

## 2007 Spartan Football games

## CLASS 8A PLAYOFFS: Naperville North 21, Marian Catholic 0



**Kickoff:** 7 p.m. Friday at Naperville North High School.

**Where:** 899 N. Mill Street, Naperville ([directions](#)).

**Overall records:** Marian Catholic 5-4; Naperville North 8-1.

**Class 8A seeds:** Marian Catholic #15; Naperville North #2 (in bottom bracket).

**At stake:** Winner plays the winner of L.-Way Central (6-3) at Bolingbrook (7-2) in 2nd Round.

**Streaks:** Spartans- 1 loss; Huskies- 1 loss.

**Last week:** St. Patrick 7, Marian 0; W.-Warrenville South 42, Naperville North 41 (3 OT).

**TICKETS:** Are priced at \$4 for all (Marian will sit on East side of stands).

**The series:** This will be the first-ever meeting of the schools.

**Notes:** Marian will seek a first-round playoff victory for the second straight season... Both teams are 1-1 in IHSA championship games... Naperville North has made 11 straight playoff appearances, the seventh longest streak in Class 8A... Marian played the tougher schedule, with opponents going 45-36, while Huskie foes were 41-40... Half of the ESCC is represented in the playoffs, including champion Joliet Catholic, Carmel, Notre Dame, Nazareth and Marian.

**PLAYOFF HISTORY**

**Appearances:** Marian Catholic 18; Naperville North 21.

**Last:** Marian defeated H-F, 20-14 (ot) in 2006 Class 8A first round, then lost to Lincoln-Way East, 46-6; Naperville North defeated Lockport, 33-3, in 2006 Class 8A first round, then lost to Mount Carmel, 35-7.



**Playoff records:** Marian Catholic 24-16, Naperville North 35-19.

**State titles:** Marian beat Geneseo, 13-6, for 1993 Class 4A title; Naperville North beat Loyola, 21-11, for 1992 6A title.

Oct. 26	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>MARIAN CATHOLIC</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>- 0</b>
<b>at NAPERVILLE NORTH</b>	7	7	7	0	<b>-21</b>



**Marian's Mark Scott tried to sweep around end on Oct. 26 during the visiting Spartans' 21-0 Class 8A playoff setback at Naperville North.**

## **Marian bounced from 8A playoffs by Naperville North**

Marian Catholic didn't play the role of a #15 seed when the Spartans visited one of the state's top teams in Naperville North to open the Class 8A playoffs on Friday night.

In the opening half, the explosive Huskies managed a mere 44-yard advantage over Marian. In the second half, the Spartans yielded just seven points.

However, for the second straight game, the Spartans failed to get on the scoreboard, as Naperville North ended Marian's season with a 21-0 whitewash decision on a rain-soaked field.

Much like its Homecoming affair vs. Joliet Catholic, the Spartans played one of the state's top-ranked teams tough. But there are no moral victories in the playoffs, as Marian was blanked in back-to-back games for the first time since 1998.

The #2 seed Huskies set the tone right away on Friday, using just five plays to drive 67 yards on the game's opening possession for a 7-0 command.

Despite three first downs for Marian on the ensuing drive, Naperville North went right to work again on its next (second) possession. This time it took 12 snaps, but the Huskies marched 89 yards for a 14-0 command before the second quarter was two minutes old.

From there, Marian allowed just one more score. And an offensive line of Purdue-bound Dennis Kelly, Dennis Julliano, Richard Wilson, Marc Bartolini, Bryan Zavala and John Holzhauser helped Marian churn out nine first downs.

But much like its regular-season ending 7-0 ESCC loss to St. Patrick, the Spartans failed to cash in early when the opportunities were present.

On the Spartans' opening possession, Marian used a 13-yard rush from Brandon Sherman and a 30-yard connection from Evan Watson to Mark Scott to travel deep into Huskie territory. However, the Spartans came up short on a 4th-and-2 at the 10-yard line.

Late in the second quarter, Marian got big rushes from Scott (34 yards) and Malcolm Allen (23 yards) to produce three first downs, the last one advancing to the Naperville North 15. From there, the Huskies came up with the lone interception of the game to salvage a 14-0 halftime edge.

In championship form, Naperville North increased its lead on its initial second-half opportunity.

The Huskies marched 72 yards in 10 plays, knocking more than five minutes off the clock for a 21-0 bulge with 3:30 to play in the third quarter.

Marian managed orphan first downs on its first two possessions of the second half. However, they were the lone first downs for Marian after the intermission, as the Spartans' last three possessions of the campaign resulted in three-and-outs.

The Spartans didn't cross the midfield stripe after halftime.

Allen led a balanced rushing attack for Marian with 58 yards on nine carries. Sherman finished with 46 yards on eight totes, while Scott rushed four times for 40 yards. Meanwhile, the Spartans finished the season without a 100-yard passing game.

Despite extremely sloppy conditions, the interception late in the half was the lone turnover of the contest. Naperville North fumbled the ball four times, but Marian was unable to cover any of the miscues.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Naperville No.
First downs	9	16
Rush attempts / yards	34-161	42-221
Passing yards	42	120
Pass completions	3	7
Pass attempts	9	15
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	4 / 0	1 / 0
Penalty yards	0-0	4-35
Next	TBA	TBA

#### SCORING

**NN-** Tom Costantino 18-yard run (Jordan Tassio kick), 10:14 first.

**NN-** Costantino 9-yard run (Tassio kick), 10:48 second.

**NN-** Alex Dieckmann 28-yard pass from Tassio (Tassio kick), 3:30 third.

**Passing:** MC- Evan Watson 3 of 9, 42 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT; NN- Tassio 7 of 15, 120 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT.

**Rushing:** MC- Malcolm Allen 9-58, Brandon Sherman 8-46, Mark Scott 4-40, John DiGiovanni 6-15, Watson 7-2; NN- Costantino 13-100 (2 TD), Tassio 8-53, Nick Mlady 13-50, Tyrone Saunders 7-19, Danny Hess 1-(minus 1).

**Receiving:** MC- Scott 2-35, Sherman 1-7. NN- Dieckmann 2-39 (TD), Costantino 2-38, Tom Walsh 2-33, Saundes 1-10.

**Interceptions:** Hess (NN).

