

GAME 7: Saint Patrick 42, Marian Catholic 21

Kickoff: 11 a.m. Saturday at Hanson Stadium.
Where: Fullerton and Central, Chicago.
2013 records: Marian Catholic 2-4; Saint Patrick 3-3.
ESCC records: Marian Catholic 0-3; Saint Patrick 1-2.
Last week: Champaign Central 15, Marian Catholic 10; Saint Patrick 22, Joliet Catholic 21.
Streaks: Spartans- 4 losses; Shamrocks- 2 wins.
Next week: St Viator at Marian Catholic (Fri., 7:30 p.m.); Carmel at Saint Patrick (Hanson), 11:30 a.m.
Last year: Saint Patrick 41, Marian Catholic 14.
The series: The Shamrocks halted a two-game Marian win streak last year, but the Spartans own a 12-8 command in the series that dates back to 1966.
Notes: Both teams own a 2-1 nonconference record, contributing to an overall mark of 17-5 for ESCC teams outside the loop... The Spartans are seeking their first win this season outside of Dave Mattio Field... Marian has scored the fewest points of any ESCC team, but the Shamrocks have allowed the second most points among league teams... Marian has converted just 24 percent of its third-down attempts and is averaging just 2.7 yards per rushing attempt... Spartan kicker Chris Taborn is 15-for-15 in conversion attempts and has led the Marian soccer team to one of its finest seasons as a goalie... Marian has not scored in the second half in its last four contests.

Oct. 12	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	0	7	7	7	-21
at SAINT PATRICK SHAMROCKS	7	28	7	0	-42



Spartan Ki-Jana Crawford defends on Saturday during Marian's 42-21 ESCC loss to Saint Patrick at Hanson Stadium in Chicago.

Spartans see comeback fall short at Saint Patrick

Marian Catholic just didn't figure things out on Saturday until it was too late. The Spartans scored in just 36 seconds late in the first half and engineered two long scoring drives in the second half on Saturday at Hanson Stadium in Chicago.

However, all of that came after host Saint Patrick had built a 35-0 command, as the Shamrocks sent Marian to its fifth consecutive setback with a 42-21 East Suburban Catholic decision.

The loss drops Marian to 2-5 (0-4 in the ESCC) and officially eliminates it from the IHSA playoffs. The Spartans will hope the Saturday second-half momentum will carry over into next Friday's final home game, a 7:30 p.m. ESCC kickoff against Saint Viator.

"We just have to keep working and not give up," explained senior all-arounder Ki-Jana Crawford, who helped lead Marian's second-half resurgence on Saturday. "We've got two more games and we need to finish out strong and get a couple more wins for the seniors."

Marian made itself feel a little better going into halftime. After the Shamrocks (4-3, 2-2) had scored 28 second-half points to take the five-touchdown lead, Marian's Will Allen pulled in a 22-yard scoring toss from Patrick Schmidt with 21 ticks to play before halftime. Carlos Gallegos' first of three conversion kicks made it 35-7 to give Marian some momentum heading into the second half.

The Shamrocks marched 80 yards after the second-half kickoff to widen the margin, but then Marian capitalized against some of the St. Patrick reserves.

Marian travelled 70 and 83 yards on its next two possessions to pull within 42-21.

With Dillon Burns (17 rushes, 59 yards) picking up three first downs on the ground and Schmidt hitting Crawford for 32 yards and another chain-mover, Marian gained a first-and-goal on the Shamrock 1. Three plays later, Crawford pulled in a 2-yard pass in the end zone to make it 42-14.

After a sack by Julian Davis helped force a St. Patrick three-and-out, Marian used 12 plays to march 83 yards and paydirt again.

Schmidt used his legs (nine carries, 33 yards) and arm (10-for-21, 91 yards) to help move the Spartans inside the red zone. Emilio Garza capped the drive with the seventh first down of the march, sweeping left end for a 13-yard touchdown.

"We tackled much better in the second half and the receivers were able to catch the ball," explained Crawford, who had four catches for 54 yards to go with 109 return yards. "We executed much better after halftime."

Although only 2:18 remained after the Garza score, Marian actually had one more chance when Antonio Abron pounced on a Shamrock fumble.

However, the Spartans netted just one first down before the clock expired.

While the final numbers looked much more respectable, the Spartans had dug their hole- and deep- in the opening half.

For a team struggling in the first place, Marian handed Saint Patrick two of its first-half scores. The Spartans had a punt blocked on the opening possession to set up a one-play, 4-yard score just 1:46 into the contest.

A Marian defense led by linebackers Garza, Tim Mason, Jared Rogers, Christian Henderson and Kyle Taylor tried to keep things close by forcing a missed field goal and punt. But after Saint Patrick expanded the lead to 14-0, the host team was set up again when Marian fumbled the ball away on the Shamrock 12-yard line.

Saint Patrick needed just eight plays for successive drives of 12, 82 and 70 yards as the lead swelled to 35-0 with 1:08 to play in the half.

While Marian surrendered 35 points before halftime, it was the offensive inefficiency that proved to be the real nemesis.
 Marian managed just 53 total yards before the intermission, totaling only three first downs and averaging 0.7 yards on first down prior to the touchdown pass to Allen. Five of Marian's first five possessions resulted in three-and-out punts, with the other two resulting in the fumble and a five-play drive that was stalled by a sack.
Sophomores: The Spartans proved competitive, but dropped a 14-0 decision to the Shamrocks.
Freshmen: The young Spartans improved to 7-0 and 4-0 with a 42-6 victory over Saint Patrick.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Saint Patrick
First downs	15	12
Rush attempts / yards	32-121	26-173
Passing yards	91	180
Pass completions	10	11
Pass attempts	21	19
Had intercepted	0	0
Fumbles / lost	1 / 1	1 / 1
Penalty yards	1-5	5-41
Next	ST. VIATOR	CARMEL

SCORING
SP- Jeremy Molina 4-yard run (Stephen Mulkerrins kick), 10:14 first.
SP- Mike Warner 33-yard pass from Zach Fuller (Mulkerrins kick), 6:47 second.
SP- Molina 6-yard run (Mulkerrins kick), 4:46 second.
SP- Molina 76-yard run (Mulkerrins kick), 3:28 second.
SP- Warner 71-yard pass from Fuller (Mulkerrins kick), 1:08 second.
MC- Will Allen 22-yard pass from Patrick Schmidt (Carlos Gallegos kick), 0:21 second.
SP- Warner 17-yard pass from Fuller (Mulkerrins kick), 7:47 third.
MC- Ki-Jana Crawford 2-yard pass from Schmidt (Gallegos kick), 1:05 third.
MC- Emilio Garza 13-yard run (Gallegos kick), 2:18 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Dillon Burns 17-59, Schmidt 9-33, Garza 2-17 (TD), Matt Mindak 3-13, Jordan Briggs 1-(minus 1). SP- Molina 15-164 (3 TD), Miek Olijnyk 1-7, Fuller 2-5, Tom Sliwiak 2-4, #30 4-0, Bobby Jurewicz 1-(minus 1), Mike Glaesser 1-(minus 6).
Passing: MC- Schmidt 10 of 21, 91 yards, 2 TD, 0 INT. SP- Fuller 11 of 18, 180 yards, 3 TD, 0 INT; Glaesser 0 of 1, 0 yards.
Receiving: MC- Crawford 4-54 (TD), Allen 1-22 (TD), Garza 4-15, Burns 1-0. SP- Warner 4-128 (3 TD), Olijnyk 3-37, Matt Smith 2-11, Molina 2-4.
Interceptions: none.

