



January 2, 1956

Mississippi 14, TCU 13

Attendance - 75,500

The game was no more than a few seconds old, yet TCU already found itself in a troublesome position. Returning the opening kickoff, Chuck Curtis, the Frogs' outstanding quarterback, sustained two broken ribs and an injured right shoulder. Curtis, an all-conference performer, was the one player TCU could not afford to lose. Suddenly, backup quarterback Dick Finney was thrust into battle to fill a rather large hole left by Curtis.

Turnovers plagued both teams early, although TCU finally managed to get its offense cranked up late in the first quarter. Ray Taylor set up the Frogs' first score, taking Finney's handoff and dashed 34 yards to the 'Ole Miss one. Jim Swink, TCU's consensus All-America halfback and the nation's leading scorer with 20 touchdowns, bulled over from the one to lift the Frogs to a 7-0 lead.

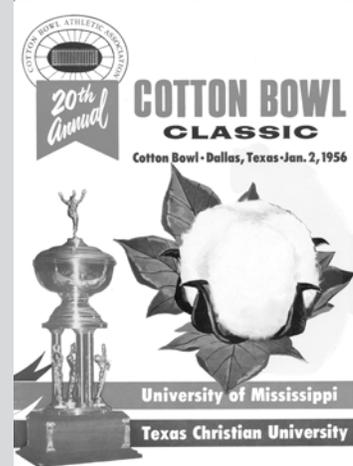
Swink came back to help the Frogs build a 13-0 cushion on TCU's next possession. Taking over on its own 25 after the Rebels failed to convert a fake field goal attempt, TCU quickly worked its way back into scoring position. Swink, on his third carry in the drive, barreled over right tackle on a quick opener and sprinted 39 yards to the end zone. Harold Pollard's extra point attempt was good, but an illegal procedure penalty wiped out the play and Pollard had to kick again. Although it didn't seem to be vital at the time, Pollard's second attempt missed the mark.

Now, with their collective backs to the wall, Mississippi quarterback Eagle Day began to rally the Rebel forces. Day's first two pass attempts covered 28 and 14 yards, moving 'Ole Miss to the TCU 24. Paige Cothren broke for a 21-yard gain to the three and on the next play crashed into the end zone for Mississippi's first touchdown. Cothren's placement was good, and the TCU advantage had melted to six.

By the third quarter, the tide had turned toward the Rebels. Although neither team was able to cross the goal line, 'Ole Miss was clearly in control. With 9:34 left to play, Day made his move. A fourth down gamble on the TCU 45 paid off as Day passed to Cothren for 13 yards, keeping alive a drive that began at the 'Ole Miss 42. Six minutes were left to play.

Third down found the Rebels at the TCU 30. Day dropped back to pass, couldn't find an open receiver and was forced to scramble. With his battle-torn jersey flapping in the breeze, Day cut through the heart of the Frog defenders before Finney stopped him at the five. The damage was done for TCU. Day then pitched out to Billy Lott who outran everyone around right end for the score. Again, Cothren's point after attempt was good and Mississippi pulled ahead, 14-13. In the process, the Rebels gained their first ever major-bowl victory.

GAME SUMMARY



Mississippi	0	7	0	7	- 14
TCU	7	6	0	0	- 13

First Quarter:

TCU-Jim Swink 1 run (Harold Pollard kick), 0:54, 72 yards in 9 plays following punt

Second Quarter:

TCU-Swink 39 run (Pollard kick fail), 6:44, 75 yards in 9 plays following fake field goal attempt
Mississippi-Paige Cothren 3 run (Cothren kick), 4:45, 66 yards in 4 plays following kickoff

Fourth Quarter:

Mississippi-Billy Lott 5 run (Cothren kick), 4:22, 66 yards, 10 plays following punt

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Buddy Alliston, Mississippi
Eagle Day, Mississippi

COACHES

Johnny Vaught, Mississippi
Abe Martin, TCU

WEATHER

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FUN FACT #20

The relationship between the SEC and the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic dates all the way back to 1942 when Alabama earned a 29-21 victory over Texas A&M. It has been a long and rich history. Nine of the current 12 members of the SEC have recorded 34 Classic appearances. Arkansas leads the pack with 10, followed by Alabama with seven visits and Tennessee with six trips to Dallas.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	Miss	TCU
First Downs	12	11
Rushing	6	8
Passing	6	1
Penalty	0	2
Rushes-Net Yards	36-92	54-233
Net Yards Passing	137	20
Passes	10-21-0	2-5-2
Total Plays	57	59
Total Net Yards	229	253
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	6-80	8-80
Punts-Average	6-42.7	5-28.8

RUSHING

Mississippi - Cothren 12-79, Lott 2-7, Kinard 3-5, Day 13-3, Blair 6-(-2).
TCU - Swink 19-107, Taylor 10-76, Hallbeck 12-33, Shofner 2-7, Finney 9-5, Wineburg 1-4, Pollard 1-1.

PASSING

Mississippi - Day 10-21-0, 137 yards.
TCU - Finney 1-3-2, 13 yards; Wineburg 1-1-0, 7 yards; Swink 0-1-0.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUNTING

Mississippi - Day 6-42.7.
TCU - Wineburg 2-34.5, Taylor 3-25.0.

RECEIVING

Mississippi - Kinard 6-83, Blair 1-28, Cothren 2-19, Baker 1-7.
TCU - Williams 1-13, Nikkel 1-7.