



January 2, 1995

USC 55, Texas Tech 14

Attendance — 70,218

GAME SUMMARY



USC	28	6	14	7	-	55
Texas Tech	0	0	7	7	-	14

First Quarter:

USC-Shawn Walters 11 run (Cole Ford kick), 6:51, 67 yards in 4 plays following punt
 USC-Terry Barnum 19 pass from Rob Johnson (Ford kick), 6:39, 19 yards in 1 play following fumble recovery by Gerald Caruthers
 USC-John Herpin 26 interception return (Ford kick), 5:35
 USC-Keyshawn Johnson 12 pass from Rob Johnson (Ford kick), 2:22, 44 yards in 5 plays following punt

Second Quarter:

USC-Ford 39 FG, 6:50, 22 yards in 7 plays following punt
 USC-Ford 42 FG, 0:17, -9 yards in 4 plays following interception by John Herpin

Third Quarter:

USC-Keyshawn Johnson 22 pass from Rob Johnson (Ford kick), 10:29, 66 yards in 6 plays following punt
 USC-Keyshawn Johnson 86 pass from Brad Otton (Ford kick), 7:51, 89 yards in 3 plays following punt
 Texas Tech-Zebbie Lethridge 5 run (Jon Davis kick), 2:15, 80 yards in 9 plays following punt

Fourth Quarter:

USC-Jeff Diltz 2 pass from Brad Otton (Ford kick), 2:40, 17 yards in 8 plays following fumble recovery by Scott Fields
 Texas Tech-Stacy Mitchell 45 pass from Sone Cavazos (Davis kick), 0:00, 70 yards in 2 plays following kickoff

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

John Herpin, USC
 Keyshawn Johnson, USC

COACHES

John Robinson, USC
 Spike Dykes, Texas Tech

WEATHER

Sunny to partly cloudy skies, 52 degrees

Historical artifacts just aren't safe with USC in town. In the 59th Mobil Cotton Bowl Classic, the Trojans literally rewrote history with their 55-14 sacking of Texas Tech.

In slightly more than three and a half hours, the Trojans established Cotton Bowl records for points (55), total offense (578), passing yards (435), points in a quarter (28) and points in a half (34). It was a classic display of textbook football. USC couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate its first New Year's Day bowl appearance in five seasons. The Trojans combined an explosive offense with a dominating defense and solid special teams play to record one of the most awesome performances ever.

A capacity crowd dressed predominately in red and black filed into the Cotton Bowl to see the Raiders play in the Classic for the first time since 1939. Fifty-six years had passed since Tech's last Cotton Bowl appearance. In those days, the Red Raiders carried the banner of the Border Conference. But, times had changed. Now, as South-west Conference champions, Texas Tech was representing the 80-year old league in its final Classic appearance.

An air of excitement engulfed the stadium as game-time neared. But, the festive mood ended abruptly for Texas Tech. It didn't take long for USC to launch a suffocating attack that left the Red Raiders gasping for air. The Trojans scored 21 of their 34 first half points in a span of 1:16. The flood gates opened when tailback Shawn Walters rumbled 11 yards around right end for the first USC touchdown. The scoring drive covered 67 yards and it took the Trojans only four plays to reach the Red Raider end zone.

Things got worse for Tech on the ensuing kickoff. Trojan linebacker Brian Hass slammed kick returner Stacy Mitchell to the ground with a bonejarring hit. The ball popped loose and Gerald Caruthers recovered for USC at the Texas Tech 19-yard line. Quarterback Rob Johnson and the Trojans struck swiftly. On the first play from scrimmage, fullback Terry Barnum circled out of the backfield and Johnson's pass was on target. Barnum bolted into the end zone and USC's lead shot to 14-0.

Then came the knockout punch. Desperate to make something good happen for the Raiders, quarterback Zebbie Lethridge looked to throw on second down. Lethridge found his receiver but the pass bounced off the hands of Matt DuBuc and into the waiting arms of USC cornerback John Herpin. The speedy Texas native gathered in the errant pass, cut toward the USC sideline and raced 26 yards for the Trojans' third touchdown.

In a matter of seconds, the Trojans had gained total control of the game. Leading 21-0 and the clock down to 5:35, USC was rocking and Texas Tech was reeling. The Raiders had run only nine offensive plays and had come up empty every time. But, USC was just getting started, and so was Keyshawn Johnson. The elusive, game-breaking receiver added USC's final touchdown of the quarter with a spectacular, leaping catch in the corner of the end zone. The 12-yard scoring play pushed the USC lead to 28-0.

Statistically, the Trojans' first quarter performance was even more imposing than the score. USC outgained the Raiders 235 yards to 17 in total offense. Obviously, USC had the game well in hand and the only doubt that remained was the final margin of victory.

For the day, Keyshawn Johnson set Cotton Bowl records with three touchdown receptions and 222 yards on eight catches. He scored twice in the third quarter. The first was a 22-yard strike from Rob Johnson, and the second was an 86-yard bomb from backup quarterback Brad Otton, the second longest touchdown pass in Classic history.

With 9:23 remaining in the third quarter, Rob Johnson retired to the USC sideline. His college career had come to a storybook ending. Johnson threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns, connecting on 16-of-21 attempts with no interceptions. His 13.8 yards per attempt was the second best passing performance ever in the Classic, and his .762 completion percentage was the Cotton Bowl's fourth-highest total.

Texas Tech managed to end the USC shutout late in the third quarter when Lethridge scrambled five yards for a touchdown. Then, as the final gun sounded to end the game, backup quarterback Sone Cavazos tossed a 45-yard scoring pass to Mitchell. After a bitter-sweet afternoon of football, Red Raider fans finally had something to cheer about.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	USC	Tech
First Downs	21	14
Rushing	7	3
Passing	14	9
Penalty	0	2
Rushes-Net Yards	45-143	26-55
Net Yards Passing	435	205
Passes	24-35-0	15-37-2
Total Plays	80	63
Total Net Yards	578	260
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	4-2
Penalties-Yards	12-133	2-20
Punts-Average	4-43.0	10-38.0

RUSHING
 USC - Walters 14-82, Sermons 12-32, Green 6-25, Washington 6-17, Holguin 2-4, Hopper 1-1, Koffler 1-0, R. Johnson 3-(-18).
 Texas Tech - Hanspard 9-36, Crain 2-22, Cavazos 1-3, Lethridge 13-(-3), Walker 1-(-3).

PASSING
 USC - R. Johnson 16-21-0, 289 yards; Otton 8-14-0, 146 yards.
 Texas Tech - Lethridge 12-29-2, 134 yards; Cavazos 3-5-0, 71 yards; Darden 0-3-0.

RECEIVING
 USC - K. Johnson 8-222, Hervey 3-99, Parker 1-31, Barnum 1-19, Green 1-12, Diltz 2-13, Allred 1-12, McWilliams 1-9, Grace 1-9, Woods 1-7, Volsan 1-2, Washington 3-0.
 Texas Tech - Darden 6-79, Mitchell 1-45, Bass 1-28, Scovell 1-25, DuBuc 1-10, Lavender 1-6, Hanspard 1-4, B. Adams 2-4, Hobbs 1-4.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
PUNTING
 USC - Stonehouse 4-43.0.
 Texas Tech - Cade 10-38.0.