

Being the starting quarterback for Good Counsel High School is a tremendous responsibility; perfection is expected, for both the individual and the team. However, with the pressure comes the exposure, and with the exposure comes good college opportunities.

On Sept. 25, Zach Dancel, the signal caller for Good Counsel, witnessed the University of [Maryland](#) defeat [Florida International](#) 42-28. Dancel was impressed.

“The QB (Danny O’Brien) looked good out there – he was throwing a rocket. Maryland definitely looked good; it kind of changed my thoughts about the team.”

Dancel took a quick and abbreviated tour of the school after the game, seeing the Field House and talking with a few coaches.

As of now, the talk between the coaches and the quarterback is just talk; no offer has been made.

The junior has received offers from Towson and Stony Brook University. He’s also considering James Madison University, and has visited Florida International, [Central Michigan](#), and the University of [Illinois](#).

“I’m looking for a place where I fit in; where the coaches like me and I like the coaches. I have to like the school itself – after football I need something to do. And an offensive scheme that I fit in. It could be Maryland; things are starting to turn around for them.”

Dancel has been doing all he can to lead his team and help his college stock.

“I’ve been playing pretty good. I definitely think I can play better, but I haven’t done too much wrong.”

His play has resulted in his recently being named to the inaugural Chesapeake Bowl All-Star game on December 30, where he can potentially push Maryland and other schools into giving him an offer.

The junior considers his biggest strength on the gridiron to be reading defenses. He also has good footwork to extend plays, along with an accurate throwing arm. But above all, he sites his ability to win as his greatest asset.

While transitioning to college will undoubtedly be difficult, Dancel feels his Good Counsel coaches and teammates are putting him in a good position to succeed at the next level.

“(The coaching) has helped me a lot. All these guys could be college coaches. The players that I play with are all really good – (WR) Stefon (Diggs), (RB) Wes (Brown), (DB) Blake (Countess). They’re all potential next level guys that are making me better.”

While his supporting cast is making Dancel better, one of his goals is to reciprocate that collective improvement.

“(For this year) I just want to help get everyone better, to get them to where they want to be. And to bring in another championship.”

The 6’0, 192 pound player out of Clarksville, Md., is off to a tremendous start in leading his team toward that championship.

On Sept. 24, he led Good Counsel to a 53-7 victory over Bishop O’Connell.

Dancel had a perfect day passing: 5-5 for 67 yards and a touchdown, in addition to rushing for 69 yards and two more touchdowns.

For one day, at least, the unrealistic expectations – namely, perfection – for a quarterback of Good Counsel were realized.