

**GAME 4: Notre Dame 35, Marian Catholic 0**

**Kickoff:** 7:30 p.m. Friday at Notre Dame High School.  
**Where:** 7655 Dempster Avenue, Niles.  
**Live media:** game broadcast on **High School Cube**.  
**2013 records:** Marian Catholic 2-1; Notre Dame 3-0.  
**ESCC records:** Marian Catholic 0-1; Notre Dame 0-0.  
**Last week:** Carmel 41, Marian Catholic 7; Notre Dame 21, Normal Community 7.  
**Streaks:** Spartans- 1 loss; Dons- 3 wins.  
**Next week:** Benet at Marian Catholic (Fri, 7:30 p.m.); Notre Dame at St. Viator (Fri, 7:30 p.m.).  
**Last year:** Notre Dame 22, Marian Catholic 9.  
**The series:** Marian holds an overall 10-8 series edge dating back to 1992. Defensive battles have characterized the series, as the winner has scored more than 23 points only twice. Twelve of the 18 games in the series have been decided by eight points or fewer.  
**Notes:** Notre Dame is one of three ESCC teams (Benet, Joliet Catholic) to start the season with an unblemished 3-0 mark... Marian will play its first road contest of the season; the Spartans have split their last four road openers, including a 17-7 decision at Notre Dame in 2009... As a program, Marian has compiled six victories this season, compared to just one last fall... The Dons are the lone ESCC team to open the year with three nonconference games... The Spartans have been balanced in their scoring thus far with five rushing touchdowns, five passing TD, two scores on special teams and two defensive scores.... Notre Dame has won two straight in the series since a Spartan overtime victory in 2010... as a league the ESCC currently has an overall record of 19-8 with half the losses coming in conference play.

Sept. 20	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	0	0	0	0	-0
at NOTRE DAME DONS	7	21	7	0	-35



Marian Coach Jerry Verde addresses his squad during a 35-0 ESCC setback at Notre Dame on Friday night.

**Spartans stymied in ESCC setback at Notre Dame**

Marian Catholic is finding out quickly that it's a whole different world in the East Suburban Catholic. Despite running 65 plays on Friday night at Notre Dame, the Spartans managed just 2.9 yards per play and were stymied for a second straight week in the ESCC with a 35-0 loss to the 4-0 Dons.

After a 2-0 start to the campaign, Marian will need to rally for a Homecoming victory over Benet Academy next Friday to earn its first ESCC win of the year and stay above the .500 mark.

"We're going to have to regroup and come back as a brand new team," according to Spartan senior linebacker Tim Mason.

Mason and his defensive mates actually did a solid job in their primary task for the night- slowing down standout Notre Dame tailback Chris James.

The Dons' explosive threat was held below the century mark (16 carries, 97 yards) and didn't notch a rushing touchdown until the second half.

But while Marian forced Notre Dame punts on its first two possessions, the Dons eventually exposed the Spartans0 with big-hitter passing plays that resulted in a 28-0 halftime cushion for the host squad.

"You just need to keep him (James) inside the box; if you do that you have a good chance to stop him," Mason explained of a good job up front from Spartan defensive linemen Drew Robinson, Brian Richardson, Bryan Hurt and Kyle Taylor. "The defensive line contained him and then the linebackers came up and got him.

"We just broke down in coverage. One or two big plays can turn around a game. We've just gotta stop better in the passing game."

One or two plays did turn the tide for Notre Dame. After the initial two punts, Notre Dame scored on four of its next five possessions before the half, including a back-breaking play on the final snap before intermission.

Ryan Greene tossed the first of his four touchdown passes late in the opening quarter, hitting Billy Byrne with a 13-yard touchdown pass and the only score Notre Dame would need.

The Dons expanded the lead with a 21-point second quarter as Greene connected with Pat Cravens for scoring strikes of 53 and 46 yards.

With Marian hoping to go into the locker room in just a three-touchdown hole, Greene hit James on a short screen pass as the halftime clock expired. The senior tailback kicked it to the outside and scampered down the left sideline for a 33-yard score and the 28-0 halftime bulge.

At the intermission, Marian had negative overall rushing yards and was outgained by a 268-64 margin.

Hoping to generate some offense in the second half, the Spartans stayed with their commitment to the passing game.

Overall, senior quarterback Patrick Schmidt fired up 43 aerial attempts for the night. While 23 passes found receivers, Marian averaged just 2.8 yards per passing attempt as Schmidt finished with 121 yards.

While Marian did churn out more yardage in the second half, seven of the total 13 first downs Marian compiled for the night came in the second half against Notre Dame reserves.

The Dons were able to empty the bench after they scored on their initial possession of the second half to expand the lead to 35-0.

A big punt return set up Notre Dame at the Spartan 39-yard line. After James moved the chains with a 12-yard burst on first down, he finally got loose into the Marian secondary for a 27-yard touchdown that concluded the scoring for the

night with 8:27 to play in the third quarter.

Marian never sniffed the red zone for the night, as its best opportunity came when Emilio Garza pulled in an interception on Notre Dame's lone turnover miscue of the night.

A 21-yard completion to Garza moved Marian into Notre Dame territory and the Spartans gained their deepest penetration when Ki-Jana Crawford pulled in a 7-yard pass to move Marian to the Notre Dame 35-yard line.

However, one of four failed fourth-down attempts (of six) followed and Marian turned the ball over on downs.

Dillon Burns led Marian in both rushing (35 yards) and receiving with five catches for 34 yards. Crawford pulled in nine passes for the night, but they netted just 22 yards. Garza finished with 31 receiving yards on four catches, while Will Allen had three receptions for 24 yards.

In mop up work, Jordan Briggs netted 19 rushing yards on six carries, as Marian finished the night with just 69 infantry yards on 22 attempts.

**Sophs:** The young Spartans dropped their second straight with a 38-12 loss to Notre Dame.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Notre Dame
First downs	13	14
Rush attempts / yards	22-69	31-154
Passing yards	121	198
Pass completions	22	11
Pass attempts	43	21
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles / lost	0 / 0	0 / 0
Penalty yards	2-19	5-55
Next	BENET	at St. Viator

**SCORING**

**ND-** Billy Byrne 13-yard pass from Ryan Greene (Tom Simon kick), 0:09 first.

**ND-** Pat Cravens 53-yard pass from Greene (Simon kick), 6:11 second.

**ND-** Cravens 46-yard pass from Greene (Simon kick), 2:38 second.

**ND-** Chris James 33-yard pass from Greene (Simon kick), 0:00 second.

**ND-** James 27-yard run (Zavier Rodriguez kick), 8:27 second.

**Rushing:** MC- Dillon Burns 8-35, Jordan Briggs 6-19, Patrick Schmidt 3-12, Matt Mindak 2-9, Ki-Jana Crawford 2-(minus 2), Emilio Garza 1-(minus 4). ND- James 16-97 (TD), Dan Dietz 4-45, Greene 4-12, Oscar Diaz 2-4, Chris Makowski 2-3, Marco Orlandi 1-0, Marty Durkan 1-(minus 2), Nick Kukla 1-(minus 5).

**Passing:** MC- Schmidt 22 of 43, 121 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT. ND- Greene 11 of 19, 198 yards, 4 TD, 1 INT; Joe Rimac 0 of 2, 0 yards.

**Receiving:** MC- Burns 5-34, Garza 4-32, Will Allen 3-24, Crawford 9-22, Robert Clifton 1-9. ND- Cravens 3-108 (2 TD), James 4-45 (TD), Tom Simon 2-19, Matt Curley 1-13, Byrne 1-13 (TD).

**Interceptions:** Emilio Garza (MC); Bob Dombai (ND).

