



January 1, 1986

Attendance - 73,137

Texas A&M 36, Auburn 16

Fifty years of history, a Heisman Trophy winner and a team making its first New Year's Day appearance in Dallas in 18 years presented the Cotton Bowl a unique twist for its Golden Anniversary game. Texas A&M, a school rich in tradition but absent from the Cotton Bowl since 1968, brought a sparkling 9-2 record to Dallas to face Auburn. At 8-3, the Tigers had finished fifth in the Southeastern Conference. However, with the presence of running back Bo Jackson, Auburn was very much in the nation's eye.

Jackson gave the Cotton Bowl its second consecutive Heisman winner. And, true to the 50's theme, Jackson was the 50th player to win the coveted award as college football's outstanding player. As for Auburn, the Tigers were playing in their second golden anniversary game. In 1984, Auburn had participated in the 50th Sugar Bowl Classic. As for the two coaches, A&M's Jackie Sherrill had once played under Auburn's Pat Dye when Dye was an assistant coach at Alabama. It seemed the ironies of coincidence were endless.

While Auburn relied primarily on its Heisman winner, A&M was more balanced. Offensively, the Aggies were averaging 419.3 yards per contest. Defensively, the numbers were just as impressive, yielding just 281.9 yards per game. A&M dominated the SWC in both categories. Still, Jackson gained the lion's share of the media attention during Cotton Bowl week. But, waiting in the wings for the spotlight to shine was A&M quarterback Kevin Murray. Murray virtually robbed the Auburn defense blind, passing for a record 292 yards. By halftime, his passing total of 184 yards was good enough to place ninth in the bowl's record book. But, at that point, he barely had gotten started.

The first two quarters saw the lead change hands four times, Auburn scored first, followed by a pair of A&M touchdowns. With the Aggies holding a 12-7 lead, Jackson then turned a routine screen pass into a 73-yard scoring play to move the Tigers back in front, 13-12. A Scott Slater field goal just before the half gave A&M a 15-13 advantage heading into the third quarter. By the time the fourth period rolled around, A&M still was clinging to a slim 21-16 lead.

But, Auburn was ready to challenge. Moving from their own six-yard line, the Tigers chewed almost eight minutes off the clock. As the third quarter came to an end, Auburn had driven to the A&M six. It took the Tigers 14 plays to move 88 yards. Now, with a first-and-goal situation on the Aggies' doorstep, Auburn was primed to regain the lead.

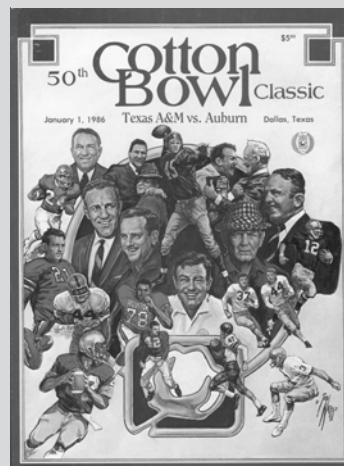
However, that's when A&M erected its brick wall. Three consecutive bursts by Jackson netted only four yards. With fourth down at the two, the decision was to go with Jackson one more time. It may have been the game's biggest play. The Heisman winner drove into the middle of the line only to come face-to-face with A&M's freshman linebacker Basil Jackson. The play lost a yard, and maybe more for Auburn.

A&M's goal line stand was short-lived, however. Auburn held the Aggies to one first down and soon was threatening again, moving to the A&M 27. But, another fourth down situation left the Tigers two yards short. Jackson again got the call, and the A&M defense broke up the play.

With Auburn's scoring threats put to rest, Murray took charge. It took the Aggie sophomore just nine plays to seal the A&M victory. Two long pass plays moved the Aggies into scoring position. On second down at the Auburn nine, Murray connected with running back Keith Woodside for the touchdown with 2:22 left to play. A two-point conversion pushed A&M to a 29-16 lead.

Seconds later, strong safety Domingo Bryant snagged his second pass interception of the day to set the Aggies up for one last score. It came with just three seconds left when Anthony Toney powered over from the one, wrapping up a hard-earned Aggie victory, 36-16.

GAME SUMMARY



Auburn	7	6	3	0	-	16
Texas A&M	12	3	6	15	-	36

First Quarter:

Auburn-Bo Jackson 5 run (Chris Johnson kick), 13:52, 21 yards in 3 plays following fumble recovery by Neal Vinson
Texas A&M-Harry Johnson 11 run (Eric Franklin kick fail), 6:12, 31 yards in 5 plays following fumble recovery by Monty Jay on punt
Texas A&M-Keith Woodside 22 run (Kevin Murray pass fail), 3:00, 64 yards in 5 plays following punt

Second Quarter:

Auburn-Jackson 73 pass from Pat Washington (Brent Fullwood run fail), 8:28, 80 yards in 5 plays following missed field goal
Texas A&M-Scott Slater 26 FG, 0:50, 51 yards in 6 plays following punt

Third Quarter:

Texas A&M-Anthony Toney 21 run (Murray pass fail), 12:13, 48 yards in 5 plays following pass interception by Domingo Bryant
Auburn-Johnson 26 FG, 7:19, 72 yards in 12 plays following kickoff

Fourth Quarter:

Texas A&M-Woodside 9 pass from Murray (Rod Bernstine run), 2:22, 72 yards in 9 plays after taking over on downs
Texas A&M-Toney 1 run (Slater kick), 0:03, 11 yards in 4 plays following pass interception by Bryant

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Bo Jackson, Auburn
Domingo Bryant, Texas A&M

COACHES

Pat Dye, Auburn
Jackie Sherrill, Texas A&M

WEATHER

Ideal (sunny, 48 degrees at kickoff)

FUN FACT #50

Seven Heisman Trophy winners have played in the Cotton Bowl during the season they earned the award. It all began with halfback Doak Walker of SMU in 1948. The others were Roger Staubach of Navy, 1964; Earl Campbell of Texas, 1978; Doug Flutie of Boston College, 1985; Bo Jackson of Auburn, 1986; Tim Brown of Notre Dame, 1988; and most recently, Ricky Williams of Texas, 1999. The Classic's Heisman Club also includes four players who participated in the Cotton Bowl early in their collegiate careers - TCU's Davey O'Brien, Syracuse's Ernie Davis, Penn State's John Cappelletti, and Miami's Gino Torretta.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	Auburn	A&M
First Downs	16	21
Rushing	12	9
Passing	4	12
Penalty	0	0
Rushes-Net Yards	54-198	48-186
Net Yards Passing	154	292
Passes	7-17-2	16-26-1
Total Plays	71	74
Total Net Yards	352	478
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	1-5	5-45
Punts-Average	5-43.8	5-45.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUNTING

Auburn - Colbert 5-43.8
Texas A&M - Tschantz 5-45.0

RUSHING

Auburn - Jackson 31-129, Agee 5-36, Ware 8-31, Fullwood 5-25, Washington 5-(-23)
Texas A&M - Toney 17-22, Vick 15-67, Woodside 3-32, Johnson 5-22, Nelson 1-2, Murray 4-(-9)

PASSING

Auburn - Washington 2-7-0, 82 yards; Burger 5-10-2, 72 yards.
Texas A&M - Murray 16-26-1, 292 yards.

RECEIVING

Auburn - Jackson 2-73, Parks 2-32, Waygand 1-31, Agee 1-9, Tillman 1-9.
Texas A&M - Bernstine 6-108, Woodside 3-88, Walker 3-40, Thompson 1-19, Nelson 1-14, Harris 1-13, Webb 1-10.