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Gators Move To 2-0 As They Breeze By Agape

Ware Rolls 37-0; Floridian Visitors Purely Out-Manned

By GARY GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

The Ware County Gators — a work in progress during Year 2 of the Ed Dudley administration — took another step forward Friday night.

But if they were looking for a challenge to help speed their maturing process, Agape Christian Academy of Orlando, Fla. turned out *not* to be the team to give them one.

By the third quarter, Ware was up by four scores and rolling, and only when Dudley resorted to playing junior varsity and freshman teamers did the bleeding subside. A running clock in the fourth quarter mercifully sped Agape's demise.

The final score was 37-0.

"It was a good game for us," Dudley said. "This is a building experience. We're building a program and we got a lot of good out of this game. We're continuing to develop."

"Obviously they are a small school and our depth in numbers was the telling difference in the game."

Agape dressed only 26 players. Many of them went both ways.

"I was proud of all of the Gators tonight," Dudley said. "We were able to play a lot of our guys and they responded with a ton of big plays."

Big play No. 1 came on the game's fourth snap as Bernard Robertson blew over left tackle and into the end zone, a 32-yard run. It wrapped up a tidy scoring drive that benefited from Xavier To-



Photo By BO CARTER <http://warecounty.shutterstock.com/>
Jontae Barkley grabs a pass thrown by Josh Bennett (11) for a pickup of 10 yards. The gain set up a 27-yard field goal by Zack Griffin.

bler's return of the opening kickoff of 25 yards.

Robertson would finish the game with a career-high 170 yards on 16 carries. He scored three times. And he sat out the final quarter.

Other than his first long TD, he had two particularly pretty runs, one of them a 29-yard, bobbing, weaving, stutter-stepping journey that started over

his right tackle and ended near the sideline in front of Ware's bench. It was in the middle of Ware's second drive, which covered 87 total yards and took nine plays to consummate with Robertson's three-yard TD.

The other was late in the third, a 23-yard power burst through Agape's weary defense. Robertson was not touched on his way to pay dirt.

Another Gator, quarterback Josh Bennett, like Robertson, a junior, turned in his second straight polished performance of the young season, completing seven of his eight throws for 69 yards, mixing in play action passes to easily spur Ware downfield against the out-manned Saints.

Bennett scored himself on a one-yard sneak — Ware's third TD — and compiled 15 rushing yards.

William Golden, ordinarily a linebacker by trade, running at tailback late in the game, also tallied on a three-yard run.

Zack Griffin booted a field goal for the second straight game and was perfect on four extra point kicks. His three-pointer was a 27-yarder on the last play of the first half, giving Ware a 17-0 advantage.

Bennett showed poise and good clock management skills in setting up the field goal. After he was sacked by Myrtill Wilkerson, he got his team lined up and completed a six-yarder to Jontae Barkley.

With the clock running, he couldn't handle a high snap, but he scooped it up and scrambled for nine yards before getting out of bounds. First down. That play was followed by an incomplete pass, then another 10-yard toss to Barkley. Bennett had to spike the ball at that point to bring on the field goal team with 5.6 seconds showing.

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Photo By BO CARTER <http://warecounty.shutterstock.com/>
An interception was tantalizingly close to reality for Thomas Heard (15) ... but this pass fell harmlessly to the ground.



AP PHOTO
People stand outside a building damaged by a 7.4-magnitude earthquake in central Christchurch, New Zealand early today. There were no reports of injuries, but looters broke into some damaged shops in Christchurch, police said.

Powerful 7.4 Earthquake Pummels New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck much of New Zealand's South Island early Saturday. No tsunami alert was issued and there were no reports of serious injuries, but looters broke into some damaged shops in Christchurch, police said.

The quake, which hit 19 miles (30 kilometers) west of the southern city of Christchurch according to the state geological agency GNS Science, shook a wide area with some residents saying buildings had collapsed and power was severed.

Christchurch police reported road damage in parts of the city of 400,000 people, with a series of sharp aftershocks rocking the area. Police officers cordoned off some streets where rubble was strewn about.

"There is considerable damage in the central city and we've also had reports of looting, just shop windows broken and easy picking of displays," Police inspector Mike Coleman told New Zealand's National Radio. "It's very unsafe to be out and about."

Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said the "sharp, vicious earthquake has caused significant damage in parts of the city ... with walls collapsed that have fallen into the streets."

Chimneys and walls had fallen from older buildings, with roads blocked, traffic lights out and power, gas and water sup-

plies disrupted, he said.

"The fronts of at least five buildings in the central city have collapsed and rubble is strewn across many roads," Christchurch resident Angela Morgan told The Associated Press.

"Roads have subsided where water mains have broken and a lot of people evacuated in panic from seaside areas for fear of a tsunami," she said, adding that "there is quite significant damage, really, with reports that some people were trapped in damaged houses."

Suburban dweller Mark O'Connell said his house was full of smashed glass, food tossed from shelves, with sets of drawers, TVs and computers tipped over.

"She was a beauty, we were thrown from wall to wall as we tried to escape down the stairs to get to safety," he told the AP. "It was pitch black (with the power cut) and we walked through smashed glass everywhere on the floor."

The quake hit at 4:35 a.m. (1635 GMT) shaking thousands of residents awake, New Zealand's National Radio reported.

Resident Colleen Simpson said panicked residents ran into the street in their pajamas. Some buildings had collapsed, there was no power, and the mobile telephone network had failed.

"Oh my God. There is a row of shops completely demolished right in front of me," Simpson said.

Fire On Gulf Drilling Platform Complicating Offshore Drilling Debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — What now for the Gulf?

News of another oil rig fire in the Gulf of Mexico, so soon after the BP oil spill, has set off a wave of anxiety along the Gulf Coast and prompted calls for the government to extend its six-month ban on deepwater drilling.

Just when it seemed the Obama administration might be ready to lift the unpopular ban, the fire raises new questions about the dangers of offshore drilling, leaving the industry wondering when it can get back to work.

"Anything that casts any kind of shadow on the industry right now certainly complicates lifting the moratorium," said Bruce Bullock, director of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University in Texas. "It makes it difficult to continue to say that (the BP spill) is an aberration."

But while initial reports were frightening, Bullock and other experts said Thursday's platform fire is unlikely to have a lasting effect.

Unlike the April explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig — which killed

11 people and led to the largest offshore oil spill in the nation's history — the fire at the Mariner Energy Inc. platform 100 miles south of Louisiana killed no one and sent no crude gushing into the water.

"There's over 100 fires in the Gulf in a given year. Were it not for the BP incident this would receive very little coverage," Bullock said. "This could have happened in a meat factory or a paint factory or anywhere else."

Even so, environmental groups and some Democratic lawmakers rushed to

denounce offshore drilling and urge the Obama administration to extend the six-month deepwater ban to shallow water as well. The current ban has shut down drilling at 33 ocean wells, but there still are more than 7,300 active leases in the Gulf of Mexico, 58 percent of them in deep waters, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

There are about 3,400 platforms operating in the Gulf, pumping about a third of America's domestic oil.

The latest fire "is another reminder that drilling accidents happen all too fre-

quently. We cannot afford to lose any more human lives, nor can we tolerate further damage to the Gulf and its irreplaceable ocean ecosystems," said Jacqueline Savitz of the environmental group Oceana.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., a leading critic of BP, said the fire highlights the risks associated with offshore drilling. Lawmakers "have a duty to ... all oil workers to make sure the oil industry's drilling practices are safe and sound," Markey said.

(see OFFSHORE, page 19)

Partly Cloudy

High Sunday In Upper 80s

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