom Township 0.

The series: The Spartans have captured five straight in the series and own an overall series command of 7-1, as well as a 47-0 victory in the lone meeting with Bloom Trail. The Bloom Township win came with a 14-12 decision in 1974.

Notes: Despite eight previous meetings between the crosstown rivals, this will be the first contest played at Spartan Stadium... Marian's former home until the mid 1980s was Bloom's Sarff Field... The Spartans are seeking their first 2-0 start since 2003... Chicago Heights Summerfest will welcome Bloom-Marian fans following the contest on Bloom's North field... Blazing Trojan head coach Tony Palombi is a former Marian football staffer... Marian coach Dave Mattio was named **Chicago Bears High School Coach of the Week** following the victory over H-F, meaning \$1,500 will be donated to the MC football program and Mattio will be honored at the Dec. 2 Bears vs. NY Giants game.

August 31	1	2	3	4	Total
BT BLAZING TROJANS	6	0	0	8	-14
at MARIAN CATHOLIC	0	10	7	10	-27



Mark Scott and Brandon Sherman move off the ball Friday during the Spartans' 27-14 nonconference victory over rival Bloom Township.

Marian welcomes crosstown rival Bloom Township

Host Marian Catholic had two great defenses on the field on Friday night.

The Marian clock-hog offense held the ball for all except 1:42 of the third-quarter to expand on a 10-6 halftime lead.

Meanwhile, the Marian defense essentially pitched a shutout.

Rival Bloom Township got the first score when a Marian punt snap went awry. The Blazing Trojans got the last consolation score against the Spartan reserves.

Between the Blazing Trojan scores, Marian went on a dominant 27-0 blitz en route to going 2-0 on the young season with a 27-14 victory over its crosstown rivals.

The win was Marian's sixth straight in the series and improved its series command to 8-1.

"We switched a lot of our defensive fronts and switched a lot of our schemes," explained defensive end Josh Forney, who also got strong efforts up front from mates Matt Marquez, Dominick Corsiglia and Kirk Roberts. "The switches kept them guessing and kept them off balance."

"We all did a nice job with our responsibilities and the defensive backs did a good job with their coverage. They had a couple interceptions and we should have had a couple more without the penalties. And Mike Berens (linebacker) did a great job in the middle."

The Spartans held Bloom to fewer than 200 yards, with 84 coming on the final meaningless drive.

Defense wasn't Marian's only good news story on Friday, as a pair of backs cracked the 100-yard plateau in leading the Spartans to five scores in six possessions.

Once Malcolm Allen found the end zone with 8:54 to play in the opening half, Marian held the lead for good at 7-6. Allen capped a 10-play, 66-yard drive by following Mark Scott around end for a 6-yard score. Dan Roque booted the conversion to give Marian a lead it would keep.

Allen toted 30 times for 138 yards and his second consecutive 100-yard effort. Meanwhile, first-year varsity senior Brandon Sherman rushed for 101 yards on just 11 carries.

Along with a 257-yard effort on the ground, junior quarterback Evan Watson had another efficient effort, going 7-of-15 for 77 yards.

In between a pair of Spartan interceptions by Kevin Kammert and Roque, junior Roque connected on a 23-yard field goal that sent Marian into the intermission with a 10-6 lead.

Through most of the second half, Marian dominated both sides of the line of scrimmage.

An offensive line that included Bryan Zavala, Marc Bartolini, Dennis Julliano, John Holzhauser, Rich Wilson and Dennis Kelly, the Spartans ate up huge chunks of clock to keep the Blazing Trojans (1-1) off the field.

Marian opened the second half with a grueling 12-play, 64-yard march that led to a 1-yard Allen TD plunge (Roque kick).

Following a three-and-out for Bloom, the Spartans held the ball for 17 plays before Roque booted his second field goal from 27 yards away for a 20-6 command. A fumble recovery by Andres Rodriguez set up Marian's final score.

This time it took just six plays, as John DiGiovanni burst into the end zone for a 27-6 bulge (Ryan Merriman kick) with just 5:55 to play.

Julian Williams led the Spartan passing game with five catches for 66 yards, giving Marian a balanced-threat attack heading into next Friday's East Suburban Catholic Conference opener at Carmel.

"This is a much better start this year at 2-0," Forney said. "Now, we can go into the conference play on a little roll."

The Spartan **sophomores** rolled past Bloom, 54-0, while the Marian **freshmen** rolled to a 39-14 decision over the Blazing Trojans.

CATEGORY	Bloom Twp	Marian
First downs	12	23
Rush attempts / yards	25-91	56-257
Passing yards	77	108
Pass completions	7	7
Pass attempts	15	17
Had intercepted	2	0
Fumbles / lost	2 / 2	2 / 1
Penalty yards	6-57	12-130
Next	RICH CENTRAL	at Carmel

SCORING

BT- Jackquell Jackson recovered bad snap in end zone (run failed), 7:13 first.

MC- Malcolm Allen 6-yard run (Dan Roque kick), 8:54 second.

MC- Roque 23-yard field goal, 3:58 second.

MC- Allen 1-yard run (Roque kick), 6:31 third.

MC- Roque 27-yard field goal, 10:27 fourth.

MC- John DiGiovanni 5-yard run (Ryan Merriman kick), 5:55 fourth.

BT- J.T. Coleman 18-yard pass from Ray Blesst (Nyko Palombi run), 0:31 fourth.

Rushing: BT- Corey Harris 16-51, Ray Blesst 7-40, Merthyl Stewart 1-1, DeAngelo Blatcher 1-(minus 1). MC- Allen 30-138 (2 TD), Brandon Sherman 11-101, Mark Scott 4-32, DiGiovanni 3-8 (TD), Evan Watson 5-1, Joe Hess 1-(minus 1), Tommy Doane 1-(minus 1).

Passing: BT- Blesst 7 of 16, 108 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT; Blatcher 0 of 1, 0 yards. MC- Watson 7 of 15, 77 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: BT- Coleman 4-49 (TD), Harris 1-46, Stewart 1-23, Blatcher 1-8. MC- Julian Williams 5-66, Sherman 2-11.

