

80th ANNUAL
GOODYEAR
COTTON BOWL
 CLASSIC



ALABAMA MICHIGAN STATE

38
00

2016
 DEC. 31, '15

ATTENDANCE: **82,812**

The road to Alabama's 16th national title went through Arlington and the 80th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic.

In the second year of the College Football Playoff, the Classic hosted a Playoff Semifinal and the matchup featured No. 3 Michigan State vs. No. 2 Alabama. Both teams were 12-1 and 7-1 in conference play. Prior to kickoff, many publications deemed this to be the top matchup of the entire bowl season.

The Spartans were back in familiar territory. Just one year before, Michigan State roared from behind in the fourth quarter to erase a 20-point deficit to knock off Baylor with just 17 seconds to play, 42-41.

However, in the Playoff Semifinal, there would be no such comeback.

Neither team could muster much offense in the opening quarter. The Spartans crossed mid-field once, reaching the Alabama 38, but a sack of quarterback Connor Cook ended the MSU drive at the Bama 48. The Tide never advanced past their own 39 yard line, and that was on Alabama's opening possession of the game.

The Crimson Tide began to flex their muscles midway through the second quarter, rolling 80 yards in just six plays for the first score of the game. Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry, the ninth Heisman winner to play in the Classic, barreled over from the one to push the Tide in front, 7-0.

Alabama scored again on its next possession, driving 43 yards for a 47-yard field goal by Adam Griffith. That score came with 1:25 to go in the first half. With little time on the clock, Michigan State quickly marched down field with hopes of cutting into the Alabama 10-0 lead. Moving from its 25-yard line, Cook guided the Spartans 63 yards before Alabama cornerback Cyrus Jones came up with the defensive play of the game, pulling down an interception at the one and then racing 21 yards back up field to end the Spartans' touchdown hopes.

Jones' oskie set the wheels in motion for the Crimson Tide. Alabama opened the second half by marching 75 yards in nine plays for a touchdown to push the lead to 17-0. The drive was capped by a six-yard scoring toss from quarterback Jake Coker to freshman receiver Calvin Ridley.

Alabama scored twice more in the third quarter. Jones returned a Michigan State punt 57 yards for a touchdown, and Coker and Ridley hooked up again with a 50-yard touchdown pass to totally blow the game open at 31-0. The vaunted Alabama defense held MSU to just 29 yards on the ground and 210 yards in the air.

The Tide's 21-point third quarter was the second highest on record in the Classic. Henry closed out the night's scoring midway through the fourth quarter with an 11-yard run on a quick three-play, 69-yard drive. Senior running back Kenyan Drake did most of the heavy lifting, breaking a 58-yard run to the MSU 11 to set up Henry's second score.

With the 38-0 victory, Alabama evened its all-time Cotton Bowl record to 4-4 and recorded the Classic's first shutout since 1963.

The Spartans never found an answer for Coker who went 25-30-0 through the air for 286 yards and two touchdowns. Coker's completion percentage of .833 was second only to the record of .917 set by Bobby Layne of Texas in 1946. Those numbers earned Coker the game's Outstanding Offensive Player honors, while Jones parlayed his first half pass interception and second half punt return into the Outstanding Defensive Player award.

From Arlington, Alabama rolled on to Glendale, Ariz., for the College Football Playoff Championship Game to defeat Clemson 45-40 to earn the Crimson Tide's 16th national title and their fourth in a span of seven seasons, all under Coach Nick Saban.

Game Summary

MSU	0	0	0	0	0
ALABAMA	0	10	21	7	38

SECOND QUARTER

Alabama: Derrick Henry 1 run (Adam Griffith kick), 5:36, 80 yds in 6 plays, following punt
 Alabama: Griffith 47 FG, 1:25, 43 yds in 7 plays, following punt

THIRD QUARTER

Alabama: Calvin Ridley 6 pass from Jake Coker (Griffith kick), 10:36, 75 yds in 9 plays, following kickoff
 Alabama: Cyrus Jones 57 punt return (Griffith kick), 3:24

Alabama: Calvin Ridley 50 pass from Coker (Griffith kick), 2:20, 50 yds in 1 play, following punt

FOURTH QUARTER

Alabama: Henry 11 run (Griffith kick), 7:52, 69 yds in 3 plays, following punt

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Jake Coker, Alabama
 Cyrus Jones, Alabama

COACHES

Nick Saban, Alabama
 Mark Dantonio, Michigan State

WEATHER

Indoors

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	MSU	UA	RUSHING
First Downs	16	21	Michigan State: Terry 1-14, London 5-11, Scott 6-8, Burbridge 3-8, Holmes 2-6, Williams 2-6, Cook 7-(-24).
Rushing	2	7	Alabama: Henry 20-75, Drake 4-60, Scarbrough 3-17, Stewart 1-7, Harris 1-2, Team 1-(-1), Coker 5-(-6).
Passing	11	12	PASSING
Penalty	3	2	Michigan State: Cook 19-39-2, 210 yds.
Rushes-Net Yards	26-29	35-154	Alabama: Coker 25-30-0, 286 yds; Bateman 0-1-0, 0 yds.
Net Yards Passing	210	286	RECEIVING
Passes	19-39-2	25-31-0	Michigan State: Burbridge 5-39, Price 4-39, Davis 1-28, Macgarrett 2-27, DeAnthony 1-21, Shelton 2-19, Lang 1-17, Holmes 2-10, London 1-10.
Total Plays	65	66	Alabama: Ridley 8-138, Howard 3-59, Mullaney 3-53, Stewart 7-37, Drake 3-5, Henry 1-(-6).
Total Net Yards	239	440	PUNTING
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-0	Michigan State: Hartbarger 9-45.7.
Penalties-Yards	6-33	6-69	Alabama: Scott 6-46.5.
Punts-Average	9-45.7	6-46.5	