

GAME 3: Carmel Catholic 41, Marian Catholic 7

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: Carmel Catholic 0-2; Marian Catholic 2-0.
Last week: Glenbard North 35, Carmel 14; Marian Catholic 49, Shepard 3.
Streaks: Corsairs- 2 losses; Spartans- 2 wins.
Next week: St. Viator at Carmel (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Marian Catholic at Notre Dame (Fri., 7:30 p.m.).
Last year: Carmel Catholic 34, Marian Catholic 10.
The series: The Corsairs have prevailed in 11 of the last 12 contests and hold a 14-10 overall series edge. The Spartans last victory came in Mundelein with Marian earning a 20-17 overtime decision in 2009.
Notes: Friday's contest will include two special events in pregame, as 37-year head football coach Dave Mattio will be honored and Spartan basketball standout Tyler Ullis will make his college decision... The Corsairs have lost their first two contests, but both opponents played in IHSA state championship games last fall... Along with leading the Marian soccer team to a 9-1 start as goalie, Spartan kicker Chris Taborn is a perfect 12-for-12 in conversion kicks this year... As well as earning two lopsided wins, Marian has scored 42 and 49 consecutive points in its first two victories... The East Suburban Catholic has compiled a 14-4 record thus far in nonconference play.

Sept. 13	1	2	3	4	Total
CARMELE CORSAIRS	7	21	7	6	-41
at MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	0	7	0	0	-7



Spartan Ki-Jana Crawford had the lone Marian touchdown on Friday in a 41-7 ESCC setback at the hands of Carmel Catholic.

Spartans thwarted by Carmel in ESCC opener

Marian Catholic tried to break out some trickery on Friday night when it hosted Carmel Catholic in an East Suburban Catholic Conference opener.

It translated to some impressive numbers for senior receiver Ki-Jana Crawford, including a second-quarter touchdown.

However, Carmel just stayed with it old tricks. While Crawford's score was the lone one for Marian, Carmel rushed the ball down the Spartans' throats for a 41-7 victory to spoil things for the home team on a night that Marian named its field after 37-year retired head coach Dave Mattio.

Carmel outrushed the Spartans by a 270-49 margin, as the Corsairs gained 5.6 yards per clip.

"We switched some things up and gave them some different looks," explained Crawford, who compiled 66 receiving yards, 73 return yards and tossed a completion for 30 yards. "We had some success, but unfortunately we didn't come through.

"They had some size and got a good push against us. We just couldn't deal with their size most of the time."

Carmel improved to 1-2 with the decision, as the Corsairs opened the campaign against two teams that played in IHSA title games last fall. Meanwhile, Marian's early season success came to a thud after a 2-0 opening start.

Crawford provided the lone offensive bright spot for Marian, as he pulled in a 45-yard touchdown pass from Patrick Schmidt late in the second quarter.

Facing a 21-0 deficit at the time, Marian was hoping to build some momentum.

However, the Corsairs limited Marian to 49 rushing yards on 32 totes and the Spartans completed just nine passes on 22 aerial attempts.

Carmel's quick early cushion and insurance scores were not cheap, as 43 yards represented the shortest scoring drive.

Marian's defense, ignited by linemen Drew Robinson, Apelete Hougbo, Bryan Hurt and Tim Mason, proved stingy to start the opening quarter. The Spartans held on fourth down in their first opportunity, then forced a punt and recovered a muffed punt.

Despite starting on the Carmel 33-yard line, Marian was called for a holding penalty and went backward on two snaps, eventually settling for punt.

That's when Carmel starting making Marian pay.

The Corsairs scored on their next three possessions, as Darrius Crump scored on runs of 4 and 40 yards, then added another score when quarterback Nick Grandolfo hit Christian Heinz with a 46-yard TD strike. After Marian finally dented the scoreboard, Carmel added a crippling score with 10 seconds remaining in the half on Grandolfo's 1-yard run.

Marian couldn't make any noise in the second half, advancing no farther than the Corsair 46-yard line.

Carmel added the exclamation point on the opening drive of the second half after Crump returned the second-half kickoff 55 yards. Seven plays later, Joe Hoy (18 carries, 125 yards) burst into the end zone from 9 yards for a 35-7 Carmel command.

Corsair Grandolfo concluded the scoring with a 2-yard rushing touchdown on a quarterback draw.

Crawford proved to be Marian's biggest threat with four catches for 66 yards. He also completed a 30-yard pass to Dillon Burns. Schmidt finished seven of 18 for 94 yards and the lone touchdown.

After the 2-0 start with a pair of lopsided wins, Marian is finding quickly that the challenges will be different in the ESCC.

"We just need to keep the gameplan the same and work harder," Crawford concluded. "Things will not get any easier. We just need to get back to work on the practice field and get ready for Notre Dame."

The Spartans will take their act on the road for the first time next Friday when they make an ESCC visit to Notre

Dame for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.
Sophs: The young Spartans opened the ESCC with a 42-0 loss to the Corsairs.

CATEGORY	Carmel	Marian Catholic
First downs	15	10
Rush attempts / yards	48-270	32-49
Passing yards	136	132
Pass completions	5	9
Pass attempts	6	22
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles / lost	1 / 0	3 / 0
Penalty yards	2-25	4-40
Next	ST. VIATOR	at Notre Dame

SCORING

CC- Darius Crump 4-yard run (Michael Georgen kick), 1:06 first.
CC- Crump 40-yard run (Georgen kick), 8:53 second.
CC- Christian Heinz 46-yard pass from Nick Gandolfo (Georgen kick), 6:02 second.
MC- Ki-Jana Crawford 45-yard pass from Patrick Schmidt (Chris Taborn kick), 5:31 second.
CC- Gandolfo 1-yard run (Georgen kick), 0:10 second.
CC- Joe Hoy 9-yard run (Georgen kick), 8:53 third.
CC- Gandolfo 2-yard run (kick failed), 11:47 fourth.

Rushing: CC- Hoy 18-125 (TD), Crump 8-83 (2 TD), Gandolfo 12-38 (2 TD), Heinz 6-27, Michael Robinson 1-3, Michael Huiras 2-(minus 3), Trey Ross 1-(minus 3). MC- Steven Adams 5-22, Dillon Burns 14-15, Crawford 4-12, Emilio Garza 1-3, Schmidt 2-2, Jordan Briggs 3-(minus 1), Andrew Leavell 3-(minus 4).

Passing: CC- Grandolfo 5 of 6, 136 yards, 1 TD. MC- Schmidt 7 of 18, 94 yards, TD; Burns 1 of 3, minus-2 yards; Crawford 1 of 1, 30 yards..

Receiving: CC- Noah Turner 2-68, Heinz 2-62 (TD), Crump 1-16. MC- Crawford 4-66 (TD), Burns 1-30, Will Allen 1-14, Garza 2-6, Chris Henderson 1-6.

Interceptions: none.

