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### Daily News-Record (Harrisonburg, VA)

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## BC Falls To 5-4

### R-MC Spoils Record Day For Eagles' QB

MATTHEW STOSS, Daily News-Record

BRIDGEWATER - Carlos Gonzalez threw for a Bridgewater College-record 406 yards Saturday against Randolph-Macon. In the end, it didn't matter.

The Yellow Jackets - thanks to a late surge sparked by a 45-yard screen pass that came after a missed sack and led to a touchdown - repelled BC for a 51-36 win in front of 2,267 fans at Jopson Field.

"They made the plays," Gonzalez said. "They had things roll their way to get the win."

The Eagles (5-4 overall, 2-3 in the ODAC) trailed 24-6 after giving up an 83-yard, momentum-killing kickoff return for a touchdown seconds after they scored on a 42-yard pass from Gonzalez to wide receiver Leigh Bradley to cut into a 17-0 deficit.

From there, though, BC atoned for its ugly first half, which included numerous dropped passes, a missed extra point on a botched hold and six penalties for 50 yards. The Eagles rallied to cut Macon's lead to 31-28 when Gonzalez put a perfect, 10-yard pass over wide receiver Cassidy Burns' shoulder in the corner of the end zone with 9:44 left in the game.

But that would be as close as the Eagles could get. On the Jackets' next possession, quarterback Zac Naccarato escaped what looked like a sure sack to find running back Thaddeus Scruggs for a screen pass that Scruggs took 45 yards to the BC 3-yard line. Macon scored a play later to make it 38-28 with 7:55 to go.

The Jackets (7-2, 3-2) then scored two more times to seal it.

"I was proud of them that they competed in the second half," said Bridgewater coach Michael Clark. "But, ultimately, you can say there's not a lot of difference between [teams] one through six in this league - and I do believe that. But the team that wins on Saturday finishes, and we took it to the point where we just couldn't finish the game."

Moving the ball was no problem. Bridgewater ran 78 plays for 524 yards of offense, while R-MC had 64 for 370.

Scruggs and fellow running back Drake Sanders combined for 216 rushing yards and five touchdowns to lead Randolph-Macon.

Gonzalez, a transfer from Division I-A Florida International, led BC, completing 26 of 48 passes for the record 406 yards and four touchdowns with one interception. After going 9-for-20 for 146 yards in the first half, the fourth-year junior fueled the Eagles' comeback, going 17-for-28 for 260 yards in the second half as BC played catch-up.

"We knew we had the capability of overcoming the points that they had put up in the first half, and we knew it was going to be a dog fight," Gonzalez said of the second-half rally. "I just ran the plays that they called. That was it."

The Eagles needed Gonzalez on Saturday after losing tailback Anthony Carter in the third quarter. The sixth-year senior aggravated his sprained left knee. Carter said he thought he would be OK for the season finale next week against Catholic.

Also injured Saturday were defensive end Dominic Jeter - he hurt his right knee on the 45-yard screen-pass play but still led BC with nine tackles and two sacks - and wide receiver Julius Delbridge, who has concussion symptoms. It is unclear if either will play against Catholic.

"We fought hard there for a little while to try to come back on them," said Bradley, who had five receptions for 150 yards and a touchdown to go with 115 return yards. "It fizzled out, and we got a little tired, banded up and had a couple guys get hurt."

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Bridgewater's Will Davis has failed to convert on his last five extra-point attempts, including two Saturday, something Clark called "inexcusable." Not that all have been Davis' fault. One of Saturday's miscues was a botched hold.

NOTE: Hampden-Sydney beat defending champion Washington & Lee 42-35 on Saturday to win the ODAC title.

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