

ARKANSAS TEXAS

27 06

2000 JANUARY 1

ATTENDANCE: 72,723



Thirty years after "The Game of the Century," the asic "Shootout" when long-time foes Arkansas and Texas renewed their rivalry in the 64th Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic. The last time these two rivals met was in 1991 when the Razorbacks carted home a 14-13 victory prior to their departure to the Southeastern Conference from their long-time home in the Southwest Conference. However, the most famous meeting of all took place on December 6, 1969, in the final game of college football's 100th season. Texas was ranked No. 1 and Arkansas was No. 2. President Richard Nixon flew into Fayetteville to proclaim the winning team as national champions.

That dreary winter day proved to be an afternoon the Hogs could never forget and one the Longhorns would point to with pride. Texas rallied from a fourth quarter 14-0 deficit in the "Big Shootout" to pull off a stunning 15-14 victory and propelled the Horns to a memorable battle with Notre Dame in the 1970 Cotton Bowl Classic. No doubt, this wouldn't be just any match-up on just any New Year's Day. It was Texas vs. Arkansas, and the stage would be the Cotton Bowl at the "Turn of the Century." And for Arkansas, it was a chance to bury some painful memories from the past.

The first half turned into a textbook defensive struggle with field goals coming from Arkansas' Tony Dodson and Texas' Kris Stockton to produce a 3-3 stalemate that stretched well into the third quarter.

At last, the fireworks ignited five minutes into the second half when Texas pinned the Razorbacks just outside the goal line after Ryan Long's 44-yard punt was downed on the three. On two successive plays, Arkansas narrowly avoided being trapped for a safety. First, quarterback Clint Stoerner escaped the fierce Texas rush by diving out of the end zone to the one for a loss of two. Next, tailback Chrys Chukwuma was swarmed by three Longhorn defenders, yet somehow fought his way out of the end zone and back to the one for no gain.

Then came the game's most decisive play. On third-and 12, Stoerner launched a 47-yard bomb to split end Anthony Lucas. It was the spark the Razorbacks needed to bring their offense to life. Quickly, Stoerner moved Arkansas from midfield to the Texas 30, and while scrambling to avoid another fierce pass run, he lobbed a wobbly pass to Cedric Cobbs. The Hogs' freshman tailback turned and sprinted down the sideline and into the end zone to give Arkansas a 10-3 lead and finish a remarkable 97-yard touchdown drive. Texas came right back. Led by sophomore quarterback Major Applewhite who connected on six-of-seven passes during the drive, the Longhorns marched 73 yards to the Arkansas one. But, that's where the threat ended. The Arkansas defense rose up to stop Texas on three consecutive plays and forced the Longhorns to settle again for a field goal by Stockton.

Riding the momentum from its goal line stand, Arkansas pounded Texas with a 17-point barrage in the fourth quarter. The Hogs drove 86 yards in just seven plays to increase the lead to 17-6 when backup tailback Michael Jenkins broke loose up the middle for a 42-yard scoring run.

Things got progressively worse for Texas. Applewhite, the Big 12's Offensive Player of the Year, was sacked on consecutive plays and suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee when flushed from the pocket by the Arkansas pass rush. In came freshman quarterback Chris Simms who was promptly sacked for a six-yard loss and Texas had to punt. The short kick gave Arkansas the football at the Texas 37 and put Cobbs in position to wrap up the game's offensive MVP award. On the first play from scrimmage, the elusive freshman running back took the handoff from Stoerner, bounced outside and raced through and over Longhorn defenders for his second touchdown of the day. After Cobbs' run pushed the lead to 24-6, Arkansas coach Houston Nutt called on Dodson to add an insurance field goal, and with just 2:46 left to play the final score was in place for the Hogs, 27-6.

The smothering Arkansas defense produced eight sacks for the day and held Texas to minus-27 yards rushing, a Cotton Bowl and Texas school record. The ringleader was tackle D.J. Cooper who collected two sacks and five unassisted tackles while en route to defensive MVP honors.

The final gun produced sheer pandemonium on the Arkansas sideline. It was the Razorbacks' first bowl victory since 1985 and it came at the expense of archrival Texas. Finally, after 30 years, Arkansas had put to rest the ghost of the "Big Shootout."

Game Summary

TEXAS	0	3	3	0	6
ARKANSAS	3	0	7	17	27

FIRST QUARTER

Arkansas: Tony Dodson 25 FG, 6:02, 45 yards in 9 plays following punt.

SECOND QUARTER

Texas: Kris Stockton 35 FG, 7:51, 23 yards in 7 plays following interception by Everick Rawls.

THIRD QUARTER

Arkansas: Cedric Cobbs 30 pass from Clint Stoerner (Dodson kick), 5:44, 97 yards in 9 plays following punt.

Texas: Stockton 22 FG, 1:07, 68 yards in 10 plays following kickoff.

FOURTH QUARTER

Arkansas: Michael Jenkins 42 run (Dodson kick), 12:48, 86 yards in 7 plays following kickoff.

Arkansas: Cobbs 37 run (Dodson kick), 10:19, 37 yards in 1 play following punt.

Arkansas: Dodson 27 FG, 2:46, 38 yards in 8 plays following punt.

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

D.J. Cooper, Arkansas

Cedric Dobbs, Arkansas

COACHES

Mack Brown, Texas

Houston Nutt, Arkansas

WEATHER

Clear and sunny, 50 degrees

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS

	TEXAS	ARK.
First Downs	14	17
Rushing	3	10
Passing	10	7
Penalty	1	0
Rushes-Net Yards	25-(-27)	36-191
Net Yards Passing	212	194
Passes	24-39-0	12-23-0
Total Plays	64	59
Total Net Yards	185	385
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-40	4-36
Punts-Average	9-39.7	4-39.0

RUSHING

Texas: Mitchell 13-36; Roberston 2-(-5); Simms 5-(-15); Applewhite 5-(-43).
Arkansas: Cobbs 15-98, Jenkins 16-82, Chukwuma 10-26; Branch 1-3; Stoerner 2-(-14).

PASSING

Texas: Applewhite 15-21-0, 121 yards; Simms 9-18-0, 91 yards.
Arkansas: Stoerner 12-23-2, 194 yards.

RECEIVING

Texas: Nunez 6-48, Flowers 5-62, Thompson 4-33, Mitchell 3-4, Scaife 2-38, Jones 2-21, Healy 1-6, Stevens 1-0.
Arkansas: B. Williams 2-47, Davenport 2-25, Branch 2-23, M. Williams 2-8, Lucas 1-47, Cobbs 1-30, Smith 1-11, Chukwuma 1-3.

PUNTING

Texas: Long 8-39.8; Stockton 1-39.0.
Arkansas: Akin 4-39.0.