

**GAME 9: St. Patrick 7, Marian Catholic 0**

**Kickoff:** 8 p.m. Friday at Hanson Stadium.

**Where:** Fullerton and Central Avenues, Chicago.

**2007 records:** Marian Catholic 5-3; St. Patrick 2-6.

**ESCC records:** Marian Catholic 3-3; St. Patrick 1-5.

**Streaks:** Spartans- 2 wins; Shamrocks- 3 losses.

**Week 8:** Marian Catholic 34, Benet 3; Nazareth 28, St. Patrick 19.

**Week 10:** IHSA Playoffs- first round.

**Last year:** Marian Catholic 40, St. Patrick 21.

**The series:** The Spartans halted a two-game Shamrock winning streak last year and Marian now owns an overall command of 10-5 in the series.

**Notes:** Marian will know its playoff fate early evening on Saturday... Among Class 8A teams with 5-3 records, the Spartans have the fifth highest playoff points at 39... the ESCC still has the potential for six playoff entries... Marian has scored first in its last three games, but in only four of eight overall... The Spartans seek the six-win mark for the fifth time since 2000... Marian needs a shutout on Friday to keep a streak alive of blanking a foe in six consecutive years.

Oct. 19	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>MARIAN CATHOLIC</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>- 0</b>
<b>at ST. PATRICK</b>	0	7	0	0	<b>- 7</b>



**Marian Catholic huddles on Friday at Hanson Stadium during the visiting Spartans' 7-0 loss to St. Patrick to conclude the ESCC season.**

## **Marian upset at St. Patrick in regular season finale**

Playing the role of a spoiler, host St. Patrick was determined to limit Marian Catholic's opportunities on the Spartans' visit to Hanson Stadium on Friday.

Specifically, the Spartans got three key chances inside the Shamrocks' 25-yard line.

Along with failing on fourth down from the 15 and the 12, the Spartans also coughed up the ball on a fumble at the Shamrock 23. The squandered chances allowed St. Patrick's lone 11-yard scoring drive to add up to a 7-0 St. Patrick win to conclude the ESCC season.

The only score of the game was set up when Marian had its first punt blocked for the season, setting up the Shamrocks on the Spartan 11-yard line late in the first half.

Marian gets the last laugh. While St. Patrick concludes the year at 3-6, the Spartans fall to 5-4 and await an IHSA playoff assignment on Saturday night.

For now, it doesn't feel very good for Marian, especially a defense that put up shutout-type numbers with 65 rushing yards allowed and 106 yards yielded via the air.

"It's frustrating, because we played pretty well on defense," explained lineman Matt Marquez, who recorded the Spartans' lone sack for the night. "We started off strong and then we came back real strong in the second half. We just had the bad field position on their one

score. Other than that, we played pretty well on defense tonight."

Despite winning two of its last three, Marian will now draw a tough road assignment to begin its playoff journey. While nothing was at stake for ESCC rights on Friday, the trip to Hanson could have helped Marian immensely on playoff seeding with a victory.

"All our focus has to be on the playoffs now," Marquez said. "We just have to work hard and be ready to bust our tails this week."

The Spartans yielded a touchdown or less for the fourth straight week, but couldn't muster the scoring to back it up this week.

Marian misfired twice inside the 25 with the chance to score the game's first points in the opening half, then managed just 4 yards of offense in the third quarter.

Still, the visitors had a chance to drive for the tying score when they gained possession at their own 20 with 5:39 to play.

Quarterback Evan Watson dashed 10 yards on a draw and Malcolm Allen picked up another first down with a 9-yard jaunt. When Watson hit Dennis Kelly over the middle for 8 yards, the Spartans owned a first down at the Shamrock 42.

After a pass interference call promoted the Spartans to the 27, Marian added another first down when Julian Williams pulled in a 7-yard pass at the St. Patrick 14. From there, Marian tossed two incomplete passes and gained 2 yards on a scramble. The fourth-down passing attempt from the 12 was nowhere near a Spartan receiver.

Marian also missed two key opportunities in the opening half. The Spartans' second drive of the game stalled at the St. Patrick 15 with an incomplete pass. One possession later, Marian drove from its own 36 to the Shamrock 23 before a fumble halted the drive.

The next Spartan possession resulted in a punt attempt, the ensuing block giving St. Patrick possession at the Marian 11. In just one play, Eddie Ortiz made the most of his lone carry for the night with an 11-yard sprint to the end zone.

With a solid effort up front from Marquez, Josh Forney, Kevin Linde, Kirk Roberts and Dominick Corsiglia, St. Patrick barely gained 2 yards per carry. However, the Shamrocks did come up with five key third-down conversions- four times via the air.

On a bittersweet night that saw Allen rush for 96 yards to eclipse the 1,000-yard barrier (1,042), Marian couldn't find the end zone with 180 rushing yards overall. In the passing department, the Spartans gained just 27 yards on 3-for-12 success.

Brandon Sherman added 56 rushing yards on nine attempts, while Dennis Kelly pulled in two passes for 20 yards.

**Sophomores:** The Spartans notched a 20-6 victory over the Shamrocks to finish with a 7-2 mark, behind touchdowns from Jesse Steward, Joe Hess and Joe Walker.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	St. Patrick
<b>First downs</b>	13	10
<b>Rush attempts / yards</b>	43-180	32-65
<b>Passing yards</b>	27	106
<b>Pass completions</b>	3	8
<b>Pass attempts</b>	12	18
<b>Had intercepted</b>	0	0
<b>Fumbles / lost</b>	2 / 1	1 / 1
<b>Penalty yards</b>	2-14	7-45
<b>Next</b>	<b>IHSA Playoffs</b>	<b>Season over</b>

#### SCORING

**SP-** Eddie Ortiz 11-yard run (Chris Zepeda kick), 4:01 second.

**Passing:** MC- Evan Watson 3 of 12, 27 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT. SP- Mike Fabrizio 7 of 17, 75 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Danny DiCanio 1 of 1, 31 yards.

**Rushing:** MC- Malcolm Allen 21-96, Brandon Sherman 9-56, Watson 7-16, Mark Scott 6-12. SP- Luiz Sanchez 24-51, Ortiz 1-11 (TD), Chris Zepeda 1-8, Fabrizio 6-(minus 5).

**Receiving:** MC- Kelly 2-20, Julian Williams 1-7. SP- Jeff Dicks 4-59, Tim Fogarty 1-18, Chris Iverson 1-15, Ortiz 1-12, Brian Falagario 1-2.

**Interceptions:** none.

