

**GAME 7: St. Viator 16, Marian Catholic 10**

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

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

**2008 records:** St. Viator 2-4; Marian Catholic 1-5.

**ESCC records:** St. Viator 0-4; Marian 1-3 .

**Streaks:** Lions- 4 losses; Spartans- 2 losses.

**Week 6:** Benet Academy 15, St. Viator 13; Nazareth 42, Marian Catholic 13.

**Week 8:** Notre Dame at St. Viator (7:30 p.m. Fri.); Marian at Joliet Catholic (7:30 p.m. Fri.).

**Last year:** Marian Catholic 28, St. Viator 14.

**The series:** Last year's decision gave the Spartans a 12-2 command in the series, including 11 victories in the last 12 meetings.

**Notes:** The Spartans will seek their initial home victory on the new *FieldTurf* in Spartan Stadium... the winner in the series has scored at least 27 points in last seven contests... Marian won a 36-34 thriller in the last contest played in Spartan Stadium... the Spartans have won at least two contests per season every year since 1970.

Oct. 10	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>ST. VIATOR LIONS</b>	7	3	0	6	<b>-16</b>
<b>at MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	0	0	3	7	<b>-10</b>



**Marian's defense tries to shut down St. Viator on Friday during the teams' ESCC matchup in Chicago Heights.**

## Spartans fall short in comeback effort vs. St. Viator

For any competitor, there's no solace in moral victories.

Nobody knows that better than Marian Catholic's football team.

For the fourth time this season, the Spartans were one play away from snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.

On Friday, 25 yards away from a potential winning score in the waning seconds, an interception allowed visiting St. Viator to escape with a 16-10 ESCC victory.

Suffering similar near-miss losses to Homewood-Flossmoor, Bloom and Notre Dame, the Spartans have seen potential 5-2 campaign turn into a 1-6 nightmare.

On Friday, after rallying from a 16-3 deficit on a brilliant reception and score by Frank Tambrini, Marian got one last chance on a drive that started from its own 10 with 1:55 to play.

Two plays later, an intentional grounding penalty had the Spartans 96 yards away from a score. However, quarterback Joey Walker scrambled 16 yards for a first down and a personal foul moved Marian out to its own 35-yard line.

A first-down run by Joe Sanfratello got Marian to the Spartan 49, an 11-yard dash by Walker moved the chains again- to the St. Viator 40- and Walker's 20-yard hookup to Sanfratello moved the home team to a first down on the St. Viator 25.

However, an incomplete pass and the interception followed, saddling Marian with its third

consecutive loss.

The valiant comeback effort still leaves Marian (1-4 in the ESCC) winless on its new *FieldTurf* in Spartan Stadium.

Early in the fourth quarter, it appeared Marian wouldn't have a shot at victory after St. Viator answered the Spartans' initial score (a 29-yard field goal by Dan Roque) with a 77-yard drive to take a 16-3 command.

Despite a seventh straight game without a first-half touchdown, Marian wasted no time answering on this occasion.

Austin Guaccio ignited the Spartans with a 23-yard kickoff return to the Marian 47-yard line. Next, Walker hit senior tailback Tambrini with a short pass toward the right sideline. Tambrini jaunted upfield, bouncing out of a pair of rugby scrum-like piles and into the end zone for a 53-yard score.

"I got some of my anger out on that play," Tambrini said. "Playing with a little anger helps sometimes.

"I saw an opportunity and took advantage of it. We only had three games left and I wanted to leave it all out on the field. We're still here to play hard and I just wanted to do everything I could."

Tambrini's amazing score was followed by a Roque conversion and had Marian in great striking distance with 11:30 to play.

Turning in a solid effort for most of the night, Marian's defense forced a pair of punts in the fourth quarter to set up the final drive. With a solid effort up front from Mac Stevenson, Josh Forney, Josh Mayers and Bryan Golubski- along with linebackers Nolan Berens, Joe Swanson, Nate Coburn and Kevin Linde- the Spartans held St. Viator to just 2.3 yards per rush (96 yards on 42 attempts).

The problem came in that the Lions ran 17 more plays than the Spartans at 60-43.

Marian's offense was stymied in the opening half, as 16 overall snaps netted just 39 yards and a 10-0 deficit at the intermission.

The best opportunity in the first half came when Golubski notched a sack, forced a fumble and Berens pounced on the ball at the Lion 40. However, two losses and a Marian penalty followed- putting the Spartans in a third-and-20 hole for the second straight possession.

Walker's feet sparked the last possession as much as his arm, making him the leading ground-gainer for Marian with 49 yards on 13 carries. Sanfratello was next with 35 yards on eight carries to go with a pair of catches good for 24 yards.

Tambrini's big catch made him the top receiver with a pair of grabs for 56 yards.

"We can't give up," concluded Tambrini. "At this point in the season, we've just gotta have fun and do our best. There's no playoffs for us now, so we just have to go out and do what we love to do."

Marian will get its next chance when it visits Joliet Catholic on Friday at 7:30 p.m. before hosting Marist in the season and home finale.

**Sophomores:** The Spartans improved to 6-1 with a 52-14 ESCC conquest of the Lions.

CATEGORY	St. Viator	Marian Catholic
First downs	15	12
Rush attempts / yards	42-96	28-124
Passing yards	159	89
Pass completions	12	6
Pass attempts	18	15
Had intercepted	0	2
Fumbles / lost	3 / 1	1 / 0
Penalty yards	3-30	5-30
Next	NOTRE DAME	at Joliet Catholic

#### SCORING

**SV-** Kevin Hulsebosch 24-yard pass from Julian Sipiora (John Sandmeir kick), 5:25 first.

**SV-** Sandmeir 31-yard field goal, 0:20 second.

**MC-** Dan Roque 29-yard field goal, 5:08 third.

**SV-** Nick Niro 12-yard run (run failed), 11:54 fourth.

**MC-** Frank Tambrini 53-yard pass from Joey Walker (Roque kick), 11:30 fourth.

**Rushing:** SV- Niro 19-63 (TD), Sipiora 19-30, Hulsebosch 1-3, Pat O'Malley 3-0. MC- Walker 13-49, Joe Sanfratello 8-35, Jesse Steward 5-25, Austin Guaccio 2-15.

**Passing:** SV- Sipiora 12 of 18, 159 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT. MC- Walker 6 of 15, 89 yards, 1 TD,

2 INT.

**Receiving:** SV- Richard McLoughlin 7-87, Hulsebosch 3-35 (TD), Niro 1-19, O'Malley 1-18.  
MC- Tambrini 2-56 (TD), Sanfratello 2-24, Brian Kelly 1-5, Guaccio 1-4.

**Interceptions:** Dan Faerber, Sipiora (SV).

