



**By John
Cate**

What will it take to Punt Bunt and Chuck Chuck?

Amato did earn high marks in his early seasons as a recruiter, and because of that, the Wolfpack stopped suffering the

By John Cate

Managing Editor

It seemed like déjà vu for Trey Grissom.

With his team pushed to the limit by an unyielding foe and the Garner Trojans looking to make one big play that would secure victory, the senior defensive end spied a flaw in the other team's blocking scheme. At the moment the ball was snapped, the 6'3" senior exploded through the gap...

It's not often that Garner's football team loses consecutive games. In fact, it hasn't happened in the regular season for

The yardstick

F-V	7	7	7	0	-	21
Garner	7	12	0	6	-	25

FUQUAY-VARINA - Tom Minor, 5-yard pass from Chris Baker, 5:55, 1st quarter (Kevin Brandt kick).

GARNER - Tony Morgan, 53-yard pass from Kameron Smith, 1:40, 1st quarter (Cameron Carlile kick).

GARNER - Josh Oglesby, 39-yard run, 9:53, 2nd quarter (run failed).

GARNER - Oglesby, 43-yard run, 1:55, 2nd quarter (pass failed).

FUQUAY-VARINÄ - Derek Black,
12-yard pass from Baker, 0:00, 2nd
quarter (Brandt kick).

FUQUAY-VARINA - Josh Quinn, 10-yard pass from Baker, 6:23, 3rd quarter (Brandt kick).

GARNER - Oglesby, 2-yard run, 6:13, 4th quarter (pass failed).

	Garner	F-V
First Downs	11	16
Rushes-yards	31-152	39-105
Passing	10-13-0	9-19-1
Passing yards	96	160
Total yards	248	265
Return yards	54	82
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	6-45	3-35
Punts-avg.	3-35.3	3-26.3
Time of Poss.	21:21	26:39

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing -- Garner, Josh Oglesby 17-137, Nick Williams 6-13, Darrice Payton 3-13. Fuquay-Varina, Zach Powell 21-74, Shaun Parks 3-32.

Passing -- Garner, Kameron Smith 10-13-0 96 1TD. Fuquay-Varina, Chris Baker 9-17-1 160 3TD.

Receiving -- Garner, Tony Morgan 1-53, Willie Bunting 5-17, Booker Nunley 1-12, B.G. Howell 2-9, Nick Williams 1-5. Fuquay-Varina, Derek Black 4-87. Zach Powell 2-44.

more than a decade. But as the Trojans got ready to play a resurgent Fuquay-Varina club Friday night at Trojan Stadium, it seemed to be a likely fate for the home team. With starting fullback Reggie Bowens (ankle) out for the second time this season, and Division I prospect Chris Culliver benched for disciplinary reasons, Garner was facing an uphill battle to defeat the defending Tri-Seven champion Bengals.

"It was a tough situation," said Garner coach Nelson Smith. "Kids out with injury, kids out for disciplinary reasons...we needed the team to really come together, and I'm glad they did. Fuquay's got a good football team, their best in 10 years."

The Trojans trailed for much of the second half, but regained the lead for good with 6:13 remaining, when Josh Oglesby crashed in from the Fuquay-Varina 2-yard line on third-and-goal. The final seconds were filled with drama, as the Bengals tried to take the win from a tiring Garner defense.

Not the Bengals you remember

Fuquay-Varina, since returning to the Trojans' schedule four years ago, has been little more than Garner's patsy. But after a 35-point loss to the Trojans last year, the team found its feet under new coach David Riggs and rolled to a Tri-Seven championship. The Bengals came into this year's game at 3-1, their only setback coming at the hands of undefeated 3-A power Harnett Central.

Garner, meanwhile, came in sporting an identical 3-1 record, seven days after a 14-9 setback to Riverside in which the Trojans felt as if they'd beaten themselves. Thanks to 125 yards in penalties, many of



GN Photo by Ken Hall

Garner running back Josh Oglesby leaves a Fuquay-Varina defender in his wake as he rumbles for some of his game-high 137 rushing yards Friday night. This run gave the Trojans a first-and-goal at the 1-yard line, and Oglesby scored the winning touchdown soon after.

the silly variety, and enough poor tackling to lose two games, the team came into the Fuquay game eager to redeem itself.

For the first time in three weeks, the weather cooperated and the game was played without the threat of rain. Garner won the coin toss for the fifth time in as many weeks, and once again elected to start on defense. The Bengals' Corey Mixon ran the kickoff back to the 25 and the showdown for southern Wake County supremacy was on.

Flawless execution

The way the offenses opened the game, one would have thought this was a late November playoff game, not a non-conference tuneup in mid-September. The Trojans' offense was in full swing from the start, and the offense was in full swing from the start, and the offense was in full swing from the start.

defense was salty, but the Fuquay-Varina offense was clicking like a windup clock. Two minutes into the game, Bengal quarterback hit Derek Black for a 40-yard gain and a first down at the Trojans' 17. From there, it took Fuquay seven more plays to score, on a fourth-down pass to Tom Minor with 5:55 left in the quarter. Kevin Brandt made the point-after to give the Bengals an early 7-0 lead.

Now it was Garner's turn. Tony Morgan ran the kickoff out to the 22, and the Trojan offense ground out two first downs against bone-crunching defense. They approached mid-field, but soon faced third-and-8 from the Garner 47. After a time-out, Morgan came onto the field for a rare appearance on offense, lining up at split

end.
It soon became obvious why. The junior speedster raced upfield, splitting two Bengal defenders as he went to the post. Quarterback Kameron Smith threw a dart toward Morgan, who made a fingertip grab and raced into the end zone with exactly 100 seconds left in the opening stanza. Cameron Carlike made the point-after to pull the Trojans even.

"We'd like to get Tony more involved in the passing game," said Smith, commenting on a

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column in last week’s *Garner News* urging that Morgan be used as a receiver. “He’s been hurt and we haven’t been able to get him much practice time on offense, but we want to get him in the game more often.”

The Hokie pokey

Virginia Tech-bound Josh Oglesby, who sat out the Riverside game due to injury, was held out of Garner’s first offensive series due to missed practice time. But as the second quarter got under way, Oglesby checked in and the Trojan offense kept purring.

A little over two minutes into the period, he got his first carry, bolting for 13 yards and a first down at the Bengals’ 39. That worked so well, Oglesby got the call on the next play, too. This time he went the distance, busting through a gap in the line and outrunning the Fuquay secondary for a touchdown. A bad snap on the point-after try left the score at 13-7.

The future Hokie struck again late in the quarter. This time, the Trojans came out of a time-out facing fourth-and-2 from the Bengals’ 43. Smith called for the power-running Oglesby to follow fullback Nick Williams for the first down.

Trojan football stat leaders				
RUSHING				
Player	att	yds	td	
Josh Oglesby	64	554	10	
Chris Culliver	32	256	2	
Reginald Bowens	16	88	1	
Corey Williams	12	45	0	
Tony Morgan	10	44	1	
Others	40	5	1	
Garner	174	992	15	
Opponents	193	592	5	
RECEIVING				
Player	rec	yds	td	
Willie Bunting	10	83	0	
Booker Nunley	4	76	1	
Tony Morgan	3	54	1	
Reginald Bowens	1	11	0	
Cedric Snead	1	10	0	
B.G. Howell	2	9	0	
Chris Culliver	2	5	0	
Nick Williams	1	5	0	
Garner	24	253	2	
Opponents	40	524	5	
PASSING				
Player	c-a-i	yds	td	
Kameron Smith	21-36-1	245	2	
B.G. Howell	3-9-1	8	0	
Garner	24-45-2	253	2	
Opponents	40-82-5	524	5	
stats are unofficial				

GNRC Football Standings

Team	Conference Games				All Games			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East Wake	0	0	0	0	4	0	121	26
Garner	0	0	0	0	4	1	144	69
SE Raleigh	0	0	0	0	3	2	126	59
Smithfield-Selma	0	0	0	0	2	3	106	136
Knightdale	0	0	0	0	2	3	68	123
West Johnston	0	0	0	0	0	4	66	143
Clayton	0	0	0	0	0	5	31	122
To be assured of a playoff berth, a team must win four games, including one conference game, and not finish last in the conference.								
Last Week's Results					This Week's Games			
Garner 25, Fuquay-Varina 21					Clayton at Garner			
East Wake 41, Enloe 14					SE Raleigh at West Johnston			
Triton 48, Smithfield-Selma 20					Smithfield-Selma at East Wake			
Hoggard 18, SE Raleigh 13					Knightdale (open)			
Wake Forest 36, Knightdale 7								
South Johnston 21, Clayton 13								
West Johnston (open)								

That’s what happened, but then Oglesby got by the Fuquay linebackers and took it to the house with 1:55 to play in the first half. The senior tailback ended the quarter with 101 yards on just six carries, and the Trojans now led 19-7.

Eye of the Tiger

This is where Fuquay-Varina teams of the past usually folded against the Trojans. Not this one, however.

With less than two minutes left in the first half, the Bengal Tigers clawed their way down the field on the strength of Baker’s accurate passing and cool under fire. A couple of costly penalties on Garner pushed the Fuquay offense even closer, until the Bengals had a first down on the Trojans’ 12 with just four seconds left in the half. Here, Baker called Fuquay’s final time-out to set up one shot at the end zone.

It turned out to be all the shot they needed. Baker fired a bullet for the tall, rangy Black, who grabbed it just inside the goal line as the halftime buzzer sounded. Brandt made the point-after to pull his team within 19-14.

Fuquay continued its forward momentum as the second half got under way. Garner got the ball first, but the Bengal defense threw Oglesby for a 17-yard loss on the Trojans’ first play from scrimmage. Carlile had to punt from deep in his own territory, and Baker set up shop for Fuquay from the 50.

Garner’s defense fought hard to save its imperiled lead, but to no avail. Black made two receptions for key first downs, and after the Trojans made a stand in the shadow of their goal line, Baker swung the ball to Josh Quinn on a jailbreak screen for a touchdown. Brandt converted again for a 21-19 Fuquay-Varina lead.

Garner failed to get a first down in the second half until the next-to-last play of the third quarter.

The Trojans rally

With 8:41 remaining, Garner started its winning drive from its 47. Hard running by Oglesby and Williams moved the Trojans across midfield, and Smith, having his best day ever throwing the ball, hit Justin Nunery for 12 yards and a first down. As time ran under seven minutes, Oglesby rumbled to the 1, where he was forced out of bounds. The Bengals held for two plays, but on third-and-goal, last year’s Greater Neuse Offensive Player of the Year got into the end zone. A pass for two points failed, but with the score now 25-21, only a touchdown could deliver an upset for the Bengals.

History repeating itself

Just as Riverside had done the week before, Fuquay-Varina embarked on its final offensive series determined to steal victory from Garner’s clutches, while leaving no time for a response. And just like last



GN Photo by Ken Hall

Garner’s Trey Grissom (3) hauls down Fuquay-Varina quarterback Chris Baker (12) for a 15-yard loss with 1:28 remaining in the game. Grissom’s sack secured the victory.

week, the Trojans’ defense was worn out. They fought hard, but soon three first downs were in the book and the Bengals were threatening.

Another jailbreak screen netted 10 yards and a first down at the Garner 39 as time ran under three minutes to play. A Trojan linebacker barely made the tackle, and on the next play Fuquay running back Zach Powell slammed into the gut for six more yards. On second down, defenders Grissom and Darwin Williams broke up a Baker pass that also could have beaten the Trojans. A three-yard run by Mixon made it fourth-and-1 from the 30.

Baker lined his team up and tried to draw Garner’s hard-charging defense offside with a hard count, which he had already done twice before. For a moment, it appeared as if he had. But the Trojans’ defensive linemen protested, arguing that a Fuquay lineman had flinched first.

After a brief conference, the referees agreed. Instead of pilfering a first down, Baker had drawn his own team offside, and now it was fourth-and-6 from the 35, with 88 seconds left in the game.

After a time-out, Grissom,

who had left the game twice in the fourth quarter due to cramps, limped back on the field with his equally fatigued teammates, looking to make one last stop. The Bengal center hiked the ball to Baker...

Victory

...and Grissom closed on him like a man possessed, racing in unblocked and bolting past Fuquay fullback Quinn before he knew what had happened.

Baker backed up for 15 yards, but there was no escape. At the midfield stripe, Grissom grabbed the Bengal quarterback and sent him to the Trojan Stadium turf.

“I saw the formation they were running, and I knew they were passing,” said Grissom. “I could tell that they couldn’t block me the way they were lined up, and I got past the full-back to get at the quarterback. Thank God I got him.”

In last year’s overtime victory over East Wake, Grissom made a similar read, busting through the line nearly unchecked to block an extra point and give the Trojans a 16-15 victory.

“I’m just glad I’ve been able to make the plays,” he said.

The Bengals still had two time-outs remaining, but

Oglesby was able to pick up a first down and Garner ran out the clock.

Trojans next week

Garner opens conference play at home on Friday night, facing old rival Clayton High School. The Comets, who lost 19 starters from last year’s 4-A quarterfinalists, have struggled with a young team and are off to an 0-5 start.

The game is Garner’s Homecoming contest, and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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