



January 1, 1991

Miami 46, Texas 3

Attendance - 73,521

GAME SUMMARY



Miami	12	7	14	13	-	46
Texas	0	3	0	0	-	3

First Quarter:

Miami-Carlos Huerta, 28 FG, 8:53, 40 yards in 8 plays following punt
 Miami-Carlos Huerta, 50 FG, 5:26, 16 yards in 5 plays following punt
 Miami-Wesley Carroll 12 pass from Craig Erickson (Erickson pass fail), 0:11, 9 yards in 2 plays following fumble recovery by Maurice Crum

Second Quarter:

Texas-Michael Pollak 29 FG 7:43, 46 yards in 9 plays following punt
 Miami-Carroll 24 pass from Erickson, 4:17, 21 yards in 2 plays following interception by Robert Bailey

Third Quarter:

Miami-Darrin Smith 34 interception return (Huerta kick), 11:46
 Miami-Randal Hill 48 pass from Erickson (Huerta kick) 6:09, 63 yards in 3 plays following missed field goal attempt

Fourth Quarter:

Miami-Randy Bethel 4 pass from Erickson (Huerta kick blocked by Shane Dronett), 10:56, 77 yards in 12 plays following fumble recovery by Kevin Patrick
 Miami-Leonard Conley 26 run (Huerta kick), 9:23, 26 yards in 3 plays following interception by Herbert James

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Craig Erickson, Miami
 Russell Maryland, Miami

COACHES

Dennis Erickson, Miami
 David McWilliams, Texas

WEATHER

Cold, 38 degrees

At first glance, the 55th Mobil Cotton Bowl Classic appeared to have all the trimmings of a national title game. It matched No. 3 Texas, the champions of the Southwest Conference, and No. 4 Miami, college football's defending national champions.

After a seven-year absence, the Longhorns were set to return to a bowl they once owned. The 1991 Classic marked an unprecedented 19th appearance for Texas, yet the Horns hadn't been able to earn a trip to Dallas since January 2, 1984. Ironically, that date became a turning point for both the Texas and Miami programs. It was the day the fifth-ranked Hurricanes claimed their first football national championship, upsetting No. 1 Nebraska in the Orange Bowl, 31-30. Just hours before, Texas lost its bid for a fourth national title when Georgia surprised the second-ranked Longhorns at the Cotton Bowl, 10-9.

It was a day that saw the birth of a new college dynasty. During the next six seasons, Miami put together a streak of six consecutive New Year's Day bowl appearances, won 86.3 percent of its games, and earned two more national championships. The Hurricanes ended the 1990 regular season having rolled up 86 consecutive appearances in the Associated Press Top 10. Texas, on the other hand, saw its football fortunes decline. The Longhorns' winning percentage dipped to 52.9 percent for the remainder of the decade, and produced only three bowl appearances, none of which came on New Year's Day.

Now, on the eve of the 1991 Mobil Cotton Bowl, the two programs had literally traded places. Miami, the "Team of the 80's," was the established national power. Texas was now the challenger, having recently resurfaced with hopes of restoring its name among the football elite. However, the Longhorns were destined to wait another day to regain past glory. From the beginning, this New Year's Day belonged solely to the Hurricanes.

Five Texas turnovers and a missed field goal attempt led to a record six Miami touchdowns. The Hurricane scoring barrage began with their first possession, and it proved to be an omen for the day. Before Miami ever touched the football, two consecutive deadball penalties had the Hurricanes looking at a first-and-40 situation. It took quarterback Craig Erickson just three plays to lead the 'Canes to a first down at the Texas 29-yard line. Seconds later, place kicker Carlos Huerta put Miami on the scoreboard for the first time with a 28-yard field goal.

Huerta struck again on the Hurricanes' next possession, connecting on a 50-yard attempt that tied a Classic record. Two possessions later, defensive tackle Russell Maryland, Miami's Outland Trophy winner, created the 'Canes first turnover with a bone-jarring sack of Texas quarterback Peter Gardere. The ball came loose and within two plays, Erickson registered his first of four scoring passes.

Erickson's touchdown toss to Wesley Carroll covered 12 yards. The Erickson-Carroll duo hooked up again late in the second quarter with a 24-yard scoring strike, and by halftime Miami owned a commanding 19-3 advantage. Only Michael Pollak's 29-yard field goal kept the Longhorns from a scoreless first half.

Miami intensified its attack at the start of the third quarter. Sophomore linebacker Darrin Smith intercepted a Gardere pass and roared 34 yards for the 'Canes third touchdown and a 26-3 lead. Texas threatened on its next possession, but Pollak's 54-yard field goal attempt fell short and put the Hurricanes in position for yet another Erickson scoring pass. This one ended up in the hands of receiver Randal Hill, a 48-yard bomb. At the end of the third quarter, Miami was rolling with a 33-3 lead.

Erickson still wasn't through. Early in the fourth period he found tight end Randy Bethel in the end zone with a four-yard toss for his fourth touchdown pass of the day, eclipsing a Classic record that had stood for 53 years. Miami's third pass interception set up its final score, this one coming on the ground when fullback

Leonard Conley broke loose for a 26-yard touchdown run. The Hurricanes' 46-3 victory left few doubters. Miami departed Dallas in record fashion.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	Miami	Texas
First Downs	16	20
Rushing	5	13
Passing	9	1
Penalty	2	6
Rushes-Net Yards	26-67	51-150
Net Yards Passing	272	55
Passes	17-28-0	8-18-3
Total Plays	54	69
Total Net Yards	339	205
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	16-202	8-68
Punts-Average	5-38.4	5-40.6

RUSHING

Miami - Conley 3-38, McGuire 9-33, Patton 3-14, Johnson 4-10, Crowell 1-0, Erickson 6-(-28).
 Texas - Hadnot 17-101, Samuels 8-30, Brown 5-26, Saxton 5-23, A. Walker 3-(-1), Davis 1-(-6), Gardere 12-(-23).

PASSING

Miami - Erickson 17-26-0, 272 yards; Torretta 0-2-0, 0 yards.
 Texas - Gardere 7-16-3, 40 yards; Saxton 1-2-0, 15 yards.

RECEIVING

Miami - Carroll 8-135, Hill 1-48, Bethel 3-34, Spencer 1-25, Thomas 1-14, Chudzinski 1-7, Conley 1-6, Johnson 1-3.
 Texas - Samuels 3-24, Kerry Cash 2-11, Davis 1-15, Keith Cash 1-8, Hadnot 1-(-3).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUNTING
 Miami - Snyder 5-38.4.
 Texas - Waits 5-40.6.