

## GAME 1: Homewood-Flossmoor 35, Marian Catholic 7

**Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 at Spartan Stadium.

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

**Tickets:** **All tickets will be pre-sale**, priced at \$4 and sold at H-F and Marian Catholic High Schools. Tickets will be sold at Marian (until sold out) on Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 213 for students and the Main Office for adults. **No tickets will be sold at the gate on Friday.**

**Last year's records:** Homewood-Flossmoor 8-4; Marian Catholic 4-5.

**Media:** The game will be broadcast live on the **High School Cube** and WHFH Radio (88.5 FM).

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

**Week 2:** Stevenson at H-F (7:30 p.m. Friday); Crete-Monee at Marian (7:30 p.m. Friday).

**Last meeting:** at Homewood-Flossmoor 33, Marian Catholic 14 (2010).

**The series:** Marian has captured three of the last five meetings, including two in overtime, but the Vikings hold an overall 9-5 series command. In the last contest played at Marian in 2009, the Spartans jumped to a 34-0 command en route to a 34-18 victory.

**Notes:** The opener represents the first of six home contests for Marian this fall... The Spartans have won their last three nonconference contests... The series dates back to 1964 when the Vikings captured a 24-6 win... The teams have met in five of the last six opening contests, with H-F capturing three wins and Marian adding an IHSA playoff victory... Last year, the Spartans opened the campaign with a 51-27 ESCC decision over Saint Viator... Marian Head Coach Dave Mattio opens the season with 250 career victories, ranking him as the 17th winningest coach in IHSA history... The Vikings have made back-to-back IHSA quarterfinal appearances (semis in 2010), while Marian has qualified for the IHSA playoffs in two of the last three seasons.

Aug. 24	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR VIKINGS</b>	7	0	7	21	<b>-35</b>
<b>at MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS</b>	0	7	0	0	<b>-7</b>



Marian's Pat Schmidt fires a pass on Friday in action against rival Homewood-Flossmoor at Spartan Stadium.

## Spartans thwarted by H-F's big second-half effort

Host Marian Catholic appeared to seize the momentum when it turned a late first-half turnover into a score and 7-7 halftime stalemate against crosstown rival Homewood-Flossmoor on Friday.

However, H-F snatched it right back by marching to a score with the opening possession of the second half to take the lead for good.

Once the Vikings grabbed the momentum, the visitors turned it into three consecutive fourth-quarter scores and turned a competitive contest into a 35-7 nonconference victory.

Despite the second-quarter score on a 9-yard drive, Marian Catholic managed just 88 total yards for the night. The Spartans, who will host Crete-Monee next Friday at 7:30 p.m., moved the ball at times and only committed one turnover, but four fumbles sent Marian going in the wrong direction at times.

Marian's defensive front and linebackers put solid heat on the H-F backfield, putting the Spartans in position for an upset through the first three quarters.

"We had some good stunts tonight and we were coming off the edge pretty well," explained junior linebacker Shane Ratkovich, who had two of the Spartans' five sacks. "We wanted to keep the pressure on them tonight. If we can do that and put our offense in a position to score, we're going to win games."

A capacity crowd at Spartan Stadium was smelling upset at halftime.

H-F had jumped to a quick lead by scoring on its first play from scrimmage, a 44-yard lightning jaunt by Taje Smith, for a 7-0 command. However, Marian stymied the Vikings on their next five possessions, the last one halted when Patrick Swanson picked off a pass and returned it to the H-F 9-yard line.

Three plays later, reserve quarterback Ki-Jana Crawford dashed 7 yards for Marian's first points of the season. When Chris Taborn tacked on the conversion boot, the Spartans had pulled even at 7-7 going into the intermission.

The lead evaporated quickly when H-F traveled 76 yards on nine plays in the opening possession of the second half for a 14-7 advantage.

Marian responded with one of its best drives of the night, as quarterback Patrick Schmidt (8-for-22, 62 yards) hit Eric Hurley and Lorenzo Aldridge with first-down tosses to get to the H-F 21-yard line. The Spartans came up empty, however, when Taborn was short on a 40-yard field goal attempt.

After forcing a Viking punt, a critical personal foul denied the Spartans a third-and-one opportunity. Having dodged the bullet on a few occasions, Marian was forced to punt for the sixth time late in the third quarter.

Staring at short fields, H-F finally capitalized on the opportunity.

With great field position, the Vikings scored on their first three fourth-quarter chances, with nifty drives of 34, 36 and 18 yards to make the score much more lopsided than the contest was for three periods.

While Marian left the Vikings with great position to widen the margin, the only Marian possession of 13 for the night that started in H-F territory was the scoring one late in the second quarter.

With strong play up front from Gideon Woods, Justin Scott, Drew Robinson and Jake Bishop, along with linebackers Ratkovich, Kevin Aderemi and Jacob Forney, the Spartans limited H-F to 111 first-half yards.

However, the host team couldn't generate the necessary offense to turn the tide.

Although the stats are distorted by bad/fumbled snaps that cost Marian more than 55 yards, the Spartans had only two rushing plays of 10 or more yards. Marian finished with just 26 yards on 37 attempts on the ground, as it was led by Troy Nutall (14 carries, 39 yards) and Dillon Burns (13 carries, 38 yards).

The Spartans managed just eight total first downs, with two coming via penalty.

In the aerial attack, Hurley had two catches for 27 yards and Aldridge finished with two grabs for 23 yards.

The road does not get much easier when the Spartans entertain the talented Warriors on Friday.

"We'll do better next week," Ratkovich promised. "We just have to work harder in practice. We're gonna get faster, stronger, and better."

**Sophomores:** The young Spartans dropped a 47-6 decision to the Vikings.

CATEGORY	H.-Flossmoor	Marian Catholic
First downs	15	8
Rush attempts / yards	30-154	37-26
Passing yards	145	62
Pass completions	11	8
Pass attempts	18	22
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles / lost	1 / 0	4 / 0
Penalty yards	10-117	7-56
Next	STEVENSON	CRETE-MONEE

#### SCORING

**HF-** Taje Smith 44-yard run (Morgan Bohlman kick), 9:58 first.

**MC-** Ki-Jana Crawford 7-yard run (Chris Taborn kick), 0:59 second.

**HF-** Jakari Rowe 1-yard run (Bohlman kick), 9:22 third.

**HF-** Willie Ross 11-yard pass from Ronald Johnson (Bohlman kick), 10:54 fourth.

**HF-** Patrick Sheehan 36-yard pass from Johnson (Bohlman kick), 9:42 fourth.

**HF-** Smith 10-yard run (Bohlman kick), 7:22 fourth.

**Rushing:** HF- Smith 9-100 (2 TD), Rowe 7-49 (TD), Lionel James 3-24, Isaac Cutrara 1-(minus 1), Johnson 10-(minus 18). MC- Troy Nutall 14-39, Dillon Burns 13-38, Patrick Schmidt 3-(minus 3), Crawford 6-(minus 24), Carlos Gallegos 1-(minus 24).

**Passing:** HF- Johnson 11 of 17, 145 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT; Isaac Cutrara 0 of 1, 0 yards. MC- Schmidt 8 of 22, 62 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT.

**Receiving:** HF- Sheehan 3-59 (TD), Ross 2-24 (TD), Rowe 1-19, Aaron Gooch 4-18, Vashon Nutt 1-11. MC- Eric Hurley 2-27, Lorenzo Aldridge 2-23, Nutall 1-10, Crawford 1-7, Burns 1-1, Markus Burden 1-(minus 6).

**Interceptions:** Patrick Swanson (MC), Thaddeus Little (HF).

