

GAME 2: Marian Catholic 49, Shepard 3

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.
2013 records: Shepard 0-1; Marian Catholic 1-0.
Last week: Brother Rice 42, Shepard 0; Marian Catholic 42, Hyde Park 3.
Streaks: Astros- 2 losses; Spartans- 1 win.
Next week: Shepard at Eisenhower (Fri, 7 p.m.); Carmel Catholic at Marian Catholic (Fri., 7:30 p.m.).
Last meeting: Marian captured a 34-0 nonconference victory in the final game of the 1984 regular season.
The series: The teams have split four previous contests, with the Spartans holding a two-game winning streak.
Notes: Friday marks the second of three consecutive home games to start the season for Marian Catholic... Along with Marian's win on Saturday, the ESCC posted a 6-3 overall record on opening weekend... The Spartans will seek their second 2-0 season start in the last three years... Courtesy of two specials teams' scores, Marian found the end zone six times last week despite just 182 yards of offense... The Spartans scored exactly 34 points in their last two meetings against the Astros (both Marian wins).

Sept. 6	1	2	3	4	Total
SHEPARD ASTROS	3	0	0	0	-3
at MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	7	21	21	0	-49



Marian's Patrick Schmidt fires a pass on Friday during the host Spartans' 49-3 nonconference victory over Shepard.

Spartans roll past Shepard for second victory

The Marian Catholic offense owes a big thank you to both the defense and special teams after Friday night's victory. For the second straight week, Marian owned superb field position for much of the night and the Spartans responded by scoring 49 unanswered points in a 49-3 nonconference victory over visiting Shepard.

Marian kicker Chris Taborn, who has helped the Spartan soccer team to a 6-0 start as goalie, booted six touchbacks to help pin in the Astros (0-2). Meanwhile, the defense set up the host team for three short scoring drives in the opening half while adding a pair of turnovers scores of its own.

Ki-Jana Crawford and Emilio Garza each hauled in a pair of touchdown passes, while both also returned interceptions for scores to lead the Spartans, who will open ESCC play next Friday when they host Carmel Catholic at 7:30 p.m.

"We were very fast to the ball tonight," Garza said of a defense that allowed just 93 yards. "The defensive line got a lot of push and played very well tonight. We have a lot of quickness on defense."

Ignited by a defensive line of Bryan Hurt, Brian Richardson, Drew Robinson and Kyle Taylor, Spartan linebackers Garza, Jared Rogers and Tim Mason spent plenty of time in the Astro backfield. Shepard managed just 1.5 yards per carry in 29 attempts as 18 of the visitors' rushing tries went for zero or negative yardage.

The Astros managed just five first downs for the night, two of those coming via penalty.

However, Shepard found the scoreboard first.

Sparked by a 41-yard run from Kyle Day that amounted to nearly half the visitors' offense, Shepard took a 3-0 command late in the opening quarter on a 22-yard field goal. After that, the Astros' deepest penetration was the Marian 48-yard line.

One series after the field goal, a muffed punt set up Marian at the Shepard 20-yard line. After moving backward on one of nine penalties (for 85 yards), Marian took the lead for good when quarterback Patrick Schmidt hit Ki-Jana Crawford on an acrobatic leaping grab for a 27-yard touchdown strike. Taborn kicked the first of his six conversions for a 7-3 Marian lead with 25 seconds to play in the opening quarter.

From there, Marian scored on four of its next five possessions (and two of the Astro possessions).

The Spartans swelled the lead to 28-3 by halftime as Garza pulled in a 35-yard touchdown aerial, Schmidt hit Crawford again from 9 yards out and Crawford swiped an interception and scampered 34 yards for another score.

After a tough-luck tipped interception on the first Marian series, Schmidt finished with a strong night, tossing seven completions in 13 attempts for 110 yards and three scores.

"The offensive line blocked very well tonight," Garza praised of Richardson, Vince Magana, Jarek Harrington, Robinson and Taylor. "Pat played very well and Ki-Jana drew a lot of attention. I was just able to slip open a couple times."

Garza was just getting his magic started by halftime.

On Marian's second possession after the intermission, tailback Dillon Burns took a pitch and then hit a flying Garza with a bomb and 88-yard touchdown for 35-3 cushion.

On the Spartans' next possession, Burns got loose in the rushing game for a 55-yard touchdown dash and 42-3 margin. Then Garza turned the affair into a running clock for the second straight week when he picked off a pass and returned it 25 yards for the final score of the night.

Carlos Gallegos added the final conversion boot of the night to make it 49-3 with 6:02 to play in the third quarter.

Garza made the most of his receptions with two catches for 123 yards and a pair of scores. Crawford finished with four catches for 52 yards and two scores. Meanwhile, Burns led the modest rushing attack with 75 yards on 11 totes. Overall, Marian outgained the Astros, 296-93.

"Last year, we lacked confidence in these kinds of games," Garza explained. "This year, we're gaining confidence game by game. We're looking to surprise some people."

The Spartans will get a chance when they host the Corsairs to open ESCC play on Friday.
Sophs: Marian started the year on the right foot with a 39-14 decision to open the campaign.

CATEGORY	Shepard	Marian Catholic
First downs	5	8
Rush attempts / yards	29-43	22-98
Passing yards	50	198
Pass completions	7	8
Pass attempts	19	15
Had intercepted	2	1
Fumbles / lost	2 / 1	4 / 0
Penalty yards	1-15	9-85
Next	at Eisenhower	CARMEL CATH

SCORING

SHP- Edgar Madrigal 22-yard field goal, 2:54 first.
MC- Ki-Jana Crawford 27-yard pass from Patrick Schmidt (Chris Taborn kick), 0:25 first.
MC- Emilio Garza 35-yard pass from Schmidt (Taborn kick), 8:42 second.
MC- Crawford 9-yard pass from Schmidt (Taborn kick), 3:03 second.
MC- Crawford 34-yard interception TD return (Taborn kick), 1:40 second.
MC- Garza 88-yard pass from Dillon Burns (Taborn kick), 8:51 third.
MC- Burns 55-yard run (Taborn kick), 6:55 third.
MC- Garza 25-yard interception TD return (Carlos Gallegos kick), 6:02 third.

RUSHING: SHP- Kyle Dye 14-25, Nick McGurty 4-20, Shane Javorski 7-0, Emmanuel Williams 3-(minus 1), Jabari Jones 1-(minus 1). MC- Burns 11-75 (TD), Schmidt 2-13, Crawford 3-8, Jordan Briggs 2-4, Andrew Leavell 1-2, Matt Mindak 3-(minus 4).

PASSING: SHP- Javorski 7 of 19, 50 yards, 0 TD, 2 INT. MC- Schmidt 7 of 13, 110 yards, 3 TD, 1 INT; Burns 1 of 2, 88 yards, 2 TD, 0 INT.

RECEIVING: SHP- E.J. Rueck 3-30, Raphael Williams 1-15, Dylan Vitiello 1-4, Dye 1-2, E. Williams 1-(minus 1). MC- Garza 2-123 (2 TD); Crawford 4-52 (2 TD), Jared Rogers 1-12, Burns 1-11.

INTERCEPTIONS: Crawford, MC (TD); Garza, MC (TD).

