

GAME 4: Carmel Catholic 44, Marian Catholic 20

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

Where: 1 Carmel Parkway, Mundelein.

Current and ESCC records: Marian Catholic 2-1; Carmel Catholic 2-1.

Streaks: Spartans- 1 loss; Corsairs- 2 wins.

Week 3: Nazareth 35, Marian Catholic 19; Carmel Catholic 26, Notre Dame 7.

Week 5: Marian at St. Patrick (Fri., 7:30 pm at Hanson); Carmel vs. Wayzata, Minn. (Fri., 6:30 pm at Dubuque, Ia.)

Last year: Carmel Catholic 24, Marian Catholic 0.

The series: The Corsairs have prevailed in nine of the last 10 contests and hold a 12-10 overall series edge.

Notes: Marian upset the Corsairs in their last visit to Mundelein in 2009 with a 20-17 overtime decision... the Spartans have been successful on only four of 15 PAT conversions this season... A potent Marian backfield has seen Randall Wells score in all three games this season (five TD overall) and senior tailback Jeruel Taylor has rushed for 568 yards... With Nazareth as a common foe, Carmel gained a 27-3 victory and Marian fell to the Roadrunners, 35-19... the Spartans have scored in three of the four quarters in each of three contests this year... Marian will play its fourth straight game of (all) nine scheduled this year on artificial turf.

Sept. 16	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC	7	6	0	7	-20
at CARMEL CATHOLIC	14	13	14	3	-44



Spartan Mitch Weissenhofer had a huge tackle for loss Friday for one of few Marian highlights in a 44-20 ESCC setback at Carmel Catholic.

Spartans (2-2) can't match Carmel in ESCC setback

Eliminate some critical mistakes and it could have been a whole different story on Friday.

That's what Marian Catholic had to be saying after its East Suburban Catholic visit to Carmel Catholic.

Key Spartan miscues contributed to turning a fairly even statistical matchup into a fairly easy 44-20 romp for host Corsairs, who scored on six of their first seven possessions.

The lone time of the night Carmel (3-1, 3-1) was forced to punt, Marian fumbled the ball on the return and set up the host team 28 yards away from the score that would put it ahead for good.

That's the kind of night it was for Marian (2-2, 2-2), which was actually outgained by just 43 yards for the night.

"It was three big mistakes," explained a frustrated Marian senior quarterback Robbie Cifelli. "First, we fumbled the punt, then we had a big first down called back in the third quarter, and finally we fumbled the ball away on another drive. If we had been able to minimize our mistakes, it could have been a completely

different ball game."

While two of Cifelli's examples eventually led to Carmel scores, the Marian shortcomings on both sides of the ball led to the real story of the night- field position.

The Spartans had an average possession start of their own 21-yard line, with the Marian 26 the best start of the night. Meanwhile, Carmel started five of its nine possessions in Marian territory, with an average start of the Spartan 49-yard line.

In the early going, it looked like Marian might be able to swap scores with the powerful Corsairs.

After the Corsairs marched to a score on the night's opening possession, Marian needed just one play to respond. On a fake off-tackle handoff, Cifelli pitched to Matt Simmons on the option with Simmons sprinting 80 yards down the right sideline for the touchdown. Chris Taborn's conversion boot knotted the contest at 7-7.

"We came out and scored right away and it felt great," explained Cifelli, who finished 10 of 13 for 123 yards passing and a score. "Then the defense was going to give us the ball right back after three plays and we had the fumble on the punt return. If we could have gotten the ball back right away, we could have done a lot of things. Some key mistakes tonight should have been replaced by some scoring drives."

Instead of a chance for another quick Marian strike, Carmel quickly negotiated the 28 yards for a 14-7 command. Following a Marian punt, the Corsairs were again in business for a 48-yard scoring drive.

With 10:37 to play in the second quarter, Marian had owned the ball for only 2:35 and was facing a 20-7 deficit.

The good news was the Spartans still had some big drive capabilities in their holsters.

On the ensuing possession, Marian marched 77 yards in 16 plays, as Jeruel Taylor hit paydirt from 2 yards out and pulled the visitors within 20-13.

Carmel foiled the matching score theory when it left only 42 seconds on the second-quarter clock after taking a 27-13 lead, one that resulted in the halftime score.

Matching Carmel in yardage wasn't the issue for Marian on Friday. With the Corsairs gaining all of their yardage on the ground, Carmel gained the evening's yardage advantage by just a 338 to 295 margin. In fact, Carmel didn't earn the advantage until a clock-crushing, punishing fourth-quarter drive that ate up just shy of nine minutes and resulted in a 30-yard Matt Ryan field goal to account for the final score.

While Carmel didn't need the points to secure victory, the length of the drive dashed any hopes of a Marian comeback.

Carmel tallied on its first two second-half possessions for a 41-13 bulge, as Marian opened the half with a punt, blocked punt and fumble turnover. Still, the visitors displayed some life after getting the ball following a Carmel missed field goal.

Just six plays produced the Spartans' third long scoring drive of the night, as Taylor picked up a pair of first downs before Cifelli hit Randall Wells for a 46-yard score and a 41-20 count after Taborn's conversion kick. The clock still read 10:10 at that point, but Carmel then came up with the paralyzing drive.

Marian's defense was actually poised for a three-and-out on the final Carmel drive, but a successful fake punt produced one of the Corsairs' 20 rushing first downs for the night.

While the final stats were similar, the short fields may have been the biggest factor in slowing Carmel's production. The 338 total yards equated to nearly 6 yards per carry.

Standout Marian tailback Taylor was neutralized for the first time this season with 58 yards on 13 totes. Simmons led the way on the ground with his 80-yard run. Along with keeping his touchdown-scoring streak alive at four straight games, Wells topped Marian with 48 receiving yards to go with 22 on the ground. Lorenzo Aldridge also pulled in three passes for 32 yards.

With back-to-back setbacks, the Spartans' season will be on the line next Friday when they visit Saint Patrick for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff at Chicago's Hanson Stadium.

"There just has to be more intensity from all of us in every aspect of the game," Cifelli explained. "From practice to preparation, we just all have to get on the same page of thinking football."

Sophs: Despite being tied a 28-28 in the fourth quarter, the young Spartans fell to 2-2 with a 37-28 setback to Carmel.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Carmel Catholic
First downs	9	21
Rush attempts / yards	27-172	58-338
Passing yards	123	0
Pass completions	10	0
Pass attempts	13	2
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles / lost	3 / 2	1 / 0

Penalty yards	6-43	2-10
Next	at St. Patrick	at Carmel

SCORING

CC- Jordan Kos 4-yard run (Matt Ryan kick), 7:42 first.
MC- Matt Simmons 80-yard run (Chris Taborn kick), 7:22 first.
CC- Kos 17-yard run (Ryan kick), 5:30 first.
CC- Brian Brennan 14-yard run (kick blocked), 10:37 second.
MC- Jeruel Taylor 2-yard run (kick blocked), 2:59 second.
CC- Mike Panico 2-yard run (Ryan kick), 0:42 second.
CC- Kos 16-yard run (Ryan kick), 8:23 third.
CC- Matt Maher 2-yard run (Ryan kick), 5:22 third.
MC- Randall Wells 46-yard pass from Robbie Cifelli (Taborn kick), 10:10 fourth.
CC- Ryan 30-yard field goal, 1:13 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Simmons 2-80 (TD), Taylor 13-58 (TD), Wells 4-22, Cifelli 7-9, Markus Burden 1-3. CC- Kos 22-133 (3 TD), Panico 15-146 (TD), Brennan 8-50 (TD), Tim Serio 2-8, Nick Grandolfo 7-2, Maher 4- (minus 1, TD).

Passing: MC- Cifelli 10 of 13, 123 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT. CC- Brennan 0 of 2, 0 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: MC- Wells 2-48 (TD), Lorenzo Aldridge 3-32, Eric Hurley 1-19, Dominic Pascale 1-13, Taylor 2-8, Simmons 1-3.

Interceptions: none.

