

**GAME
5:
Marian
Catholic
20,
Carmel
17 (OT)**

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Carmel Catholic High School.

Where: 1 Carmel Parkway, Mundelein ([Yahoo map](#)).

Streaks: Spartans- 4 wins; Corsairs- 3 wins.

ESCC records: Marian Catholic 2-0; Carmel 2-0.

Week 4: Marian Catholic 28, St. Joseph 7; Carmel 46, Benet 7.

Week 6: Nazareth at Marian Catholic (Fri, 7:30 p.m.); Carmel at Notre Dame (Fri, 7:30 p.m.).

Last year: Carmel Catholic 50, Marian Catholic 7.

The series: The Corsairs have won eight straight to take an 11-9 edge in the series dating back to 1964. Marian's last victory came with a 19-7 Prep Bowl decision in 2000.

Notes: Friday will mark Marian's fifth game on *FieldTurf* this season; Carmel was the first ESCC team to install *FieldTurf* in its on-campus stadium... Carmel Coach Andy Bitto earned his 100th career victory last week; Marian Coach Dave Mattio leads all ESCC coaches in all-time victories with 236... The Spartans and Corsairs represent two of six ESCC teams with records of 3-1 or better... The teams played one of the highest combined scoring games in IHSA history when Carmel captured a 73-55 decision at Marian in 2006... The Spartans have at least one rushing touchdown in all games this year, including six TD runs of more than 25 yards and at least 235 yards rushing as a team in all four victories... Marian is seeking its first 5-0 start since the 2002 campaign.

Sept. 25	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
MARIAN SPARTANS	3	7	7	0	3	-20
at CARMEL CORSAIRS	0	0	7	10	0	-17



Quarterback John Rhode completed his first 10 passes and fired a touchdown pass to help key visiting Marian to a 20-17 overtime upset at Carmel on Friday.

'Clutchison,' Spartans (5-0) stun Carmel in overtime

With the effort put forth by Marian Catholic on both sides of the ball Friday night in Mundelein, it would have been a shame.

But even with the visiting Spartans stripped of all momentum, Adam Hutchison made sure "it" was not a factor.

The first-year kicker calmly split the uprights on a 25-yard field goal in overtime to give Marian a huge 20-17 upset over ESCC powerhouse Carmel.

"You could tell these guys wanted it badly tonight with the way they worked in practice all

week," Hutchison said of his teammates, who helped the Spartans jump to a 17-0 lead early in the third quarter. "To do this for my teammates feels just great."

You might call him "Clutchison" and Hutchison's teammates indeed deserved it.

Despite surrendering 17 straight points and the lead, the Marian defense started overtime and stonewalled the Corsairs (3-2, 2-1) on their first three attempts on first-and-goal in overtime. Then when Carmel ran a fake field goal on fourth down, Spartan Wes Fleming picked off the pass in the end zone to give the Marian offense a chance for the win.

After Jeruel Taylor rushed for a yard to put the ball on the Carmel 9-yard line (high school overtimes give each team a set of downs at the opponent 10-yard line), Marian wasted no time in sending its field-goal unit on the field in the soggy conditions.

Hutchison left no doubt, giving Marian (3-0 in ESCC) its first win over Carmel since 2000, the first 5-0 start since 2002 and a likely ticket to the IHSA playoffs.

"I just thought to kick the ball and not hook it," said Hutchison, who also showed no nerves in clinching an earlier victory at Notre Dame. "I did that and we won the game. That's my first game-winner ever. I'm just thankful for my linemen. They gave me the time and it was a clean hold. The holder is really under-rated. Pat (Healy) is perfect all the time."

Marian had the perfect recipe for the upset on Friday.

Hutchison and a long touchdown run by Jeruel Taylor (16 carries, 97 yards) staked the Spartans to a 10-0 halftime command.

Meanwhile, the defense used a fumble recovery by Healy and a monster sack by Michael Foster to spearhead the first-half shutout.

Then, Marian extended the lead to 17-0 on its first possession of the second half, marching 61 yards on nine plays. With quarterback John Rhode in the midst of a string of 10 straight completions to open the game, the sophomore signal-caller hit Austin Guaccio on a 33-yard fly pattern down the right sideline for a 17-0 cushion with 4:27 to play in the third quarter.

From there, the host Corsairs rallied with a fierce vengeance.

The Spartans managed just 3 yards on its final five possessions, the Spartans going without a first down in the final 16 minutes of regulation. Meanwhile, the Corsairs responded to Marian's second TD immediately when their lone completion of the night resulted in a 71-yard score and narrowed the margin to 17-7.

In the fourth quarter, Carmel blocked punts on two of Marian's four possessions to set up short fields.

The result was a 1-yard scoring drive to make it 17-14 and a 28-yard tying field goal from Nick Battilini with 1:34 to play in regulation.

With its back to the wall much of the second half, the Marian defense had just enough gas. With strong efforts up front from Josh Mayers, Ryan Chambers, Michael Toliver, Javar Murphy and Foster, the Corsairs were often put in long down and distance situations. Meanwhile, a Spartan secondary of Fleming, Healy, Dan Vargas, Joey Walker and Brian Bajorek limited Carmel to 1-for-8 efficiency in the passing game. Marian also stymied the Corsairs on fourth-down attempts four times.

Vargas also came up with a huge special teams play, blocking a 31-yard field goal attempt to keep the score at 17-7 at the time.

Carmel got one more chance after tying the game late, but the Spartan defense stiffened after the Corsairs moved as close as the Marian 20-yard line in the final seconds.

While the Marian offense was shut down late in regulation, it set the tone for a brilliant first half and opening drive of the second half.

The Spartans mixed their play calling masterfully to take the 17-0 command.

On the game's initial possession, Rhode clicked on all four attempts and Taylor and Joe Sanfratello busted off big runs to set up Hutchison for a 38-yard field goal. Marian then found paydirt first in the second quarter when Taylor's 55-yard touchdown jaunt culminated a four-play, 75-yard drive.

Rhode finished 10 of 14 for 96 yards and the score, engineering his fifth consecutive victory without tossing an interception. It was Marian's toughest night of the year in the ground game, but the Spartans remained persistent in rushing for 127 yards on 39 totes.

From a 1-8 season last year, it could be argued Marian Catholic has come along as well as any team in the state in a year's time.

"This feels great," Hutchison concluded. "It would be great to go undefeated and that's our goal. We just need to keep taking care of business and focus on our next game."

The Spartans will get a chance to make it six straight and guarantee a playoff berth when they host Nazareth for Homecoming next Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Sophomores: The young Spartans fell for the first time this season, as Carmel rallied from a 13-0 deficit for a 35-13 victory.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Carmel
First downs	10	14
Rush attempts / yards	39-127	49-263
Passing yards	96	71
Pass completions	10	1
Pass attempts	14	8
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles / lost	2 / 0	6 / 1
Penalty yards	1-5	6-47
Next	NAZARETH	at Notre Dame

SCORING

MC- Adam Hutchison 38-yard field goal, 5:47 first.

MC- Jeruel Taylor 55-yard run (Hutchison kick), 8:03 second.

MC- Austin Guaccio 33-yard pass from John Rhode (Hutchison kick), 4:27 third.

CC- Matt Felicelli 71-yard pass from Brian Serio (Nick Battilini kick), 4:03 third.

CC- Eric Stevenson 1-yard run (Battilini kick), 7:37 fourth.

CC- Battilini 28-yard field goal, 1:34 fourth.

MC- Hutchison 25-yard field goal, 1 OT.

Rushing: MC- Taylor 16-97 (TD), Joe Sanfratello 3-15, Joe Hess 6-14, Joey Walker 7-9, Trevor Woolfolk 1-5, Jesse Steward 1-(minus 2), Rhode 5-(minus 11). CC- Jordan Kos 17-135, Serio 13-49, Christian Nemeth 11-35, Stevenson 6-23 (TD), Felicelli 1-20, Ryan Cappis 1-1.

Passing: MC- Rhode 10 of 14, 96 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT. CC- Serio 1 of 8, 71 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: MC- Guaccio 6-68 (TD), Joey Walker 3-23, Hess 1-5. CC- Felicelli 1-71 (TD).

Interceptions: none.

