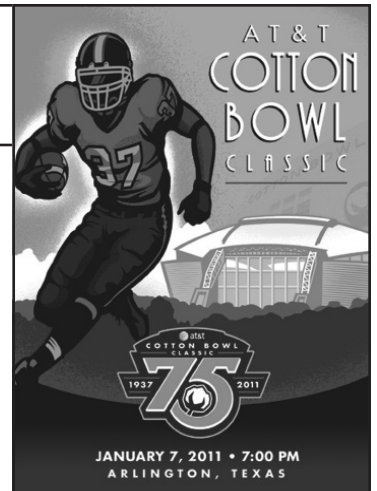


**2011**  
JANUARY 7

**LSU**  
**TEXAS A&M**

**41**  
**24**



ATTENDANCE: **83,514**

In the first primetime game in Classic history, it was LSU who stole the show in a 41-24 win over the Texas A&M Aggies. LSU (11-2) won its third AT&T Cotton Bowl in the last four tries, while Texas A&M (9-4) snapped a six-game winning streak and saw its overall record in the Classic drop to 4-8.

On the night of the Classic's 75th anniversary, where former Syracuse great Jim Brown and 20 other Hall of Fame players and coaches were honored, it was the Tigers' quarterback, Jordan Jefferson who joined the likes of other memorable performances in the tradition rich bowl. Jefferson's receiver, Terrance Tolliver, tied a Cotton Bowl record with three touchdown receptions and earned the Sanford Trophy presented to the game's most outstanding offensive player.

The Tigers featured two 100-yard rushers with Stevan Ridley and Spencer Ware. LSU became the second team in Cotton Bowl history to boast two 100-yard rushers and a 100-yard receiver in the same game joining Arkansas in the 1990 Classic. While the LSU offense was busy setting records, the Tigers' defense rebounded from a slow start to stymie the Texas A&M offensive attack as the game progressed. The LSU defense forced four A&M turnovers including three interceptions and one fumble.

Freshman cornerback Tyrann Mathieu led the Tigers' defensive charge earning eight tackles, a sack, an interception, two forced fumble and a fumble return. He stripped Texas A&M wide receiver Hutson Prioleau and appeared to return the loose ball 37 yards for a touchdown, before a penalty brought the play back. LSU maintained possession, however, and the Tigers ran out the clock to clinch the win. For his defensive efforts, Mathieu earned the McKnight Trophy as the outstanding defensive player of the game.

Although the Tigers came out victorious, it was not without a hard fought effort put up by Texas A&M. Texas A&M quarterback Ryan Tannehill completed 22-of-35 passes for 204 yards and two touchdowns, but also was intercepted three times and sacked twice. Aggies' running back Cyrus Gray earned 100 yards on 20 carries, while wide receiver Jeff Fuller had seven receptions netting 83 yards. Thanks to a stunning kickoff return by Coryell Judie, the Aggies took the first quarter by storm an amassed 10-0 lead, but with the power offense displayed by the Tigers, the Aggies didn't stand a chance.

LSU quarterback Jordan Jefferson assisted in leading the Tiger charge, connecting with receiver Terrance Toliver three times for three scores throughout the rest of the game. By the end of the first quarter, the Tigers led 28-17 from scores by Ridley and Toliver. The 45 combined points scored by both teams in the first half tied the Classic record matching the 2009 Ole Miss-Texas Tech and the 1985 Houston-Boston College games.

LSU wasted little time revving back up the offense after the halftime break. In the third quarter, after another touchdown reception, Toliver tied USC's Keyshawn Johnson for the Cotton Bowl record of three touchdown receptions in a game. LSU kept a 35-17 lead heading into the final quarter of play.

The Aggies' offense was on the march to begin the fourth quarter going 73 yards on 13 plays to the end zone. On third and goal at the four yard-line, Tannehill spotted Kenric McNeal for a four-yard touchdown pass and Randy Bullock converted on the extra point; A&M cut into the LSU lead at 35-24 with 10:04 to play. But, on the following LSU drive of 19 yards in seven plays, Jasper tied a Cotton Bowl record by nailing a 50-yard field goal. He joined Alabama's Greg Gantt (1973) and Miami's Carlos Huerta (1991) on the record-breaking field goal list.

Jasper was called on again on the Tigers' next offensive possession, hitting a 26-yard field goal with 3:04 remaining. A fumble recovery by LSU's Mathieu on the next play from scrimmage ended Texas A&M's drive and clinched the victory for the Tigers, 41-24.

"I have to thank the Cotton Bowl Committee and certainly the opportunity to play in such an historic game," LSU head coach Les Miles said. "This game was made more important to us by the (Big Play) luncheon we had where it depicted the great players, the great teams and the great circumstances of a Cotton Bowl championship. We're very honored to play in it."

**Game Summary**

<b>LSU</b>	7	21	7	6	<b>41</b>
<b>TEXAS A&amp;M</b>	10	7	0	7	<b>24</b>

**FIRST QUARTER**

Texas A&M: Nwachukwu, U. 6 yd. pass from Tannehill, Ryan (Bullock, Randy kick), 31 yds in 5 plays, 13:01.

Texas A&M: Bullock, Randy 39 yd field goal, 76 yds in 9 plays, 5:03.

LSU: T. Toliver 42 yd pass from Jo. Jefferson (Josh Jasper kick), 80 yds in 8 plays, 1:48.

**SECOND QUARTER**

LSU: Jo. Jefferson 1 yd run (Josh Jasper kick), 65 yds in 9 plays, 10:13.

Texas A&M: Nwachukwu, U. 14 yd pass from Gray, Cyrus (Bullock kick), 78 yds in 7 plays, 7:44.

LSU: Stevan Ridley 17 yd run (Jasper kick), 67 yds in 7 plays, 4:43.

LSU: Toliver 2 yd pass from Jo. Jefferson (Jasper kick), 3 yds in 2 plays, 1:27.

**THIRD QUARTER**

LSU: Toliver 41 yd pass from Jo. Jefferson (Jasper kick), 67 yds in 5 plays, 12:06.

**FOURTH QUARTER**

Texas A&M: McNeal, Kenric 4 yd pass from Tannehill (Bullock kick), 73 yds in 13 plays, 10:04.

LSU: Jasper 50 FG, 19 yds in 7 plays, 6:12.

LSU: Jasper 26 FG, 19 yds in 7 plays, 3:04.

**OUTSTANDING PLAYERS**

Terrence Toliver, LSU

Tyrann Mathieu, LSU

**COACHES**

Les Miles, LSU

Mike Sherman, Texas A&M

**WEATHER**

Indoors

**Game Statistics**

**TEAM STATS**

	<b>LSU</b>	<b>A&amp;M</b>
First Downs	24	23
Rushing	14	10
Passing	8	12
Penalty	2	1
Rushes-Net Yards	55-288	29-155
Net Yards Passing	158	218
Passes	10-19-1	23-36-3
Total Plays	74	65
Total Net Yards	446	373
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	3-25	4-40
Punts-Average	1-58.0	2-28.0

**RUSHING**

LSU: Ridley 24-110, Ware 10-102, Jefferson 12-78, Ford 4-9, Shepard 1-4, Murphy 2-3.  
Texas A&M: Gray 20-102, Tannehill 7-62, Stephens 2-12.

**PASSING**

LSU: Jefferson 10-19-1, 158 yards.  
Texas A&M: Tannehill 22-35-3, 204 yards, Gray 1-1-0, 14 yards.

**RECEIVING**

LSU: Toliver 5-112, Randle 2-19, Ware 2-17, Edwards 1-10.  
Texas A&M: Fuller 7-83, Swope 5-45, Nwachukwu 4-38, Jackson 2-20, McNeal 2-13, Lamothe 1-10, Gray 1-9, Prioleau 1-0.

**PUNTING**

LSU: Helton 1-58.0.  
Texas A&M: Wood 2-28.0.