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Corpus shines for Allatoona

By Jack Martin MDJ Sports Correspondent

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Allatoona's Ethan Corpus was named the Cobb Football Friday Player of the Week after his 331-yard effort against Woodland last Friday.
Anthony Stalcup

 Gift this article

Last Friday, Allatoona senior running back Ethan Corpus showed why head coach Brad Smith said he and Xavier Rucker make up the best backfield in Northeast Georgia.

The Shorter University commit tallied more than 150 total yards and three touchdowns in the Buccaneers' Week 1 win over Adairsville. He'll look to have another big game Friday when the Bucs head to South Paulding.

Starting running back, and Georgia Tech commit, Xavier Rucker was sidelined with a quad injury, but Corpus stepped up for Allatoona to help them start 1-0.

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Smith said the Buccaneers' powerful backfield duo is an incredible thing to have.

"I think he (Corpus) is one of the best backs in the state of Georgia, so when we do get Rucker back that 1-2 punch is going to be extremely hard to deal with," he said.

Smith said it is very difficult to split carries between the two talented backs.

"It has been easy for the scrimmage and the first game because Rucker has been battling a quad injury," he said. "When he gets back to full speed we are going to have to be creative in how we use both of them."

Earlier this Summer, Smith said Allatoona needs to improve on passing the ball downfield. Smith said it is easy to get caught up in handing the ball off instead of passing.



“They make it easy on us when we know what we have back there,” he said. “Not that it’s being fancy or anything, but sometimes when you throw the ball you’re not really sure what can happen. When you hand the ball off to (Corpus) and (Rucker) you know what’s going to happen.”

Smith said Corpus is consistently good.

“He shows up to work, and he meets and exceeds expectations everyday because his work ethic is unmatched with anybody on our football program,” he said. “He is the most consistent kid we have when it comes to practice effort and practice performance. What you see is what you get all the time with him.”

Smith also said Corpus has sent a couple of players to the doctor after tackle attempts.

“He took a shot that I was extremely upset with on Friday,” he said. “It felt like the player was not trying to make a play on the football, but he was just trying to take him (Corpus) out. He went for the knees and that kid got hurt. He’s a bowling ball of muscle, and it’s hard to tackle him.

“He is just so low to the ground, but he can run 22 mph,” he said. “He’s one of our strongest kids, and I can’t say enough good things about Ethan Corpus. He’s a 4.0 GPA student too.

