

GAME 4: Champaign Central 15, Marian Catholic 10

Kickoff: 7 p.m. Friday at Champaign Centennial High School.
Where: Tommy Stewart Field, 913 S. Crescent Drive, Champaign.
2013 records: Marian Catholic 2-3; Champaign Central 1-4.
Last week: Benet Academy 40, Marian Catholic 7; Decatur MacArthur 21, Champaign Central 18.
Streaks: Spartans- 3 losses; Maroons- 3 losses.
Next week: Marian at St. Patrick (Sat., 11:30 a.m.); Champaign Central at Danville (Fri., 7 p.m.).
Last year: Marian Catholic 38, Champaign Central 0.
The series: Last year's meeting was the first between the schools.
Notes: Marian dominated the Maroons last year for its lone victory, outgaining Central in total yards, 411 to 109... The Spartan are 2-0 against nonconference foes this year and have won three straight outside of the ESCC... Central's lone win this year was a 21-20 squeaker over Urbana... Marian has been blanked in nine of its last 10 quarters played... The ESCC owns a 17-4 record out of league play this fall... The Spartans will play two of their last three regular-season games on the road, both Saturday affairs.

Oct. 4	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	10	0	0	0	-10
at CHAMPAIGN CENTRAL MAROONS	0	7	0	8	-15



Spartans Gage Bonczek and Tim Mason pursue on Friday during a 15-10 nonconference loss at Champaign Central.

Spartans lose early lead in setback to Champaign Central

Fourteen yards separated Marian Catholic from getting back to the .500 mark on Friday night. The Spartans, held without a first down for the entire second half, moved the ball from their own 46-yard line to the Champaign Central 14 with 13.5 seconds remaining on the clock. However, the next play consumed 10 seconds and never had a chance as Marian was called for illegal procedure. Then senior quarterback Patrick Schmidt's final attempt was tipped away as host Central escaped with a 15-10 nonconference victory to please a Homecoming crowd.

Marian's fourth straight setback saw the Spartans fall to 2-4 with no margin for error remaining for a potential IHSA playoff berth.

Champaign Central also stands at 2-4, but things didn't look good early after the Spartans scored the first two times they had the ball.

The Maroons' punt game proved to be Marian's best ally in the early going. A 20-yard punt set up Marian 42 yards away from the end zone. A pass from Schmidt to Emilio Garza moved the chains once, but the Spartans eventually settled for a 43-yard field goal from Chris Taborn and 3-0 lead.

Central also punted after its next possession, this time seeing Spartan Ki-Jana Crawford return the ball 33 yards to set up the Spartans at the Maroon 29-yard line.

A 6-yard dash by Crawford gave Marian one first down and the Spartans moved the chains again on a penalty to get a fresh set of downs at the Central 4-yard line. Dillon Burns needed just one play to hit paydirt, as he followed Apelete Hougbo and Gage Bonczek into the end zone from 4 yards out.

Taborn stayed perfect for the year with the conversion kick and Marian held a 10-0 command with 4:09 to play in the opening quarter.

That's when the Spartan offense went into hibernation. Marian managed just two first downs until the final possession of the contest.

With all the pressure placed on its shoulders, the Marian defense responded for the most part. Behind solid push up front from the likes of Drew Robinson, Bonczek, Bryan Hurt and Brian Richardson, Marian limited the Maroons to 82 yards of offense in the opening half.

However, the home team regained some confidence late in the second quarter when Nicholas Glenn hit Toby Rivera with a 22-yard scoring strike to send Central to the halftime locker room with just a 10-7 deficit. The Maroon's seldom-used passing game was effective when needed, as backup signal-caller Glenn was four of four for 50 yards.

The defenses continued to dominate in the second half, as Central finally won the field position battle when Schmidt was sacked in the end zone to trim Marian's lead to 10-9 with 11:11 to play in the contest.

Marian compounded the safety with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, and then Central returned the ensuing kickoff 34 yards to the Spartan 43-yard line.

The Maroons stayed consistent and stubborn with their ground attack, as eight straight totes moved the ball to the Marian 14-yard line. That's when Glenn proved opportunistic again, hitting Jamal Stovall with a 14-yard touchdown on a pass that just eluded Crawford's outstretched arms.

While the Central rushing game netted just 2.8 yards per carry, the persistence had still translated to a 15-10 edge with 4:47 to play when a two-point conversion attempt failed.

Meanwhile, a Marian offense that failed to reach the century mark (99 yards) still had a chance to pull out a come-from-behind victory.

The Spartans faced another three-and-out after the lead changed hands, but Marian quickly forced a punt and seemed to get a break when a short 24-yard boot set it up near midfield.

A third-down conversion pass to Crawford moved the Spartans to the Maroon 44, then Schmidt (11 of 28, 79 yards) again hit Crawford for a first down at the Central 27-yard line. Faced with a fourth down and the clock winding down,

Burns rushed 5 yards for a first down just 14 yards from the winning score.
 However, the final two attempts resulted in just the penalty and incomplete pass, as Central avenged a 38-0 setback from a year ago. The loss also snapped a three-game nonconference winning streak for the Spartans, who will visit Saint Patrick back in ESCC action on Saturday at 11 a.m.
 While the Maroon rushing game plodded to just 127 yards on 46 attempts, Marian's infantry attack was a paltry 20 yards on 19 carries.
 Crawford finished with five catches for 37 yards, while Garza led the Spartans with five receptions for 44 yards.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Champaign C
First downs	8	11
Rush attempts / yards	19-20	46-127
Passing yards	79	50
Pass completions	11	4
Pass attempts	28	7
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	3 / 0	2 / 0
Penalty yards	4-25	7-38
Next	at St. Patrick	at Danville

SCORING
 MC- Chris Taborn 43-yard field goal, 8:22 first.
 MC- Dillon Burns 4-yard run (Taborn kick), 4:09 first
 CC- Toby Rivera 22-yard pass from Nicholas Glenn (Joshua Bagger kick), 3:41 second.
 CC- Safety, sack in end zone, 11:11 fourth.
 CC- Jamal Stovall 14-yard pass from Glenn (run failed), 4:47 fourth.

RUSHING
 MC- Burns 14-18 (TD), Ki-Jana Crawford 4-11, Patrick Schmidt 1-(minus 9). CC- Rivera 21-78, Brandon Klein 11-25, Matt Brown 5-13, Montrel Moore 3-11, Tion Posey 2-4, Joe Aeilts 1-0, Nicholas Glenn 3-(minus 4).

PASSING
 MC- Schmidt 11 of 28, 79 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT. CC- Aeilts 0 of 3, 0 yards; Glenn 4 of 4, 50 yards, 2 TD, 0 INT.

RECEIVING
 MC- Emilio Garza 5-44, Crawford 5-37, Burns 1-(minus 2). CC- Rivera 1-22 (TD), Stovall 1-14 (TD), Klein 1-10, Moore 1-4.

INTERCEPTIONS: Brown (CC).

