

**GAME 7: St. Patrick 41, Marian Catholic 14**

**Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m. Friday at Spartan Stadium.  
**Where:** Joe Orr Road, just west of Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights.  
**Live media:** game broadcast on [High School Cube](#).  
**Records:** Saint Patrick 3-3, Marian Catholic 1-5.  
**ESCC records:** Saint Patrick 1-2; Marian Catholic 0-3.  
**13 week:** Joliet Catholic 49, St. Patrick 13; Marian Catholic 38, Champaign Central 0.  
**Week 8:** St. Patrick at Carmel (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Marian Catholic at St. Viator (Fri., 7:30 p.m.).  
**Streaks:** Shamrocks- 1 loss; Spartans- 1 win.  
**Last meeting:** Marian Catholic 42, Saint Patrick 35 (2011).  
**The series:** Marian has captured the last two meetings to take a 12-7 command in the series that dates back to 1966.  
**Notes:** After being shut out by the Shamrocks in 2007, Marian has scored a combined 91 points in capturing back-to-back victories in the series... The Spartans have allowed 165 points this year, most among ESCC teams except for St. Patrick (196 allowed)... In the last meeting played at Spartan Stadium, Marian won a 49-33 shootout... After averaged 1 yard or less on the ground through their first five contests, the Spartans rushed for 402 yards and 10.5 per crack in last week's win over Champaign Central... Marian's conversion rate on third down is just 22 percent, but opponents are successful on third down just 19 percent of the time... Marian's 49 and 42 points in the last two meetings represent the two highest-scoring outputs in the 19-game series... The only two common opponents (Benet, Notre Dame) have netted two Shamrock victories and two Spartan losses.

| Oct. 5                         | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4  | Total      |
|--------------------------------|---|----|---|----|------------|
| <b>SAINT PATRICK SHAMROCKS</b> | 7 | 14 | 7 | 13 | <b>-41</b> |
| <b>at MARIAN CATHOLIC</b>      | 7 | 0  | 0 | 7  | <b>-14</b> |



Spartan Shane Ratkovich prepares to take a handoff on Friday during the host Spartans' ESCC meeting against St. Patrick.

**Spartans thwarted by ESCC foe Saint Patrick, 41-14**

It was good news and bad news for the Marian Catholic offense on Friday night. Senior Troy Nutall totaled 277 all-purpose yards and junior quarterback Ki-Jana Crawford got host Marian Catholic on the board early with a 1-yard touchdown run. However, the Spartans also turned the ball over in the red zone and had 14 snaps go for negative yardage. That and a pair of special teams touchdowns added up to a 41-14 East Suburban Catholic Conference victory for Saint Patrick at Spartan Stadium on Friday.

Marian's defense had the Spartans right in the ballgame late in the second quarter, courtesy of a Shamrock field goal that never got off the ground and Marian fumble recoveries by Shane Ratkovich and Brian Richardson. With Crawford turning a St. Patrick turnover into his 1-yard touchdown sneak, Marian (1-6, 0-4) had forced a stalemate at 7-7 when it punted to St. Patrick with 4:11 to play in the half.

The visitors used a pair of long pass plays to cash in on a 49-yard scoring drive, the Shamrocks' shortest scoring distance of the contest.

With St. Patrick holding a 13-7 command, the Shamrocks forced Marian backward on two of its next three plays. Punting from near the back of its own end zone, Marian chose to take a safety and faced a 15-7 deficit.

The ploy to kick off from its own 20-yard line backfired, as Shamrock John Dabe returned the kickoff 75 yards for a touchdown. The deja vu return mirrored St. Patrick's 93-yard kickoff touchdown return that opened the contest.

From a 7-7 deadlock with just more than four minutes to play in the second quarter, Marian quickly faced a 21-7 deficit heading into intermission.

Nutall did his damage in a variety of ways, rushing for 132 yards on 23 carries, pulling in Marian's lone reception for 24 yards and churning out 121 yards via returns.

However, moving backward on occasion left Marian with just 35 total first-half yards on 23 snaps. And seven of the Spartans' 10 total first downs came on their two fourth-quarter possessions.

Meanwhile, St. Patrick (4-3, 2-2) used big plays to find paydirt, as none of the Shamrocks' scoring drives were cheap. After the 93- and 75-yard kickoff returns ignited the visitors to the 21-7 halftime cushion, the passing game sparked St. Patrick in the second half. Although, Shamrock quarterback Octavio Renteria completed just eight passes, he made the Spartans pay dearly on most of the connections.

St. Patrick travelled 77 yards on its initial possession of the second half, a drive keyed by a 56-yard pass to Steve Galiardo. Holding a 28-7 lead, the Shamrocks notched big strikes on the first two possessions of the fourth quarter.

The visitors made it 34-7 when Renteria hit Dabe with a 74-yard scoring strike. The next time St. Patrick had the ball, Dabe pulled in a 63-yard touchdown pass that expanded the lead to 41-7.

Along with a running game that produced 186 yards, Renteria finished eight of 14 for 276 yards, as the Shamrocks netted 34.5 yards per completion. Dabe needed just four receptions to net 170 yards and Galiardo had an even 100 yards on just three catches.

Meanwhile, Nutall was most of the offensive story for Marian.

With an offensive line of Gage Bonczek, Jake Wagner, Jesse Kilbourn, Steven Tucker and Justin Scott finally opening some holes in the second half, Marian moved the ball well to open the final quarter.

On consecutive plays, Nutall, Crawford and Nutall rushed for first downs to set up the Spartans at the St. Patrick 15-yard line. But after Marian moved the ball inside the 10, a third down snap was fumbled and Marian's scoring chance extinguished.

The Spartans did get a consolation score on their final possession. With Nutall and Dillon Burns (six carries, 51 yards) shouldering much of the load, Marian moved the chains four times to find the end zone with a 69-yard drive. Nutall carried for the final 3 yards and Chris Taborn added his second conversion kick to account for the final score.

Marian had its chance for a two-game win streak dashed with the setback, but the Spartans will look to get back on track when they visit Saint Viator next Friday at 7:30 p.m.

**Sophomores:** The young Spartans toughened up on defense in the second half, but still suffered a 30-7 setback to the Shamrocks.

| CATEGORY              | St. Patrick | Marian Catholic |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| First downs           | 17          | 10              |
| Rush attempts / yards | 35-186      | 23-132          |
| Passing yards         | 276         | 24              |
| Pass completions      | 8           | 1               |
| Pass attempts         | 14          | 4               |
| Had intercepted       | 0           | 0               |
| Fumbles / lost        | 2 / 2       | 3 / 1           |
| Penalty yards         | 5-45        | 8-80            |
| Next                  | at Carmel   | at St. Viator   |

**SCORING**

**SP-** Steve Galiardo 93-yard kickoff return (Juan Gonzalez kick), 11:45 first.

**MC-** Ki-Jana Crawford 1-yard run (Chris Taborn kick), 0:37 first.

**SP-** Galiardo 26-yard pass from Octavio Renteria (kick failed), 3:53 second.

**SP-** Safety, punter stepped out of end zone, 2:48 second.

**SP-** John Dabe 75-yard kickoff return (pass failed), 2:31 second.

**SP-** Renteria 1-yard run (Gonzalez kick), 6:18 third.

**SP-** Dabe 74-yard pass from Renteria (kick failed), 11:06 fourth.

**SP-** Dabe 63-yard pass from Renteria (Gonzalez kick), 5:05 fourth.

**MC-** Nutall 3-yard run (Taborn kick), 1:24 fourth.

**Rushing:** SP- Renteria 17-97 (TD), Jeremy Molina 14-76, Quinn Vanderah 1-9, Nick Sandowski 1-5, Thomas Sliwiak 1-1, Galiardo 1-(minus 2). MC- Nutall 23-132 (TD), Dillon Burns 6-51, Shane Ratkovich 4-9, Crawford 13-3, Patrick Swanson 2-(minus 10).

**Passing:** SP- Renteria 8 of 14, 276 yards, 3 TD, 0 INT. MC- Crawford 1 of 4, 24 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT.

**Receiving:** SP- Dabe 4-170 (2 TD), Galiardo 3-11 (TD), Nick Kamberis 1-6.

**Interceptions:** none.

