

GAME 8: St. Viator 31, Marian Catholic 21

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Forest View Stadium.

Where: 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights ([Yahoo map](#)) ([PDF Directions](#)).

Live media: game broadcast on [High School Cube](#).

Records: Marian Catholic 1-6; Saint Viator 4-3.

ESCC records: Marian Catholic 0-4; Saint Viator 1-3.

Last week: St. Patrick 41, Marian Catholic 14; St. Viator 52, South Bend Washington 20..

Week 9: Nazareth at Marian Catholic (7:30 p.m. Fri.); St. Viator at St. Patrick (10:30 a.m. Sat.).

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

Last meeting: Marian Catholic 51, Saint Viator 27 (2011).

The series: The Spartans have captured two straight contests and now have a 14-4 overall command in the series that dates back to 1966..

Notes: With the last two meetings occurring in Chicago Heights, St. Viator captured the last meeting at Forest View, 25-0, in 2009... Both teams have made their mark in conference play, as Marian earned its lone victory and the Lions are 3-0 outside of ESCC action... In 14 combined games, the teams have played only one total game decided by fewer than 13 points... The Spartans are seeking their first road victory since Sept. 23, 2011 at St. Patrick... Seven of Marian's opponents this season are still eligible for the IHSA playoffs... Marian has scored 96 points against the Lions in the last two meetings, the most against any opponent.

Oct. 12	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	7	7	0	7	-21
at SAINT VIATOR LIONS	7	10	7	7	-31



Spartan William Allen prepares to go around a defensive back Friday during the Spartans' 31-21 ESCC setback at St. Viator.

Spartans fall short in ESCC visit to Saint Viator

Marian senior tailback Troy Nutall summed it up best.

"We just don't have the numbers and our linemen work hard, but don't have the size that other team do," Nutall said following the Spartans' ESCC visit to Saint Viator on Friday. "It makes it very hard sometimes in the third and fourth quarter... but we just keep trying our best."

Friday typified much of Marian's season, as the Spartans jumped to an early lead and trailed just 17-14 at halftime. "We just couldn't sustain things," Nutall admitted.

Also a similar story for the Spartans, who fell to 1-7 and 0-5 with a 31-21 loss to the Lions (5-3, 2-3).

Hoping to trade scores like it did in the second quarter for a lead over an opponent for the second time this season, Marian was unable to keep its positive flow going in the second half. St. Viator improved its lead by marching 88 yards for a score on its initial possession of the second half.

The Lions then salted away their "playoff-eligible" victory by notching the first score of the final quarter for a 31-14 command.

The first half was a different story, however, much because Marian was unable to unleash the quickness of Nutall. Marian's defense, sparked by a front of Justin Scott, Drew Robinson, Jeremy Simmons and Brian Richardson, forced three-and-outs on the Lions' first two possession. After St. Viator hit paydirt on the third possession, Marian had a lightning-quick answer.

Nutall took the ensuing kickoff on the 12-yard line, darted through a crowd and broke into the open for an 88-yard touchdown return. Following the first of three conversion kicks by Chris Taborn, the Spartans had drawn even at 7-7 with 4:13 to play in the opening quarter.

The Spartan defense continued to be stingy, drawing another punt and then forcing the Lions to settle for a 24-yard field goal and 10-7 edge.

Challenged with another deficit, Marian was again quick to respond.

Just two plays later, Nutall got loose on a 59-yard scoring scamper and it appeared Marian might dampen the Lions' homecoming spirit when the visitors took a 14-10 lead with 7:50 to play in the half.

"I just wanted to come out strong and try to fight," Nutall explained. "This is the last time playing in a Marian white uniform and we wanted to make the most of it. I just wanted to play hard at every opportunity."

Nutall did just that, playing the workhorse role with 126 rushing yards on 23 carries. He was still running hard deep into the fourth quarter, helping to set up Marian's final score.

With a solid effort up front from linemen Paul Lamb, Justin Avant, Jesse Kilbourn, Steven Tucker and Gage Bonczek, Marian actually had one of its best nights of the season on the ground. With three rushing scores, the Spartans also outgained St. Viator on the ground, 180 to 169.

However, things started getting much tougher after Marian gained the prosperity of the 14-10 lead.

The Spartans final drive of the opening half resulted in a missed 52-yard field goal. Then Marian was forced to punt on its first four possessions of the second half, gaining only three total first downs.

The fourth possession seemed more promising, as Dillon Burns opened with a 21-yard rush on first down to move Marian into St. Viator territory. However, a big loss and fumble followed for the Spartans' lone turnover of the night. With the verdict well in hand, Marian moved 87 yards in four plays for its final score.

Watching many of his mates succumb to injury around him for much of the year, do-it-all junior quarterback Ki-Jana Crawford finally got some satisfaction late in the contest. Scrambling for his life, Crawford turned an apparent loss into a 57-yard touchdown run to account for the final score.

Crawford shared some of the snaps with Eric Hurley, who totaled five completions in 10 attempts for 49 yards.

Markus Burden (26 yards) and Emilio Garza (18 yards) were the primary targets, both coming up with key chain-moving catches

Unlike other foes, St. Viator was unable to fully put away the resilient Spartans. Patrick Swanson helped assure that with seven punts on the night, as well as an interception that occurred inside Marian's 10-yard line.

The Spartans will try to conclude the campaign on a positive note next Friday, when Marian hosts Nazareth Academy in a 7:30 p.m. ESCC contest.

Sophomores: The young Spartans suffered a 43-12 loss to the Lions.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Saint Viator
First downs	11	14
Rush attempts / yards	40-180	31-169
Passing yards	49	233
Pass completions	5	9
Pass attempts	12	25
Had intercepted	0	1
Fumbles / lost	1 / 1	1 / 0
Penalty yards	6-55	6-50
Next	NAZARETH	at St. Patrick

SCORING

SV- Kevin Hammarlund 53-yard pass from Bobby Calmeyn (Harry McCollum kick), 4:25 first.

MC- Troy Nutall 88-yard kickoff return (Brian Taborn kick), 4:13 first.

SV- McCollum 24-yard field goal, 8:49 second.

MC- Nutall 59-yard run (Taborn kick), 7:50 second.

SV- Mayo Arogundade 20-yard run (McCollum kick), 5:49 second.

SV- Conor Kinasz 3-yard run (McCollum kick), 4:20 third.

SV- Ben Dickey 22-yard pass from Colmeyn (McCollum kick), 8:40 fourth.

MC- Ki-Jana Crawford 57-yard run (Taborn kick), 0:04 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Nutall 23-126 (TD), Crawford 11-31 (TD), Dillon Burns 2-12, Eric Hurley 4-2. SV- Arogundade 17-136 (TD), Mike Fitzpatrick 7-14, Brian Peters 2-12, Conor Kinasz 2-6 (TD), Conner Purk 1-2, Ben Dickey 1-0, Calmeyn 1-(minus 1).

Passing: MC- Eric Hurley 5 of 10, 49 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Crawford 0 of 2, 0 yards. SV- Calmeyn 9 of 25, 233 yards, 2 TD, 1 INT.

Receiving: MC- Markus Burden 2-26, Emilio Garza 2-18, Crawford 1-5. SV- Hammarlund 5-189 (TD), Dickey 3-26 (TD), Nick Desmond 1-18.

Interceptions: Swanson (MC).

