



January 1, 1942

Alabama 29, Texas A&M 21

Attendance - 33,000

This game proved the point that statistics can lie: Alabama made only one first down, gained just 59 yards on the ground, 16 in the air, and punted 16 times. But, the Crimson Tide scored 29 points — and won! Seven Aggie interceptions and five lost fumbles made first downs unnecessary. No question about it, this Classic was out of the ordinary.

While this became another Cotton Bowl known for its turnovers, it also was a game remembered for its many punt returns. Texas A&M sophomore Leo Daniels returned five for 104 yards, including a 44-yarder which set up the Aggies' first score. Alabama halfback Jimmy Nelson also got in on the punt return act, racing through Aggie defenders 72 yards for the Tide's second and go-ahead touchdown.

It was Nelson's first of two scoring runs, and continues to rank as the longest punt return in Classic history. His second score came on a 21-yard gallop that gave Alabama a 20-7 third quarter lead. Defensively, Nelson was just as strong, as he intercepted two Aggie passes. All-America Holt Rast also had a hand in the Alabama victory, catching the Tide's only pass to set up a score and later returned an interception 10 yards for the final Alabama touchdown.

This was the first war-time Cotton Bowl. At halftime, 31 Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama men took the oath of enlistment in the Naval Air Corps, included in this group

were Martin Ruby, A&M's great lineman, Sam Porter, a reserve A&M halfback, and Alabama's Paul Spencer. Thus, these men, who trotted onto the Cotton Bowl turf as civilians, played the last half as members of another great team — Uncle Sam's.

GAME SUMMARY



Second Quarter:

Texas A&M-Harold Cowley 12 pass from Leo Daniels (Jake Webster kick), 18 yards in 3 plays following punt Alabama-Russ Craft 8 run (George Hecht kick), 24 yards in 4 plays following fumble recovery by Don Whitmire

Third Quarter:

Alabama-Jimmy Nelson 72 punt return (Hecht kick blocked by Weldon Maples) Alabama-Nelson 21 run (Hecht kick), 21 yards in 1 play following fumble recovery by Sam Sharp

Fourth Quarter:

Alabama-Hecht 31 FG, 3 yards in 3 plays following pass interception by Carl Mims Alabama-Holt Rast 10 interception return (Hecht kick fail) Texas A&M-Webster 1 run (Webster kick), 54 yards in 4 plays following kickoff Texas A&M-Jim Sterling 35 pass from Derace Moser (Webster kick), 74 yards in 6 plays following Alabama kickoff (losing team had receiving option)

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Jimmy Nelson, Alabama Holt Rast, Alabama Don Whitmire, Alabama Martin Ruby, Texas A&M

COACHES

Frank Thomas, Alabama Homer Norton, Texas A&M

WEATHER

Cold

FUN FACT #6

In the early days of the Classic, place kickers spent a lot more time watching from the sideline than they do today. Only two field goal attempts were converted in the first 26 years of the Cotton Bowl. TCU's L.D. Meyer kicked the first three-pointer in 1937, and Alabama's George Hecht added the second one in 1942. Twenty-one years passed before LSU's Lynn Amedee came along to revive the art by booting a pair of field goals in the 1963 Classic.

GAME STATISTICS

Table with columns for TEAM STATS (Alabama, A&M) and INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS (RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING) with player names and yardage.