

Gators Slip Away From Bulldog Upset

DICKINSON—A high snap from center that got away from Hitchcock's punter,

Skeeter James, and rolled out of the end zone for a safety turned what looked to be a major upset into Dickinson's fourth straight triumph of the season here Friday night as the Gators edged the Bulldogs, 8-7.

The heavily favored Gators trailed 7-6 going into the final quarter, but on the second play of that period the safety occurred and coach Bill Ford's Gators ran their District 12-AAA mark to 2-0.

Despite the close score, the Gators controlled the statistics.

Dickinson totaled six penetrations to two for Hitchcock. The Gators also held a commanding margin in first downs, 19 to nine, in total offense, 257 yards to 175 yards, and in number of offensive plays, 66 to 45.

The Gators tallied their lone touchdown the first time they had the ball as halfback Selden Malin swept left end from 25 yards out to cap a 6-play, 52-yard drive with 7:56 left in the first quarter.

Jim Stewart's kick for the PAT was wide, but at that stage of the contest it looked unimportant.

On the passing and running of quarterback Mike Shead, the Bulldogs marched from their own 29 to the Gator 27 before they gave the ball over on downs.

Ken Ward's passes to Mark Lange and Stewart, plus a couple of driving runs by Lange soon put the Gators in business on the Bulldog 17.

However, four downs netted a minus 13 yards and the Bulldogs took control of the pigskin.

Mid-way in the second quarter, the Bulldogs got a big break when Lange fumbled at his own 45 and Rafeal Kenney recovered for the losers.

A new Bulldog quarterback, Jimmy Carner, entered the game and promptly rifled a 45-yard touchdown strike to end Tommy Weaver.

James booted the PAT and the Bulldogs took the lead,

7-6, with 7:08 remaining in the first half.

The Gators drove all the way to the Hitchcock 10-yard stripe before Lange fumbled and William Cockrell fell on it for the Bulldogs.

The big play on the 57-yard march was a one-handed catch of a Ward pass by end Lewis Little who picked up 10 yards on a 4th down situation on the Hitchcock 34.

Dickinson took the second half kick-off and soon picked up another penetration by moving from their own 42 to the Bulldog 16 on runs by Malin and Lange before the Hitchcock defense stiffened.

The visitors were forced to punt and the Gators were off and rolling again, this time driving to the Hitchcock six before Ward's 4th down pass was batted in the air and picked off by Anthony Jenkins.

On that drive, a 9-yard touchdown toss from Ward to Stewart was rubbed out because of a penalty.

The Bulldogs ran 3 plays to their own 11 and the third stanza ended.

James then punted to his own 47, but Hitchcock was holding and Gator tri-captains Ronnie Dennard, George Broussard, and Mike Robinson made the best decision of their careers in electing to take the penalty although the ball was moved back only five yards.

The safety took place on the following play and the Gators had the lead with 11:46 to go.

Minutes later, the Bulldogs moved to the Gator 19 before running out of downs.

The Gators took over and seven plays later, Stewart boomed a tremendous 65 yard punt that was killed on the Hitchcock three.

Quarterback sneaks by Shead and a nifty 16 yard run by Sam Mangum moved the Bulldogs to their own 25 before having 4 straight passes fall incomplete.

Runs by Malin, Lange, and Ward took care of the remaining 85 seconds for the Gators to take the win.