

By NICKIE MATHISON

The Dickinson Gators opened the 1954 football season with a win over a determined little Danbury crew by the score of 19 to 0.

After a somewhat weak first half the Dickinson club settled down in the second half to take full command. Herschel Hughes and Johnny Tidwell led the Gator offense. Tidwell scored one TD and had another called back. Hughes ran for one and passed to Leon Thomas for the another.

Melvin Cavallin and Bobby Diehl, Gator co-captains, starred on defense.

Glen Swindell kicked off for Dickinson to start the game and Danbury took over on its own 30. The Gator defense held Danbury for three downs and Ray Kulhanek went back to punt. However he fumbled the ball and ran all the way to the Gator 46 for a first down.

After another first down A. B. Cristensen crossed the goal, only to have the play called back and the Panthers penalized 15 yards. The Dickinson line then held and took over on downs on their 31 yard line.

Herschel Hughes gained four but the Gators were penalized 5. Hughes then raced 40 yards to the Panther 34 for a first down.

Johnny Tidwell gained nothing and the Gators were penalized 5 for backfield in motion. Hughes gained 10. Tidwell circled end for 29 yards and a touchdown. David Brown missed the try for extra point and the Gators led 6 to 0.

Swindell again kicked off and Danbury returned to the 30. The Gators held and Danbury punted to the Gator 40.

Hughes gained 7 and Tidwell 2. Jerry Mitchiner picked up 3 for a first down as the first quarter ended.

Hughes gained 3 then pitched a long pass to Wayne Williams, who dropped the ball. Tidwell went for 2 then Hughes passed to Leon Thomas for a 8 yards and a first down on the Panther 35.

Hughes gained 15 in three plays

for first down on the 20. Hughes threw an incomplete pass and the Gators were penalized 15. Hughes threw three more incomplete passes and the Panthers took over on their 35 yard line.

Again the Panthers moved to within scoring distance and again they had a scoring play nullified because of a penalty. The Gators then took over on downs on their own 9 yard line. In two plays Hughes romped 16 yards for a first down on the 25 as the half ended with Dickinson leading 6 to 0.

Brown returned the kickoff to the Gators 15. Hughes gained 9 and Mitchiner 19 for first down on the Gator 43. Hughes gained 2 and Mitchiner 1. Tidwell then circled end for 54 yards crossing the goal line only to have the play called back and Dickinson penalized 5 yards for backfield in motion.

Hughes gained a yard then Brown scampered for 25 and a first down on the Panther 35. Hughes gained 13 and another first. Mitchiner gained 7. An offside penalty gave the Gators first down on the Panther 10 yard line. Tidwell gained 4, Hughes 4, then Tidwell 1. On fourth down Hughes plunged over from the one yard line. Brown converted and Dickinson led 13 to 0.

Swindell kicked and Danbury returned to their own 39. After four plays the Gators took over on downs on their own 41 yard line.

Hughes then passed to Thomas for a 60 yard touchdown play. Brown's try for extra point failed and Dickinson led 19 to 0.

The third quarter ended two plays later. Dickinson held and Danbury punted out on the Gator 47. Hughes passed to Williams for 22 yards and a first down.

Hughes passed incomplete then Mitchiner fumbled and lost 5. Tidwell gained 6 but another pass by Hughes went incomplete and the Panthers took the ball on their own 24. They marched to the Gator 25 where Mitchiner intercepted a pass.

Hughes gained a yard. Tidwell raced 16 for a first down on the 29 yard line. Mitchiner gained 6. Hughes passed incomplete. Mitchiner lost a yard then 5 yards and Danbury took over on downs. They moved to the Gator 21 yard line before the game ended. Final score: Dickinson 19, Danbury 0.

Statistics:

Dickinson