

# 12 Gators to Play #10 'Last Game' Friday

Special to The News \*

DICKINSON, Nov. 17 — When the Dickinson Gators open in their homecoming game here Friday night against Deer Park, it marks the end of the gridiron trail for 12 seniors.

Graduating from Coach Guy Nunnally's squad are ends Leon Thomas, Allyn Neihl, and George Fleener; tackles, Alfred Pittman and H. E. Jackson; guards, Bill Meitzen, Bobby Diehl, Bob King and John High; all district 26-A center Mel Calvillin; and backs, Jerry Mitchner, John Tidwell, Manuel Martinez, and Wayne Williams. All are regulars or first-line substitutes.

From the above group, Dickinson has experienced the best football season from the Gators since the champions of 1948. Now riding into their final game with a 5-4 record, they can add tremendously to their closing glory by whipping the district's unbeaten Deers.

A win over Deer Park would only move the Gators into a district third place tie. However, it would make them first in the heart of each local fan.

More attention is focused on Friday's game as the community has rallied behind the team. The players were in no strain this week working out their offense and defense. They seemed confident and relaxed after having gained the support that was lacking during the first weeks of this football campaign.

This may surprise the closest Gator follower but the team has gained better than a mile in ground rushing, mostly attributed to Hershell Hughes, Tidwell and Mitchner.

Hughes, in amassing 11 touchdowns, four in the last two games, has gained 763 yards in 161 car-

ries for an average of 4.74 yards per try. Tidwell, used in the single wing blocker's position for the most part, jugged the leather 33 times when called on for 292 yards for an even five yards per carry and scored 24 points. Mitchner ran up six TDs out of 23 trips down field and collected 357 yards.

All together, the trio accounted for 1412 yards or eight-tenths of a mile. Hughes gathered in 170 yards against Missouri City last week.

Deer Park has failed to drop a 26-A turf battle since entering the district in 1951 and are favorites to repeat in the same fashion this year.

Since the rejuvenation of the Gators three weeks ago, there is high speculation here that they can end the Deer's skein of victories and throw them into a tie with Sweeny if that team should clear Santa Fe.

With "Beat Deer Park" ringing out all over town, and the team in its best mental and physical condition to date, many observers have the feeling of "upset" ringing in their ears. Doubtlessly, it will be the biggest game played here for sometime.

Preceding the game, a homecoming parade and bonfire rally will be staged starting at 4 p. m.

Game time is 7:30 p. m.