

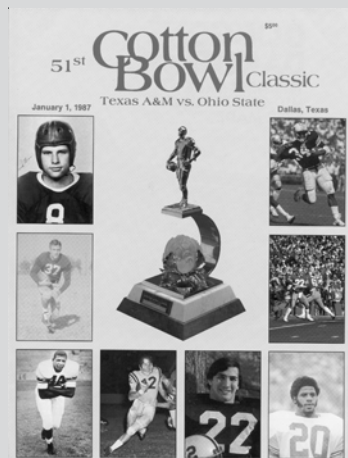


January 1, 1987

Attendance - 74,188

Ohio State 28, Texas A&M 12

GAME SUMMARY



Ohio State	0	7	14	7	-	28
Texas A&M	3	3	0	6	-	12

First Quarter:

Texas A&M-Scott Slater 30 FG, 10:45, 64 yards in 11 plays following opening kickoff

Second Quarter:

Ohio State-Jim Karsatos 3 run (Matt Frantz kick), 14:19, 80 yards in 9 plays following punt
Texas A&M-Scott Slater 44 FG, 9:27, 2 yards in 4 plays following punt

Third Quarter:

Ohio State-Chris Spielman 24 interception return (Frantz kick), 13:39
Ohio State-Vince Workman 8 run (Frantz kick), 7:16, 59 yards in 8 plays following interception by Sonny Gordon

Fourth Quarter:

Texas A&M-Roger Vick 2 run (Kevin Murray pass fail), 9:10, 42 yards in 8 plays following interception by Alex Morris
Ohio State-Michael Kee 49 interception return (Frantz kick), 2:49

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Chris Spielman, Ohio State
Roger Vick, Texas A&M

COACHES

Earle Bruce, Ohio State
Jackie Sherrill, Texas A&M

WEATHER

Ideal (sunny, 53 degrees at kickoff)

The Cotton Bowl couldn't have asked for a better way to open a new era. Having completed its first 50 years of New Year's Day classics, the 51st renewal would feature a team from the storied Big Ten Conference, a long-time member of the Cotton Bowl's wish list.

At 9-3, Ohio State brought the Big Ten co-championship to Dallas, despite a heartbreaking 26-24 loss to arch-rival Michigan in the Buckeyes' final game. It had been since 1982 that Ohio State last faced a SWC opponent, and it had been 16 years since the Buckeyes last faced Texas A&M, the Southwest Conference champions. Ohio State owned the series between the two schools at 2-0-0, downing A&M in 1963 and 1970.

But, in 1986, the 9-2 Aggies emerged as the SWC's most dominant team, and earned the right to play in the Cotton Bowl for the second consecutive year. A year earlier, A&M bombed Auburn 36-16 to win the Classic's Golden Anniversary game and now was in position to become only the second SWC team ever to win back-to-back Cotton Bowl trophies.

The Aggies lived by the pass and depended largely on the arm of quarterback Kevin Murray, twice the SWC's Offensive Player of the Year. In the Cotton Bowl's 50th game, Murray established a Classic passing record of 292 yards in the Aggies' defeat of Auburn. To offset Murray's passing, Ohio State looked to its defense, led by All-America linebacker Chris Spielman, a Heisman and Outland Trophy contender.

The first half proved to be a virtual stalemate. The Aggies were able to move the ball early, but sputtered near the goal line and were forced to settle for a pair of Scot Slater field goals. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes utilized the big play for their only score of the half. All-America receiver Cris Carter provided the spark with a spectacular 34-yard catch, out jumping two Aggie defenders near midfield. Moments later quarterback Jim Karsatos' three-yard run completed an 80-yard drive that gave the Buckeyes a 7-6 halftime edge.

It wasn't to be close for long, however. On the third play of the second half, the Ohio State defense took control of the game. Murray faced third down at the Aggie 15 and needed 13 yards for the first down. Murray looked to throw and in the direction of tight end Rod Bernstine. Spielman read the play, stepped in front of Bernstine, made the interception and raced 24 yards into the left side of the end zone. In a matter of seconds Ohio State had jumped to a 14-6 lead.

Spielman's was the first of five Buckeye interceptions, and on A&M's next possession, rover Sonny Gordon grabbed the second. Within four minutes, Ohio State was back on the scoreboard. Tailback Vince Workman rambled eight yards for the score and the Buckeyes were virtually out of reach, 21-6.

So overwhelming were Ohio State's defensive tactics, the Aggies found themselves on the verge of self-destruction. The Buckeyes absolutely shut down the A&M passing game. Spielman was everywhere, especially when A&M was least expecting him. After the Aggies closed the gap to 21-12 with just 9:10 left to play, Spielman foiled another A&M opportunity with his second interception of the afternoon.

Three minutes later, linebacker Michael Kee sealed the Ohio State victory, picking off yet another Murray pass.

Kee returned the interception 49 yards for the Buckeyes' final score. The touchdown pushed the score to 28-12 and A&M's reign as Cotton Bowl champions was over.

FUN FACT #51

Since 1937 when J. Curtis Sanford founded the game, 46 institutions have represented 14 different conferences in the Cotton Bowl.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	OSU	A&M	RUSHING
First Downs	16	18	Ohio State - Cooper 13-55, Workman 13-45, Bryant 2-3, Karsatos 4-2, Tupa 2-(-5), Holland 2-(-15).
Rushing	10	10	Texas A&M - Vick 24-113, Woodside 11-32, Murray 5-12, Valentine 1-5, Bernstine 1-(-2).
Passing	6	7	PASSING
Penalty	0	1	Ohio State - Karsatos 10-21-2, 195 yards; Tupa 3-8-1, 23 yards.
Rushes-Net Yards	36-85	42-160	Texas A&M - Murray 12-31-5, 143 yards; Stump 1-2-0, (-7) yards.
Net Yards Passing	218	136	RECEIVING
Passes	13-29-3	13-33-5	Ohio State - Harris 6-105, Carter 4-61, Holland 1-37, Cooper 1-10, Ross 1-5.
Total Plays	65	75	Texas A&M - Bernstine 4-59, Walker 3-35, Vick 2-17, Woodside 3-14, Thompson 1-11.
Total Net Yards	303	296	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0	
Penalties-Yards	11-70	3-15	
Punts-Average	6-35.2	6-42.2	
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS			
PUNTING			
Ohio State - Tupa 6-35.2.			
Texas A&M - Tschantz 5-42.4; Stump 1-41.0.			