

2011 SEASON RECAP

AUGUST 31, 2011

Football poll countdown: No. 2 Calvert Hall



The Baltimore Sun's countdown of its preseason top 5 football teams nears its conclusion with today's look at No. 2 Calvert Hall.

The No. 1 poll in our official top 15 will be unveiled Thursday, as will the entire poll -- along with the full season preview.

Also check The Baltimore Sun and baltimoresun.com on Thursday for previews of the local boys soccer, volleyball, cross country and field hockey seasons.

2. Calvert Hall

Coach: Donald Davis.

Last season: 11-1, No. 1. **Postseason:** N/A, MIAA A Conference regular-season champion.

Outlook: The Cardinals came from behind to beat Gilman, 26-21, in midseason, and that game decided the A Conference title a year ago. This fall, the Cardinals have some holes to fill, but that shouldn't keep them from making a run at another title after winning their conference championship since back in the MSA in 1982.

Graduation claimed 26 players including All-Metro Defensive Player of the Year lineman Dan Yarborough and All-Metro offensive lineman Ben Curtis. Still the Cardinals return a

pretty good group, including All-Metro quarterback Thomas Stuart as well as wide receiver Trevor Williams, running back Brandon Neverdon, cornerback Da'Quan Davis, linebacker C.J. Williams and defensive lineman Emmanuel Holder.

The Cardinals are strong at the skill positions, particularly on the offensive side, but Davis said they will have to carve out their own identity and not rely on what worked last year. With a largely new cast, they will have to figure out what works for them.

Conferences don't get much tougher than the A Conference. With five of the six local A Conference teams in the Top 15 and Georgetown Prep also a contender, the Cardinals face battle to repeat as champions -- something only Gilman and Loyola in the last 14 years.

CALVERT HALL PHOTOS

Photo above of Da'Quan Davis returning an interception by The Baltimore Sun's Jed Kirschbaum.

Game 1

Calvert Hall pulls away in 2nd half for 35-18 win over St. John's (D.C.)

3 straight touchdowns break open 14-12 game in opener for both schools

BOWIE — St. John's (D.C.) certainly tested Calvert Hall in the season opener for both schools Thursday night. The Cardinals, who lost 26 players from last year's championship team and are asking young players to step in, didn't have an easy time in the early minutes.

But No. 2 Calvert Hall eventually answered the challenge. The Cardinals received a number of big plays from quarterback Thomas Stuart and running back C.J. Williams, scoring 21 straight points to pull away for a 35-18 victory in the I-95 Kickoff Classic at Bowie State.

Stuart threw for one touchdown and ran for another, while Williams caught a touchdown pass and ran for one. Garrett Keene scored on a short run, and Brandon Neverdon broke free for his own long run in the fourth quarter.

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

The game was close early, and Calvert Hall hung on to a 14-12 halftime lead before scoring the first 21 points of the second half.

"Our guys really were able to make huge plays on both sides of the ball," Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said. "[That helped] swing the momentum."

The Cardinals needed the momentum to swing because even though they never trailed, the Cadets nipped at their heels the whole first half, making their own big plays and giving Calvert Hall problems.

"Everybody had a bit of jitters," Stuart said. "Everyone just came out and played their hearts out."

In the end, the big plays made the difference.

Williams ran for a 69-yard touchdown early and caught a 23-yard scoring pass from Stuart in the second half that gave Calvert Hall (1-0) breathing room late in the third quarter.

Stuart scrambled for a 21-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter that gave the Cardinals a 28-12 lead and proved to be the breaking point.

The defense also came up big several times. St. John's had first-and-goal at the 10 in the second quarter, but the Cardinals forced the Cadets to try a field goal — which they missed. Later, after a St. John's touchdown, the Cardinals stopped the two-point conversion.

Calvert Hall had problems early giving Stuart room to operate. He was sacked twice on the first drive, and the Cardinals had to punt. A partially blocked kick gave St. John's good field position, but Peter Rosa missed a 27-yard field goal.

But the Cardinals came up with the game's first big play moments later on the touchdown run by Williams. Austen Strachen added the extra point for a 7-0 lead with 4:04 left in the first quarter.

St. John's slowly drove 69 yards on the ensuing possession and scored on Ben Onett's 6-yard touchdown run. But Joe Giglio missed the extra point to let the Cardinals keep a 7-6 lead with 10:44 remaining in the first half.

Calvert Hall's offense kept rolling on the next drive as Stuart completed three passes that quickly moved the team to the 12-yard line. That's when Keene burst free up the middle for a 12-yard touchdown. Strachen's extra point put the Cardinals up 14-6 with 3:19 left in the half.

But St. John's drove right back downfield and scored on a 1-yard run by

Devin Williams. Calvert Hall then sacked Omar Truitt — one of the team's two quarterbacks who shuttled in and out — to deny the two-point conversion and keep its lead at 14-12 at the break.

Copyright © 2012, **The Baltimore Sun**

Game 2

No. 2 Calvert Hall clamps down on defense, shuts out DeMatha 18-0

Cardinals improve to 2-0 with win at Patriot Classic

By Todd Karpovich, Special to The Baltimore Sun

11:46 p.m. EDT, September 9, 2011

Calvert Hall linebacker Travon Barnes leveled DeMatha receiver Cameron Phillips just as he caught the ball for a four-yard loss.

That second-quarter play from Friday night's marquee matchup at the Patriot Classic at Navy-Marine Corps **Memorial Stadium** was indicative of the No. 2-ranked Cardinals' relentless pressure throughout the night.

Emanuel Holder knocked DeMatha quarterback Jamal Robinson out of the game with a bone-jarring sack, Da'Quan Davis returned an interception for a touchdown, and Calvert Hall's offense and special teams made enough plays to polish off an 18-0 victory.

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

It was Cardinals' second win over a Washington Catholic Athletic Conference opponent in as many weeks, and it dropped the Stags, ranked fourth in the ESPNHS state poll, to 1-1.

"I think it's a great win for the program," Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said. "What it does is display that we continue to march forward as a program, taking steps in the right direction. We're really establishing ourselves in not only in the Baltimore metropolitan area, but in the state as one of the finer, more consistent programs this state has to offer."

Calvert Hall (2-0; ranked third in the state by ESPNHS) took an early lead after Delando Johnson recovered a bad snap on a punt on DeMatha's 19-yard line. That set up a 31-yard field goal by Austen Strachen.

After failing to move the ball past midfield for much of the first half, DeMatha appeared to find a hole in Calvert Hall's defense when Ishmiel Seisay threw a 55-yard touchdown pass to Phillips. But the play came back because of holding, and the Stags were eventually forced to punt.

Calvert Hall's defense continued to set the tone in the second half. Thomas Hollenback made two tackles for a loss of six yards, and the Cardinals continued to shut down the Stags' rushing attack.

Donald Davis said Holder, a defensive lineman, had one of the best games he's seen as a coach. Holder was instrumental in shedding blocks to keep pressure DeMatha's ball carriers.

A 46-yard punt return by Trevor Williams gave Calvert Hall possession on DeMatha's 15-yard line midway through the third quarter. Three players later, quarterback Thomas Stuart found Kyle Levere for a 9-yard touchdown and a 10-0 lead.

DeMatha finally put together a drive late in third quarter and got down to the Cardinals' 32-yard line. But Johnson sacked Seisay for an 8-yard loss, and the Stags were eventually forced to punt again.

A fake punt by the Cardinals on their own 17 failed and gave DeMatha its best field position of the game. But Calvert Hall's defense didn't budge, and Brandon Neverdon blocked a 27-yard field goal attempt to keep the Stags scoreless.

"We go over special teams a lot because our coaches take pride in it," Neverdon said. "I wanted to take my game to another level this week. With a big game like this, I had to get one. I love this team."

Da'Quan Davis capped the win with a 35-yard interception return with 1:36 remaining, and the Cardinals added a two-point conversion for the final margin.

"Our defense played great out there," Barnes said. "We played as hard as we could. DeMatha is a good team, but we did our best and stopped them."

No. 2 Calvert Hall 18, DeMatha 0

D 0 0 0 0 - 0

CH 3 0 7 8 – 18

C- Strachen 31 kick

C- Stuart 9 pass to Levere (Strachen kick)

C- Davis 35 intterception return (Jones pass from Dubuque)

Copyright © 2012, **The Baltimore Sun**

Join now for Baltimore Sun All Digital Access >>

Game 3

Football: No. 2 Calvert Hall blocks late extra point to hold off Red Lion (Del.) 28-27 Cardinals

By Todd Karpovich, Special to The Baltimore Sun
10:13 p.m. EDT, September 16, 2011

After Red Lion Christian Academy of Delaware pulled within a point of second-ranked Calvert Hall with a touchdown in the final minutes of Friday night's showdown of regional powers, it appeared overtime was inevitable.

But on the ensuing extra point, the Cardinals' Da'Quan Davis timed the snap perfectly and blocked the kick.

C.J. Williams then ripped off a 35-yard run, allowing Calvert Hall to take a knee and hold on for a 28-27 victory in front of an estimated 3,000 fans at Paul Angelo Russo Stadium. It was the first game played under the new permanent lights at the stadium.

"I was thinking block, and I knew we needed a big play," said Davis, who has committed to West Virginia. "I knew I had to step up, and I went up there and I got it. It's big. It came down to one play, and we made it."

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

Red Lion freshman quarterback David Sills, who has already committed to the University of Southern California, shook off a slow start and threw two touchdown passes. But he was intercepted twice.

Calvert Hall quarterback Thomas Stuart threw three touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score on a 15-yard connection with Kyle Levere on a fourth-and-4 with three minutes remaining.

"Coach [Donald] Davis really showed confidence in us, putting us back out there when we could have kicked the field goal," Stuart said. "The line blocked incredible, and so did the running backs."

Red Lion entered the game with two impressive wins this season. The Lions ran past Youngstown Ursuline, the three-time defending Ohio state champion, 54-18, and ended **Annapolis** Area Christian's 18-game winning streak last week in Annapolis.

But the Cardinals proved to be a more formidable opponent.

Calvert Hall opened the scoring with 40 seconds remaining in the first quarter when Will Johnson intercepted Sills and ran 10 yards for a touchdown. Red Lion took a 7-6 lead on the ensuing possession, a 10-play, 77-yard scoring drive capped by a 7-yard pass from Sills to Daikiel Shorts.

The Cardinals ate almost seven minutes off the clock on their next possession. Stuart then found Stephen Kelly on a 14-yard pass, and Calvert Hall led 14-7 with 3:41 left in the second quarter. Stuart then led Calvert Hall on another scoring drive just before the half, throwing a 34-yard touchdown pass to Trevor Williams for a 21-7 lead.

The Cardinals ran 19 times and threw 11 in the first half.

"Our kids and my assistant coaches deserve all the credit," Davis said. "These kids hung in there when we were up, when we were tied, when things didn't look good. The coaches made the necessary adjustments. I got to be the most fortunate football coach on the face of the planet."

Sills cut the margin to 21-14 on a 21-yard pass to Dhameer Bradley with 7:06 left in the third quarter. The Lions then tied the game at 21 on a 2-yard run by Wendell Smallwood with one minute remaining in the third quarter.

The Cardinals eventually answered on Stuart's pass to Levere.

No. 2 Calvert Hall 28, Red Lion (Del.) 27

RL - 0 7 14 6 – 27

CH - 6 15 0 7 – 28

C-Johnson 10 interception (kick failed)

R- Sills 7 pass to Shorts (Decloux kick)
C- Stuart 7 pass to Kelly (Stuart pass to Williams)|
C- Stuart 34 pass to Williams (Strachen kick)
R- Sills 21 pass to Bradley (Decloux kick)
R – Smallwood 2 run (Decloux kick)
C- Stuart 15 pass to Levere (Strachen kick)
R-Smallwood 2 run (kick blocked)

GAME 4
Calvert Hall 41 Calvin Coolidge (DC) 7
No news article

Game 5

Gilman's Jones shows why he's considered among best in the country

Standout's 97-yard return lifts Greyhounds past Calvert Hall

By Craig Clary, cclary@patuxent.com

October 7, 2011 | 7:48 p.m.

Making big plays on special teams can help a player go from relative obscurity to a one-hit wonders, or it can turn highly touted players into bona fide stars.

In Friday afternoon's 28-21 Gilman (5-1) victory over visiting Calvert Hall (4-1), two special team plays did just that.

The first, on Calvert Hall's fake field goal on the last play of the second quarter made halftime heroes out of senior Matt Dubuque and junior Logan Kurek.

"Like" [explorebaltimorecounty's Facebook page](#)

The second, a 97-yard game-winning punt return touchdown by Cyrus Jones, with a tick under three minutes left in regulation, was further proof that Jones is one of the top playmakers in the country.

Jones got one last crunching block by Wyatt Dickerson on the Calvert Hall punter and went untouched for the final 50 yards.

"I think Cyrus Jones is a tremendous player," Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said. "He may be the very best player, or he's 1 and 1A with Stephon Diggs (Good Counsel). Those two are two of the best players in America."

Gilman coach Biff Poggi couldn't agree more.

"I think he's the best player I've ever coached, and I think he's the best player in the country," Poggi said.

Jones also had four receptions for 80 yards in the second half when Gilman rallied from a 21-7 deficit.

On the last play before halftime, it appeared Calvert Hall's Kurek and Dubuque were headed for stardom when they connected on the fake field goal.

Gilman called a time out with 2.4 seconds remaining and the Calvert Hall players saw an opening.

"We noticed they were stacking one side and we called it in the huddle and we just said go and we went and I did my job and jumped up and got it," said Kurek, who had another touchdown reception earlier this season on a play from scrimmage.

Dubuque scrambled to his right and lofted the ball into the corner of the end zone under pressure.

"It was just sitting up there," Kurek said. "I never knew when it was going to come down, but I just waited for it."

"Matt made the only play he could make with pressure on him and Logan Kurek made a heckuva catch to put us in a position to be up two scores at the half," Davis said.

In the end, thanks to Gilman's Jones, it wasn't quite enough.



GAME 6

OCTOBER 15, 2011

Friday's varsity roundup: No. 2 Calvert Hall survives

Calvert Hall 22 Georgetown Prep 13

A roundup of notable sporting events from Friday:

FOOTBALL

No. 2 Calvert Hall needed everything it had to hold off underdog Georgetown Prep, 22-13, Friday night. The Cardinals (5-1) clung to a 15-13 lead before senior running back C.J. Williams scored the clinching touchdown on a 2-yard plunge with 2:54 left in the game.

Calvert Hall out-gained the Little Hoyas, 220-60, in the first half but could only manage a modest 9-3 advantage at the intermission.

Quarterback Thomas Stuart scored twice for the Cardinals and Austen Strachen added a 30-yard field goal.

Mike DePaul scored on a 66-yard pass from quarterback Tre Johnson and Ed Brenne added two field goals for Georgetown Prep (3-5).

GAME 7

No. 2 Calvert Hall holds off No. 9 Spalding, 29-23

Cavaliers show fight, but can't come back from 21-0 deficit

By Nelson Coffin, Towson Times

10:14 p.m. EDT, October 21, 2011

Just like coach Mike Whittles, who missed his first game Friday night because of a long battle with cancer, No. 9 Archbishop Spalding proved it knows how to fight.

After spotting defending Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference champion Calvert Hall a 21-point lead, the visiting Cavaliers came roaring back to almost pull off the upset.

Although the No. 2 Cardinals prevailed, 29-23, it wasn't an easy win by and stretch of the imagination.

"They're a great team," Calvert Hall quarterback Thonas Stuart said. "Their coach missed the game tonight, and he's fighting hard. So are they."

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

Spalding used to give Calvert Hall fits when the Cavaliers were a B Conference powerhouse, beating the Cardinals in 2009 and taking them to overtime last season.

That trend continued when the Cavaliers met the Cardinals for first time as a member of the A Conference.

Calvert Hall (6-1, 2-1 conference) jumped out to the big lead early in the second quarter before Spalding (5-3, 2-3) responded with 10 unanswered points.

The Cardinals covered 60 yards in just four plays in the opening drive, scoring on a 28-yard pass from Stuart to fellow senior Trevor Williams.

On its next series, Calvert Hall gobbled up 80 yards in 13 plays as junior fullback Cole Atkinson powered the final 3 yards for a touchdown and a 13-0 lead with 11:19 to go in the half.

After recovering an onside kick at the Spalding 48, Stuart scrambled to his left with several Cavaliers in pursuit. He then turned at the last moment and fired a pass that Williams hauled in to raise the margin to 21 points.

Spalding, aided by a the first of two roughing-the-passer penalties, scored on its next drive when Avery Simmons took a pitch from quarterback Brian Louck and motored 45 yards into the end zone.

Kevin Weiman, who kicked the extra point on Simmons' TD, added a 32-yard field goal 32 seconds before halftime.

Spalding then kept up the pressure, traveling 63 yards in 10 plays for another score to open the second half on Simmons' 2-yard plunge to make it 21-16.

"Our offensive line started to click," said Louck, whose team compiled just 6 yards in the first quarter.. "Then the defense started to respect the pass, and that opened up the middle."

The Cardinals answered on their next possession, a seven-play, 59-yard sequence capped by senior Brandon Neverdon's 2-yard run and a two-point conversion pass from Matt Dubuque to Emmanuel Holder to make it 29-16.

Spalding came back again, blocking a punt at the Calvert Hall 11-yard line and scoring on a 9-yard Jeremiah Johnson run two plays later to make it 29-23 with 9:30 left.

Richard Gableman intercepted a Stuart pass to end the next Cardinal drive at the Spalding 20, but could not take advantage of the turnover.

Calvert Hall put the game away in the final minutes on a sustained 9-play drive that killed the clock and Spalding's upset bid.

"I like playing close games," Stuart said. "But it gives our coach [Donald Davis] gray hairs."

No. 2 Calvert Hall 29, No. 9 Spalding 23

CH 7 14 8 0 -- 29

AS 0 10 6 7 -- 23

C—Williams 24 pass Stuart (Strachan kick)

C—Atkinson 3 run (kick blocked)

C—Williams pass from Stuart (Stuart pass to Atkinson))

S—Simmons 45 run (Weiman kick)

S—Weiman 32 FG

S—Simmons 2 run (kick blocked)

C—Neverdon 2 run (Dubuque pass to Holder)

S—Johnson 9 run (Weiman kick)

Copyright © 2012, **The Baltimore Sun**

GAME 8

Calvert Hall 48 McDonogh 42 (3OT)

Calvert Hall edges McDonogh, 48-42, in triple overtime **Stuart's touchdown pass to CJ Williams is the difference for Cardinals in win**

By Nelson Coffin, Towson Times

7:42 p.m. EDT, October 30, 2011

When push came to shove, neither No. 2 Calvert Hall nor No. 8 McDonogh was willing to give an inch in a showdown for the second seed in the inaugural Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference playoffs.

In the end, though, the Cardinals (7-1, 3-1 conference) managed to prevail in a 48-42 triple-overtime thriller on the
[See more stories »](#)

Senior quarterback Thomas Stuart connected with classmate CJ Williams for the go-ahead score in the third extra period, then came up short in an attempt to make the two-point conversion when his pass was batted down.

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

But Williams made sure his touchdown stood when he intercepted McDonogh senior quarterback Joel Jorgensen's pass in the end zone to secure the victory.

"I read the quarterback's eyes," said Williams, who also plays linebacker for the Cardinals. "And I dropped back to help when the receiver came over the middle."

McDonogh (6-3, 3-2) came ready to play with a game plan that had Calvert Hall's defense befuddled for almost the entire first half.

Tre Henley's 5-yard run and scoring strikes from Jorgensen to senior Miles Crump (39 yards) and junior Taysean Scott (51 yards) gave McDonogh a 20-0 advantage with 1:49 left in the half.

"I think they were running trips, and then one guy would run a post [pattern] and he'd be wide open," said Cardinals defensive lineman Emmanuel Holder. "I told our DBs, 'I need help.'"

Calvert Hall recorded its initial touchdown on the first of seven scoring strikes -- four in regulation and three in OT -- by Stuart, who found senior Trevor Williams in the corner of the end zone from the Eagles' 12 with 53 seconds left in the second quarter.

Stuart followed that up with touchdown passes to CJ Williams (8 yards), senior Brandon Neverdon (20 yards) and Trevor Williams (46 yards) to take a 28-20 lead in the third quarter.

Jorgensen then drew his team even in the fourth quarter on a 54-yard touchdown pass to junior Jabari Weems and a run for the two-point conversion.

In the final frantic seconds of regulation, Calvert Hall blocked a 36-yard field goal attempt after confusion among the officials about where the ball should have been spotted.

In the first OT, Calvert Hall missed an extra point that would have given the Cardinals the win after senior linebacker Garrett Epple denied an Eagles runner on the 1-yard line on a conversion attempt.

In the second OT, Jorgensen leaped over several defenders from the 3-yard line to finish an 11-yard touchdown run as the Eagles went ahead, 42-34.

However, Stuart found CJ Williams for a touchdown and then connected with junior Stephen Kelly for the tying points.

"We played well enough to win, but we just have to execute better on crucial plays," McDonogh coach Dom Damico said. "Not having our kicker [Evan Glaser, who left the game with a concussion] killed us."

ncoffin@tribune.com

Copyright © 2013, **The Baltimore Sun**

[Join now for Baltimore Sun All Digital Access >>](#)

GAME 9

Football: Calvert Hall beats Mt. St. Joe, nails down second seed

Cardinals host McDonogh next Friday in conference semifinal

By Nelson Coffin, ncoffin@tribune.com

November 4, 2011 | 11:05 p.m.

Mount St. Joseph came into Friday night's game at Calvert Hall with nothing to lose and a Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference berth on the line.

Unfortunately for the Gaels, the Cardinals (8-1, 4-1 conference) also had the incentive of locking down the second seed, which they did with a workmanlike 26-7 victory at Paul Angelo Russo Stadium.

Calvert Hall will host third-seeded McDonogh next Friday night at the same site. The winner of that game will meet the Gilman-Archbishop Spalding victor on Nov. 18 at Towson University.

Should the Cardinals advance, they will then only have six days before their annual Turkey Bowl encounter against archrival Loyola Blakefield

Yet Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said he welcomed the opportunity to keep the season alive.

"I'm just thrilled we were able to give our seniors one more home game," said Davis as the big crowd filed out of the stadium on a chilly night. "We know McDonogh will be hungry. They're just about the last folks you want to see, because (coach) Dom (Damico) always gets the most out of his players."

The Eagles proved as much last Sunday, falling to the Cardinals, 48-42, in triple overtime.

Against St. Joe (3-6, 2-4), Calvert Hall scored on its opening drive, covering 65 yards in just four plays and finished on a 10-yard sweep by senior running back Brandon

Neverdon. After junior Austen Strachen's conversion kick it was 7-0 with 10:04 left in the first quarter.

Junior Stephen Kelly hauled in a pass from senior quarterback Thomas Stuart, made a terrific inside cut and motored 27 yards down the sideline for the Cardinals' second score of the evening and a 13-0 advantage at the 6:05 mark of the second quarter.

At that point, the Gaels could have packed it in emotionally.

Instead, they responded a minute later when sophomore quarterback Bryan Jangro found senior wideout Samuel Benjamin cutting across the middle for a 35-yard touchdown. Junior Mike Grasso's point-after made it 13-7.

Calvert Hall put some distance between itself and the Gaels by driving 92 yards in just 1:27 to jump ahead, 19-7, on a 2-yard plunge by senior fullback Garrett Flannery with 30 seconds remaining in the half.

Stuart widened the margin with a 35-yard strike to senior Trevor Williams after a scramble to his left on a broken play with five seconds left in the third period.

"He's like a little Ben Roethlisberger," Mt. St. Joe coach Blake Henry said. "Most of his good plays come outside the pocket."

The Gaels' next effort to get back into the game was stymied by an interception by junior linebacker Robbie Jones, who also had a sack and forced a fumble.

St. Joe also had a long touchdown pass called back by a holding penalty.

"They forced us into some bad plays and we made some mistakes, too," Henry said.

GAME 10

Calvert Hall blocks McDonogh field goal attempt as time expires for 16-15 win

Cardinals will meet Gilman in inaugural MIAA A Conference championship game next Friday

By Nelson Coffin, Towson Times

10:26 p.m. EST, November 11, 2011

After scoring 88 points between them in a regular-season battle less than two weeks ago, Calvert Hall and McDonogh locked in a defensive struggle in a Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference semifinal at Paul Angelo Russo Stadium in Towson on Friday night.

And just as they did in a 48-42 triple-overtime victory on the Eagles' home field on Oct. 30, the Cardinals (9-1) came from way behind to claim a pulsating triumph.

With the 16-15 win, the Cardinals advance to the inaugural conference championship game at Towson University next Friday at 8 p.m. to meet Gilman, the team that handed them their only defeat, 28-21, in early October.

One of the heroes of the earlier McDonogh game, senior running back CJ Williams, plagued the Eagles once again with his penchant for big plays in clutch situations.

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

Trailing 15-3, after a 2-yard plunge by McDonogh senior running back Colby Everett with 8:52 remaining, Calvert Hall began its comeback when Williams hauled in a swing pass from senior quarterback Thomas Stuart at the 8-yard line and somehow managed to plow in the end zone with two Eagles defenders attempting to bring him down with 7:23 to go.

On its next series, Calvert Hall used the same duo to strike deep into McDonogh territory when Williams grabbed Stuart's pass over the middle and churned for 15 precious extra yards.

"I knew the safety was right behind me," Williams said. "I shielded him from the ball and then put my shoulder down and kept running."

The 40-yard pass play put the ball at the McDonogh 22.

Two plays later, Stuart found senior wideout Trevor Williams with the tying score, which was broken by junior Austen Strachen's point-after with 1:45 remaining.

"When we were way behind, CJ came up to me on the sideline and said, 'Coach, we've got this. Trust me.' The kid just has a tremendous will to win," Cardinals coach Donald Davis said.

After falling behind, McDonogh was not about to give up. Behind gutsy senior quarterback Joel Jorgensen, the Eagles drove to the Calvert Hall 15-yard line and attempted a 32-yard field goal that was blocked as time expired.

McDonogh coaches felt that a penalty should have been called on the play for roughing the kicker.

"The referees in our league aren't up to the level of competition," McDonogh coach Dom Damico said. "Our kicker was basically annihilated. There should have been a 15-yard penalty. I'm fed up with the officiating."

The Eagles led 8-0 at halftime after Jorgensen scrambled to his right and found junior Taysean Scott in the corner of the end zone with 1:58 remaining in the second quarter.

Jorgensen's two-point conversion pass to Tre Henley finished the 17-yard play.

Calvert Hall simply could not move the ball against the Eagles, even after moving to the McDonogh 6-yard line near the end of the third quarter.

Instead, the Cardinals settled for a 28-yard field goal by junior Austen Strachen with 2:39 remaining in the third quarter.

While Calvert Hall struggled to run the ball against McDonogh's defensive line, led by University of Maryland-bound end Roman Braglio, the Eagles secondary did a terrific job of covering Cardinals receivers Trevor Williams, CJ Williams and Logan Kurek.

GAME 11

No. 1 Gilman beats No. 2 Calvert Hall, 34-32, in 2OT for A Conference title

Greyhounds rally from 14-0 deficit to win conference's first championship game

By Nelson Coffin, Towson Times

12:30 a.m. EST, November 19, 2011

While there was some controversy about the idea of adding a playoff in a league with only seven teams, there's no doubt the first MIAA A Conference championship game kept the 5,728 fans at **Johnny Unitas** Stadium riveted for Friday night's entire game — and two overtime periods.

No. 1 Gilman's 34-32 victory over No. 2 Calvert Hall will be talked about for a quite some time.

The Greyhounds (10-1) pulled ahead, 20-14, on a 1-yard plunge by quarterback Shane Cockerille and the ensuing two-point conversion pass from Cockerille to fellow junior Henry Poggi.

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

But senior quarterback Thomas Stuart led Calvert Hall (9-2) on a crisp, six-play drive that ended with his third touchdown pass of the game, an 18-yard strike to senior Brandon Neverdon to tie it with 28 seconds to go.

The Cardinals' euphoria was short-lived, though, when they missed an extra point and the game went to overtime.

On fourth down in the first overtime, Stuart rainbowed a throw that Neverdon pulled down for a 26-20 Cardinal advantage.

After Jones scored to tie it on a 1-yard dive, Gilman fumbled the point-after snap. That sent the game into a second overtime, but a Calvert Hall penalty allowed the Greyhounds to start their next possession from the Cardinals' 5 instead of the 10.

Jones scored on his first carry from there, and he added the conversion run for a 34-26 lead.

Stuart then found junior Kyle Levere to close the deficit, but he could not do the same on the ensuing conversion pass, which was knocked down by Gilman junior Wyatt Dickerson to give the Greyhounds the crown they lost to the Cardinals last year.

It was the third straight game between the rivals that the team leading at halftime went on to lose, including Gilman's 28-21 win Oct. 7 after trailing 21-7.

"I really feel bad for Calvert Hall," Gilman coach Biff Poggi said. "We were on the losing side last year, and we know how they feel. But Jones said, 'Ride me.' He wanted the ball in overtime. He wanted it for the two-point conversion. He wanted to put us on his back. The team rallied around him."

Calvert Hall struck first on a six-play, 61-yard drive capped by a 15-yard pass from Stuart to fellow senior Trevor Williams, who broke a tackle at the 3-yard line before crossing the goal line. Junior Austen Strachen's extra point made it 7-0 with 4:10 left in the first quarter.

On a fourth-and-10 from the Gilman 14, Stuart found senior C.J. Williams streaking over the middle for another score and a 14-0 advantage with 5:17 remaining in the first half.

Trailing by two touchdowns, Gilman called on Jones to rally the troops, and he did just that, carrying the ball four times for 41 yards and catching a pass for 9 more yards on a 65-yard drive finished by a Cockerille keeper with 1:27 to go before halftime.

It took the Greyhounds another quarter to score again, when senior Kenneth Goins powered in from the 3. Cockerille kept that drive alive on a fourth-and-10 completion to

junior tight end Micah Kiser after scrambling out of a sack attempt and rolling to his left long enough for his receiver to shake free.

That left Calvert Hall with a 14-12 lead with 46 seconds left in the third period, but it was a lead the Cardinals couldn't hold onto.

"My hat goes off to their kids and their program," Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said. "They played awesome tonight."

While Gilman's season ends with its 10th MIAA title since 1998, the Cardinals will finish their year with the annual Turkey Bowl Thanksgiving Day against rival Loyola at Towson's Johnny Unitas Stadium.

GAME 12

Calvert Hall claims third straight Turkey Bowl with 34-17 win over Loyola

By Rich ScherrSpecial to The Baltimore Sun
3:07 p.m. EST, November 24, 2011

Just six days after suffering one of the most emotional defeats of his high school career, Calvert Hall quarterback Thomas Stuart on Thursday returned to the place it all went down -- with one more chance to make it right.

Playing on the same Towson University field where his No. 2 Cardinals last week fell to Gilman in double overtime of the inaugural Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference title game, Stuart threw for 252 yards and a pair of touchdowns, helping No. 2 Calvert Hall score the game's final 13 points in a 34-17 win over Loyola in the 92nd Turkey Bowl before an announced 10,080.

"I think if we didn't have the opportunity to do this, some of us would've held [that loss] with us for a long time," Stuart said.

Follow @SunVarsity on Twitter for high school sports updates

Instead, those memories will include three straight victories for Calvert Hall (10-2) against its arch-rival, though Loyola (4-6) still leads the all-time series 48-36-8.

The game served as an emotional and physical challenge for the Cardinals, who took part in a pair of hard-fought playoff games while Loyola had three weeks to rest and focus on Thanksgiving.

"They're 16 and 17 years old, so physically I think they're able to bounce back. The issue becomes emotionally," Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said. "After an emotional double-overtime game and a loss -- and we took a few injuries and you only have a few

days to make some adjustments -- those become the challenges. But mentally I thought they did a great job of focusing over the last couple of days and coming out and executing today."

Stuart finished 19 of 28 after hitting each of his first seven passes, while receiver Trevor Williams had 10 catches for 123 yards. Just 76 of the Cardinals' 328 yards of total offense came on the ground.

One drive after Loyola got back to within four points on Ryan Black's 2-yard plunge over the left side, Stuart answered by leading an 80-yard drive, capped by his 34-yard touchdown pass to Williams, who beat a pair of defenders down the right sideline.

"I kind of gave [Williams] the look like, 'Go up top. I've got him,'" Stuart said. "[Loyola's] coach on the play said 'QB draw,' and I thought they were all going to come, so I took a step forward. I think that brought the safety up a little bit and it gave me time to throw to Trevor."

Said Williams: "They had a lot of momentum ...so we just wanted to take their heart from them and go deep."

The Cardinals then finished off Loyola midway through the fourth quarter, when linebacker Garrett Epple stepped in front of Dons quarterback Jake Clise's out pass near midfield and returned in 42 yards to the 2. When running back Garrett Keene scored from the 2 two plays later, Calvert Hall had all but sealed up the win.

Clise led the Dons with 134 yards rushing and a touchdown, primarily on option runs. But after running wild in the first half -- including a 60-yard touchdown in which he faked to Black and then took off around the left side -- Clise managed just 38 yards the rest of the way.

"We made an adjustment at half," Cardinals linebacker C.J. Williams said. "The two inside linebackers kind of keyed the quarterback, instead of going for the running back. That's how we were able to manage it and control it in the second half."

Down 3-0, Calvert Hall got its offense rolling on its opening possession, with Stuart completing all five passes on the drive to set up a 2-yard plunge by fullback Cole

Atkinson.

After forcing a punt, the Cardinals then picked up where they left off. Stuart hit receiver Delando Johnson for a 16-yard gain to open the drive, and nine plays later rolled left, drew defenders and floated a 13-yard touchdown pass over their heads to wide-open Brandon Neverdon to extend the lead to 14-3.

Up just 14-10 after Clise's run, Calvert Hall was quick to re-establish control, as Stuart found Trevor Williams on consecutive passes of 24 and 20 yards to move the ball into Dons' territory. Aided by a pass interference call in the end zone, the Cardinals then extended their lead to 21-10 when Stuart scored from the 1.

"In the first half we've got to make some stops," Loyola coach Brian Abbott said. "We had opportunities to get [our] offense back on the field. [Our] offense was doing a nice job in the first half, but we couldn't get [Calvert Hall] off the field."

Calvert Hall 7 14 0 13 -- 34

Loyola 3 7 7 0 -- 17

L-Dubynoski 23 FG

CH-Atkinson 2 run (Strachan kick)

CH-Neverdon 13 pass from Stuart (Strachan kick)

L-Clise 60 run (Dubynoski kick)

CH-C.J. Williams 1 run (Strachan kick)

L-Black 2 run (Dubynoski kick)

CH-T. Williams 34 pass from Stuart (Strachan kick)

CH-Keene 2 run (pass failed)

Copyright © 2012, **The Baltimore Sun**

Join now for Baltimore Sun All Digital Access >>

Calvert Hall to honor former football coach Miceli

Calvert Hall will honor former football coach Augie Miceli at a ceremony before Friday night's game to dedicate a coaches' wing in his name in Paul Angelo Russo Stadium.

Miceli coached the Cardinals from 1974 to 1987 and won 104 games – more than any other Cardinals' coach. In 1979, he was named The Baltimore Sun's All-Metro Coach of the Year after leading the Cardinals to an undefeated season and the MSA A Conference championship.

Miceli's teams won a handful of MSA titles, but he is perhaps most revered for winning seven straight Turkey Bowls, the most consecutive wins for the Cardinals in the Thanksgiving Day rivalry with Loyola that is in its 92nd year.

Last year, Miceli celebrated his 50th year of teaching at Calvert Hall, where he helped out with the football team at times after leaving the head coaching position.

"This will be the first thing that will be permanent in his name," said Frank Kelly, a 1982 graduate who, along with his three brothers, played for Miceli. "I think 10 or 15 years ago, a scholarship was endowed in his name, but this is tied to him as a football coach. He has taught at Calvert Hall for more than 50 years, but this is really related to football."

Before the game Friday, a sign will be unveiled near the spot where the Cardinals emerge from their locker room, proclaiming the Augie Miceli Sr. Coaches' Wing, Kelly said.

"It's a great way to recognize him for his many years of coaching and all the championship teams he coached," he said.

Posted by **Katherine Dunn**