

Gators Suffer Rude Awakening



GATOR HB SELDEN MALIN ATTEMPTS TO CUT INSIDE OF TACKLE
... Angleton stunned Dickinson Gators with 24-0 upset victory

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FOR THE fans in the stands and the Angleton Wildcats the rains came at the start of the second half, but for the Dickinson Gators Friday evening was a rainy one from the opening kickoff.

Bill Ford's highly praised Gators met their match in little publicized Angleton as the Wildcats drubbed Dickinson, 24-0, before a crowd of Gator fans that dwindled from several thousand to a couple of hundred and two soaked scribes seeking shelter under a three by eight table.

It was a well fought match through the first half and the lopsided 12-0 Wildcat score didn't give a true indication of the half.

In fact, with seven seconds go to the Gators were but six points down. Gator quarterback David Ford went to the end on a keeper and bobbled the ball when hit and Angleton took over with seven seconds and 30 yards from a TD.

WILDCAT quarterback Eddie Jacobson then dropped a long one into limping Earnest Fletcher's arms after Fletcher had managed to elude defender Le Roy Barrow.

Hobbling noticeably but with considerable effectiveness Fletcher plucked the ball from the air on the 10-yard line and went over for the six giving the Wildcats their 12 point halftime margin.

The Wildcats scored their first TD in the opening period on a drive set up by a recovered Dickinson fumble on the Gator 32-yard line.

It took the Wildcats nine plays to gain these all-important 32 yards and Jacobson capped off the short but powerful push with a rolling keeper around right end for the final five yards.

Bobby Cook's try for the extra point was blocked by Bruce Rogers.

FIRST HALF statistics paint a favorable picture for Ford and his Gators but in

the second half the bottom fell out of the Gator defense and out of the clouds.

Dickinson held a six to four first half edge on first downs led 82 to 75 on the total yards gained charts.

The rains came with a little over ten minutes remaining in the third stanza and about five minutes later, with 6:58 left in the quarter the Wildcats capitalized on another Gator fumble for their third marker.

This drive was only a 30-yarder and the Wildcats clawed them out in seven plays.

The short thrust was capped by a tantalizing zig zag effort by halfback Neil Jasper. Jasper went to his right end, side stepped two on rushing Gator tacklers jiggled around two others, and then went in for the gravy untouched.

COOK'S SECOND PAT at tempt of the evening failed.

Another Gator miscue set up the fourth and shortest TD drive of the evening for the Wildcats.

A blocked punt left the Wildcats with 25-yards between them and paydirt early in the final stanza.

This time the job was finished in five plays with Sammy Shelton slamming home off tackle for the final points of the game as the try for the PAT again failed.

All in all it was a wet, dismal night for Ford and his Gators. Dickinson was the Cinderella team of the Gulf Coast last season taking the 12-AAA district crown with a team not given much of a chance to win a game.

They went into this one the heavy favorite and found themselves heavy losers.

TROMPING BACK to the dressing room in standing water and mud puddles Ford reflected on the game.

"You can't give a team the chances we gave Angleton and hope to win," he said. "We made a few costly mistakes in the first half but I felt we could come back."

In fact, until that last play in the first half I wasn't really too worried. But when they hit that boy for that long pass with just seconds left til the half, well, that really hurt us."

With rain falling heavily all around and drips running down his serious face Ford summed it up with a parting comment on next week's game with Sweeney. "We'll be ready," he said simply.