

SEPTEMBER 8, 1984 AT BIRMINGHAM (67,821)
(ABC-TV)

For the fourth consecutive time, Alabama appeared on national television when its 1984 season opener against Boston College was aired by ABC. The national audience was treated to an offensive explosion as the Boston College Eagles came out on top, 38-31.

"It was one of those nights when we didn't deserve to win," said a disappointed Tide head coach Ray Perkins. "Boston College, at the times they needed to make things happen to win, did them."

The game started out with the Crimson Tide looking in midseason form as it raced to a 31-14 lead early in the third quarter. But, then the country witnessed the magic of eventual Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie as he guided the Eagles to 24-straight points and victory.

Flutie led Boston College with a 19-for-38 passing night, for 254 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for 21 yards and scored on a five-yard run in the third quarter.

Alabama was paced by sophomore tailback Kerry Goode, who scored three touchdowns, one rushing (25 yards), one receiving (18 yards) and one on a 99-yard kickoff return to open the second half. In all, Goode contributed 297 yards in all-purpose running (68 rushing, 32 receiving, 197 returns). His 197 yards in kickoff returns set an SEC record for single-game yardage and his 99-yard TD return proved to be the longest during the 1984 season.

However, Goode suffered an injury to his right knee early in the third quarter and was lost to the team for the remainder of the season.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	14	10	7	0	=	31
BOSTON COLLEGE	7	7	7	17	=	38
STATISTICS	ALA		BC			
First Downs	18		23			
Rushing (Net)	164		152			
Passing (Net)	145		254			
TOTAL OFFENSE	309		406			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	29-16-3		38-19-1			
Punting—No. & Avg.	5-40.2		6-40.5			
Fumbles/No. Lost	4-3		3-1			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	5-56		7-40			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Goode, 10-68, 1 TD; Carruth, 15-64, 1 TD.

BC—Stradford, 24-106, 2 TDs; Flutie, 11-21, 1 TD.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Shula, 19-11-0, 67 yards, 1 TD; Sutton, 9-5-1, 78 yards.

BC—Flutie, 38-19-0, 254 yards, 2 TDs.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Moore, 6-58.

BC—Stradford, 6-54; Phelan, 5-82.

SCORING

	Time
First Quarter	
BC—Stradford, 5-run (Snow kick)	11:59
UA—Carruth, 3-run (Tiffin kick)	7:06
UA—Goode, 25-run (Tiffin kick)	2:45
Second Quarter	
UA—Goode, 18-Shula pass (Tiffin kick)	11:17
BC—Strachan, 5-Flutie pass (Snow kick)	6:03
UA—Tiffin, 37-field goal	1:37
Third Quarter	
UA—Goode, 99-kickoff return (Tiffin kick)	14:47
BC—Flutie, 5-run (Snow kick)	7:21
Fourth Quarter	
BC—Snow, 28-field goal	11:43
BC—Browne, 12-Flutie pass (Snow kick)	5:58
BC—Stradford, 42-run (Snow kick)	3:26

SEPTEMBER 15, 1984 AT ATLANTA (56,107)
(WTBS-TV)

For the first time in the 1984 season, Alabama hit the road for a game against Georgia Tech at Grant Field in Atlanta. The road proved tough and long for the Crimson Tide as the Yellow Jackets dominated the game from start to finish winning 16-6.

"We made some mistakes that they capitalized on and when they made mistakes, we couldn't take advantage of them," said Tide coach Ray Perkins after his team dropped to 0-2 on the season.

Georgia Tech moved to a 13-0 halftime lead and its defense completely shut down the Crimson Tide offense.

The Yellow Jackets got on the board in the first quarter on Keven Bell's 39-yard field goal at the 9:30 point. Tech upped its lead to 10-0 early in the second quarter when tailback Robert Lavette scored on a one-yard run to cap a 71-yard, 16 play drive. Following a Tide fumble, one of two it would lose on the day, Bell booted a 37-yard field goal with 7:34 left in the half.

In the first half, Alabama's offense mustered only 65 total yards and three first downs. The Crimson Tide crossed midfield once in the opening half, reaching the Tech 34 before turning the ball over via a fumble.

The second half didn't prove to be much better for the Tide offense as it could generate only a single score with 2:20 left in the third quarter. The points came on a three-yard Mike Shula to FB Ricky Moore pass. That cut the Tech lead to 16-6 as Bell was true on a 23-yard field goal on Tech's first possession on the second half.

For Tech, Lavette had a great day as he gained 128 yards on 26 carries and QB John Dewberry turned in a solid performance with a 10-for-16 day and 113 yards passing.

Alabama's attack was led by halfback Paul Ott Carruth, who gained 45 yards on 12 attempts and picked up another 33 yards with a pass reception.

The Crimson Tide defense was led by inside linebacker Cornelius Bennett with 13 tackles and defensive tackle Jon Hand with 12.

The game was televised by WTBS, marking the second consecutive week the Tide was aired nationwide.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	0	0	6	0	=	6
GEORGIA TECH	3	10	3	0	=	16
STATISTICS	ALA		GT			
First Downs	12		18			
Rushing (Net)	96		198			
Passing (Net)	117		113			
TOTAL OFFENSE	213		311			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	18-12-0		16-10-0			
Punting—No. & Avg.	5-24.3		2-36.0			
Fumbles/No. Lost	3-2		0-0			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	5-50		6-40			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 12-45. GT—Lavette, 26-128, 1 TD.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Shula, 13-8-0, 80 yards.

GT—Dewberry, 16-10-0, 113 yards.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Moore, 5-18, 1 TD. GT—Wilkins, 3-44.

SCORING

	Time
First Quarter	
GT—Bell, 39-field goal	9:30
Second Quarter	
GT—Lavette, 1-run (Bell kick)	10:23
GT—Bell, 37-field goal	7:34
Third Quarter	
GT—Bell, 23-field goal	9:11
UA—Moore, 3-Shula pass (Pass failed)	2:20

Following opening losses to Boston College and Georgia Tech, Alabama made its first appearance of the year at Bryant-Denny Stadium and took some of its frustrations out on Southwestern Louisiana in a 37-14 win. Not only did the afternoon provide the Crimson Tide with its first win of the season but it also gave the coaching staff an opportunity to observe a lot of players.

"It was good to get the victory, but more importantly, we gave some of our youngsters a chance to play today," Alabama head coach Ray Perkins reported. "We created some turnovers defensively and our offense made the most of them."

While the Alabama offense lit up the scoreboard for 37 points, much of the credit for the win had to go to the Crimson Tide defense. On the day, Alabama's stop unit created seven turnovers (three interceptions and four fumbles).

The Crimson Tide defense set the tone of the game on the Cajun's first possession when it forced a turnover, an interception by free safety Britton Cooper. The Alabama offense then converted the miscue into three points when Van Tiffin booted a 40-yard field goal with 11:35 left to play in the opening period.

Later in the first quarter, defensive tackle Larry Roberts recovered a Cajun fumble to help Alabama to a 10-0 advantage. Tailback Paul Ott Carruth got the points when he was on the receiving end of a Vince Sutton pass that covered seven yards.

Alabama's next points came following a 42-yard punt return by Greg Richardson, that set the Tide up at the Cajun 16. On the first play from scrimmage, tailback Doug Allen swept left end for the touchdown at the 14:33 mark of the second quarter.

USL cut the lead to 17-7 when defensive tackle Charles Bennett raced 64 yards with a Tide fumble with 9:07 left in the half.

The teams traded touchdowns to make the halftime score Alabama 24, Southwestern Louisiana 14. The Tide scored on a Carruth 3-yard run and the Cajun's answered with a 6-yard run by quarterback Don Wallace.

The second half saw 13 points scored, all on Alabama's side of the scoreboard. In the third quarter Carruth and Sutton teamed up on a 4-yard scoring pass at the 8:38 mark to up the score to 31-14. In the fourth quarter, Tiffin added a 41-yard field goal at the 14:07 mark and a 38-yard field goal with 10:46 left to end the scoring.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	10	14	7	6	=	37
SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA	0	14	0	0	=	14
STATISTICS	ALA		USL			
First Downs	17		16			
Rushing (Net)	208		139			
Passing (Net)	61		139			
TOTAL OFFENSE	269		278			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	24-10-1		30-15-3			
Punting—No. & Avg.	4-39.3		6-31.3			
Fumbles/No. Lost	4-2		5-4			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	3-20		8-57			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 13-72, 1 TD; Allen, 9-41, 1 TD.

USL—Wallace, 18-90, 1 TD.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Sutton, 15-8-1, 59 yards, 2 TDs.

USL—Wallace, 30-15-3, 139 yards.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Carruth, 2-11, 2 TDs. USL—Williams, 4-29.

SCORING			
First Quarter	Time		Time
UA—Tiffin, 40-field goal	11:35	USL—Wallace, 6-run (Broussard kick)	
UA—Carruth, 7-Sutton pass (Tiffin kick)	1:23		0:24
Second Quarter			
UA—Allen, 16-run (Tiffin kick)	14:33	UA—Carruth, 4-Sutton pass (Tiffin kick)	8:38
USL—Bennett, 64-interception return (Broussard kick)	9:07		
UA—Carruth, 3-run (Tiffin kick)	2:15	UA—Tiffin, 41-field goal	14:07
		UA—Tiffin, 38-field goal	10:46

The Vanderbilt Commodores employed a balanced rushing and passing attack to end Alabama's string of 26-consecutive Homecoming wins, 30-21, at Bryant-Denny Stadium. The loss dropped the Crimson Tide to 1-3 on the year and 0-1 in the SEC.

"I think it's obvious that we were not a very good football team today," said head coach Ray Perkins. "We lost the game but we had opportunities several times during the course of the game to make big plays. We failed by having balls dropped and missing certain key blocks."

Even though Alabama led at the half 10-9, it was the Vanderbilt offense that was setting the tone of the game. At intermission, Vanderbilt had piled up 186 yards of total offense to Alabama's 88.

Vandy took the games' opening kickoff and marched 75 yards in 14 plays to go up 3-0 on a 21-yard Ricky Anderson field goal.

Alabama came right back though when tailback Paul Ott Carruth capped a 56-yard, 10-play drive by scoring on a one-yard run at the 4:21 mark of the opening period.

The Crimson Tide added a Van Tiffin field goal of 37 yards and the Commodores got field goals 47 and 36 yards by Anderson in the second quarter.

In the second half, Vandy was led by quarterback Kurt Page, who passed for 218 yards and two touchdowns on the day.

Following a Tiffin 37-yard field goal that upped the Tide's lead to 13-9, Page and Co. went to work. He gave Vandy the lead for good when he hit flanker Chuck Scott with a 18-yard scoring pass at the 3:08 mark of the third quarter. Then early in the fourth quarter he hit split end Joe Kelly with a one-yard scoring strike. With 2:14 left to play running back Carl Woods put the game out of reach when he tallied on a 30-yard run.

Alabama cut the lead to 30-21 when Carruth scored on a 18-yard pass from Vince Sutton with 11 seconds left.

The Crimson Tide was paced by Carruth's 147 yards of total offense (80 rushing, 67 receiving) and two touchdowns.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	7	3	3	8	=	21
VANDERBILT	3	6	7	14	=	30
STATISTICS	ALA		VANDY			
First Downs	15		22			
Rushing (Net)	121		168			
Passing (Net)	148		218			
TOTAL OFFENSE	269		386			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	38-14-2		32-19-0			
Punting—No. & Avg.	6-35.3		5-49.8			
Fumbles/No. Lost	2-0		3-2			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	4-33		9-69			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 18-80, 1 TD; Moore, 15-65.

VANDY—Woods, 25-115, 1 TD; Crawford, 11-48.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Sutton, 37-14-1, 148 yards, 1 TD.

VANDY—Page, 32-19-0, 218 yards, 2 TDs.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Carruth, 6-67, 1 TD.

VANDY—Edwards, 5-44; Scott, 2-48, 1 TD.

SCORING			
First Quarter	Time		Time
VU—Anderson, 21-field goal	8:20	VU—Scott, 18-Page pass (Anderson kick)	3:08
UA—Carruth, 1-run (Tiffin kick)	4:21		
Second Quarter			
VU—Anderson, 47-field goal	14:56	VU—Kelly, 1-Page pass (Anderson kick)	14:16
UA—Tiffin, 37-field goal	11:28		
VU—Anderson, 36-field goal	0:09	VU—Woods, 30-run (Anderson)	2:14
Third Quarter			
UA—Tiffin, 37-field goal	5:34	UA—Carruth, 18-Sutton pass (Carruthrun)	0:11

OCTOBER 6, 1984 AT BIRMINGHAM (75,608)
(ABC-TV)

Mistakes, in the form of four interceptions and crucial penalties, cost Alabama a 24-14 decision at the hands of the Georgia Bulldogs at Legion Field. The loss, seen on ABC-TV, dropped the Tide to 1-4 on the year and 0-2 in the SEC.

"We knew coming into this game that we couldn't afford mistakes and penalties in key situations," said Tide head coach Ray Perkins. "It's tough to beat Georgia when you don't make mistakes and just about impossible when you do."

Georgia jumped out to a 14-0 first quarter lead on plays the fans must have thought ABC was replaying. At the 13:32 mark, fullback Andre Smith burst through the left side of the Tide defense and scampered 44 yards for the score. Then, just 2:19 later Smith went up the same route again to score on a 34-yard run.

The Bulldogs stretched the lead to 17-0 when Kevin Butler booted a 34-yard field goal with 5:56 left in the first half.

Alabama got on the scoreboard with 2:58 left before intermission when Vince Sutton scored on a quarterback draw that covered 32 yards. Sutton later scored on a two-yard run at the 13:08 mark of the third quarter to cut the Georgia lead to 17-14.

The Bulldogs put the game away when Todd Williams hooked up with split end Herman Archie for a 31-yard scoring pass with 5:33 left to play.

Even though the Alabama defense gave up 24 points it played a solid game. It limited the potent Bulldogs offense to 124 yards in the second half and one touchdown. Linebacker Cornelius Bennett led the Tide defense with 16 tackles.

The Alabama attack unit was led by tailback Paul Ott Carruth. He gained 100 yards on 11 attempts and added 34 yards on three receptions.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	0	7	7	0	=	14
GEORGIA	14	3	0	7	=	24
STATISTICS	ALA		GA			
First Downs	16		16			
Rushing (Net)	204		266			
Passing (Net)	120		58			
TOTAL OFFENSE	324		324			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	30-14-4		11-6-1			
Punting—No. & Avg.	7-41.1		7-39.9			
Fumbles/No. Lost	1-0		1-0			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	8-64		8-70			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth 11-100; Sutton 10-52, 2 TDs.

GA—Smith, 12-117, 2 TDs; Tate, 22-67.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Sutton, 30-14-4, 120 yards.

GA—Williams, 11-6-1, 58 yards, 1 TD.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Gothard, 5-38. GA—Archie, 2-47, 1 TD.

SCORING

First Quarter	Time
GA—Smith, 44-run (Butler kick)	13:32
GA—Smith, 34-run (Butler kick)	11:13
Second Quarter	
GA—Butler, 34-field goal	5:56
UA—Sutton, 32-run (Tiffin kick)	2:58
Third Quarter	
UA—Sutton, 2-run (Tiffin kick)	13:08
Fourth Quarter	
GA—Archie, 31-Williams pass (Butler kick)	5:33

OCTOBER 13, 1984 AT TUSCALOOSA (60,210)

Two Van Tiffin field goals and a stiff Alabama defense produced a 6-0 shutout win for the Crimson Tide in front of a vocal crowd at Bryant-Denny Stadium. It marked the first time that Penn State had been held without points since the 1972 Sugar Bowl when it lost to Oklahoma 14-0. The win improved Alabama's record to 2-4.

"Needless to say, I'm proud of the entire squad," said Tide head coach Ray Perkins after his team's best defensive effort of the season. "I think we demonstrated a lot of desire and guts. We executed when we had to. I think defense won the game and that's the mark of any good team."

The game's only points came in the fourth quarter. The Tide got all the points it would need when Tiffin hit a 53-yard field goal, a school record, with 13:42 left to play. He added another three-pointer with 7:15 left from 23 yards out.

The mark of the game was definitely defense. At the half the two teams combined for only 235 total yards (Alabama 107, Penn State 128) and could muster only 512 for the game (Alabama 263, Penn State 249).

The Alabama defense was led by linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Wayne Davis. Each was credited with 10 tackles and Bennett intercepted a pass.

Alabama held Penn State's high-powered tailback D. J. Dozier in check throughout the game. He was held to 58 yards on 15 carries.

Alabama was led by Paul Ott Carruth's 71 yards on 13 carries. Carruth did not play in the first half due to an injury, but his play in the second half helped put the Tide in field goal range for the winning points.

Bennett was selected Southeastern Conference defensive "Player of the Week" for his play against the Lions.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	0	0	0	6	=	6
PENN STATE	0	0	0	0	=	0
STATISTICS	ALA		PSU			
First Downs	18		15			
Rushing (Net)	218		159			
Passing (Net)	45		90			
TOTAL OFFENSE	263		249			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	18-6-0		22-8-2			
Punting—No. & Avg.	7-43.3		8-46.5			
Fumbles/No. Lost	1-0		0-0			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	2-13		5-38			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 13-71; Horstead, 13-59.

PSU—Dozier, 15-58; Smith 10-51.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Sutton 18-6-0, 45 yards.

PSU—Strang, 18-6-1, 74 yards; Shaffer, 4-2-1, 16 yards.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Carruth, 1-12. PSU—Washington, 2-12.

SCORING

Fourth Quarter	Time
UA—Tiffin, 53-field goal	13:42
UA—Tiffin, 23-field goal	7:15

An unbelievable fourth-quarter comeback pushed Tennessee to a 28-27 win over Alabama at Neyland Stadium in front of 95,422, the second largest crowd to see a Crimson Tide game. The loss put Alabama at 2-5 and 0-3 in the SEC.

"Their defense—plus the 95,000 in the stands—rose to the occasion late in the game when they had to do so," said head coach Ray Perkins. "Our team gave a great effort, but so did Tennessee."

Alabama led just 3-0 at the end of the first quarter, hardly a preview of the offensive show that would follow. The Tide's opening period points came at the 6:57 mark on a 36-yard field goal by Van Tiffin.

The Crimson Tide stretched the lead to 10-0 at the 13:09 mark in the second quarter when tailback Paul Ott Carruth scored on a six-yard run.

Tennessee scored 10 points in 1:24 to tie the score. The Vols got on the board first on a eight-yard pass from Tony Robinson to split end Joe Clinkscales at the 3:48 mark of the second quarter. Then the Vols added three points when Faud Reveiz kicked a 27-yard field goal with 1:59 left in the half.

Alabama then struck quickly to take a 17-10 lead at the half. Vince Sutton hooked up with flanker Greg Richardson for a 68-yard scoring strike with only 35 seconds left before intermission.

Alabama came out in the third quarter and upped the lead to 24-10 when Carruth scored on a 12-yard run at the 7:23 mark. Then the two teams swapped field goals early in the fourth period. Reveiz hit from 29 yards and Tiffin from 21.

With 8:12 left in the game, Alabama held a 27-13 lead and quieted the crowd, but not for long.

Following Tiffin's field goal, Tennessee marched 70 yards in 10 plays to cut the score to 27-20. The touchdown came on a Robinson 17-yard pass to Tim McGee.

After the Vols kicked off, Alabama was forced to punt after picking no yards on two rushing attempts and an incomplete pass.

Tennessee's Andre Creamer fielded the Bama punt and returned it 45 yards to the Tide 11. Four plays later, tailback Johnnie Jones scored on a one-yard run to pull the Vols within one point. The Vols then took the lead when Robinson went off the right side for the two-point conversion with 2:09 left in the game.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	3	14	7	3	=	27
TENNESSEE	0	10	0	18	=	28
STATISTICS		ALA		TENN		
First Downs		19		16		
Rushing (Net)		191		125		
Passing (Net)		178		154		
TOTAL OFFENSE		369		279		
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.		16-9-1		23-10-1		
Punting—No. & Avg.		4-44.2		6-41.5		
Fumbles/No. Lost		5-2		2-1		
Penalties/Yards Penalized		3-21		4-35		

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 16-83, 2 TDs; Braggs, 13-41.
 UT—Jones, 20-86, 1 TD.
 Leading Passers: ALA.—Sutton, 15-8-1, 167 yards, 1 TD.
 UT—Robinson, 23-10-1, 154 yards, 2 TDs.
 Leading Receivers: ALA.—Richardson, 2-85, 1 TD.
 UT—Clinkscales, 3-37, 1 TD; McGee, 2-27, 1 TD.

SCORING			
First Quarter	Time	Third Quarter	Time
UA—Tiffin, 36-field goal	6:57	UA—Carruth, 12-run (Tiffin kick)	7:23
Second Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
UA—Carruth, 6-run (Tiffin kick)	13:09	UT—Reveiz, 29-field goal	14:57
UT—Clinkscales, 8-Robinson pass (Reveiz kick)	3:48	UA—Tiffin, 21-field goal	8:12
UT—Reveiz, 27-field goal	1:59	UT—McGee, 17-Robinson pass (Reveiz kick)	4:54
UA—Richardson, 68-Sutton pass (Tiffin kick)	0:35	UT—Jones, 1-run (Robinson run)	2:09

Just as last week's game against Tennessee was decided in the fourth quarter so was this game, but this time Alabama was the team that provided the last period excitement winning 24-20. A 67-yard bomb from Mike Shula to flanker Greg Richardson proved to be the difference as the Crimson Tide improved its record to 3-5 and 1-3 in the SEC.

"We knew this would be a hard-hitting game and we expected that Mississippi State would come right at us like they did," said Tide head coach Ray Perkins. "We made some key plays defensively and I thought we made some very big plays offensively at the end to hang onto the football to preserve the victory."

After a scoreless first period, Mississippi State took a 13-0 lead in the second quarter. The Bulldogs tallied first with 14:57 left on a six-yard pass from Don Smith to split end Art Mordecai. MSU stretched the lead to 10-0 on a Artie Cosby 26-yard field goal at 10:59 and to 13-0 on a 34-yard Cosby field goal at 3:26.

Alabama got on the scoreboard with just 26 seconds left in the first half when Mike Shula hit split end Greg Payne with a 19-yard pass.

The Crimson Tide came out and scored on its first two possessions in the second half to take a 17-13 lead. The first points in the second half came on a 41-yard Van Tiffin field goal at the 10:55 mark. Then Bama took the lead when tailback Paul Ott Carruth scored on a one-yard run, following an interception by linebacker Cornelius Bennett that set the Tide up at the State 17.

State then came back on its next possession to take a 20-17 lead when split end John Lowe recovered a Bulldog fumble for six-points. The Bulldogs' drive covered 72 yards in four plays with the score coming with 7:57 left in the third quarter.

The Crimson Tide got the game winning points on the Shula to Richardson pass with 7:37 left to play.

Alabama was paced by Carruth's 91 yards on 23 carries, with one touchdown, and he added 36 yards on a pass reception.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	0	7	10	7	=	24
MISSISSIPPI STATE	0	13	7	0	=	20
STATISTICS		ALA		MSU		
First Downs		19		18		
Rushing (Net)		107		193		
Passing (Net)		193		146		
TOTAL OFFENSE		300		339		
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.		25-9-1		22-12-1		
Punting—No. & Avg.		8-39.8		5-30.6		
Fumbles/No. Lost		1-1		4-2		
Penalties/Yards Penalized		6-55		5-50		

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 23-91, 1 TD. MSU—Williams, 13-67.
 Leading Passers: ALA.—Shula, 20-8-1, 185 yards, 2 TDs.
 MSU—Smith, 10-7-0, 103 yards, 1 TD; Lundie, 12-5-1, 43 yards.
 Leading Receivers: ALA.—Richardson, 3-91, 1 TD; Payne, 1-19, 1 TD.
 MSU—Williams, 5-43.

SCORING

Second Quarter	Time
MSU—Mordecai, 6-Smith pass (Cosby kick)	14:57
MSU—Cosby, 26-field goal	10:59
MSU—Cosby, 34-field goal	3:26
UA—Payne, 19-Shula pass (Tiffin kick)	0:26
Third Quarter	
UA—Tiffin, 41-field goal	10:55
UA—Carruth, 1-run (Tiffin kick)	9:21
MSU—Lowe, 1-fumble recovery (Cosby kick)	7:57
Fourth Quarter	
UA—Richardson, 67-Shula pass (Tiffin kick)	7:37

In a classic defensive struggle, LSU turned Crimson Tide miscues into points as the Bayou Bengals won a come-from-behind 16-14 decision at Legion Field. The loss put Alabama at 3-6 and 1-4 in the SEC, and assured the Crimson Tide of a losing season.

"We knew it was going to be a hard-fought battle," said Alabama head coach Ray Perkins. "LSU deserves a lot of credit for coming back the way they did. And our defense deserves a lot of credit for holding them to only 16 points."

Yardage-wise, Alabama played its best game of the 1984 season. The Tide held the conference's leading offense (at the time) to a mere 161 yards total offense (74 rushing, 87 passing). Sophomore line-backer Cornelius Bennett and senior strong safety Paul Tripoli headed the Tide hit parade with eight tackles apiece.

But a blocked punt by the Tigers in the third stanza set up running back Dalton Hilliard's seven-yard run for the winning points.

The game started out like it was all LSU. The Tigers took the opening kickoff and marched 62 yards in seven plays to go up 7-0. The points came on a two-yard pass from Jeff Wickersham to split end Herman Fontenot with 12:12 left in the first quarter.

But Alabama came right back to tie the score on a 75-yard, 15 play drive. Fullback Ricky Moore got the points on a two-yard run with 4:48 left in quarter number one.

LSU retook the lead at 10-7 at the 10:12 mark of the second period when Ronnie Lewis connected on a 40-yard field goal. But Alabama answered with what could have been its best offensive march of the season to go up 14-10. The Tide marched 80 yards in 13 plays with the score coming at 1:07 on a four-yard Mike Shula to tight end Ed Pugh pass.

Then the LSU defense produced the biggest play of the day as it blocked an Alabama punt at the start of the third quarter. Linebacker Michael Brooks' block set up the LSU offense at the Alabama 12. It took the Tigers' offense three plays to score on Hilliard's run with 7:53 left in the third period.

Alabama's offense was led by Carruth's 79 yards on 19 carries and Moore's 74 yards on 22 carries.

LSU's Hilliard was limited to 78 yards on 17 carries and Wickersham to 87 yards passing on a 12-for-23 day.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	7	7	0	0	=	14
LSU	7	3	6	0	=	16
STATISTICS	ALA		LSU			
First Downs	22		8			
Rushing (Net)	221		74			
Passing (Net)	111		87			
TOTAL OFFENSE	332		161			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	26-10-3		23-12-0			
Punting—No. & Avg.	5-33.0		8-45.3			
Fumbles/No. Lost	2-0		0-0			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	5-39		7-55			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 19-79; Moore, 22-74, 1 TD.

LSU—Hilliard, 17-78, 1 TD.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Shula, 26-10-3, 111 yards, 1 TD.

LSU—Wickersham, 23-12-0, 87 yards, 1 TD.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Richardson, 3-34.

LSU—Martin, 3-57; Fontenot, 2-6, 1 TD.

SCORING

First Quarter	Time
LSU—Fontenot, 2-Wickersham pass (Lewis kick)	12:12
UA—Moore, 2-run (Tiffin kick)	4:48
Second Quarter	
LSU—Lewis, 40-field goal	10:12
UA—Pugh, 4-Shula pass (Tiffin kick)	1:07
Third Quarter	
LSU—Hilliard, 7-run (Pass failed)	7:53

Alabama braved 39-degree weather as the Crimson Tide defeated a scrappy Cincinnati team, 29-7, in front of 27,482 at Riverfront Stadium. The win put Alabama at 4-6 on the season.

"This was a good win for our program," commented Tide coach Ray Perkins. "We got to play some young people and we saw some improvement out of our defense. Some of our people were nicked and it was good that we didn't have to use them. We got to rest several people who had minor injuries."

Led by a group of "youngsters," the Alabama ground game rolled up 334 yards rushing. Don McClain (85), Carlos Robinson (84), Don Horstead (79) and Chester Braggs (66) gave starters Paul Ott Carruth and Ricky Moore most of the day off. In addition, cornerback Vernon Wilkinson was the defensive star of the day, picking off two Troy Bodine aerials.

Alabama jumped out to a 20-0 lead with 3:39 left in the first half. Bama got a touchdown in the first quarter on a six-yard run by Horstead at the 2:15 mark, added a Van Tiffin 29-yard field goal at the 6:59 mark of the second and a 34-yard Mike Shula to split end Greg Richardson touchdown.

The Bearcats got on the board with 1:13 left in the half on a 48-yard Bodine to flanker Malcolm Darden pass. Alabama answered with a 43-yard Tiffin field goal as time ran out in the half to put the score at 20-7.

The Crimson Tide took the second half kickoff and drove for what would be the last touchdown of the day. Braggs got the points on a one-yard run at the 9:44 mark to cap a 82-yard, 14 play drive.

Alabama added three points in the final period when Tiffin connected from 45 yards out with 8:17 left.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	7	13	6	3	=	29
CINCINNATI	0	7	0	0	=	7
STATISTICS	ALA		CINN			
First Downs	20		15			
Rushing (Net)	334		82			
Passing (Net)	50		201			
TOTAL OFFENSE	384		283			
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.	12-2-0		36-19-3			
Punting—No. & Avg.	6-39.3		8-35.4			
Fumbles/No. Lost	3-2		4-1			
Penalties/Yards Penalized	5-71		10-77			

Leading Rushers: ALA.—McClain, 14-85; Robinson 13-84;

Horstead, 16-79, 1 TD.

CINN.—Taylor, 19-117.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Shula, 11-2-0, 50 yards, 1 TD.

CINN.—Bodine, 25-12-3, 163 yards, 1 TD; McCoin, 11-7-0, 38 yards.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Richardson, 2-50, 1 TD.

CINN.—Pendergrass, 5-31; Foster, 4-53.

SCORING

First Quarter	Time
UA—Horstead, 6-run (Tiffin kick)	2:15
Second Quarter	
UA—Tiffin, 29-field goal	6:59
UA—Richardson, 34-Shula pass (Tiffin kick)	3:59
UC—Darden, 48-Bodine pass (Morton kick)	1:13
UA—Tiffin, 43-field goal	0:00
Third Quarter	
UA—Braggs, 1-run (Run failed)	9:44
Fourth Quarter	
UA—Tiffin, 45-field goal	8:17

DECEMBER 1, 1984 AT BIRMINGHAM (76,853)
(ABC-TV)



The 49th annual "Iron Bowl," the intra-state game between Alabama-Auburn, lived up to its billing as the underdog Crimson Tide claimed its sweetest win of the season, a 17-15 decision over the Tigers at Legion Field. The win put Alabama's season ending record at 5-6.

"This was an outstanding way to end the 1984 season and get ourselves in a positive frame of mind for 1985," said Alabama head coach Ray Perkins. "We never quit playing and hung on to win a very emotional game. It's going to certainly be a football game I'll never forget."

The Auburn Tigers got the game's first points when fullback Bo Jackson scored on a two-yard run at the 6:15 mark of the opening quarter. Alabama then tied the score in the second quarter when tailback Paul Ott Carruth tallied on a six-yard run with 14:19 left in the first half.

The Crimson Tide came out in the second half and moved out to a 10-point lead at 17-7. Carruth scored his second touchdown of the game on a four-yard run at the 11:51 mark and Van Tiffin kicked a 52-yard field goal at the 5:09 mark.

The fourth quarter saw only one score. Auburn tallied on a 60-yard run by halfback Brent Fullwood down the right sideline with 9:11 left to play.

What the fourth quarter did see was a strong goal-line stand by the Alabama defense with 3:27 left to play. The Tigers started at the Tide 17 following an interception and six plays later were faced with a fourth-and-goal at the Bama one. On fourth down the Tigers sent Fullwood around right end and he was met by freshman defensive back Rory Turner for a loss of three—to preserve the victory.

The Alabama offense was again led by senior tailback Paul Ott Carruth. The fifth-year Tider picked up 97 yards on 23 carries and scored two touchdowns. The defense was led by sophomore nose guard Curt Jarvis with 13 tackles, including two sacks for a minus 10 yards, and sophomore linebacker Wayne Davis with 12 tackles.

Carruth and Jarvis were named "Players of the Week" in the Southeastern Conference for their outstanding performances.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	0	7	10	0	=	17
AUBURN	7	0	0	8	=	15
STATISTICS			ALA	AUB		
First Downs			13	16		
Rushing (Net)			180	215		
Passing (Net)			73	113		
TOTAL OFFENSE			253	328		
Passes Att./Comp./Had Int.			11-6-1	20-8-1		
Punting—No. & Avg.			7-43.0	6-46.8		
Fumbles/No. Lost			2-0	0-0		
Penalties/Yards Penalized			5-35	6-34		

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Carruth, 23-97, 2 TDs; Moore, 17-63.

AUB.—Jackson, 22-118, 1 TD; Fullwood, 6-64, 1 TD.

Leading Passers: ALA.—Shula, 11-6-1, 73 yards.

AUB.—Washington, 14-6-1, 86 yards; Mann, 6-2-0, 27 yards.

Leading Receivers: ALA.—Richardson, 2-32; Gothard, 2-19.

AUB.—Gainous, 3-47.

SCORING

Quarter	Time
First Quarter	
AU—Jackson, 2-run (McGinty kick)	6:15
Second Quarter	
UA—Carruth, 6-run (Tiffin kick)	14:19
Third Quarter	
UA—Carruth, 4-run (Tiffin kick)	11:51
UA—Tiffin, 52-field goal	5:09
Fourth Quarter	
AU—Fullwood, 60-run (Jackson run)	9:11