

GAME 5: Benet Academy 44, Marian Catholic 6

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Benedictine University Stadium.

Where: Maple Road and College Drive, Lisle.

Records: Marian Catholic 0-4; Benet Academy 3-1.

ESCC records: Marian Catholic 0-2; Benet Academy 0-1.

Media: Game will be broadcast live on [High School Cube](#).

Last week: Notre Dame 22, Marian Catholic 9; Benet Academy 41, Rich Central 0.

Week 6: Champaign Central at Marian (7:30 p.m. Friday); Benet at St. Viator (7:30 p.m. Friday).

Streaks: Spartans- 4 losses; Redwings- 1 win.

Last meeting: Marian Catholic 27, Benet Academy 7 (2011).

The series: Marian has won nine of the last 11, giving the Spartans an 18-6 overall advantage in the series. The current Spartan win streak stands at four games vs. the Redwings.

Notes: Marian is still seeking its first lead of the season... Benet has outscored three nonconference opponents by a 138-21 margin... This marks the third straight meeting with these teams held at Benedictine University... During the Spartans' current four-game win streak in the series, they own a 109-36... Marian is converting on third down at just a 19.4 percent rate, but Spartan opponents are converting just 14.6 percent of the time... On first down plays, Marian foes are gaining an average of 8.1 yards per crack, while the Spartans are averaging just 2.98 yards on first down... Marian kicker Chris Taborn, who has converted five of six attempts, is also the Spartans' goalie in varsity soccer.

Sept. 21 (at Benedictine Univ.)	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	0	0	0	6	-6
at BENET ACADEMY REDWINGS	3	17	10	7	-44



Spartan Drew Robinson prepares to rush on Friday in ESCC action vs. Benet at Benedictine University.

Benet streaks past injury-riddled Spartans in ESCC

As Marian Catholic's leading receiver and a stalwart defensive back, Spartan junior Ki-Jana Crawford had no idea he would be playing so much quarterback this season.

For the fourth time in five contests, Marian's starting quarterback was knocked out and Crawford was summoned to fill in at the position.

Crawford's effort was courageous, but predictably, when the athlete who got all the practice snaps during the week plays only four on Friday, the results were not good.

Marian sustained its fifth loss of the campaign, a 44-6 decision to Benet Academy on Friday at Benedictine University.

Trying to avoid its first 0-6 start since 2005, the Spartans will hope for some Homecoming magic next Friday when they host Champaign Central at 7:30 p.m.

Things looked promising for Marian on Friday when the Spartans forced a quick three-and-out and gained their first possession of the night at the Marian 48-yard line. Starting quarterback Eric Hurley hit Crawford with a 12-yard pass and a first down at the Benet 40-yard line. However, a fumble on the next play helped ignite the Redwings (4-1, 1-1).

Sparked by the turnover, Benet marched 56 yards in a grueling 15 plays and took a 3-0 lead it would never relinquish.

For the night, Marian (0-3 in the ESCC) committed three turnovers and lost 21 yards on a fumbled punt snap. The four golden opportunities translated to 20 Benet points.

On top of the miscues, Marian's inability to move the football equaled some ugly field position for most of the contest.

The Spartans had an average starting field position of their own 23-yard line. Meanwhile, Benet started its drives at an average of the Marian 40-yard line.

The short fields meant the Redwings were able to put up the big score despite gaining just 229 yards for the night. Part of that came from Marian's defense becoming stingy at times.

Sparked by linebacker play from Shane Ratkovich, Jacob Forney and Timothy Mason, the Spartans limited Benet's rushing game from getting to the second level. Meanwhile, a secondary of Justin Harris, Patrick Swanson, John Hotchkiss and Crawford limited the Redwings to 46 yards through the air.

However, Benet didn't need to gain many yards when seven of its 11 possessions began in Marian territory (and one at midfield). Marian's occasional defensive stands also helped make a hero out of Redwing kicker John Duvic. Along with pinning in the Spartans with five touchbacks on kickoffs, he was perfect on five conversion kicks and booted field goals of 25, 35 and 28 yards.

Marian limited the Redwings to three points on their first three possessions, but the hosts got things going after a Marian punt started Benet at midfield.

The Redwings then scored on consecutive offensive snaps, tallying twice in 22 seconds to expand the lead to 17-0 with 7:06 to play in the second quarter. The next two Marian possessions produced only punts, as Benet added a 21-yard touchdown drive and a field goal on the final play of the half to take a 27-0 halftime bulge.

The Spartan offense struggled throughout its visit to Lisle on Friday.

The highlight of the Marian offense came when senior Troy Nutall turned what appeared to be a big loss into a 45-yard touchdown juant midway through the fourth quarter.

The bad news is the touchdown run represented virtually all of Marian's offense for the night.

Marian finished with 46 yards of total offense on 47 snaps for the night. The rushing attack produced just 25 yards on 36 tries, as 16 of the Spartans' ground attempts went for negative yards. Nutall finished with 41 rushing yards to lead the Spartans, but he went backward on half of his 12 attempts.

The early reception by Crawford was Marian's best effort through the air, as the combined passing numbers were three of 11 for 21 yards.

Hoping to come up with a second-half rally, Marian's "Murphy's Law" night continued in the first two possessions of the second half.

Although the Spartans gained an advantage in first downs after halftime (6-3), the Redwings scored the first 10 points of the second half without moving the chains.

An interception led to a 1-yard Benet touchdown run and the fumbled punt snap eventually resulted in the third field goal for Duvic. Benet gained just 13 yards on its initial two possessions of the second half, but managed to expand the lead to 37-0.

William Allen (5 yards) and Nutall (4 yards) had Marian's other two receptions for the night, but the Marian rushing game failed to produce more yards than attempts for the fifth straight contest.

Sophomores: The Spartans fell behind early and sustained a 56-0 loss to the Redwings.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Benet Academy
First downs	8	11
Rush attempts / yards	36-25	37-183
Passing yards	21	46
Pass completions	3	6
Pass attempts	11	15
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	4 / 2	2 / 0

Penalty yards	3-28	5-55
Next	CHAMP. CENT	at St. Viator

SCORING

BA- John Duvic 25-yard field goal, 1:39 first.

BA- Porter Ontko 50-yard run (Duvic kick), 7:28 second.

BA- Nick McTarnaghan 23-yard run (Duvic kick), 7:06 second.

BA- Ontko 5-yard run (Duvic kick), 2:24 second.

BA- Duvic 35-yard field goal, 0:00 second.

BA- Jack Crain 1-yard run (Duvic kick), 8:18 third.

BA- Duvic 28-yard field goal, 3:09 third.

MC- Troy Nutall 45-yard run (kick failed), 7:08 fourth.

BA- Tyler Dale 15-yard run (Duvic kick), 2:19 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Nutall 12-41 (TD), Dillon Burns 4-8, Markus Burden 4-4, Eric Hurley 3-(minus 3), Andrew Leavell 2-(minus 1), Ki-Jana Crawford 10-(minus 3), Patrick Swanson 1-(minus 21). BA- Ontko 11-118 (2 TD), McTarnaghan 8-36 (TD), Dale 5-33 (TD), Ryan Gourley 3-9, Crain 2-6 (TD), John Hatfield 2-2, J.T. Crosby 2-(minus 4), Jack Beneventi 4-(minus 17).

Passing: MC- Eric Hurley 1 of 1, 12 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Crawford 2 of 10, 9 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT. BA- Beneventi 5 of 13, 41 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Crosby 1 of 2, 5 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: MC- Crawford 1-12, William Allen 1-5, Nutall 1-4. BA- Jack Euritt 4-29, Joe Weidenbach 1-12, Connor Crouch 1-5.

Interceptions: Jack Toner (BA)..

