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43 - 0! MARIAN CENTRAL WINS

By: Amanda Garrelts '27

On Friday August 21, 2026, Marian Central Catholic High School entered their football season with a bang. Playing against Hansberry Prep, Marian won by a landslide. This victory helped kick off the school year on a positive note for both athletes and students. A member from Marian's cane crew, Ava Muller, was asked to describe how she felt the first game went overall, and she stated that it was "exciting and energetic." The support people have for their school was made clear, but if anything could change for next time, having more chants would be beneficial. "There is never such a thing as too loud". The themes she is looking forward to the most are USA and white out. "USA because I think everyone goes all out for that one". White out is an exciting game as well though, given that it is Marian's homecoming game and everyone is especially amped up.

Final Score of the First Home Game

Photo Taken By: Charlotte Harrison '27

They are hoping to carry this momentum into their next game, and given that this game was the first time Marian has won their opening season game in quite some time, the team is optimistic.

However, all these processes need to be led by someone. Thanks to Marian's director of football operations, Shawn Wochner, the team is being run efficiently. He has been working with Marian's team for about five years now, and his experience has paid off. When asked about the first couple of weeks leading up to this game, he described the time as "interesting" as they transitioned their coaching staff and athletic department.

Reflecting on the preparation that went into planning the first game, Ava stated that she remembers herself and the rest of Cane Crew making sure that they had everything ready, such as their poster, the speaker, the "hurricane warning" flag, all the other things needed to ensure that the crowd was as engaged as possible throughout the game.

Yet without such a team, Marian wouldn't have anything to cheer for. Marian's football players have shown much dedication this season, especially with the assistance of their new head coach. One of their wide-receivers/defensive backs, Colton Riffe, shared what efforts at practice he thought had been the most beneficial for himself and his teammates. Overall, "perfecting our craft has been very helpful toward the success of the team". This includes catching, everyday drills, and he also went on to say that the team as a whole has had the least amount of drops in their first two games than they have in a while. Their success says a lot about the relationships between teammates as well. Riffe stated that he felt the school's current team is "the most tight knit team we've had in a while the last few years have been separated by classes" but this year, everyone is working together on and off the field.



However, "the boys did not allow that to curtail their preparation and training". The team has been preparing since January with different skills such as receiver skills, linemen training, doing 7 on 7 competition in the spring, and by participating in summer camps throughout June and July. Coach Wochner has "much optimism" for this season, and is hoping the team can make it to the playoffs this year.