EAGLES *FOOTBALL* GRIDIRON NEWS

Eagles drop nail biter to

Medina Valley Panthers 28 to 27

Riche Luna rushes for 142 yards

By: Conrado Perez, Jr. – Eagle Pass Sports Central

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The Eagle Pass Eagles varsity football team mentored by head football coach Tom Gonzalez inaugurated the much-anticipated program’s 98th ever season opener with a road trip to Castroville, Texas on Friday, September 1, 2017 and tangled with the Medina Valley Panthers in a 7:30 PM non-district season opening gridiron matchup. The Eagles dropped a heartbreaker 28 to 27 with the home standing Medina Valley Panthers making a 21-point comeback in the second half to come away with hard fought slim one-point victory.

The Eagles took the opening game kickoff and came out firing on all cylinders offensively employing a well balanced offensive scheme as they orchestrated a13 play scoring drive that was capped off with a 27-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Riche Luna to wide receiver

Norby Zavala with Jose Riojas tacking on the point after to give the Eagles the early 7 to 0 lead over the Panthers.

Later in the opening period the Eagles extended their lead with another long time-consuming scoring drive mixing their running and passing game to near perfection. The scoring drive culminated with a 49-yard touchdown pass from Riche Luna to wide receiver Albert Guevara. Jose Riojas split the uprights with the point after to give the Eagles a 14 to 0 lead over the stunned home standing Panthers at the end of the first quarter as the Eagles defense managed to hold the patented Panthers running game scoreless.

But in the second period the Medina Valley Panthers began to find success with their rushing attack behind their big and experienced offensive that paid off with a 6-yard run to pay dirt by the Panthers featured running back Caytan Chang. Ethan Hassinger converted the point after to narrow the Eagles lead to 14 to 7.

The Eagles offense immediately went back to work matriculating down the field with a well executed short passing game along with their running attack ad looked like they would add another touchdown but instead had to settle for a 22-yard field goal off the right foot of placekicker Jose Riojas to take a 17 top 7 lead over the Panthers into the halftime break.

During the halftime break with the Mighty Eagle Band showcasing their award-winning talent on the field, Eagles head football coach Tom Gonzalez met with his offensive coordinator Javier

Cardenas and defensive coordinator Roger Olivas to discuss the first half of play and decipher what Medina Valley had shown as far as offense and defense in that first half as well as make the necessary adjustments for the second half.

The Panthers received the second half kickoff and got the spark that they had been looking for as their return man Logan Master returned the kickoff 76 yards the house but the point after attempt failed but the Panthers had managed to narrow the deficit to just four points as the Eagles now held a 17 to 13 lead.

The proud Eagle Pass Eagles countered with another scoring drive taking to the airway once again with quarterback Riche Luna connecting with wide receiver Ralph Guerrero from 6 yards out. Jose Riojas added the point after to extend the Eagles lead to 24 to 13 over the Panthers.

Still riding some momentum from their second half kick return the Panthers running game got untracked in their next possession churning up yardage to produce another scoring drive capped off with a 7-yard scamper to pay dirt by tailback Devin Johnson. The Panthers successfully executed a two-point conversion to make the score Eagles 24 and Panthers 21.

The potent Eagles offense went back to work orchestrating another potential touchdown scoring drive in the fourth quarter but the drive stalled deep in Panthers territory so they settled for a 34 yard field goal from Jose Riojas to extend the Eagles lead to 27 to 21The home standing Medina Valley Panthers who refused to back down countered with what proved to be a

game winning drive late in the fourth quarter capping off the scoring drive with a game tying 5 yard plunge into the end zone by running back Carl Craig to knot up the score at 27 all but Panthers placekicker Ethan Hassinger tacked on the eventual game winning point after to give the Medina Valley Panthers the heartbreaking 28 to 27 victory over the gallant Eagle Pass Eagles who truly deserved a much better fate.

OFFICIAL TEAM STATS:

	EAGLES	OPPONENT
First Downs	18	20
Att./ Yds. Rushing	31/246	23/301
Yards Passing	143	33
Total Yards	**389**	**334**
Pass att./comp./int's	14/21/0	6/10/0
Return Yards	0	0

Punts /Avg.	2/47.0	2/30.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties/Yards	10/95	7/75

OFFICIAL INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE STATS:

PASSING:

#10 Riche Luna 14 comp. 21at. 143 yds. 3TD's

RUSHING:

#8 Dee Andre Torres 19 carries 98 yds.

#10 Riche Luna 14 carries 142 yds.

#11 Norby Zavala 1 carry 6 yds.

RECEIVING:

#2 Albert Guevara 2 rec. 60 yds. 1TD

#8 Dee Andre Torres 1 rec. 8 yds.

#11 Norby Zavala 6 rec. 41 yds. 1TD

#13 David Lopez 4 rec. 28 yds.

#15 Ralph Guerrero 1 rec. 6 yds. 1TD

OFFICIAL INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE STATS:

#7 Haran Rodriguez 6 solo tackles 5 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#5 Niko Moyeda 5 solo tackles 4 assists

#14 Kristian Barcena 5 solo tackles 2 assists

#44 Moi Rocha 4 solo tackles 4 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#50 Roger Ulloa 5 solo tackles 2 assists

#56 Sebastian Hernandez 1 solo tackle 5 assists

#25 David Kypuros 5 solo tackles 1 tackle for a loss 1 caused fumble 1 fumble recovery

#28 Raul Lechler 4 solo tackles

#22 Darwin Lechler 2 solo tackles 4 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#23 Armando Monsivais 2 solo tackles 1 assist

#32 Mario Torres 1 solo tackle 2 assists 1 tackle for a loss

#1 Ryan Chisum 2 solo tackles 1 assist

#31 Josh Monsivais 2 solo tackles