

**GAME 4: Notre Dame 22, Marian Catholic 9**

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

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

**Records:** Notre Dame 2-1; Marian Catholic 0-3.

**ESCC records:** Notre Dame 0-0; Marian Catholic 0-1.

**Last week:** Notre Dame 27, Normal 18; Carmel Catholic 34, Marian Catholic 10.

**Week 5:** St. Viator at Notre Dame (7:30 p.m. Friday); Marian Catholic at Benet (7:30 p.m. Friday).

**Streaks:** Dons- 1 win; Spartans- 3 losses.

**Last meeting:** Notre Dame 27, Marian Catholic 21 (2011).

**The series:** Marian holds an overall 10-7 series edge dating back to 1992. Defensive battles have characterized the series, as the winner has scored more than 23 points only twice. Twelve of the 17 games in the series have been decided by eight points or fewer.

**Notes:** Notre Dame is the lone ESCC team to open the campaign with three straight nonconference contests... The Spartans are hosting their third of six home games this year and have already played two contests at Spartan Stadium... The ESCC owns a 12-7 record this fall in nonconference play...

Competitive in all three first halves this season, Marian has been outscored, 80-14, after the intermission... Marian starting quarterback Patrick Schmidt has been knocked out of at least part of all of the Spartans' games this season... Although it was a nonconference tilt, the Dons' lone loss this year came at the hands of ESCC foe St. Patrick, 40-21... Opposing defenses have scored 17 points (two touchdowns, two safeties) against the Spartans this season.

Sept. 14	1	2	3	4	Total
<b>NOTRE DAME DONS</b>	6	8	8	0	<b>-22</b>
<b>at MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS</b>	0	3	0	6	<b>-9</b>



Spartan John Hotchkiss defends on Friday night during the host Spartans' ESCC meeting against Notre Dame.

**Spartans still seeking first win after falling to Notre Dame**

Senior Patrick Swanson and his defensive back mates were the superstars of Marian Catholic's effort on Friday night, as their coverage caused a pair of sacks and limited Notre Dame to 7 yards passing. That was the good news.

The bad news was that Patrick Swanson- the punter- was called on nine times and the defensive

backfield was also making tackles on a number of running plays. Despite the closest encounter of the season, the host Spartans still fell to 0-4 (0-2 in the ESCC) with a 22-9 loss to Notre Dame.

While the Spartans turned Notre Dame (3-1, 1-0) into a one-dimensional offense, the Dons had the answer.

Although Marian also forced Notre Dame into seven punts, the Spartans bend, but occasionally-break defense yielded 245 rushing yards on 25 carries to Don junior tailback Chris James. He also scored three times on runs of 35, 83 and 4 yards.

"He's a big boy and he runs hard," Swanson assessed. "He had shifty feet and some great moves." Notre Dame had only one more first down than Marian (8-7) and the defensive backfield of Swanson, John Hotchkiss, Justin Harris and Michael Jacobson limited Notre Dame to three-for-nine accuracy and the 7 yards through the air.

"We had a great gameplan and we knew our defensive backs could contain their quarterback and receivers," Swanson said. "We had them in the spot we wanted them, but we have to finish it off." Marian actually limited James much of the time, but he also busted off first-down runs of 20, 29, 12 and 17 yards.

The Spartan defense was also not helped out when the first score of the game came off a turnover. After an interception set up the Dons at the Marian 38-yard line, the visitors needed just two plays to take the lead on their third possession of the night. After a quarterback scramble by Dan Nagode for 3 yards, James burst through the line for a 35-yard scamper and 6-0 Notre Dame lead with 6:12 to play in the opening quarter.

While Notre Dame lived by the rushing game on Friday, Marian was stifled on the ground. With Troy Nutall leading the way (17 carries, 26 yards), the Spartans overall produced 27 rushing yards on that same 27 carries.

The lone turnover of the night for Notre Dame also led to Marian's first points, ignited when Jacobson pounced on a fumble at the Dons' 19-yard line. The Spartans actually went backward 5 yards with a sack and settled for a 41-yard field goal from Chris Taborn early in the second quarter.

With the Marian secondary holding Nagode and his receivers in check, the passing game was where Marian gained the statistical advantage.

Making his debut as Marian's third quarterback in four games, Eric Hurley tossed for 133 yards on a 7-for-21 night. His nearly exclusive target, Ki-Jana Crawford, pulled in six pass for 123 yards, including a 72-yarder that went for the Spartans' lone touchdown.

Unfortunately for Marian, that came as a consolation score with 59 seconds to play in the contest.

By that time, Notre Dame had added a pair of James' scores to build a comfortable cushion.

With the Dons owning only one first down through their first six possessions, James finally got loose on an 83-yard scoring jaunt with 3:49 to play in the second quarter. A Nagode to Dan Proano conversion connection sent the Dons into halftime with a 14-3 command.

The visitors expanded the lead on their initial possession of the second half, as an eight-play, 65-yard drive culminated in James' third score from 4 yards out for a 22-3 margin.

Still within striking distance, Marian couldn't find a complement for the Hurley-to-Crawford connection. In the Marian running game, Nutall had a 16-yard rush and Hurley scrambled for 12 yards on one occasion, meaning the Spartans combined for minus-1 yard on their other 25 rushing tries. Thirteen of the 27 infantry attempts went for zero or negative yards.

Statistically, the Spartans were only outgained, 244 to 160, helped by a sack from Jeremy Simmons and a combined sack from Kevin Aderemi and Justin Scott.

And after being outscored, 80-14, after the intermission in its first three games, Marian was a successful two-point conversion away from playing Notre Dame even in the second half on Friday.

However, it's time to make respectable defensive efforts turn into a better ending. The next chance for that will be an ESCC visit to Benet Academy next Friday at 7:30 p.m. (at Benedictine University).

"We just have to keep trying to put things together and keep our heads up," Swanson said. "If we can do that, the pieces will begin to fall together."

**Sophomores:** The Spartans fell behind early and suffered a 41-6 ESCC defeat to the Dons.

CATEGORY

Notre Dame

Marian Catholic

<b>First downs</b>	8	7
<b>Rush attempts / yards</b>	39-237	27-27
<b>Passing yards</b>	7	133
<b>Pass completions</b>	3	7
<b>Pass attempts</b>	9	21
<b>Had intercepted</b>	0	1
<b>Fumbles / lost</b>	1 / 1	2 / 1
<b>Penalty yards</b>	2-20	5-30
<b>Next</b>	ST. VIATOR	at Benet

### SCORING

**ND-** Chris James 35-yard run (run failed), 6:12 first.

**MC-** Chris Taborn 41-yard field goal, 9:11 second.

**ND-** James 83-yard run (Dan Nagode to Dan Proano), 3:49 second.

**ND-** James 4-yard run (Nagode run), 4:12 third.

**MC-** Ki-Jana Crawford 72-yard pass from Eric Hurley (pass failed), 0:59 fourth.

**Rushing:** ND- James 25-245 (3 TD), Matt Galloway 3-5, Tom Sora 1-1, Nagode 7-(minus 5), Ryan Greene 3-(minus 9). MC- Troy Nutall 17-26, Hurley 8-4, Crawford 2-(minus 3).

**Passing:** ND- Nagode 3 of 9, 7 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT. MC- Hurley 7 for 21, 133 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT.

**Receiving:** ND- Billy Hirsch 2-14, Jeremy Woodward 1-(minus 7). MC- Crawford 6-123 (TD), Emilio Garza 1-10.

**Interceptions:** Hirsch (ND).

