



Welcome to the DNR Archives!

[Return to Search | Home](#)

Search...

Archives



Sub

Advertisement

Advertisement

Advertisement

Advertisement

## ARCHIVE NEWS ARTICLE

[Back to Search Results](#) | [Printer Friendly Version](#)**Daily News-Record (Harrisonburg, VA)**

August 29, 2011

Page: C1

**BC? Picks Its QB****Hutchinson Beats Out Gonzalez**

MATTHEW STOSS, Daily News-Record

**BRIDGEWATER** - Until he was named **Bridgewater College's** starting quarterback Saturday, the high point of Jacob Hutchinson's college football career was blocking a Randolph-Macon punt in 2009, breaking a four-year drought for the Eagles.

Otherwise, the senior's time at **Bridgewater** has been trying.

As a sophomore, he ruptured a tendon in this right thumb - an injury he suffered twice previously at Riverheads High School. Going into his junior year, he tore the labrum in his right shoulder; then, when his shoulder finally felt strong heading into that summer, he got meningitis and dropped from 200 pounds to about 180.

When preseason practice started in 2010, his shoulder wasn't strong enough to throw, taking him out of competition for the starting quarterback job that eventually went to now-graduated three-year starter Hagan Driskell.

"That hurt," Hutchinson said Saturday after practice. "I'm a religious person, and a lot of conversations you have with somebody that can't answer right back to you, and you question if what you've been doing is the right thing for you and your body, and it was hard. That was a tough thing for me to deal with. ... Going through that stuff, it just hurt. It was tough on my psyche really."

On Saturday, he put all that misfortune behind him, edging junior Carlos Gonzalez, a transfer from Division I-A Florida International, to be Division III **Bridgewater's** starting quarterback when the Eagles open the season this weekend against Saint Vincent at Jopson Field.

"He gives us the best chance to get out of the gate," BC coach Michael Clark said of the 6-foot-2, 200-pound Hutchinson.

Gonzalez, however, won't be idle. While the more experienced Hutchinson will start, Clark said he also plans to give Gonzalez playing time this season.

Clark said the choice on who to start was far from a "no-brainer" and he didn't make his decision until Saturday morning. He also said it's not definite that Hutchinson - who has thrown just three passes in college - will be the starter when BC opens its Old Dominion Athletic Conference schedule at Hampden-Sydney on Oct. 8.

For now, though, it's Hutchinson's job to lose, and he knows that his hold on the job is, at this point, tenuous.

"I guess the normal answer would be, 'It's a huge weight off my shoulders,'" Hutchinson said. "But, in reality, it's a huge weight on my shoulders. Definitely feels great - all the hard work paying off. Definitely feel horrible for Carlos. He put in a lot of hard work and a lot of hours. You've got to feel bad for a guy like that."

Gonzalez said Hutchinson being named the starter wouldn't cause any schism.

"We're really close," Gonzalez said. "Even before this, last year, we were always like buddies. We would hang out. Whenever we had lunch and dinner, we'd sit together and stuff. Jake, we're close friends. We respect each other and we're teammates - close teammates. There's no hostility, no drama going on. It's football."

Clark said he picked Hutchinson because of his experience in **Bridgewater's** pro-style, multiple-I offense. Clark declined to say what those things and what those situations were, but it's possible to read between the lines. Gonzalez has a better arm; Hutchinson is more mobile - which should make the Eagles' offense more multi-faceted than it was under the less-than-speedy (but strong-armed) Driskell.

Hutchinson will enable BC to run options and draws, meaning it can be more up-tempo. The last time **Bridgewater** had a running quarterback was 2007, when Jeff Highfill was the starter.

"He can hold a defense accountable with his feet," Clark said of Hutchinson.

But while Hutchinson has an experience edge, it's not by much. Neither QB has played significant time; Hutchinson has just been in **Bridgewater's** system longer.

Gonzalez has been most distinguished as a special-teams standout, but last season - his first at BC - the 6-foot, 197-pounder completed seven of 13 passes for 78 yards and two touchdowns in his lone game. He had no interceptions.

In his **college** career, Hutchinson has completed one of three passes for 4 yards with no TDs or interceptions. At Riverheads, Hutchinson didn't throw much, either. In the Gladiators' run-almost-all-the-time offense, Hutchinson estimated he never threw more than 80 times in any season - and that was over 14 games. It equates to about six passes per game.

Now, Hutchinson can at least focus on quarterbacking full-time. Clark said he's is off the punt-block team, replaced by sophomore backup quarterback Willie Logan. But Hutchinson isn't totally abandoning special teams. He's still the holder on field goals - a position he has excelled at in recent seasons, using his speed to score multiple touchdowns on fake field goals.

"Definitely a long road," Hutchinson said. "It's really cool to be a quarterback again. It feels great to be back in that role after such a long - after such a weird road - to get there."

*Copyright (c) 2011, Byrd Newspapers, All Rights Reserved.*

---

© Copyright 2005-2011 **Daily News-Record**. All Rights Reserved.