Five TD Passes in the Second Quarter vs. Hamilton in 1993
Put Him in the Eph and NCAA DIII Record Books

Sullivan got red-hot in the second quarter and Hamilton, not by design, kept giving the Ephs the ball deep inside their own territory. Four fumbles by the Continentals all led to Eph TD passes.

“I remember everything came together fast,” said Sullivan. “Because it was cold and rainy the game started off very slowly. We had really opened up the offense at that point in the season, so once we were clicking we had a group that could put up a lot of points quickly.”

“We also had a number of impact players on the defensive side, like Greg Catanzano and Bobby Walker, who were very hard to play against. So once we had the momentum we were able to force turnovers and demoralize opponents,” added Sullivan.

Hamilton bobbled and fumbled the kickoff after the Machnik TD grab and the Ephs recovered on the Continentals’ six-yard line. Sullivan took the snap and tossed six yards to Nick Gemelli and the Ephs moved ahead 14-0.

On their next possession Hamilton drove down the field and scored their only points of the contest on a 39-yard field goal.

The lone Eph non-passing TD in the second quarter came on a 51-yard run by Mark Kossick, giving the Ephs a 21-3 lead.

Hamilton fumbled the ensuing kickoff on their 30-yard line and it took Sullivan two passes to get the Ephs on the scoreboard again. One a 21-yard pass to Nick Gemelli and the second a nine-yard throw to Gemelli for the TD.

“It’s funny. We were much more explosive as an offense in other games that season, against Tufts and Wesleyan, but with all the turnovers it just worked out that we had all those passing TDs,” stated Sullivan. “It was definitely a bit fluky with the rain. One of the passes that Nick Gemelli caught slipped out of my hand and yet fluttered into his arms. There was a sense that we ran up the score, but they were trying to force us to throw the ball because of the weather and we took what they gave us.”

Hamilton fumbled again, but this time on a running play at their 29-yard line. The Ephs ran the ball to the three-yard line and then Sullivan threw three yards to Nick Gemelli, who collected his third TD pass of the quarter setting a Williams record, and the Ephs were up 35-3.

Yes, Hamilton again fumbled on the kickoff return and the Ephs recovered on the 17-yard line. Sullivan threw a 17-yard scoring strike to wide receiver Todd Ducharme, putting the Ephs up 42-3.

Sullivan’s record five TD passes in one quarter only traveled a total of 55 yards, but they vaulted him into the team and NCAA record books.

Williams downed Hamilton 56-3, and the next week the Ephs with Sullivan at the controls scored 54 points in a win against previously undefeated Wesleyan, 54-16. Then they dominated Amherst 31-2 to win the Little Three title and finish the season 7-1.

“I definitely get a kick out of having the Division III record and I check it from time to time,” noted Sullivan. “In truth, the bigger accomplishment was being part of a team that played dominant football for the last half of that season and a program that only lost four games in my four years. Those are experiences that you bring with you into your life and career, and they’re my fondest memories of Williams.”

David Sullivan

EPH LEGEND • DAVID SULLIVAN ’94

All any player wants is a chance to show what he can do.

In the early 1990s, Eph head football coach Dick Farley was content to keep the ball on the ground, control the clock and the game, and register a victory. Farley was pretty much in the “there are three things that can happen when you throw the ball and two of them are bad” camp of football coaches.

The 1992 Ephs were a run-option offense with a smooth ball handler at quarterback in John Birknes. David Sullivan and Brandon Hehir backed up Birknes.

David Sullivan pitched for the Eph baseball team and everyone at Williams knew he had a strong arm. Sullivan was named the starting QB for the 1993 season. But because he had played sparingly his first three seasons, no one could have predicted that the senior quarterback would break four Eph passing records.

“We weren’t happy to have lost at Hamilton in 1992 (34-33),” stated Sullivan. “That was my first real game action in my career because we had real strong quarterbacks in Dan Dwyer and John Birknes. Several of our key skill players were out and we still almost pulled off a huge comeback in the 4th quarter, but lost on a failed 2-point conversion attempt. Hamilton was having a tough year in 1993 and we knew if we got ahead of them we could move the ball.”

The first quarter of the 1993 Williams versus Hamilton contest ended without either team scoring. Twenty seconds into the second quarter the drought ended when David Sullivan connected on an eight-yard pass to Todd Machnik. Thirty-five of the 42 points scored by Williams in the second quarter came from the passing arm of David Sullivan, as the Ephs opened things up to a 42-3 halftime lead.

Eph records Sullivan also held when he graduated:
Most TD passes one season (16)
Most Passing Yards one season (1,528)

David Sullivan is the Chief Financial Officer for Home Advisor International. He and his wife, Stephanie (Pare ’95), live in Dover, MA, with their children, Jack, Laura, and Julie.

David Sullivan’s Williams passing records:
Most TD passes one quarter – 5*
Most TD passes one game – 5^
* NCAA Record Still – 24 years
^ Still the Eph Single Game Record

Graduated:
David Sullivan ’94
with their children, Jack, Laura, and Julie.

Put Him in the Eph and NCAA DIII Record Books

Eph TD passes.

David Sullivan’s Williams passing records:
Most TD passes one season (16)
Most Passing Yards one season (1,528)