

GAME 2: Crete-Monee 30, Marian Catholic 7

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Spartan Stadium.

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

Records: Crete-Monee 1-0; Marian Catholic 0-1.

Last week: Crete-Monee 38, TF South 7; Homewood-Flossmoor 35, Marian Catholic 7.

Week 3: Moline at Crete-Monee (Fri, 7:30 p.m.); Marian at Carmel (Fri., 7:30 p.m.)

Media: The game will be broadcast live on the **High School Cube**.

Streaks: Warriors- 1 win; Spartans- 1 loss.

Last meeting: Marian Catholic 31, Crete-Monee 27 (2010).

The series: This is just the sixth overall meeting, as the Spartans have won three straight to hold a 3-1-1 edge in the series. The Warriors claimed their lone win in the first encounter, 21-20, in 1962. Marian head coach Dave Mattio played in the early meetings.

Notes: Crete-Monee is coached by Jerry Verde, a member of Marian Catholic's 1993 IHSA state championship team... the Warriors had a perfect regular season last year and advanced to the Second Round of the IHSA playoffs... Marian has a current three-game winning streak in the second week of the regular season... The Spartans have scored a rushing touchdown in 10 consecutive contests... Marian owns a current four-game winning streak against Southland Athletic Conference foes... Head coaches Verde and Dave Mattio were both media/conference Players of the Year in their senior campaigns at Marian... Verde has also served on the coaching staff at Marian.

Aug. 31	1	2	3	4	Total
CRETE-MONEE WARRIORS	0	0	14	16	-30
at MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	0	0	0	7	-7



Marian Catholic's offense executes on Friday night during nonconference action against Crete-Monee at Spartan Stadium.

Late mishaps thwart Marian again in loss to Crete-Monee

Marian Catholic just needs to learn how to finish off games.

For the second straight week against a quality opponent, the Spartans were in striking distance of an upset well into the third quarter. But after Marian handed Crete-Monee some golden opportunities in the fourth quarter on Friday, it added up to a 30-7 nonconference setback to the Warriors.

Despite back-to-back solid efforts from its defense, all Marian has to show is what appears to be a pair of lopsided losses on paper.

For the second straight week, the Spartans (0-2 and headed to Carmel Catholic on Friday to open ESCC play) forged a halftime stalemate. And despite five turnovers, the Spartans trailed by just one score (14-7) early in the fourth quarter.

But Marian left the Warriors (2-0) with short fields of 29 and 16 yards to yield easy scores and allow the margin to get out of hand.

Marian's tendency to be its own worst enemy spoiled a fairly solid defensive effort.

"I just played in the scheme of the defense," said senior defensive back John Hotchkiss, who did a solid job in

limiting Warrior standout receiver LaQuan Treadwell and his talented receiving mates. "He's a great player, but I think I'm pretty good too.

"We just stuck with the gameplan and my teammates helped me a lot. I just tried to keep my hands inside the ball and either deflect it or knock it out."

With Hotchkiss and a defensive backfield of Ki-Jana Crawford, Justin Harris and Patrick Swanson turning in a solid effort, Marian pitched a first-half shutout and stymied Crete-Monee in its first two possessions of the second half. Then it was Crete-Monee's defense that put the first points on the board.

On a failed pitchout, Warrior Nyles Morgan picked up a fumble and raced 75 yards to break the scoring ice with 6:31 to play in the third quarter. Six plays later, Treadwell finally got loose on a screen pass for a 41-yard score and a 14-0 Warrior advantage. That score, however, was set up when Marian squandered a potential second-and-one with a facemask penalty.

Marian wasn't defeated though, as the defense keyed the lone Spartan score of the game for a second straight week.

Crete-Monee had a failed pitchout of its own, as Marian's Timothy Mason raced 23 yards with a fumble to put Marian on the board just 20 seconds into the final period. When Chris Taborn split the uprights, the Spartans were within 14-7.

However, Marian set up Warrior coach and former Spartan Jerry Verde very nicely for the two clinching scores. With starting quarterback Patrick Schmidt knocked out for a second straight week, the Marian offense sputtered... and then some.

First, a bad snap produced a loss of 24 yards. A short punt later, the Warriors need to go just 29 yards on a one-play drive to make it 21-7.

When a personal foul stymied the next Spartan drive, Crete-Monee needed to go just 16 yards in two plays for a 28-7 differential. Adding insult to injury, another bad snap resulted in a second 24-yard loss and safety that concluded the scoring.

Some of the same botched snaps that caused Marian to rush for just 26 yards in its opener haunted the Spartans on Friday. This time the miscues added up to 24 rushing attempts for minus-66 yards. With the poor snaps and fumbles included, 14 of Marian's ground attempts went for negative yardage.

That left the passing game to be Marian's bright spot on offense for Friday. Schmidt finished 13 of 30 for 152 yards, connecting with the likes of Ki-Jana Crawford (five catches, 72 yards), Eric Hurley (four catches, 50 yards) and Lorenzo Aldridge (five catches, 41 yards).

While the offense displayed improvement from week one, most of the five turnovers proved to come at critical, opportunistic times.

Midway through the first quarter, Schmidt was picked off the first time after Marian had a first-and-goal at the Warrior 9-yard line. On Marian's next possession, the Spartans coughed up a fumble after starting near midfield. Of course, the Marian fumble that Crete-Monee returned for a score occurred after the Spartans had advanced to the Warrior 15-yard line.

The final two giveaways took place when the Spartans were trying to answer a 14-0 deficit.

Marian will get a chance for new life next weekend when it opens the East Suburban Catholic Conference. The Spartans need to realize, though, all four quarters count in those games as well.

"We just need to practice harder and get better," Hotchkiss explained. "The defense has to put up more scoring opportunities and then we'll be successful."

Actually, if the rest of the Spartans take a cue from the secondary's effort on Friday, success may follow.

CATEGORY	Crete-Monee	Marian Catholic
First downs	13	10
Rush attempts / yards	30-126	24-(minus 66)
Passing yards	164	163
Pass completions	16	14
Pass attempts	25	33
Had intercepted	2	3
Fumbles / lost	3 / 1	5 / 2
Penalty yards	16-165	5-60
Next	MOLINE	at Carmel

SCORING

CM- Nyles Morgan 75-yard fumble return (run failed), 6:31 third.

CM- LaQuan Treadwell 41-yard pass from Marcus Terrell (Terrell pass to Treadwell), 3:43 third.

MC- Timothy Mason 23-yard fumble return (Chris Taborn), 11:40 fourth.

CM- Darius Thomas 29-yard run (Treadwell kick), 5:01 fourth.

CM- DeShaun Smith 10-yard run (Treadwell kick), 1:17 fourth.

CM- Safety (Marian snapped ball out of end zone), 0:33 fourth.

Rushing: CM- DeShaun Smith 15-93 (TD), Thomas 5-43 (TD), Trevon Smith 1-1, Terrell 9-(minus 11). MC- Troy Nutall 10-9; Eric Hurley 1-3, Dillon Burns 3-(minus 3), Patrick Schmidt 4-(minus 30, Ki-Jana Crawford 6-(minus 45).

Passing: CM- Terrell 16 of 25, 164 yards, 1 TD, 2, INT. MC- Schmidt 13 of 30, 152 yards, 0 TD, 2 INT; Crawford 1 of 3, 11 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT.

Receiving: CM- Treadwell 5-91 (TD), Lance Lenoir 3-38, Kyle Tilley 2-25, D. Smith 4-14, Thomas 2-(minus 4). MC- Crawford 5-72, Hurley 4-50, Lorenzo Aldridge 5-41.

Interceptions: John Hotchkiss, Justin Harris (MC); Treadwell 2, Jaylen Dunlap (CM).

