



January 1, 1988

Texas A&M 35, Notre Dame 10

Attendance - 73,006

The 52nd Cotton Bowl was a homecoming of sorts for Notre Dame and Texas A&M. The Fighting Irish, celebrating their 100th season of college football, were making their fifth trip to Dallas on New Year's Day; the Aggies were playing their third consecutive and sixth overall visit to the Classic. Both teams were looking to rekindle old memories.

Notre Dame claimed its seventh national championship in the 1978 Cotton Bowl and had won three of its four appearances during the 1970's. Texas A&M also had enjoyed marked success in the Cotton Bowl and seemed to own a standing invitation to Dallas. Coach Jackie Sherrill again led the Aggies to the Southwest Conference title, and became just the second coach ever to lead his team to three consecutive appearances in the Classic.

An added bonus to the 1988 Cotton Bowl was Notre Dame's Tim Brown, a Dallas native and the 53rd winner of the Heisman Trophy. Brown's presence marked the third time in four seasons the Heisman winner would play in the Cotton Bowl. He also was the Irish's seventh Heisman winner, but the first ever to play in a bowl game.

Brown and the Irish were the talk of the town, and the excitement led right up to kickoff. The game was barely three minutes old when Brown delivered. Having returned the opening kickoff 37 yards, Brown helped Notre Dame gain an early lead when quarterback Terry Andrysiak hit his All-America receiver with a 17-yard scoring pass.

Down 7-0, the Aggies countered on Scott Slater's 26-yard field goal on the final play of the first quarter, but at that point the game belonged clearly to Notre Dame. The Irish took the ensuing kickoff and marched 51 yards for Ted Gradel's 36-yard field goal and a 10-3 advantage.

Four minutes later, Notre Dame was on the move again. Driving from their own 20, Andrysiak and Brown quickly moved the Irish back into scoring position. On second down at the A&M 18, Andrysiak dropped back to pass and his target was tight end Andy Heck. A&M's Alex Morris read the play and made a leaping interception in the corner of the end zone for what proved to be the key play of the game.

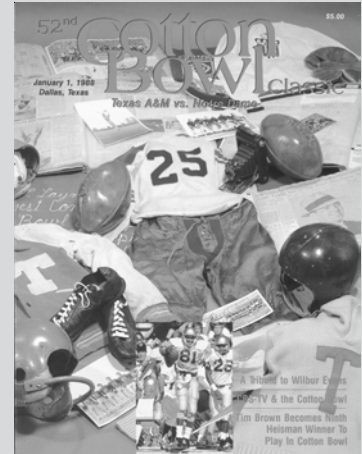
The Aggies seized the opportunity and stormed through the Notre Dame defense, needing only six plays to move 80 yards and tie the game. Freshman running back Darren Lewis ended the drive, surprising the Irish defense by throwing 24 yards to Tony Thompson for the touchdown.

Things got worse for Notre Dame. On their first play following the A&M score, the Irish fumbled the ball back to the Aggies. Tony Jones made the recovery at the Notre Dame 21 and four plays later, freshman running back Larry Horton carried two yards for the go-ahead score. A successful two-point conversion pushed the Aggies to an 18-10 half-time lead. Texas A&M didn't let up in the second half. Quarterback Bucky Richardson,

another one of the Aggies' talented freshmen, scored twice to ice the game, and Slater added another field goal.

Taking a cue from the offense, Aggie defenders began to dominate, setting up four of A&M's six scores with turnovers. The A&M "Wrecking Crew," composed of linebackers Adam Bob, Aaron Wallace, Dana Batiste, and John Roper, and noseguard Sammy O'Brien, smothered the Notre Dame attack. After catching six passes for 105 yards in the game's first 22 minutes, Brown was shut down completely and did not make another reception following Morris' key interception. It was a decisive victory for A&M, 35-10.

GAME SUMMARY



First Quarter:

Notre Dame-Tim Brown 17 pass from Terry Andrysiak (Ted Gradel kick), 11:25, 59 yards in 7 plays following opening kickoff
Texas A&M-Scott Slater 26 FG, 0:00, 30 yards in 8 plays following punt

Second Quarter:

Notre Dame-Gradel 36 FG, 10:52, 51 yards in 10 plays following kickoff
Texas A&M-Tony Thompson 24 pass from Darren Lewis (Slater kick), 1:42, 80 yards in 6 plays following interception by Alex Morris
Texas A&M-Larry Horton 2 run (Wally Hartley run), 0:26, 21 yards in 4 plays following fumble recovery by Tony Jones

Third Quarter:

Texas A&M-Bucky Richardson 1 run (Slater kick), 3:45, 23 yards in 5 plays following fumble recovery by Dana Batiste

Fourth Quarter:

Texas A&M-Slater 25 FG, 8:32, 69 yards in 10 plays after taking over on downs
Texas A&M-Richardson 8 run (Slater kick), 5:10, 30 yards in 5 plays following interception by Kip Corrington

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Adam Bob, Texas A&M
Bucky Richardson, Texas A&M

COACHES

Lou Holtz, Notre Dame
Jackie Sherrill, Texas A&M

WEATHER

Cold

FUN FACT #52

Only three times has a true freshman earned honors at the AT&T Cotton Bowl. In 1985, Boston College linebacker Bill Romanowski won the award with 13 tackles, 11 of which were unassisted. Romanowski's efforts helped the Eagles defeat Houston, 45-28. Three years later, the award went to Texas A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson who scrambled for 96 yards and two touchdowns to spark the Aggies to a 35-10 victory over Notre Dame in 1988. The most recent freshman to win the honor was Arkansas tailback Cedric Cobbs at the 2000 Classic. Cobbs rushed for 98 yards and scored twice to lead the Hogs to a 27-6 defeat of Texas.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	ND	A&M
First Downs	16	24
Rushing	5	17
Passing	10	5
Penalty	2	2
Rushes-Net Yards	36-74	59-294
Net Yards Passing	203	116
Passes	15-28-2	8-17-0
Total Plays	64	76
Total Net Yards	277	410
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-64	6-55
Punts-Average	5-31.4	4-42.2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUNTING

Notre Dame - Phelan 5-31.4.
Texas A&M - Stump 4-42.2.

RUSHING

Notre Dame - Johnson 8-20, Andrysiak 11-15, Green 5-14, Banks 5-9, Graham 2-9, Brooks 3-7, Rice 1-3, Watters 1-(-3).

Texas A&M - Richardson 13-96, Woodside 17-73, Gurley 15-60, Lewis 7-52, Horton 5-13, Pavlas 1-0, Costar 1-0.

PASSING

Notre Dame - Andrysiak 15-25-1, 203 yards; Rice 0-3-1, 0 yards.

Texas A&M - Pavlas 5-7-0, 77 yards; Lewis 1-1-0, 24 yards; Richardson 2-9-0, 15 yards.

RECEIVING

Notre Dame - Brown 6-105, Ward 2-37, Heck 3-28, Green 1-24, Watters 1-10, Jefferson 1-7, Banks 1-(-8).

Texas A&M - Oliver 1-33, Thompson 1-24, Woodside 2-22, Harris 1-19, Morgan 1-16, Lewis 1-6, Waddle 1-(-4).