

GAME 8: Notre Dame 35, Marian Catholic 7

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Notre Dame College Prep.
Where: 7655 Dempster Street, Niles.
Records: Marian Catholic 1-6; Notre Dame 3-4.
ESCC records: Spartans 0-5; Dons 2-3.
Last week: Marist 44, Marian Catholic 7; Notre Dame 40, Saint Patrick 14.
Last year: Notre Dame 35, Marian Catholic 0.
Streaks: Spartans- 6 losses; Dons- 1 win.
Next week: Marian at Benet, Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Notre Dame at Carmel, Fri., 7:30 p.m.
The series: Marian holds an overall 10-9 series edge dating back to 1992. Defensive battles have characterized the series, as the winner has scored more than 23 points only three times. Twelve of the 19 games in the series have been decided by eight points or fewer.
Notes: With a 3-4 mark, the Dons will be fighting for their playoff lives on Friday with Carmel on deck week nine... Marian's last ESCC victory came in a 42-35 decision over Saint Patrick in Week five of 2011... The Dons have captured three straight in the series since a Marian overtime victory in 2010... The Spartans have scored just 38 points in their current six-game losing streak... The Spartans' last road win was also the Saint Patrick decision in 2011.

Oct. 17	1	2	3	4	Total
MARIAN SPARTANS	0	7	0	0	-7
AT NOTRE DAME DONS	28	7	0	0	-35



Spartan Matt Mindak prepares to fire a pass on Friday in a 35-7 ESCC setback at Notre Dame.

Spartans spoil solid passing effort in loss at Notre Dame

NILES, IL.- With perhaps its most efficient passing attack of the season, Marian Catholic played a solid three quarters on its visit to Notre Dame on Friday night. A 7-7 stalemate after the opening period was a bright spot for the Spartans. But, oh my, that first quarter. The nemesis for Marian for most of the season, the first quarter produced a 28-0 deficit and sent the Spartans to their seventh straight loss with a 35-7 setback to Notre Dame. In ESCC play this year, Marian has been outscored in the opening quarter, 145-21. Fighting for their playoff lives, the Dons (4-4, 3-3) did their best to keep the ball out of Marian's hands and not let the Spartan receivers get too hot. Using 12 different ballcarriers, Notre Dame rushed for 344 yards and dominated time of possession. Overall, Notre Dame had 61 offensive snaps to 48 for the Spartans (1-7, 0-6). Marian finished with 178 yards passing and had 200 total yards by halftime, but that wasn't the story in the early going. The first three Spartan possessions turned into three-and-outs, with Notre Dame marching to paydirt on each occasion. The Dons scored on their third offensive snap of the night (also a bad habit for the Spartans) and never trailed. Striking quicky, the Dons used four plays to go 50 yards on their next chance and the third Marian punt was parlayed into a one-play, 40-yard bomb and the Spartans were facing a 21-0 deficit less than eight minutes into the contest. The good news was Marian gained its initial first down (via penalty) on the next possession. But the Spartans couldn't stand prosperity, as the next play resulted in a fumble and 36-yard return for another Notre Dame score and 28-0 bulge. The Spartans coughed up the ball three times for the night to go with another turnover via interception. The miscues were not needed on a rare night when it seemed the Marian offense might click. The Spartans finished with 12 first downs- 10 through the air- but managed to find the end zone just one time as Marian scored exactly seven points for the fourth time this season. With time winding down in the opening half, Marian quarterback Cameron Thomas got loose on a draw and dashed 72 yards around left end for a score. When Matthew Taborn booted the conversion, the Spartans were on the comeback trail with a 28-7 deficit.

However, Notre Dame needed just three plays to move 60 yards and reclaim the four-touchdown margin.

Both teams missed field goals on their final possession of the half, as the 35-7 halftime score would ultimately be the final verdict.

Thomas also had one of his best nights with his arm, tossing nine completions in 18 attempts for 137 yards. In spot duty, Matt Mindak added four completions for 41 yards. Both signal-callers had their eye on Tyrice Richie the most, as the sophomore pulled in seven aerials for 122 yards. Richie also totaled 142 return yards on eight tries.

Jacob Cavazos added three catches for 25 yards. Beyond Thomas' huge run, however, the Marian ground game managed just 40 yards on 23 other carries.

Along with punter Sean Taylor booting a pair of 50-plus yarders, the Marian defense proved stingier after halftime. The Dons managed just six first downs and turned the ball over on downs in their lone advancement into the red zone.

Yet, the Marian offense couldn't capitalize, as Marian got no closer than the Notre Dame 46-yard line, with two drives stalled by fumbles.

Marian will visit Benet Academy (at Benedictine University) next Friday at 7:30 p.m. in an attempt to halt the ESCC's longest losing streak.

Sophomores: Notre Dame rolled to a 36-0 decision over the Spartans.

CATEGORY	Marian Catholic	Notre Dame
First downs	12	20
Rush attempts / yards	24-112	46-344
Passing yards	178	93
Pass completions	13	7
Pass attempts	24	15
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	3 / 3	2 / 1
Penalty yards	4-29	3-20
Next	at Benet	at Carmel

SCORING

ND- Jimmy Topping 11-yard run (Tim Simon kick), 8:50 first.

ND- Quentin Grays 39-yard run (Simon kick), 5:54 first.

ND- Bill Byrne 40-yard pass from Tyler Tsagalis (Simon kick), 4:41 first.

ND- Brian Brand 36-yard fumble return (Simon kick), 1:03 first.

MC- Cameron Thomas 72-yard run (Matthew Taborn kick), 4:53 second.

ND- Grays 22-yard run (Simon kick), 3:49 second.

Rushing: MC- Thomas 9-78 (TD), Antonio Albon 5-13, Matt Mindak 2-12, Tyrice Richie 5-5, Deaven Covington 1-3, Christian Simmons 1-1, Robert Clifton 1-0. ND- Grays 5-84 (2 TD), Marco Orlandi 5-81, Evan Reid 13-64, Kip Hackleman 4-36, Tsagalis 3-30, Topping 3-15 (TD), Bobby Dombai 5-15, Giovanni Taibi 2-7, Eamon O'Mahony 2-6, Ken Ortiz 1-4, Mike Martin 1-4, Byrne 2-(minus 2).

Passing: MC- Thomas 9 of 18, 137 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Mindak 4 of 6, 41 yards, 0 TD, 1 INT. ND- Tsagalis 7 of 15, 93 yards, 1 TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: MC- Richie 7-122, Jacob Cavazos 3-25, Clifton 1-14, Thomas 1-10, Sean Taylor 1-7. ND- Byrnes 3-78 (TD), Simon 2-11, Dylan Hyde 1-8, Matt Curley 1-(minus 4).

Interceptions: Jake Barzowski (ND).

