

Walker, Hess power Marian past Dons



Notre Dame's Julian Burgos avoids a tackle by a Marian Catholic defender.
(Patrick Gleason/For the Sun-Times News Group)

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Marian Catholic opened East Suburban Conference play with a 17-7 road victory over Notre Dame Friday night.

Joe Walker gave the Spartans (3-0, 1-0) the spark they were looking for. Trailing 7-0 late in the first half, Walker (five carries, 82 yards) took a handoff and sprinted 67 yards for the game-tying touchdown.

"Once I cut back, I saw a big seam and I knew I was gone," Walker said.

After the Dons drove inside the Spartans' 15, Sam Retzky missed a 30-yard field goal. On the next play from scrimmage, Joe Hess (four carries, 113 yards) scampered 80 yards down the right sideline for the go-ahead score.

"I got a great block from Jesse Steward," Hess said. "I love that kid to death."

Notre Dame (2-1, 0-1) went ahead 7-0 when Drew Diaz (12-for-26, 171 yards) hooked up with Tim Hirsch for a 37-yard touchdown with 11:51 to play in the second quarter. Notre Dame's final threat was snuffed out when Nolan Berens intercepted a Diaz pass inside the Marian 10-yard line.

Adam Hutchinson's 30-yard field goal with 1:55 left to play iced the victory for the Spartans.