



January 1, 1948 **SMU 13, Penn State 13** Attendance - 47,000

SMU's Doak Walker and Penn State's Elwood Petchel matched brilliance in one of the Classic's most even battles. It was the first Cotton Bowl game played between two undefeated teams. The Mustangs carried a 9-0-1 mark, the tie coming in their final regular season contest with arch-rival TCU. The Nittany Lions, on the other hand, were undefeated and untied, 9-0-0. It was No. 3 SMU vs. No. 4 Penn State.

Penn State clearly was the class of the East, averaging more than 300 yards with a solid ground game as its chief weapon. To go with its potent offense, Penn State also was considered to possess the nation's best defense. But, SMU had the great Doak Walker, who on this particular day was observing his 21st birthday. Much has been written about Walker through the years. To this day, he is considered as one of the greatest all-around backs in Southwest Conference history. It was bound to be a historic afternoon.

It took Walker just eight plays to guide the Ponies 82 yards to paydirt on their first offensive possession. After moving to the SMU 47, Walker faded far back in the pocket and whipped a high, long pass to Paul Page who had worked himself free behind the Lion secondary. Page pulled in the pass at the 13 and dashed into the end zone. Walker booted the extra point and SMU led, 7-0. Two possessions later, SMU found the end zone again. Following a punt return to the Penn State 37, the Mustangs began a seven play march with Walker crashing over from the two for the score. This time Walker's extra point attempt was wide, but with 90 seconds remaining in the half, things seemed well in hand for the Ponies.

That's when Petchel took control for the Nittany Lions. On fourth and 15 at the Mustangs' 38, and less than a minute to play in the half, Petchel launched a pass for Larry Cooney, a third-team back who had logged just ten minutes of playing time all season. Cooney gathered it in for a touchdown. Ed Czekaj added the extra point and as the half ended, Penn State trailed by six. Midway through the third period following his 27-yard punt return to the SMU nine, Petchel again went to the air and passed six yards to Wallace Triplett to tie the score. But, with a chance to give the Lions the lead, Czekaj failed to convert on the extra point try and the game remained tied, 13-13.

Penn State made one last gasp for victory. Petchel hit Bob Hicks for 24 yards to the SMU 37 with just two seconds on the scoreboard clock. Time out was called and the game's final play was mapped out. The target would be Dennie Hoggard. Petchel took the snap and looked downfield for his receiver who was all alone in the end zone. Hoggard made a diving attempt for the ball, had it momentarily, and then dropped it. The game was over.

Ironically, it proved to be another 24 years before the 13-13 tie was finally broken. Czekaj returned to the Cotton Bowl in 1972 as Penn State's athletic director. Before his Nittany Lions battled Texas, Czekaj was determined to give it one more try. Sure enough, his kick sailed true through the uprights. No asterisk was needed, however. Historians still refused to change the score.

GAME SUMMARY



Penn State	0	7	6	0	-	13
SMU	7	6	0	0	-	13

First Quarter:
SMU-Paul Page 53 pass from Doak Walker (Walker kick), 82 yards in 8 plays after taking over on downs

Second Quarter:
SMU-Walker 2 run (Walker kick fail), 37 yards in 7 plays following punt
Penn State-Larry Cooney 38 pass from Elwood Petchel (Ed Czekaj kick), 65 yards in 5 plays following kickoff

Third Quarter:
Penn State-Wallace Triplett 6 pass from Petchel (Czekaj kick fail), 9 yards in 3 plays following 27-yard punt return by Petchel

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS
Steve Suhey, Penn State
Doak Walker, SMU

COACHES
Bob Higgins, Penn State
Matty Bell, SMU

WEATHER
Cold



FUN FACT #12

Doak Walker was born to play in the Cotton Bowl. The Heisman Trophy winner from SMU celebrated his 21st and 22nd birthdays against Penn State and Oregon at the 1948 and 1949 Cotton Bowl Classics.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	Penn State	SMU
First Downs	12	12
Net Yards	165	92
Rushes	93	114
Passing Passes	7-15-1	11-25--
Total Net Yards	258	206
Fumbles-Lost	2	1
Penalties-Yards	3-15	1-5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING
Penn State - Rogel 25-95
SMU - Walker 18-56

PASSING
Penn State - Petchel 7-16, 91 yards
SMU - Walker 5-9, 69 yards