

**GAME 2:  
Marian  
Catholic  
35,  
Bloom  
Township  
6**

**Kickoff:** 6 p.m. Friday at Spartan Stadium.

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

**Streaks:** Blazing Trojans- 1 loss; Spartans- 1 victory.

**Week 1:** Thornwood 6, Bloom 0 (OT); Marian 34, Homewood-Flossmoor 18.

**Week 3:** Rock Island at Bloom (Fri, 7 p.m.); Marian at Notre Dame (Fri, 7:30 p.m.).

**Last year:** Bloom Township 13, Marian Catholic 7.

**The series:** Last year's decision halted a six-game Marian win streak dating back to 1974. The Spartans hold an 8-2 overall series command, as well as a 1-0 mark against Bloom Trail.

**Notes:** Marian is hoping to duplicate its 2-0 start of 2007 when it also scored 34 points in a season-opening victory over H-F... Usually reserved for Marian or Thornton as a foe, Bloom will host Rock Island next Friday in its lone game played at Sarff Field this year... Many battles in the series have been defensive struggles, as the losing team has never scored more than 14 points... Bloom and Marian co-host a sophomore soccer tourney, the Chicago Heights Classic men's basketball tourney and will square off in a men's basketball benefit for cancer game on Feb. 9 at Bloom's M'Cann Gym... The *SouthtownStar* will produce a commemorative game program for the Spartans's two opening games.

Sept. 4	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>BLOOM BLAZING TROJANS</b>	0	0	0	6	<b>-6</b>
<b>at MARIAN SPARTANS</b>	14	14	7	0	<b>-35</b>



**Marian's Wes Fleming helped lead a defense that blanked Bloom in the first half Friday en route to a 35-6 victory over the visiting Blazing Trojans.**

## **Spartans (2-0) roll early, topple crosstown rival Bloom Twp.**

The Marian Catholic defense wanted a goose-egg something fierce when it hosted crosstown rival Bloom Township on Friday night.

The goal fell a tad short.

However, the Spartan defense played fiercely when it counted for the second straight week, as Marian again rolled to a five-touchdown lead before mop-up time in a 35-6 victory for the second straight win in a 2009 revenge tour.

"From being 1-8 last year, there was no worrying about Bloom tonight," explained Spartan defensive end Michael Foster, who recorded a pair of sacks. "We just wanted to get them back after last year."

That appears to be Marian's theme this year, as the Spartans will try to avenge another 2008 setback when they visit Notre Dame for an ESCC opener next Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The Spartan defenders blanked Bloom (0-2) for the first seven possessions in building a 35-0 command. For the night, Marian limited the Blazing Trojans to just 122 yards, as the Spartan frontliners essentially cashed in a second straight shutout.

"Right off the bat, we worked for great field position," Foster explained. "And then we came out and punched them. We just wanted to drive them back... drive them back."

Meanwhile, Marian's equal opportunity offense got several people into the act again on Friday. With Alex Obanor leading the way with 53 yards on eight carries, 10 different ballcarriers accounted for 235 yards rushing.

The arm of sophomore quarterback John Rhode helped Marian achieve a superb balance in the opening half when it took a 28-0 command- 110 rushing yards and 120 via the air.

The Spartans (2-0) were perfect the first five times they touched the ball, scoring on drives of 28, 58, 68, 61 and 74 yards.

A three-and-out by the defense set up the Marian offense just 28 yards away on its initial drive. After an incomplete pass, Joe Hess started the scoring much the way he did in a 34-18 opening-win over Homewood-Flossmoor with a 28-yard jaunt. Marian kicker Adam Hutchison was also perfect Friday, booting his first of five conversions for a 7-0 lead just 2:14 into the contest.

The Spartans' young signal-caller got into the act next, as Rhode fired his first varsity touchdown with a 19-yard aerial on third-and-17 to Joey Walker for a 14-0 lead before the first quarter concluded.

Marian also tallied on both of its second quarter possessions, as Hess plowed in from 9 yards away and Rhode (7-for-14, 120 yards) hit Walker from 28 yards out on a fourth-and-19 call.

An offensive line of Foster, James Jackson, Alexander Bell, Brian Kelly and Jeffrey Bona again set the tone, as Marian churned out 5.9 yard per tote on the ground.

That's how Marian made the lead swell to 35-0 with the first possession of the second half. In a drive that consumed nearly six minutes, Marian marched 74 yards in 10 plays- all on the ground. Jesse Steward capped it off with a 6-yard scoring burst after ripping one off for 29 yards earlier in the drive.

Steward was next behind Obanor on Marian's rushing chart, dashing 50 yards on seven carries. With a ground attack featuring balance, Hess added 43 yards, Joe Sanfratello 36, Trevor Woolfolk 28 and Jeruel Taylor 24.

Meanwhile, the Spartan defense continued to offer opportunities. Josh Mayers set up one scoring drive with a fumble recovery and defensive back Dan Vargas finished off the first half with an interception.

Bloom managed just 64 yards through the air and got only 2.1 yards per rush.

"We knew they were going to run the bubble screen and run the read-and-wrap," explained defensive back Patrick Healy. "We just had to stay with our responsibilities and for the most part, we did tonight."

Bloom's score came on its last possession, as the 44-yard march set up by a blocked punt allowed the visitors to get over the 100-yard mark.

Marian was unable to earn that goose-egg on Friday, but after not winning two games all last season, a pair of convincing wins over neighborhood rivals for a 2-0 start feels pretty good right now.

CATEGORY	Bloom Twp	Marian Catholic
First downs	11	18
Rush attempts / yards	24-51	40-235
Passing yards	71	118
Pass completions	11	7
Pass attempts	19	14
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	1 / 1	3 / 1
Penalty yards	4-28	7-62
Next	ROCK ISLAND	at Notre Dame

#### SCORING

**MC-** Joe Hess 28-yard run (Adam Hutchison kick), 9:46 first.

**MC-** Joey Walker 19-yard pass from John Rhode (Hutchison kick), 2:14 first.

**MC-** Hess 9-yard run (Hutchison kick), 7:07 second.

**MC-** Walker 28-yard pass from Rhode (Hutchison kick), 0:56 second.

**MC-** Jesse Steward 6-yard run (Hutchison kick), 6:16 third.

**BT-** Javonte Johnson 6-yard run (kick failed), 4:29 fourth.

**Rushing:** BT- Calvin McGregory 6-36, Chris Baker 2-13, Johnson 1-6 (TD), Justin Starks 10-5, Josef Washington 1-(minus 1), Duane Wells 1-(minus 4); Lawrence Blackful 3-(minus 4); MC- Alex Obanor 8-53, Steward 7-50 (TD), Hess 3-43 (2 TD), Joe Sanfratello 8-36, Trevor Woolfolk 5-28, Jeruel Taylor 3-24, Walker 2-6, Brandon Spruill 1-6, Jason Martinez 2-(minus 3), Rhode 1-(minus 8).

**Passing:** BT- Starks 9 of 14, 64 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT; Wells 2 of 5, 7 yards. MC- Rhode 7 of 14, 118 yards, 2 TD, 0 INT.

**Receiving:** BT- Jeremy Wright 4-39, Johnson 4-7, DeAndre Kimball-Johnson 1-13, Baker 2-11; MC- Austin Guaccio 4-64, Walker 2-47 (2 TD), Hess 1-9.

**Interceptions:** Dan Vargas (MC).

