

1958 GAME DETAILS

L.S.U. 13—ALABAMA 3 Sept. 27, Mobile, Ala. (night)

A hard-charging Alabama line stopped the powerful L.S.U. running attack for the first half, but All-American Halfback Billy Cannon led the Bengals to two second half touchdowns to win 13-3 in the opener.

The best 'Bama team in three years, said sportswriters after watching the Tide lead L.S.U. 3-0 at the end of the half.

The Tiders took the lead in the second quarter when Duff Morrison grabbed a Billy Cannon fumble and raced to the L.S.U. five. After a goal-line stand stopped three line plunges, Fred Sington, Jr., kicked a field goal.

L.S.U. countered with a 67 yard drive in the third quarter climaxed by Quarterback Warren Rabb's nine yard pass to Halfback Johnny Robinson for the score.

Cannon sparked a 44 yard drive in the last quarter gaining 30 yards in five carries and drove over for the score from the 12. Cannon gained 86 yards to pace the Bengals.

Bama drew praise from all corners for its fine physical condition, desire to win, and fierce lineplay.

VANDERBILT 0—ALABAMA 0 Oct. 4, Birmingham, Ala. (night)

An underdog Crimson Tide, showing a dynamic defense, fought Vanderbilt's Commodores to a 0-0 tie in Legion Field.

Although 'Bama showed slightly more offensive punch than in the first game, they were unable to mount a successful touchdown drive.

Vandy gained 14 first downs to the Tide's 6 chiefly through the hard-running of Halfback Tom Moore who gained 115 yards. Jim Butler also added heavily to the ground attack.

The Commodores had previously bowled over Georgia and Missouri and were favored to do the same to Alabama.

Tough defensive work by both teams confined most of the play to within the 30 yard lines.

ALABAMA 29—FURMAN 6 Oct. 11, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (night)

Alabama hit for three quick touchdowns in the final four minutes of the first quarter and coasted over Furman 29-6 for Coach "Bear" Bryant's first victory at 'Bama.

With an eye for the upcoming game with the always-tough Vols of Tennessee, the Tiders were put under wraps early.

Quarterback Bobby Jackson plunged over from the two for the first T.D. of the season ending a 52 yard drive. Fred Sington converted.

'Bama kicked and Red Stickney fell on a fumble at the 16 on the first play. Quarterback Bobby Smith flipped a pass to Laurien Stapp in the end zone. James Patton kicked the point for 14-0.

With 32 seconds left in the quarter, Furman kicked to Halfback Gary O'Steen who raced 56 yards for the third touchdown.

Pete Reaves kicked a field goal from the 24 when the 'Bama ground attack stalled in the second quarter.

The Tide picked up its last score in the third quarter on a pass from Smith to O'Steen that covered 61 yards.

Furman scored in the third quarter on a 51 yard drive with the key play being a 15 yard Alabama penalty.

TENNESSEE 14—ALABAMA 7

Oct. 18, Knoxville, Tenn.

Plagued by penalties and fumbles, 'Bama fell to Tennessee 14-7.

Tailback Billy Majors accounted for both touchdowns. He scored the first in the second quarter on a one-yard plunge ending a 50-yard drive. He scored in the third quarter from seven yards out after a Tennessee drive had carried from the 'Bama 34.

Alabama made their try in the fourth quarter. Bobby Jackson sneaked over from the one after an 80 yards march and Pete Reaves converted. The Tide had a drive going when the clock ran out with the ball on the Vol 40 after moving from the 'Bama 20.

Most of the Tide's scoring threats were stopped by fumbles. They fumbled and lost the ball at the Tennessee 13 and 21 to stop two threats.

Penalties also took a heavy toll. 'Bama was penalized 75 yards, one a 15 yarder that contributed greatly to the Tennessee drive for its first touchdown.

The Vols were outclassed in most of the statistics. The Tiders picked up 227 net yards to Tennessee's 143. Jackson pierced the Vol aerial defense in six of eight attempts for 105 yards.

ALABAMA 9—MISSISSIPPI STATE 7

Oct. 25, Starkville, Miss.

Led by Gary O'Steen's kicking and running, Alabama upset favored Mississippi State 9-7 and spoiled the Maroons' homecoming.

O'Steen boomed out five long quick-kicks that kept State off balance all afternoon, and picked up 66 yards running.

Favored by two touchdowns, State ran into trouble fast. An O'Steen quick-kick pushed them deep into their own territory. Billy Stacy's lateral was intercepted by Bobby Jackson on the Maroon 28. Fred Singleton booted a field goal from the 21.

The 3-0 score stood until the Tiders went to work in the third quarter. Sparked by O'Steen's 28 yard dash, 'Bama marched 64 yards to score on Jackson's 21 yard pass to Norbie Ronsonet. A low pass from center foiled the extra point try and 'Bama led 9-0.

All-SEC Stacy brought an Alabama kick back 39 yards in the second quarter to the 'Bama 12. He swept end for six yards on fourth down for the only State score. Bobby Tribble converted.

State tried an on-side kick with three minutes left and 'Bama guard Wayne Sims grabbed it to stifle the last State chance.

ALABAMA 12—GEORGIA 0

Nov. 1, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"When the chips were down, Alabama played its best," said Coach Wally Butts after 'Bama had whipped his Bulldogs 12-0 with the Tide line stopping five scoring threats in the last half.

The bigger and faster Bulldogs raced all over the Denny turf until they neared the 'Bama goal, then the door was emphatically slammed.

The Tide again used the the quick-kick as an offensive weapon, and set-up the first touchdown with one. Gary O'Steen quick-kicked 58 yards to the Georgia 13. 'Bama held and the Dogs booted. O'Steen returned 14 yards to the Georgia 37 and 'Bama went into action. Duff Morrison got 14, Bobby Jackson passed to John Paul Poole for 9, and O'Steen circled end for the score. The extra point attempt was wide.

In the closing minutes 'Bama moved again. Norbie Ronsonet intercepted a Bulldog pass and raced 38 yards to the Georgia 16. O'Steen got three, Jackson ran for 12, and then scored in two line tries. The run for two points fell short by a yard. But 12-0 was enough.

Besides the tremendous kicking that kept the Bulldogs in trouble, 'Bama intercepted four passes. Georgia gained 291 yards, with Fullback Theron Sapp plunging for 84.

TULANE 13—ALABAMA 7

Nov. 7, New Orleans, La. (night)

The Tulane Greenies capitalized on Alabama's mistakes and penalties to ease by 13-7 in a game the Tide was slightly favored to win.

Alabama got off to a bad start but snapped out of it too late. 'Bama fumbled on the third play of the game and Tulane recovered on the Tide's 28. The Greenies scored in nine plays.

In the third quarter Tulane again took advantage of a break. Laurien Stapp booted a fumbled, pressured kick that went only one yard to the Tide 39. Tulane's 210-pound Fullback Eddie Dunn slammed through the middle for 23 yards. 'Bama was penalized 15 yards for piling on after the tackle which moved the ball to the one and quarterback Richie Petitbon scored on the next play.

Tulane kicked and the Tide roared back. Bobby Jackson led a 73 yard drive for the T.D. by contributing 51 yards on the ground and a 16 yard pass to Tommy White.

With four minutes left 'Bama moved from its 36 to the Tulane 22 on a Bobby Smith to Marlin Dyess pass. Three running plays moved the ball to the 11 but the drive failed and Tulane took the ball with 30 seconds left.

ALABAMA 17—GEORGIA TECH 8

Nov. 15, Atlanta, Ga.

Underdog Alabama shattered Georgia Tech's bowl dreams with a slam-bang 17 point first quarter and then stopped one of the finest backfields in the South to win 17-8.

Tech was done in by their own game, that of capitalizing on the other team's mistakes. Tech fumbled the ball after three plays and Baxter Booth fell on it at the 21. Bobby Jackson scored in two tries after Duff Morrison had picked up 18 yards in two runs.

Five minutes later, Morrison rambled 37 yards with a pass interception to the Tech 15, where Pete Reaves kicked a field goal.

Late in the quarter Butch Frank grabbed a Tech bobble on the 22. Jackson circled end for 13 and later scored from the five. Reaves kicked his second extra point.

Tech recovered a fumble in the second quarter on the Tide 14. But Bobby Smith intercepted a pass on the goal line and brought it back to the 34. Tech moved to the Tide 25 later in the period and again they were stopped.

In the third quarter, Tech moved to the 'Bama two. Four plays later the Tide took over on the one.

Tech scored on their next try, on a rolling fumble covered in the end zone by Tackle Billy Shaw. Fred Braselton passed for two points.

ALABAMA 14—MEMPHIS STATE 0

Nov. 22, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Quarterback Bobby Jackson passed 68 yards for a touchdown, ran 18 yards for another, and circled end for a two-pointer to lead the Tide to a 14-0 win over Memphis State.

'Bama struck fast. On the first play Jackson passed to speedy Marlin Dyess who grabbed it on the State 24 and dashed over.

Shortly before the half, Gary O'Steen returned a quick kick to the Tiger 39. The Tidlers moved in and Jackson weaved through a gang of State tacklers to score from the 18. Jackson circled end for the two-pointer after a penalty had moved the ball back to the eight.

Neither team made a serious scoring threat in the second half.

Jackson gained 73 yards on the ground and passed twice for 85 yards in pacing the Tide to their fifth victory of the year.

AUBURN 14—ALABAMA 8

Nov. 29, Birmingham, Ala.

A scrappy 'Bama team gave Auburn a big scare with a last quarter passing attack before falling 14-8.

Auburn scored in the first quarter on a three yard pass to Jimmy Pettus from quarterback Richard Wood. Wood's passing had sparked the 53 yard drive.

Auburn's second touchdown came on the last play of the third quarter. Jimmy Reynolds went over from the one after a 39 yard drive. Ed Dyas and Jerry Wilson kicked the Tiger's two extra points.

Auburn kicked off and Marlin Dyess returned to the Tide 49. Red Stickney and Dyess moved the ball to the Auburn 25. Auburn's first team, top defensive unit in the nation, entered the game. Jackson passed to Dyess for 16 yards to place the ball on the nine. Dyess circled end for the score. Jackson flipped a pass to Gary O'Steen for two points and made the score Auburn 14, Alabama 8.

Don Cochran grabbed a Tony Lorino fumble on the Tide 27 with 3:24 left. Jackson flipped two passes to Dyess that moved the ball to Auburn's 49. Mack Wise replaced Dyess who was injured.

Jackson passed to Wise for seven. A Jackson to Jerry Spruiell pass was barely deflected by Auburn's Lamar Rawson. Auburn took over at the 33 with 10 seconds remaining.