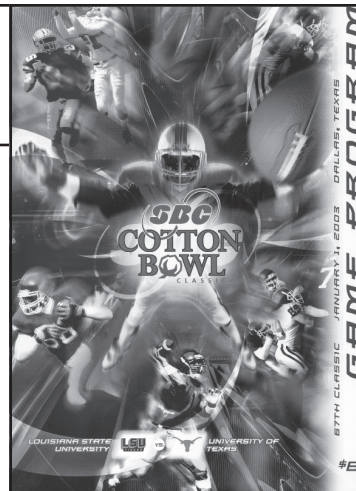


2003
JANUARY 1

TEXAS 35
LSU 20



ATTENDANCE: **70,817**

Forty years to the day after Texas and LSU's last meeting, the Longhorns and Tigers picked up where they left off – at the SBC Cotton Bowl Classic. Their last encounter came in the 1963 Cotton Bowl as LSU knocked off an undefeated Longhorn squad, 13-0. This time around, Texas came away from New Year's Day as victors after an opportunistic Longhorn defense forced three turnovers en route to a memorable 35-20 win in the 68th Classic.

The No. 9 Longhorns (11-2) grabbed their 11th Field Scovell Trophy as champions of the Cotton Bowl and posted consecutive 11-win seasons for the first time in school history.

In the opening period, LSU (8-5) seemed on the verge of running away to another Classic upset, holding Texas to only three offensive plays and no first downs. It was the Texas defense that opened up the scoring for the Longhorns. Senior linebacker Cory Redding blew by his blocker and knocked the ball loose from LSU quarterback Marcus Randall. Linebacker Lee Jackson snatched the ball off the ground and raced 46 yards for a touchdown to make it 7-3. It was the first touchdown off a fumble return in Cotton Bowl history.

The quick score forced the Longhorn defense to stay on the field, and LSU took advantage. Randall marched the Tiger offense down the field and connected with running back LaBrandon Toefield on a 20-yard pass to give LSU a 10-7 lead after the first quarter. Randall looked like an instant SBC Cotton Bowl Hall of Famer as he led the Tigers to scores on three of their first four possessions. LSU extended its lead to 17-7 early in the second. On a designed QB draw play, Randall picked up 76 yards before UT's Nathan Vasher finally pulled him down. Domanick Davis finished the drive with a 10-yard run up the middle.

LSU had 287 yards on those first four possessions and was averaging 8.2 yards per play. The Longhorn defense was forced to make adjustments, and Texas finally turned on the light switch in the second quarter. The combination of Texas quarterback Chris Simms and split end Roy Williams got the offense moving and LSU couldn't find a way to stop the duo. Williams cut into LSU's 17-7 lead three minutes into the second quarter when Simms connected with the junior on a quick post route for a 51-yard touchdown.

Texas caught LSU in single coverage on Williams again later in the second period. Williams turned a short post pass into a long gain, going 75 yards before stepping out of bounds at the 5. Cedric Benson finished off the drive with a 1-yard dive into the end zone to give the Longhorns a 21-17 lead heading into the locker rooms at the half. Williams put the game solidly in Texas' favor in the third quarter when he cut back twice inside LSU defenders on a reverse and scored a 39-yard touchdown. The touchdown play was set up by another fumble recovery by linebacker Lee Jackson.

In all, Williams produced 181 yards on five touches en route to being voted Outstanding Offensive Player. Outstanding Defensive Player honors went to senior defensive end Cory Redding, who in the second half forced LSU's offense out of rhythm.

Texas went to increased zone blitzes, and the changes allowed Redding to harrass Randall and Toefield. Redding finished with eight tackles, including four tackles for a loss of 23 yards. After gaining 310 yards in the first half, LSU's offense was limited to 131 the rest of the game.

The Longhorns pulled away at the beginning of the fourth quarter when Simms connected with Ivan Williams on an 8-yard pass to extend the lead to 35-17. LSU added a John Corbello 39-yard field goal with 7:41 remaining in the game.

After his final game as a Longhorn, Redding let his emotions come rushing out after walking off the Cotton Bowl field a winner and accepting the Outstanding Defensive Player trophy.

"This is something that will stay with me the rest of my life," said Redding. "I've never won anything like this before. I feel overwhelmed."

Game Summary

LSU	10	7	0	3	20
TEXAS	7	14	7	7	35

FIRST QUARTER

LSU: John Corbello 26 FG, 10:44, 71 yards in 10 plays following opening kickoff.
Texas: Lee Jackson, 46 fumble return (Dusty Mangum kick), 3:49.
LSU: LaBrandon Toefield 20 pass from Marcus Randall (Corbello kick), :04, 87 yards in 10 plays following kickoff.

SECOND QUARTER

LSU: Domanick Davis 10 run (Corbello kick), 12:04, 90 yards in 4 plays following punt.
Texas: Roy Williams 51 pass from Chris Simms (Mangum kick), 11:24, 74 yards in 2 plays following kickoff.
Texas: Cedric Benson 1 run (Mangum kick), 3:11, 80 yards in 4 plays following missed field goal.

THIRD QUARTER

Texas: Roy Williams 39 run (Mangum kick), 4:08, 68 yards in 3 plays following fumble.

FOURTH QUARTER

Texas: Ivan Williams 8 pass from Simms (Mangum kick), 9:58, 47 yards in 7 plays following punt.
LSU: Corbello 39 FG, 7:41, 27 yards in 8 plays following kickoff.

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Roy Williams, Texas

Cory Redding, Texas

COACHES

Nick Saban, LSU

Mack Brown, Texas

WEATHER

Sunny skies, 52 degrees

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS

	LSU	TEXAS
First Downs	25	15
Rushing	12	16
Passing	10	9
Penalty	3	0
Rushes-Net Yards	49-248	32-164
Net Yards Passing	193	269
Passes	19-46-1	15-28-1
Total Plays	95	60
Total Net Yards	441	382
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-28	6-60
Punts-Average	4-48.8	7-37.3

RUSHING

LSU: Davis 13-85, Randall 11-78, Toefield 22-67, Green 1-11, Addai 1-5, James 1-2.
Texas: Young 11-49, Benson 12-46, R. Williams 1-39, Jeffery 1-6, Team 2-(-6), Simms 5-(-21).

PASSING

LSU: Randall 19-49-1, 193 yards; Myers 0-1-0, 0 yards.
Texas: Simms 15-28-1, 269 yards.

RECEIVING

LSU: Clayton 6-88, Myers 4-16, Davis 3-31, Green 3-24, Addai 2-14, Toefield 1-20.
Texas: R. Williams 4-142, Thomas 4-59, I. Williams 2-30, Benson 2-29, Thomas 1-8, Johnson 1-2, Robin 1-(-1).

PUNTING

LSU: Jones 4-48.8.
Texas: Bradford 7-37.3.

