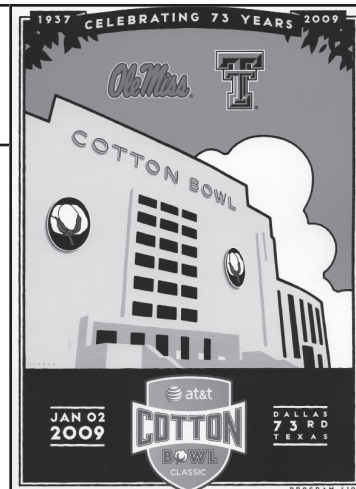


2009
JANUARY 2

MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS TECH

47
34



ATTENDANCE: **88,175**

Ole Miss and Texas Tech ensured the 73rd and final AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic played at historic Fair Park would be one for the record books.

Ole Miss prevailed, 47-34, to win its sixth-straight game and finish the season 9-4. Even though the two schools amassed 81 points, first-year Rebels Coach Houston Nutt was quick to praise his defense, which held the Red Raiders scoreless in a third quarter for the first time that season.

“Our defense stopped them, stopped them, time and time again,” Nutt said. “I couldn’t be more proud of them. They never got discouraged, even after we got down 14-0. Once we started taking care of the ball, it was a total team effort – offense, defense, special teams. I just couldn’t be prouder of how our seniors took ownership of this team and led us to this victory. I only wish we had them coming back next year.”

“This goes to show the caliber of the two teams competing in this game,” said Texas Tech Coach Mike Leach, whose team finished 11-2. “I know going in we had a lot of respect for Ole Miss. They are an incredibly good football team. They beat Florida at Florida and played extremely well at Alabama. Today, they played in a fashion we take pride in – executing. They did a great job of doing their jobs.”

“The Cotton Bowl is special to me,” Nutt said. “I had some concern about how our players would handle all this – being in their first bowl and playing the last game in this stadium. Our preparation was excellent. Our players had the time of their lives. Our seniors will never forget this. I couldn’t be happier.”

Ole Miss H-Back Dexter McCluster received the Sanford Trophy given to the outstanding offensive player. The trophy commemorates the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic’s founder, J. Curtis Sanford. Ms. Betty Sanford has followed in her late husband’s footsteps, participating with AT&T executive Mark Keiffer and other dignitaries in the coin-toss ceremony.

“This is a great honor, but this was a total team effort,” said McCluster, who rushed for 97 yards and one touchdown on 14 carries and caught six passes for 83 yards. “We played as a team and never gave up.”

Ole Miss’ Marshay Green received the McKnight Trophy given to the outstanding defensive player. The trophy honors the late Dallas newspaperman and former Team Selection Committee Chairman, Felix McKnight. Green had three tackles and returned an intercepted pass 65 yards for an early third-quarter touchdown.

“It was a big-time challenge, covering (Michael) Crabtree,” Green said.

Despite controlling the ball for all but three minutes, 20 seconds, the Rebels trailed 14-7, after the first quarter. Ole Miss used relentless defense, hard running and timely passing by Jevan Snead to widen its lead to 38-21 after three quarters. With Tech’s quick-strike offense, a comeback still seemed possible after the Raiders recovered a fumble at their two early in the fourth quarter. But the ferocious Rebel defense trapped Tech quarterback Graham Harrell for a safety on the very next play.

“It was a strange game on both teams’ part – a series of over-corrections,” Leach said. “They did a better job than we did staying composed on the momentum shifts. They executed well on both sides of the ball. They kept doing their job, play after play after play.”

Game Summary

MISSISSIPPI	7	17	14	9	47	THIRD QUARTER
TEXAS TECH	14	7	0	13	34	Ole Miss: Marshay Green 65 yd interception return (Shene Kick), 12:12. Ole Miss: Brandon Bolden 17 yd run (Shene kick), 6:55, 40 yds in 3 plays following turnover on downs.
FIRST QUARTER	Texas Tech: Britton 35 yd reception from Harrell (Matt Williams kick), 6:31, 61 yds in 4 plays after fumble recovery. Texas Tech: McBath 45 yd interception return (Williams kick), 5:22. Ole Miss: Harris 41 yd pass from Snead (Shene kick), 1:49 78 yards in 8 plays following kickoff.					
SECOND QUARTER	Texas Tech: Michael Crabtree 2 yd pass from Harrell (Williams Kick), 7:44 75 yds in 11 plays following kickoff. Ole Miss: Gerald Harris 21 yd pass from Snead (Shene kick), 4:09, 80 yards in 10 plays following kickoff. Ole Miss: Shene 27 yd field goal, 1:08 35 yards in 6 plays following interception.					
	FOURTH QUARTER Texas Tech: Britton 12 yd pass from Harrell (Williams Kick), 12:13, 83 yds in 12 plays following punt. Ole Miss: Harrell tackled by Patrick Trahan in the end-zone for a safety, 10:02. Ole Miss: Dexter McCluster 4 yd run (Shene kick), 4:34, 48 yards in 9 plays. Texas Tech: Eric Morris 17 yd pass from Harrell (2 pt conversion failed), 1:37, 62 yds in 7 plays following kickoff.					
	OUTSTANDING PLAYERS Dexter McCluster, Mississippi Marshay Green, Mississippi					
	COACHES Houston Nutt, Mississippi Mike Leach, Texas Tech					
	WEATHER Clear, 68 degrees					

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	MISS.	TECH	
First Downs	26	24	RUSHING Mississippi: Bolden 11-101, McCluster 14-97, Davis 5-22, Hartmann 1-10, Eason 3-3, Wallace 1-(-2), Snead 7-(-2). Texas Tech: Woods 6-46, Harrell 6-43, Batch 2-16.
Rushing	11	6	PASSING Mississippi: Snead 18-29-1, 292 yards. Texas Tech: Harrell 36-58-2, 364 yards.
Passing	14	18	RECEIVING Mississippi: McCluster 6-83, Wallace 4-80, Hodge 2-49, Harris 2-29, 2-13, Bolden 2-13, Summers 1-29, Eason 1-9. Texas Tech: Morris 10-89, Britton 5-87, Woods 5-67, Lewis 5-44, Swindallas 4-33, Crabtree 4-30, Batch 2-7, Leong 1-7.
Penalty	1	0	PUNTING Mississippi: Park 2-37.5. Texas Tech: LaCour 4-41.0.
Rushes-Net Yards	45-223	14-105	
Net Yards Passing	292	364	
Passes	18-29-1	36-58-2	
Total Plays	74	72	
Total Net Yards	515	469	
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-0	
Penalties-Yards	2-15	8-62	
Punts-Average	2-37.5	4-41.0	