

GAME 7: Joliet Catholic 64, Marian Catholic 13

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Joliet Memorial Stadium.

Where: 3000 W. Jefferson Street (west of Larkin), Joliet.

Current overall records: Marian Catholic 3-3; Joliet Catholic 5-1.

ESCC records: Marian Catholic 3-3; Joliet Catholic 4-1.

Streaks: Spartans- 1 loss; Hilltoppers- 1 loss.

Week 6: Marist 52, Marian Catholic 27; Nazareth Academy 24, Joliet Catholic 21.

Week 8: Notre Dame at Marian (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Joliet Catholic at St. Patrick (Fri., 8 p.m. at Hanson).

Last meeting: Joliet Catholic 28, Marian Catholic 6 (2009).

The series: With 10 consecutive victories in the series, JCA has taken an overall command of 27-8-1. The Spartans' last win came with a 26-14 decision in 1994. Dating back to Illini-8 days, the Hilltoppers represent Marian's most longstanding rival.

Notes: A longtime visitor to Joliet Memorial Stadium, Marian will play its first-ever game on artificial turf at the facility... In Marian's first six years in the ESCC, the Spartans and Hilltoppers were the only teams to win conference titles, including shared crowns between the two in 1990 and 1991... the Spartans have outgained their opponent in yardage in five of six games, rushing for at least 300 yards in five contests... The Hillmen had a nine-game ESCC winning streak snapped in last week's setback... Marian multi-purpose back Randall Wells has scored in every contest and has eight touchdowns overall... JCA has scored 63 points on two occasions this year and represent the ESCC's most prolific offense with 256 overall points... the Spartans have scored a touchdown in each of the last seven quarters.

Oct. 7 (Joliet Memorial Stadium)	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC	7	0	6	0	-13
at JOLIET CATHOLIC	34	23	0	7	-64



The Marian Catholic defense had its hand full on Friday night during a 64-13 ESCC loss at rival Joliet Catholic.

Spartans (3-4) blitzed by ESCC rival Joliet Catholic

The Joliet Memorial Stadium clock read 9:11 remaining in the first quarter on Friday and Marian Catholic was trying to find a way to call 9-1-1.

There was no help available for the Spartans on Friday, as Joliet Catholic found the end zone four times in its first six offensive snaps.

With just 2:49 gone in the contest, the Hilltoppers had blitzed visiting Marian for a 28-0 lead, one that would turn into a 64-13 ESCC whip-lashing.

If fans had gotten caught in traffic or grabbed a hot dog near the start of the contest, they essentially missed the game. It's pretty apparent you don't want to make JCA (6-1, 5-1) upset after seeing the Hilltoppers' response to a 24-21 loss to Nazareth last weekend.

There were no innocent parties for Marian Catholic, which fell to 3-4 overall and in the ESCC- leaving the Spartans in two do-or-die playoff survival games in the next two weeks when they host Notre Dame and Bloom Township.

The Marian defense yielded a 68-yard touchdown run on the first Joliet Catholic snap of the night. Spartan special teams surrendered the ball on the Marian 5-yard line with a fumble on the ensuing kickoff. And the Marian offense fumbled the ball away on two of its first three snaps, leading to JCA scoring drives of 8 and 18 yards.

While more than five minutes elapsed off the clock, Marian also fumbled the ball away on its third possession. Joliet Catholic needed just five plays to make it 34-0. The Spartans responded with a 77-yard scoring drive, but things didn't get any better.

After the first quarter mercifully ended, the Hillmen outscored Marian, 23-0, in the second quarter to go to the locker room with a blistering 57-7 differential.

The bright spots for Marian on Friday? Actually, there were a few.

The Spartans actually gained four more first downs than JCA, 17-13. Certainly a deceptive stat when the home team had scoring drives of one, two, one, two, five, three and one play(s) in the first half.

Marian also completed the contest without committing a penalty.

And standout senior tailback Jeruel Taylor eclipsed the century mark with 104 rushing yards on just nine carries. Marian actually had a solid night running the football with 240 infantry yards on 37 carries.

Taylor tried to give Marian hope late in the first quarter when he took a pitch and galloped 66 yards around left end for a score with 2:38 to play in the period. The conversion boot by Chris Taborn had momentum on Marian's side with a 34-7 deficit.

But Joliet Catholic responded with its longest scoring drive of the night- 71 yards, then turned the next of five overall Spartan turnovers into a nifty 16-yard scoring drive and the romp was on. To add insult to injury, the Hilltoppers scored on a safety and kickoff return before halftime for the 50-point bulge. Marian defensive back Justin Harris prevented further damage by recovering a second-quarter fumble on JCA's lone turnover of the night.

For the record, the 64 points are the high-water mark in the 37-game series (Joliet Catholic leads, 28-8-1), and the margin of victory bests a 57-7 demolition by the Hilltoppers in 2005. The 64 points rank as the third-highest amount scored against a Spartan team.

With a running clock mercifully shortening the contest in the second half, the Spartans put together an impressive 80-yard scoring march. With Troy Nutall, Matt Simmons, Randall Wells and Robbie Cifelli picking up first-down runs, the Spartans held the football for 12 plays until Nutall burst across the goal line from the 1-yard line to cap the Marian scoring with 4:56 to play in the third quarter.

It marked the first time this season that Marian had not scored in at least three quarters of a contest.

JCA scored in three quarters, as the Hillmen tallied on a 10-play, 52-yard fourth-quarter drive to conclude the scoring.

The final period saw Marian sophomore quarterback Patrick Schmidt get his first varsity shot, completing his first two passing attempts in mop-up work to Dominic Pascale and Mark Koswenda. Pascale led the Marian receivers with three grabs for 25 yards, as Cifelli (44 yards) and Schmidt (26 yards) combined for 70 yards in the passing game.

Cifelli added 64 rushing yards on 16 totes, despite being sacked five times. Nutall finished with 28 yards rushing and Simmons was an efficient three carries for 24 yards.

The ironic stat of the night saw Joliet Catholic only outgaining Marian by 36 yards, 346 to 310.

That's what five turnovers will do for you, as well as the fact the Spartans gave up their third kickoff return for a score in just two weeks.

Moral victories are not on the Spartans' agenda now, as the remainder of the season rests on a Friday 7:30 p.m. visit from Notre Dame this week, as Marian concludes the ESCC portion of its schedule.

Sophomores: The young Spartans held off a late JCA charge to earn a 41-35 ESCC victory over the Hilltoppers.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Joliet Catholic
First downs	17	13
Rush attempts / yards	37-240	31-273
Passing yards	70	73
Pass completions	8	3
Pass attempts	21	3
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles / lost	5 / 5	2 / 1
Penalty yards	0-0	2-20
Next	NOTRE DAME	at St. Patrick

SCORING

JC- Ty Isaac 68-yard run (Isaac Grashoff kick), 11:39 first.

JC- Malin Jones 2-yard run (Grashoff kick), 10:49 first.

JC- Isaac 8-yard run (Grashoff kick), 10:36 first.

JC- Jones 13-yard run (Grahoff kick), 9:11 first.

JC- Isaac 4-yard run (kick failed), 4:09 first.
MC- Jeruel Taylor 66-yard run (Chris Taborn kick), 2:38 first.
JC- Isaac 33-yard run (Grashoff kick), 8:13 second.
JC- Tyler Reitz 16-yard run (Grashoff kick), 7:26 second.
JC- Safety, punt blocked out of end zone, 3:25 second.
JC- Isaac 62-yard kickoff return (Grashoff kick), 3:15 second.
MC- Troy Nutall 1-yard run (pass failed), 4:56 third.
JC- Nick Morrison 4-yard run (Grashoff kick), 9:37 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Taylor 9-104 (TD), Robbie Cifelli 16-64, Nutall 6-28 (TD), Matt Simmons 3-24, Randall Wells 3-20. JCA- Isaac 7-119 (4 TD), Jones 5-57 (2 TD), Reitz 9-47 (TD), Morrison 4-24 (TD), Kevin Jensen 5-11, Nate Dollinger 2-5.

Passing: MC- Cifelli 6 of 14, 44 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Patrick Schmidt 2 of 7, 26 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT. JCA- Craig Slowik 3 of 3, 73 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: MC- Dominic Pascale 3-25, Taylor 1-15, Wells 2-13, Mark Koswenda 1-11, Simmons 1-6. JCA- Nick Rodriguez 1-41, Isaac 1-17, Grashoff 1-15.

Interceptions: none.

