

## *HOMECOMING 2011*

### **GAME 6: Marist 52, Marian Catholic 27**

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

**Where:** Joe Orr Road, just west of Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights.

**Current overall records:** Marist 3-2; Marian Catholic 3-2.

**ESCC records:** Marist 3-1; Marian Catholic 3-2

**Streaks:** RedHawks- 1 loss; Spartans- 1 win.

**Week 5:** Nazareth 33, Marist 20; Marian Catholic 42, Saint Patrick 35.

**Week 7:** St. Patrick at Marist (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Marian at Joliet Catholic (Fri., 7:30 p.m.- Memorial Stadium).

**Last meeting:** Marist 35, Marian Catholic 26 (2008).

**The series:** The Spartans have won two of the last three decisions to take a 14-5 command in the series.

**Notes:** Friday's combatants are two of four ESCC teams with a 3-2 mark and right in the thick of a playoff picture... Marian continued its season-long trend Friday, scoring in three of four quarters for the fifth time this season... Last week marked the first time in a Marian contest that the first team to score was not the winning team... Against common opponents, both squads have defeated Benet and St. Viator, while losing to Nazareth... Spartan tailback Jeruel Taylor needs 127 rushing yards to eclipse the 1,000-yard barrier... With a score in five consecutive games, Marian's Randall Wells now has eight touchdowns and is tied for fourth in the ESCC in scoring... Spartan QB Robbie Cifelli has also accounted for a touchdown in every contest, throwing for four and rushing for five.

Sept. 30	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>MARIST</b>	7	13	19	13	<b>-52</b>
<b>at MARIAN CATHOLIC</b>	7	8	6	6	<b>-27</b>



Spartan Jacob Forney prepares to rush on Friday in ESCC action against Marist.

### **Spartans (3-3) thwarted in Homecoming duel vs. Marist**

Marian Catholic looked like it could match scores for every occasion in the early going on Friday. The Spartans would have needed to score on almost every possession... and didn't.

After stealing a score off a Marian turnover late in the opening half, Marist scored almost every time it touched the ball in the second half en route to a 52-27 ESCC victory that spoiled Homecoming for Marian (3-3, 3-3).

The RedHawks (4-2, 4-1) literally scored every time it had the ball in the half when Flynn Nagel returned the second-half kickoff 80 yards for a 27-15 lead. It represented Marist's second 80-yard kickoff return for a score of the game.

The visitors proceeded to score the next four times they held the ball in the second half, as only the final horn stopped Marist after intermission. In all, the RedHawks scored on seven consecutive possessions starting midway through second quarter.

The best news for Marian on Friday was that senior tailback Jeruel Taylor eclipsed the 1,000-yard barrier for the second straight year. Taylor carried 25 times for 179 yard to run his season total to 1,052 rushing yards.

"We thought we could run all over them in the first half," explained junior center Jesse Kilbourn. "We had things going in the first half and didn't think anything could stop us."

Kilbourn and his offensive line mates- Michael Coda, Phil Faso, Kevin Pawlak and David Angell- can take plenty of credit for another huge night by Taylor. In fact, the Spartans rushed for an impressive 398 yards on Friday, as Marian outgained an opponent (456 to 310) in a loss for the second time this year.

"We just didn't finish strong and play to our potential through the whole game," Kilbourn added. "We thought we had it for awhile, but then we made some key mistakes and couldn't finish."

The statistical numbers are actually skewed, as Marist scored quickly with the two kickoff returns and were set up nicely with a pair of Marian turnovers.

It may have been the special teams woes that should have signaled trouble for Marian in the early going.

The Spartans brought a robust Homecoming crowd to life early when they marched 74 yards with the opening kickoff for a quick 7-0 command when Robbie Cifelli hit Randall Wells with a 43-yard score. The touchdown gave Wells at least one score in all of Marian's six contests this year.

However, Marist struck back within 12 seconds as Meyer dashed down the left sideline 80 yards for the tying score.

After the teams traded chances with a Marian punt and a Marist fumble turnover, the Spartans captured their second lead. Culminating a nine-play, 32-yard drive, Taylor barreled into the end zone from the 1-yard line. Holder Jason Martinez ran the ball for the conversion, and the host team held a 15-7 lead.

Marian forced a punt on the next possession, but gave the ball away four plays later on a fumble when the Spartans appeared headed toward another score.

At that point, the Marist offense became unstoppable.

The RedHawks went 78 yards to creep closer, as Ian Woodworth tossed the first of five touchdown passes to pull Marist within one at 15-14.

The turnover bugaboo bit Marian again with a fumble, giving Marist a chance to drive 55 yards for the lead score and halftime advantage. Marian would never lead again.

When Marist returned the second half kickoff for its second 80-yarder, the lead swelled to 27-15... but Marian had a response.

Faced with a fourth-and-one from his own 29-yard line, Cifelli called his own number and eventually outran the Marist defense for a 71-yard score. The conversion run failed, but Marian was back in business with just a 27-21 deficit and an offense that appeared up to the challenge.

Along with throwing for 58 yards, Cifelli added to Marian's potent rushing attack with 79 yards on the ground. Troy Nutall added 84 yards on just six carries and Matt Simmons rushed eight times for 47 yards.

Despite new life on the long Cifelli run, Marian watched Marist score the game's next four touchdowns to turn the contest into a lopsided affair and deny the Spartans a second straight victory.

Nutall concluded the scoring for the night when he got loose on a 52-yard touchdown scamper with 1:11 to play.

The setback leaves Marian in a precarious position for its playoff goal, as the Spartans take a 3-3 mark into the final third of the regular season.

"We just need to keep pushing and can't put our heads down," Kilbourn said. "We just need to keep the push on as a group and work on being mistake-free."

Marian will embark on the final third of the regular season with a visit to Joliet Catholic next Friday, followed by home contests against Notre Dame and Bloom Township.

**Sophomores:** The young Spartans dropped a 29-20 decision to the RedHawks.

CATEGORY	Marist	Marian Catholic
First downs	18	20
Rush attempts / yards	24-98	63-398
Passing yards	212	58
Pass completions	15	3
Pass attempts	23	9

<b>Had intercepted</b>	0	0
<b>Fumbles / lost</b>	1 / 1	4 / 2
<b>Penalty yards</b>	5-41	7-50
<b>Next</b>	ST. PATRICK	at Joliet Catholic

**SCORING**

**MC-** Randall Wells 43-yard pass from Rob Cifelli (Chris Taborn kick), 8:55 first.

**Mst-** Ryan Meyer 80-yard kickoff return (Tom O'Neill kick), 8:43 first.

**MC-** Jeruel Taylor 1-yard run (Jason Martinez run), 11:56 second.

**Mst-** Meyer 11-yard pass from Ian Woodworth (O'Neill kick), 5:20 second.

**Mst-** Meyer 13-yard pass from Woodworth (kick failed), 0:28 second.

**Mst-** Flynn Nagel 80-yard kickoff return (O'Neill kick), 11:48 third.

**MC-** Cifelli 79-yard run (run failed), 10:21 third.

**Mst-** Peter Andreotti 2-yard run (run failed), 7:49 third.

**Mst-** Meyer 20-yard pass from Woodworth (run failed), 4:56 third.

**Mst-** Nic Weishar 15-yard pass from Woodworth (pass failed), 11:14 fourth.

**Mst-** Weishar 19-yard pass from Woodworth (O'Brien kick), 7:00 fourth.

**MC-** Troy Nutall 52-yard run (kick failed), 1:11 fourth.

**Rushing:** Mst- Jordan Burger 7-32, John McKeivitt 4-26, Andreotti 8-23 (TD), Angelo Buscemi 3-17, Woodworth 2-0. MC- Taylor 25-179 (TD), Nutall 6-84 (TD), Cifelli 17-79 (TD), Matt Simmons 8-47, Eric Hurley 3-10, Markus Burden 1-6, Wells 2-5, Chris Taborn 1-(minus 12).

**Passing:** Mst- Woodworth 15 of 23, 212 yards, 5 TD, 0 INT. MC- Cifelli 3 of 9, 58 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT.

**Receiving:** Mst- Weishar 8-120, Meyer 4-54, Jack Barry 2-24, Bryan Polak 1-14. MC- Wells 2-45 (TD), Simmons 1-13.

**Interceptions:** none.

