

GAME 5: Marian Catholic 28, St. Viator 14

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Forest View Educational Center.

Where: 2121 S. Goubert Road, Arlington Heights.

2007 records: Marian Catholic 2-2; St. Viator 3-1.

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

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

Week 4: Nazareth 27, Marian Catholic 7; Benet Academy 25, St. Viator 23.

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

Last year: Marian Catholic 36, St. Viator 34.

The series: Last year's decision gave the Spartans an 11-2 command in the series, including 10 victories in the last 11 meetings.

Notes: Last year's Marian upset of the Lions represented the lone regular-season loss for St. Viator in 2006... The Spartans are building up IHSA playoff points, as four of their first five foes currently own 3-1 records and Marian opponents through week 6 own an overall mark of 17-7... Marian tailback Malcolm Allen has rushed for at least 138 yards in three of four contests... The Spartans' last visit to Forest View resulted in a 52-21 loss in 2005... In his first head coaching position, Marian alum **Jerry Verde** improved to 3-1 at Crete-Monee last weekend with a thrilling 29-26 comeback victory over Bloom Township.

Sept. 21	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC	0	12	8	8	-28
at ST. VIATOR	7	0	7	0	-14



Marian's offense clicked for 439 Friday night to spark a 28-14 ESCC victory at St. Viator.

Marian offense, defense click for victory at St. Viator

By design, Marian Catholic's offense is intended to present multiple threats.

By design, the Spartan defense is intended to force pressure up front to produce good results in the secondary.

Marian's attack went by the book on Friday, as the Spartans clicked on both sides of the ball to produce a 28-14 ESCC victory at St. Viator to improve to 3-1 overall and to 1-2 in league tilts.

Three members of Marian's backfield racked up more than 100 all-purpose yards, led by quarterback Evan Watson's 70-yard touchdown scamper to go with three touchdown passes.

Meanwhile, the Spartan defense totaled four sacks and kept the pressure coming, eventually leading to a pair of clinching interceptions by senior Kevin Kammert.

"They were going to put it in the air and we knew that," explained Kammert. "We were looking for that and we love it when we know they have to throw it up there.

"This is the biggest win of the year so far. It was a must-win for us and everyone came to play. The defense was there and the offense was great. Evan Watson kept his head and was

a great leader tonight. When that happens, I don't think there's too many teams around that can stop us."

Watson's arm and legs did the trick for Marian on Friday. After the Lions (3-2) took a 7-0 lead, Watson led the Spartans to the game's next three scores, including a two-minute march at the end of the first half that gave Marian the lead for good.

The visitors answered St. Viator's initial scoring drive with an 11-play, 62-yard march for a score, culminated by Watson's 12-yard touchdown pass to tight end Dennis Kelly. A missed conversion still left Marian with a 7-6 deficit.

However, the Spartans claimed the lead the next time they touched the ball. Gaining possession 81 yards away with 2:04 to play in the half, Marian used 10 plays to find paydirt. The Spartans gained first downs on four straight plays, as Mark Scott rushed for a pair, Watson hit Brandon Sherman for another, and Sherman rushed 11 yards to the 6-yard line.

Watson then hit Sherman for the touchdown pass and a 12-7 Marian edge at intermission.

The Spartans then took the second half kickoff and marched 85 yards.

This time it took just six snaps, as Watson got loose on a scramble and raced 70 yards for the scoring run. Malcolm Allen's conversion run swelled the Marian command to 20-7.

Allen didn't find the end zone on Friday, but led Marian with 146 rushing yards on 30 carries. Watson added 110 rushing yards and Scott also hit the century mark, with combined 61 rushing yards and 40 receiving yards.

For the night, a strong effort in the trenches from John Holzhauser, Marc Bartolini, Dennis Julliano, Richard Wilson, Bryan Zavala and Kelly, helped the Spartans rush for 342 yards. Watson finished an efficient six of 10 for 97 yards.

The Lions rallied to within 20-14, but Marian provided the back-breaker midway through the fourth quarter.

The 62-yard drive to open the scoring for Marian proved to be its shortest of the night, as the Spartans went 71 yards in 13 plays for the clincher. Facing a second-and-19, Watson found Scott on the sideline for a short reception, the senior back turning it up the field for a 40-yard touchdown catch. Sherman added the conversion run for the final margin.

However, the game wasn't in the books until Kammert had his fun.

While St. Viator did pass for 166 yards, the Lions connected on just 11 of 28 aerial attempts. Strong pressure up front from linebackers Mike Berens (two sacks), Hugh Reynolds (sack), Joe Swanson and Greg Janes, and interior linemen Matt Marquez (sack), Josh Forney, Kirk Roberts and Kevin Linde eventually paid dividends.

After Marian pushed its margin to two touchdowns, the Lions' last two possessions ended in Kammert pickoffs.

"We had been playing with our coverages and mixing things up," said Kammert, whose unit also limited St. Viator to 89 yards on the ground. "We must have confused them pretty well."

Marian will welcome rival Joliet Catholic for Homecoming on Friday, as the Spartans take on the 4-1 Hilltoppers at 7:30 p.m.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	St. Viator
First downs	20	13
Rush attempts / yards	56-342	21-89
Passing yards	97	166
Pass completions	6	11
Pass attempts	10	28
Had intercepted	0	2
Fumbles / lost	1 / 1	1 / 1
Penalty yards	7-65	2-10
Next	JOLIET CATH	at Notre Dame

SCORING

SV- Mike Landuyt 33-yard pass from Eric Huber (Jon Harris kick), 0:00 first.

MC- Dennis Kelly 12-yard pass from Evan Watson (kick failed), 6:14 second.

MC- Brandon Sherman 6-yard pass from Watson (pass failed), 0:21 second.

MC- Watson 70-yard run (Malcolm Allen run), 8:20 third.

SV- Landuyt 40-yard run (Harris kick), 3:43 third.

MC- Mark Scott 40-yard pass from Watson (Sherman run), 6:52 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Allen 30-146, Watson 8-110 (TD), Scott 8-61, Sherman 10-25. SV- Landuyt 10-84 (TD), Huber 6-20, C.J. Cesario 1-(minus 3); Dan Faerber 4-(minus 12).

Passing: MC- Watson 6 of 10, 97 yards, 3 TD, 0 INT. SV- Huber 4 of 7, 65 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT; Faerber 7 of 21, 101 yards, 0 TD, 2 INT.

Receiving: MC- Scott 1-40 (TD), Sherman 3-35 (TD), Kelly 1-12 (TD), Julian Williams 1-10.
SV- Landuyt 3-63 (TD), Chris Carter 3-39, Matt Janus 1-30, Richard McLoughlin 2-22,
Cesario 1-6, Julian Sipiora 1-6.

Interceptions: Kevin Kammert (MC), 2.

