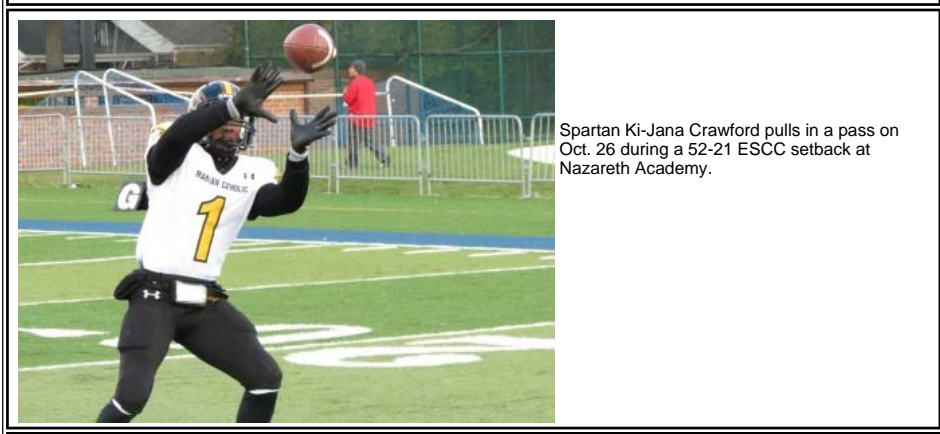


GAME 9: Nazareth Academy 52, Marian Catholic 21

Kickoff: 1 p.m. Saturday at Nazareth Academy.
Where: 1207 W. Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park.
Media: Broadcast live on [High School Cube](#).
2013 records: Marian Catholic 2-6; Nazareth Academy 6-2.
ESCC records: Marian Catholic 0-5; Nazareth Academy 3-2.
Last week: Saint Viator 45, Marian Catholic 14; Nazareth 41, Riverside-Brookfield 0.
Streaks: Spartans- 6 losses; Roadrunners- 4 wins.
Last year: Nazareth 35, Marian Catholic 21.
The series: The Roadrunners have won two straight to even the series record at 5-5 overall. The winning squad has scored at least 26 points in nine of the 10 contests.
Notes: Marian Catholic will host the Roadrunners in freshman action on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. as the Spartans try to complete a perfect 9-0 campaign... The two teams have combined for a 5-1 record in nonconference play this year... The Roadrunners are one of four ESCC teams to qualify for the playoffs, with seven of nine teams still eligible... Spartan quarterback Patrick Schmidt needs 210 passing yards to surpass 1,000 for the season... Marian kickers Chris Taborn and Carlos Gallegos are a perfect 21-for-21 on conversion kicks this year... Nearly half of Marian's 87 completed passes this year have gone to senior Ki-Jana Crawford with 41 receptions... After allowing 42 points in back-to-back games, Nazareth has yielded just 42 total points during a current four-game winning streak.

Oct. 26	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN CATHOLIC SPARTANS	0	7	14	0	-21
at NAZARETH ACADEMY ROADRUNNERS	7	17	14	14	-52



Spartan Ki-Jana Crawford pulls in a pass on Oct. 26 during a 52-21 ESCC setback at Nazareth Academy.

Spartans foiled at Nazareth Academy in ESCC, season finale

Ki-Jana Crawford should have an exciting season to look forward to on the basketball court. However, the senior all-around standout didn't conclude his football career on Saturday without leaving everything on the field.

Despite having little to play for on a season-ending visit to playoff-bound Nazareth, several Spartans showed plenty of pride with their effort.

However, an early 21-0 deficit proved too insurmountable, as Marian dropped a 52-21 ESCC decision to conclude the conference slate winless for a second straight season. The Spartans (2-7, 0-6) will look to rebound eventually behind a strong freshman team that finished the campaign 9-0 with an ESCC championship.

Crawford did all in his power to halt a now seven-game losing streak, scoring once on a 69-yard reception and again on a 45-yard interception return.

However, the Spartans couldn't slow down Nazareth (7-2, 4-2), which scored 14 points in each of the last three quarters behind a pair of 100-yard rushers and a passing game that netted 120 yards on just five completions.

With solid protection from an offensive line of Gage Bonczek, Justin Avant, Paul Lamb, Jarek Harrington and Brian Richardson, Marian had one if its better offensive efforts in awchile.

Trailing just 7-0 in the early going, the Spartans should have known it wasn't their day when a 17-play, 85-yard march ended with a failed fourth-down attempt from the Nazareth 2-yard line.

The next long drive netted better results, as the Spartans were more efficient in needing just six plays to travel 80 yards for a score. Passing plays churned out four first downs on the drive, as Marian concluded the scoring march with Patrick Schmidt's 26-yard toss to Emilio Garza.

However, Nazareth took some wind out of the Marian sails, as Michael Hillsman (7-for-7 conversion kicks) booted a 42-yard field goal to send the Roadrunners into intermission with a 24-7 command.

While Marian engineered the two long drives that netted just seven points in the opening half, Nazareth benefitted from short fields for touchdown scoring drives of 46, 44 and 34 yards.

Nazareth extended its halftime momentum quickly in the third quarter. An interception on the first Marian snap of the second half set up the home team 21 yards away and the Roadrunners quickly extended the differential to 31-7.

That's when Crawford single-handedly tried to keep the Spartans in the contest.

After Schmidt (16 of 33, 157 yards) connected with Crawford for 23 yard and one first down, halfback Dillon Burns (17 rushes, 51 yards) took a snap and hit a streaking Crawford down the left sideline for a 69-yard score to pull Marian within 31-14.

Nazareth extended the lead with its longest scoring drive of the day (56 yards) and things looked more bleak for Marian when the next possession ended with a quick punt.

However, it took just one play and Crawford picked off a pass and darted 45 yards to a paydirt. Chris Taborn remained perfect for the year with conversions (20-for-20) to pull the Spartans within 38-21.

That's where any upset hopes concluded, as Marian managed just three first downs on its final four possessions, one of which concluded with a Nazareth defensive score that ended the scoring.

Crawford finished as the statistical standout for Marian with seven receptions for 142 yards, while Will Allen had four catches for 65 yards.

Burns' arm proved to be more productive than his legs, as the Marian rushing game netted just 36 yards on 27 totes.

Sophomores: Marian fell to the Roadrunners, 47-14.

Freshmen: Leading just 26-22 at halftime, Marian rolled to a 50-22 victory over Nazareth to complete a 9-0 season and ESCC championship.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Nazareth
First downs	14	20
Rush attempts / yards	27-36	52-286
Passing yards	226	120
Pass completions	17	5
Pass attempts	34	13
Had intercepted	1	1
Fumbles / lost	1 / 1	1 / 0
Penalty yards	6-44	13-83
Next	Season over	IHSA Playoffs

SCORING

NZ- Kevin Jackson 22-yard pass from Carson Bartels (Michael Hillsman kick), 6:50 first.

NZ- Cyle Tucker 4-yard run (Hillsman kick), 4:48 second.

NZ- Julian Love 34-yard run (Hillsman kick), 3:32 second.

MC- Emilio Garza 26-yard pass from Patrick Schmidt (Chris Taborn kick), 1:55 second.

NZ- Hillsman 42-yard field goal, 0:32 second.

NZ- Love 21-yard run (Hillsman kick), 11:45 third.

MC- Ki-Jana Crawford 69-yard pass from Dillon Burns (Taborn kick), 9:43 third.

NZ- Love 15-yard run (Hillsman kick), 7:14 third.

MC- Crawford 45-yard interception return (Taborn kick), 5:08 third.

NZ- Tucker 3-yard run (Hillsman kick), 10:16 fourth.

NZ- Will Colmery fumble recovery in end zone (Hillsman kick), 10:02 fourth.

Rushing: MC- Burns 17-51, Crawford 3-8, Montel Blade 1-1, Schmidt 5-(minus 12), Matt Mindak 1-(minus 12). NZ- Tucker 17-104 (2 TD), Love 10-103 (3 TD), Daniel Bakovich 6-29, Christopher Simmons 4-22, Jonah Beauduy 4-15, Michael Masterson 1-8, Joseph Citro 6-3, James Eraci 1-2, Karlas Delano Robinzine 1-1, Doug DiFusco 1-0, Jake Bartels 1-(minus 1).

Passing: MC- Schmidt 16 of 33, 157 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT; Burns 1 of 1, 69 yards, TD. NZ- C. Bartels 4 of 10, 109 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT; Jake Bartels 1 of 3, 11 yards.

Receiving: MC- Crawford 7-142 (TD), Will Allen 4-65, Garza 3-27 (TD), Christian Henderson 1-(minus 2); Burns 2-(minus 6). NZ- Jackson 2-63 (TD), Joey Fontano 2-44, Matt Prendergast 1-13.

Interceptions: Crawford (MC, TD); DiFusco (NZ).

