

GAME
7: St.
Viator
25,
Marian
Catholic
0

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Forest View Educational Center

Where: 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights ([Yahoo map](#)) ([PDF Directions](#)).

Streaks: Spartans- 6 wins; Lions- 3 losses.

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

Week 6: Marian 16, Nazareth 10; Benet 24, St. Viator 0.

Week 8: Joliet Catholic at Marian (Fri, 7:30 pm); St. Viator at Notre Dame (Fri, 7:30 pm).

Last year: St. Viator 16, Marian Catholic 10.

The series: The teams have split the last four meetings, but Marian owns an overall command of 12-3 in the series that dates back to 1966.

Notes: Marian is seeking a 3-0 mark on the road and its first 7-0 start since the Spartans went 14-0 in 1993 to win the IHSA Class 4A state title... Despite a 4-0 mark in the ESCC, three of Marian's victories have come by a combined 19 points... The Spartans own a rushing touchdown in all six wins this season.

Oct. 9	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	0	0	0	-0
at ST. VIATOR LIONS	12	3	7	3	-25



Quarterback John Rhode tossed for 72 yards Friday, but visiting Marian sustained its first loss in a 25-0 ESCC decision at St. Viator.

Spartans' unbeaten year slips in mud at St. Viator

Loads of success in the rushing game had led Marian Catholic to a 6-0 start to the season. All of that success came on artificial turf.

On a visit to Forest View Educational Center and mucky terrain on Friday, host St. Viator clearly proved which team was filled with better "mudders."

Limited to four first downs and less than a yard per carry on the ground, Marian saw its undefeated season halted with a thud in a 25-0 East Suburban Catholic loss to the Lions.

Marian had routinely topped the 200-yard plateau in rolling to six wins, scoring at least one rushing touchdown in each contest. On Friday, however, the Spartans had exactly one offensive snap occur in St. Viator territory.

In falling into a tie for first place in the ESCC with a 4-1 mark, the Spartans were limited to 23 yards on 26 rushing attempts. Marian's initial first down on the ground came against the Lion reserves with 2:41 to play in the contest.

"We tried to get our running game going early and that didn't work out," explained Marian sophomore quarterback John Rhode, who was the closest to an offensive "highlight" for the Spartans with 72 yards passing. "Then we tried the passing game and the offensive line did a great job. We just couldn't pull anything out."

Marian had its back to the wall all night- literally.

The Spartans took the opening kickoff, surrendering the ball just two plays into the possession to give St. Viator (4-3, 2-3) the ball on the Marian 21-yard line.

After a quick score made it 6-0 to please the Lion Homecoming crowd, St. Viator recovered an onside kick. Again taking advantage of a short field, St. Viator improved its command to 12-0 with a second rushing score by quarterback Julian Sipiora before Marian had its third offensive snap.

As if the tough conditions and an early deficit weren't enough obstacles, Marian had advantageous field possession just once on the night.

In 13 possessions for the evening for Marian, 12 began in its own territory- the best of which was the Spartan 42-yard line. A fumble recovery by linebacker Nolan Berens gave the Spartans their lone start in Lion territory early in the second quarter at the 44-yard line.

One play later, St. Viator was back in business with an interception.

"It was bad footing for us all night," Rhode explained. "It was just muddy and cold."

The St. Viator defense and frustrating field conditions added up to just 95 yards of total offense for the Spartans. For the night, Marian was 2-for-14 in third-down conversions.

With a solid effort from a defensive front of Michael Foster, Michael Toliver, Dan Schmidtke and Marc Grkinich, Marian also thwarted the St. Viator rushing game for much of the night. Marian limited to Lions to zero or negative yardage on 13 of 35 rushing attempts.

However, St. Viator eventually beat Marian at its own ball-control game, as the Lions gained a 63-45 advantage in total snaps.

After John Sandmeir hit the first of two short field goals to give St. Viator a 15-0 halftime lead, the sippy turf seemed a bit more manageable for the team with what amounted to an insurmountable cushion.

While Marian was never able to adjust to its first experience on natural grass in 2009, the Lions eventually piled up a 300-95 advantage in total yards, as Sipiora totaled 213 yards via the air.

The passing game proved to be Marian's best weapon as well.

Austin Guaccio pulled in four passes for 47 yards, while Joey Walker made two grabs for 25 yards. However, the Marian passing game was only able to contribute three completions that moved the chains. None of Marian's four first downs came on the same drive.

The good news for the playoff-bound Spartans is they still own a share of first place in the ESCC when they return to Marian FieldTurf to host Joliet Catholic next Friday at 7:30 p.m.

"We just have to put this behind us and work hard for the Joliet Catholic game," Rhode concluded. "I know all of our guys are steamed and we'll be ready for next week."

Sophomores: Marian stayed tied atop the ESCC standings and improved to 6-1 overall with a 26-0 victory at St. Viator.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	St. Viator
First downs	4	14
Rush attempts / yards	26-23	35-87
Passing yards	72	213
Pass completions	6	12
Pass attempts	19	28
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	4 / 1	1 / 1
Penalty yards	5-37	4-30
Next	JOLIET CATH	at Notre Dame

SCORING

SV- Julian Sipiora 16-yard run (kick failed), 9:47 first.

SV- Sipiora 15-yard run (pass failed), 7:52 first.

SV- John Sandmeir 26-yard field goal, 0:07 second.

SV- Richard McLoughlin 63-yard pass from Sipiora (Sandmeir kick), 4:52 third.

SV- Sandmeir 20-yard field goal, 7:27 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Jeruel Taylor 9-21, Joe Hess 7-16, Trevor Woolfolk 1-3, Jesse Steward 1-0, John Rhode 4-(minus 8), Joey Walker 4-(minus 9). SV- Pat O'Malley 4-28, Sipiora 16-26 (2

TD), Michael Razny 10-23, Jake Mastrangeli 1-4, Jimmy Menges 3-4, Cameron Korab 1-2.

Passing: MC- Rhode 6 of 19, 72 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT. SV- Sipiora 12 of 28, 213 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: MC- Austin Guaccio 4-47, Walker 2-25. SV- McLoughlin 4-96 (TD), Quinn Murray 3-47, Mastrangeli 3-38, Nick Frett 2-32.

Interceptions: David Alameda (SV).

