



January 1, 1999

Attendance - 72,611

Texas 38, Mississippi State 11

GAME SUMMARY



MSU	0	3	0	8	-	11
Texas	7	7	24	0	-	38

First Quarter:

Texas-Wane McGarity 59 pass from Major Applewhite (Kris Stockton kick), 2:17, 97 yards in 7 plays following punt

Second Quarter:

Texas-McGarity 52 pass from Applewhite (Stockton kick), 5:11, 80 yards in 4 plays following punt
MSU-Brian Hazelwood 39 FG, 2:32, 29 yards in 6 plays following kickoff

Third Quarter:

Texas-Ricky Williams 37 run (Stockton kick), 12:34, 51 yards in 3 plays following punt
Texas-Stockton 47 FG, 6:39, 57 yards in 9 plays following punt
Texas-Williams 2 run (Stockton kick), 2:42, 66 yards in 5 plays following punt
Texas-Kwame Cavil 18 pass from Applewhite (Stockton kick), 0:14, 18 yards in 1 play after taking over on downs

Fourth Quarter:

MSU-Lahitia Grant 5 pass from Matt Wyatt (James Johnson run), 10:07, 80 yards in 14 plays following kickoff

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Aaron Babino, Texas
Ricky Williams, Texas

COACHES

Jackie Sherrill, Mississippi State
Mack Brown, Texas

WEATHER

Fog, drizzle, 66 degrees

It was apparent from the start that a "Big Game" was brewing in "Big D."

With the Heisman Trophy winner, a new conference affiliation that reunited the Classic with the Southeastern Conference, and the game's debut on the FOX Television Network, the 63rd Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl generated a buzz that could be heard all around the country. It was just like old times.

Cotton Bowl fever began early. In fact, the game was declared a sellout less than 48 hours after the teams were announced in early December.

Mississippi State had put together an 8-4 season and was heading to its first major New Year's Day bowl in 58 years. All this came on the heels of the Bulldogs' inaugural appearance in the SEC Championship Game. Another intriguing sidebar to the game was the return of MSU head coach Jackie Sherrill to Texas. In the 1980s, Sherrill coached Texas A&M to three consecutive Cotton Bowl appearances, and for the 1999 Classic he was coming to town armed with a seven-game winning streak over the Longhorns.

Texas also was experiencing a rebirth within its football program. In just his first season as head coach, Mack Brown had restored the Longhorns' confidence and winning spirit. Texas compiled an 8-3 regular season and rolled into Dallas winning seven of its last eight games. Brown's arrival produced a remarkable turnaround from the previous year's 4-7 finish.

But, there was little doubt as to who would command the game's spotlight in his final collegiate performance. Heisman winner Ricky Williams set 21 NCAA records and 46 school marks during his Texas career and became the NCAA's all-time leading rusher. His presence alone gave the New Year's Day Classic its seventh Heisman winner and the game's first since 1988.

Anticipating that Mississippi State would blitz heavily and jam the line of scrimmage in an attempt to stop Williams, Texas quarterback Major Applewhite discovered quickly that the key to beating the Bulldogs was to put the football in the hands of receiver Wane McGarity.

In the first half, those two hooked for two long scoring plays. The first covered 59 yards when McGarity slipped behind cornerback Kendall Roberson on a post pattern. Applewhite's pass was perfect, hitting McGarity in full stride, and with just minutes to play in the opening quarter the Horns jumped in front, 7-0.

Late in the second period, the redshirt freshman quarterback looked for his favorite receiver again. This time, McGarity hauled in a short toss from Applewhite, broke a tackle and zigzagged his way to the end zone to complete a 52-yard touchdown play that pushed the Texas lead to 14-0.

Mississippi State countered just before the half with Brian Hazelwood's 39-yard field goal to trim the score back to 14-3, but it did little to curb the Longhorns' momentum. Defensively, the Bulldogs were successful in the first half in corralling Williams and keeping him out of the end zone. But, Williams literally exploded in the second half, rolling up 128 yards in 15 attempts and running for two touchdowns.

His most memorable play of the day came minutes into the third quarter. Breaking loose up the middle, Williams sailed through MSU defenders for 37 yards and the Longhorns' third score of the game. As he crossed the goal line, Williams pulled up and struck the classic "Heisman pose" and celebrated the touchdown with his teammates.

The touchdown opened the floodgates for Texas. The Horns soon tacked on a 47-yard field goal and Williams collected his second touchdown of the game with a two-yard burst over left tackle. Applewhite then connected with sophomore flanker Kwame Cavil for an 18-yard scoring play to put the finishing touches on a 24-point third quarter. The end result was a huge 38-3 Texas advantage with the fourth quarter still to play.

While Williams, Applewhite and McGarity were racking up impressive numbers on offense, the Texas defense was just as dominating. Junior linebacker Aaron Babino registered a team high-nine tackles for the Horns, three of them behind the line of scrimmage for 13 yards in losses, and was named the game's outstanding defensive player.

Mississippi State did manage to crack the scoreboard one last time when backup quarterback Matt Wyatt hit receiver Lahitia Grant on a five-yard pass play. James Johnson, the SEC's leading rusher, finished with 112 yards on 22 carries and added a successful two-point conversion to make the final score 38-

11. Williams' statistical totals were staggering. He rushed for 203 yards on 30 attempts — the third best day on record — scored two touchdowns and caught five passes for 45 yards. Texas couldn't have asked for a better ending to a storybook season...the end result being the Horns' first New Year's Day bowl victory in 17 years.

GAME STATISTICS

RUSHING

MSU - Johnson 22-112, McKinley 2-7, Rainey 1-2, Prather 1-(-3), Madkin 4-(-11), Wyatt 2-(-20).
Texas - Williams 30-203, Mitchell 7-26, Brown 3-15, Applewhite 3-(-6).

PASSING

MSU - Wyatt 12-24-0, 156 yards; Madkin 4-16-1, 49 yards.
Texas - Applewhite 15-26-0, 225 yards.

RECEIVING

MSU - Grant 4-62, Cooper 4-38, Love 2-33, Kelly 2-14, Johnson 1-22, McKinley 1-20, Prentiss 1-8, Butler 1-8.
Texas - McGarity 4-132, Williams 5-45, Cavil 3-31, Lewis 2-26, Nunez 1-(-9).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUNTING

MSU - Walker 5-44.6; Wyatt 2-32.0.
Texas - Long 5-37.8; Stockton 1-34.0.