

**GAME 6: Joliet Catholic 35, Marian Catholic 7**

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

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

**2007 records:** Joliet Catholic 4-1; Marian Catholic 3-2.

**ESCC records:** Joliet Catholic 3-0; Marian Catholic 1-2.

**Streaks:** Hilltoppers- 4 wins; Spartans- 1 win.

**Week 5:** Joliet Catholic 55, Benet 10; Marian Catholic 28, St. Viator 14.

**Week 7:** Notre Dame at Joliet Catholic (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Marian at Marist (Fri., 7:30 p.m.).

**Last year:** Joliet Catholic 21, Marian Catholic 14.

**The series:** The Hilltoppers have captured seven straight to take a 25-8 command in the longtime rivalry. Marian's last victory came with a 26-14 decision in 1994.

**Notes:** Spartan tailback Malcolm Allen has rushed for at least 138 yards in four of five contests, including a pair of 179-yard efforts... the Hilltoppers have scored 103 points in their last two visits to Marian... Marian's first six foes of the season own a combined 21-9 record, enhancing the Spartans' playoff points if two more victories secure a bid... Alumni are welcomed home for a postgame celebration in the tent next to the new Leadership Center.

Sept. 28	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>JOLIET CATHOLIC</b>	0	0	14	21	<b>-35</b>
<b>at MARIAN CATHOLIC</b>	7	0	0	0	<b>-7</b>



Marian's defense shined in the first half under the moonlight, helping the host Spartans take a 7-0 halftime command over Joliet Catholic.



**Marian's early upset bid thwarted by Joliet Catholic**

Joliet Catholic proved the valuable lesson to Marian Catholic Friday: that football is a game of two halves.

Marian gave great pleasure to an enthusiastic Homecoming crowd when the Spartans took a 7-0 halftime lead over one of the state's top-ranked teams.

However, the Hilltoppers (5-1, 4-0) scored on all five of their second-half possessions and limited Marian to fewer than 100 yards rushing en route to a 35-7 ESCC decision.

After playing JCA tough to 21-14 decisions in two of the last three meetings, the Spartans appeared as if they would do the same Friday. While Marian is not in the moral victory business, the impressive first half is something on which to build taking a 3-3 mark into the final three contests of the regular season.

"We just need to learn from our mistakes and come out next week and play hard," explained linebacker Hugh Reynolds, who ignited the Marian defense in the opening half with a sack.

"We can't let this affect what can be a strong finish to the season."

The numbers didn't add up for the Spartans on Friday. Despite being in the contest for much of the second half, Marian watched the Hilltoppers run off 75 plays to the host team's 42 snaps.

That margin was mounting even in the first half, but Marian still jumped to the early command.

After a holding penalty called back a Marian touchdown on the game's opening drive, the Spartans struck the second time they touched the ball.

Taking possession at the JCA 46-yard line, Marian needed just two plays to find paydirt. After Mark Scott gained a yard on a sweep, quarterback Evan Watson hit Julian Williams streaking down the right sideline for a 45-yard score. Dan Roque tacked on the conversion kick for a 7-0 Marian lead with 4:40 to play in the opening quarter.

Despite yielding 10 first downs, Marian's defense proved stingy through the remainder of the opening half. Kevin Kammert came up with his fifth interception of the campaign and Marian twice stoned the Hilltoppers after advances to the red zone.

"We just came out and stayed with our assignments and played football," Reynolds explained. "We really played as a team in the first half."

Led by a strong effort up front from Kirk Roberts, Matt Marquez, Dominic Corsiglia and Josh Forney, along with linebackers Reynolds, Greg Janes, Kevin Linde and Mike Berens, the Marian defense blanked a Hilltopper attack that had scored at least 55 points in each of three ESCC victories.

To the disappointment of the large Homecoming crowd, the second half was a completely different story.

Marian's longtime rival scored on each second-half possession, marching on drives of 82, 38, 74, 43 and 22 yards. When Tyler Hudetz scored from 4 yards out with 5:02 to play in the third quarter, JCA owned the lead for good at 14-7.

Marian's Watson finished a respectable six of nine for 93 yards, also connecting with Brandon Sherman four times for 46 yards.

However, the Spartans failed to churn out much clock, as two of their seven first downs came in the game's final seconds. For the contest, JCA owned a 23-7 differential in first downs.

The Spartans managed fewer than 3 yards per tote on the ground, as Marian was limited to 96 rushing yards overall. After breaking the century mark four times this season, Malcolm Allen was Marian's top rusher with 29 yards on 10 carries.

Having played six teams that entered the weekend with records better than .500 so far, Marian will finish the campaign against three that entered the weekend below .500. Two wins against Marist, Benet and St. Patrick would punch Marian's ticket to the IHSA playoffs.

CATEGORY	Joliet Catholic	Marian Catholic
First downs	23	7
Rush attempts / yards	58-361	33-96
Passing yards	71	93
Pass completions	6	6
Pass attempts	17	9
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles / lost	2 / 0	2 / 1
Penalty yards	4-33	2-20
Next	NOTRE DAME	at Marist

## SCORING

**MC-** Julian Williams 45-yard pass from Evan Watson (Dan Roque kick), 4:40 first.

**JC-** Tyler Hudetz 50-yard run (Gabe Suhadolc kick), 9:45 third.

**JC-** Hudetz 4-yard run (Suhadolc kick), 5:02 third.

**JC-** Nick Clancy 3-yard run (Suhadolc kick), 9:48 fourth.

**JC-** Clancy 10-yard run (Suhadolc kick), 6:18 fourth.

**JC-** Brandon Geiss 1-yard run (Suhadolc kick), 2:46 fourth.

**Passing:** JCA- John Ruettinger 6 of 17, 71 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT; MC- Watson 6 of 9, 93 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT.

**Rushing:** JCA- Hudetz 13-139 (2 TD), Geiss 17-106 (2 TD), Connor Krisch 16-62, Ruettinger 8-29, Clancy 4-25 (2 TD). MC- Malcolm Allen 10-29, Mark Scott 7-25, Brandon Sherman 7-23, John DiGiovanni 3-11, Frank Tambrini 1-5, Watson 5-3.

**Receiving:** JCA- Sean Sheppard 4-58, Krisch 2-13. MC- Sherman 4-46, Williams 1-45 (TD), Scott 1-3.

**Interceptions:** Steve Fehrenbacher (JCA); Kevin Kammert (MC).

