

Statistics, Play Favored Gators; Fumbles Costly

By JOE LEENEY

SWEENEY—The clock showed 0:23 left in the fourth quarter. The score was 13-12 in favor of Sweeny. Quarterback Raymond Young pitched back to Chuck Bulot as the Gators operated on the Sweeny 4-yard stripe. Bulot was cracked hard at or near the goal line and fumbled into the end zone and into the hands of a defender as the Sweeny Bulldogs edged the Dickinson Gators, 13-12, despite a fantastic come-from-behind effort by Dickinson.

The boys in blue of Gator coach Bill Ford never quit, although four costly fumbles and key penalties came their way throughout the 2 hour and 45 minute contest.

Confusion reigned for a brief period on that last Gator fumble into the end zone. If Bulot had entered the end zone or crossed the imaginary plane at the goal stripe, then the Gators would have had the winning score.

Dickinson guard Tommy Cooper said, "It was awful close. He was somewhere between the one-and the goal line." End Lewis Little was more emphatic, "He was over and then he fumbled."

An un-identified Sweeny player with large patch over the bridge of his nose and a number of scratches on both arms commented after the game, "Man, were we lucky. I had to go both ways and they (Dickinson) always kept after us. On that play at the goal line, that guy sure was close. If he wasn't over, he wasn't far from it."

That's the way it was for

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the Gators all night. Close, but only into the end zone on two occasions. Dickinson failed to score from within the Bulldogs' 7-yard line in the first, second, and fourth quarters.

Dickinson rolled up 336 yards total offense compared to only 189 for the Bulldogs as the Gator defense that was paced by Robert Gerasimowicz, Ronald Thomas, and Bobby Thompson allowed the Bulldogs to drive 49 yards for one score and only 12 yards for their other somewhat cheap touchdown following a bad pass from center on a punt.

Gator quarterback Young had his most productive night as a runner and a passer this season. Young completed 8 of 13 passes for 118 yards and scooted for 78 more yards on 15 carries.

Tailback Carl Woods finally got untracked this week by rolling up 92 yards on 15 trips and scoring one touchdown.

The contest also was marked by the fine pass catching performance of wingback Dennis Cooke who latched on to 3 aerials for 76 yards.

Young was only dumped for losses on two occasions which is a credit to the blocking of guards Allan Welch, Cooper, and Leonard Barajaz, tackles Tommy Godard and Clarence Hall, ends Little and Al Moffett, and center Gerasimowicz.

The Gators took the opening kick-off and marched to the

Sweeny 1 as Woods totaled 28 yards on 3 carries and Young had 29 yards on 3 trips. The first of the Gator fumbles took place at that point and the night of endless frustrations was underway.

In the closing minutes of the first quarter, Sweeny took over on the Gator 49. The Bulldogs picked up 28 yards on 7 plays, a 21-yard pass from quarterback Jodi Duke to split end Eddie Hudson put the winners on the board. Harold Brown booted the PAT with 11:21 left in the first half.

Cooke returned the following kick-off 16 yards to the Gator 37. Runs of 8 and 14 yards by Young and an 11-yard pass from Young to Bulot highlighted the drive to the Sweeny 22 before the Gators ran out of downs.

On the next play, however, Dickinson defensive end Mike Mills fell on a Bulldog fumble on the Sweeny 28. Tailback Joey Altemore got the call on 4 consecutive plays and moved the ball to the 15.

Fullback Edward Shavers gained 3; Young passed to Little for 6 more, and Altemore picked up only two on a fourth down play and once again Sweeny held, this time at their own 4.

Six plays later, the Bulldogs were forced to punt and Dickinson took over on the Gator 49. Young fired to Cooke for a 20-yard gainer to the Sweeny 31, but another fumble stopped things there.

With only a couple of min-

Dickinson lost its third fumble of the contest on its own 34. The Gator defense rose to the occasion and dumped Duke for losses totaling 20 yards. The half ended 3 plays later.

In the opening minutes of the second half, Dickinson safety Ted Roeser swiped a Duke pass and returned it 11 yards to the Dickinson 42 to start the Gators' first TD drive.

Young gained four; Woods swept left end for 21 yards to the Sweeny 33; and two more carries by Woods put the ball on the 19.

A five yard penalty backed things up to the 24, but Young fired an 11-yard aerial to Cooke and Woods scooted for 12 around right end to give Dickinson a first-and-goal situation from the Sweeny 1.

Young tried a sneak, but it failed and on the next play Woods took it in. Dickinson faked the PAT kick, but Roeser passed incomplete to Little and the Gators trailed, 7-6, with 5:02 left in the third quarter.

Mid-way in the final period, the Gators were forced to punt from their own 41. The snap from center went well over punter Bobby Thompson's head and the Bulldogs recovered the ball all the way back on the Dickinson 12.

It took one play, a 12-yard run by Robert Brooks to notch 6 more points for the Bulldogs. The PAT kick was partially blocked with Mark Lusier getting the credit for his defensive work.

With less than 5 minutes to go in the contest, the Gators took over on the Sweeny 43 following a punt. Young threw incomplete; Altemore picked up 2; and Young passed to Little for a 14 yard gain to the Sweeny 27. Time left 3:30.

Altemore slashed out 7 yards to the 20 (3:06); Young made a fantastic, darting run to the Sweeny 6 (2:52); Woods scooted for 2 around right end; and with 2:07 left Altemore followed an Edward Shavers' block into the end zone. Altemore's run for points failed and Sweeny still led 13-12.

Following an on-side kick, the Bulldogs were forced to punt and the Gators took over on their own 37 with 1:13 left.

Young then lofted a 45-yard bomb to Cooke who made a great reception despite the Sweeny coverage on the Sweeny 18. Young gained 9 to the Bulldog 9. Time left: 0:42. Young then gave the Gators a first and goal by plunging for 5 yards to the Sweeny 4. Time left: 0:23.

Then came the play to send Sweeny's won-loss mark to

The Gator statistics against Sweeny.

RUNNER	TC	NY	AVG.
Woods	15	92	6.1
Young	15	78	5.2
Altemore	8	28	3.5
Shavers	8	19	2.4
Bulot	1	1	1.0
PASSER	ATT.	COMP.	YDG.
Young	13	8	118
RECEIVER	NO.	YDG.	AVG.
Cooke	3	76	25.3
Little	3	24	8.0
Bulot	2	18	9.0
PUNTER	NO.	YDG.	AVG.
Thompson	3	96	32.0
Gators Sweeny			
1st Downs	20	13	
Yds. Rushing	218	107	
Passes	8-13	6-12	
Yds. Passing	118	82	
Fumbles Lost	4	1	
Penalties	4-30	4-40	
Running plays	47	40	
Total plays	60	52	