



January 2, 1978

Attendance - 76,701

Notre Dame 38, Texas 10

For the fourth time in history, Texas came to the Cotton Bowl equipped with the nation's No. 1 ranking and a spotless season record. The Longhorns rolled through the SWC race with ease to win their first championship in four seasons. When it came time to tender bowl invitations, fifth-ranked Notre Dame, without hesitation, turned down all others to come to Dallas with the avowed intention of beating the Longhorns and propelling themselves to yet another national championship.

This classic was a headline attraction. It featured college football's Heisman Trophy winner — Earl Campbell, the Outland Trophy winner — Brad Shearer, both of Texas; the Lombardi and Maxwell Award winner — Ross Browner, and the Walter Camp Award winner — Ken MacAfee, both of Notre Dame. As a junior, Browner was awarded the Outland as the season's outstanding interior lineman. Six major individual awards, along with the country's top ranked team and No. 5 Notre Dame, all rolled into one New Year's Day Classic. On paper, Texas had the edge in every department, a team with more ways than one to deliver a knockout punch. Campbell was a franchise running back. Of his 1,744 yards gained that season, more than a thousand of them came after he had been hit at least once. Durable and hard to bring down was his trademark.

But, the game was barely two minutes old when a fumble by Texas quarterback Randy McEachern gave the ball to the Irish at the Longhorn 32, setting up a 47-yard field goal by Dave Reeve. The Longhorns answered right back with Russell Erxleben's 42-yard boot. So, at the end of the first quarter, the teams had battled to a 3-3 tie. But, by then, Notre Dame was well on its way to cashing in on its second fumble recovery. On the first play of the second period, Terry Eurick stepped over left tackle for six yards and the Irish had their first touchdown of the game and led, 10-3. In less than two minutes, quarterback Joe Montana had his team ready to score again. This drive also began with a Texas fumble deep in its own end of the field. Eurick rambled 10 yards to the goal line and Notre Dame was off and running, 17-3.

Before the game was 23 minutes old, the Irish had moved in front 24-3 and there was no catching them. Although the Irish were aided by six uncharacteristic turnovers, they were in no way mere benefactors of Texas mistakes.

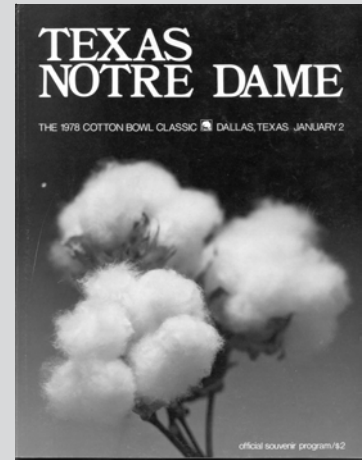
Notre Dame controlled the line of scrimmage, offensively and defensively.

Texas' only touchdown was set up on a pass interference call on the final play of the first half.

For the day, two Notre Dame backs rushed for a hundred yards or more, Jerome Heavens gained 101 yards and Vagas Ferguson an even 100.

When the game was over, the two teams had virtually traded places in the national rankings. The Fighting Irish vaulted to the No. 1 spot, while the Longhorns fell to fourth, marking the seventh time the national championship had been won or lost at the Cotton Bowl.

GAME SUMMARY



First Quarter:

Notre Dame-Dave Reeve 47 FG, 11:35, 2 yards in 4 plays following fumble recovery by Ross Browner
Texas-Russell Erxleben 42 FG, 6:07, 55 yards in 11 plays following kickoff

Second Quarter:

Notre Dame-Terry Eurick 6 run (Reeve kick), 14:56, 27 yards in 5 plays following fumble recovery by Jim Browner
Notre Dame-Eurick 10 run (Reeve kick), 11:37, 35 yards in 5 plays following fumble recovery by Willie Fry
Notre Dame-Vagas Ferguson 17 pass from Joe Montana (Reeve kick), 7:28, 20 yards in 3 plays following pass interception by Doug Becker
Texas-Mike Lockett 13 pass from Randy McEachern (Erxleben kick), 0:01, 68 yards in 5 plays following punt

Third Quarter:

Notre Dame-Ferguson 3 run (Reeve kick), 6:49, 29 yards in 7 plays following pass interception by Steve Heimkreiter

Fourth Quarter:

Notre Dame-Ferguson 26 run (Reeve kick), 9:41, 50 yards in 5 plays following fake punt attempt

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Vagas Ferguson, Notre Dame
Bob Golic, Notre Dame

COACHES

Dan Devine, Notre Dame
Fred Akers, Texas

WEATHER

Cold, sunshine

FUN FACT #2

The 1978 Cotton Bowl produced a fabulous lineup of teams and players. The 42nd Classic featured No. 1 Texas and No. 5 Notre Dame along with five national award winners: Heisman Trophy -- Earl Campbell, Texas; Outland Trophy -- Brad Shearer, Texas; Lombardi and Maxwell Award -- Ross Browner, Notre Dame; Walter Camp Award -- Ken MacAfee, Notre Dame.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	ND	Texas	
First Downs	26	16	RUSHING
Rushing	15	6	Notre Dame - Heavens 22-101, Ferguson 21-100, Eurick 4-16, Lisch 2-16, Stone 2-4, Mitchell 1-3, Montana 1-3.
Passing	11	9	Texas - Campbell 29-116, Ham Jones 11-63, Thompson 1-2, Johnnie Johnson 1-2, McEachern 8-(-52).
Penalty	0	1	PASSING
Rushes-Net Yards	53-243	50-131	Notre Dame - Montana 10-25-1, 111 yards; Lisch 4-7-0, 45 yards.
Net Yards Passing	156	160	Texas - McEachern 11-24-3, 160 yards.
Passes	14-32-1	11-24-3	RECEIVING
Total Plays	85	74	Notre Dame - MacAfee 4-45, Waymer 3-38, Haines 2-29, Ferguson 3-23, Eurick 1-12, Pallas 1-9.
Total Net Yards	399	291	Texas - Harris 4-57, Lam Jones 1-34, Jackson 3-33, Miksch 1-18, Lockett 1-13, Ham Jones 1-5.
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-3	
Penalties-Yards	4-37	1-5	
Punts-Average	5-30.4	3-40.0	
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS			
PUNTING			
Notre Dame - Muno 4-29.8, Restic 1-33.0.			
Texas - Erxleben 3-40.0.			