

DECEMBER 2, 1989 AT AUBURN, ALABAMA (CBS-TV) (85,214)

Weather Conditions: 52 degrees, partly sunny, hazy, 7-10 mph West winds

In the first ever Alabama venture into Jordan-Hare Stadium, Pat Dye's Tigers executed a big play passing attack to score 30 points and end Bama's dreams of an undisputed SEC Championship and a possible national championship showdown with Miami in the Sugar Bowl.

Auburn won it 30-20, including a decisive 23-10 edge in the second half. The Tigers opened the scoring on their first possession, going 68 yards in seven plays. James Joseph scored from a yard out with 12:10 left in the quarter.

The key play was the first of many long ones by the Tigers, a 44-yard pass from quarterback Reggie Slack to speedster Alexander Wright. Alabama got to within four a few minutes later when Philip Doyle hit a 24-yard field goal, culminating a 16-yard drive which had been set up by a George Thornton recovery of a Slack fumble.

In perhaps the first critical juncture of the game, Alabama failed to score a fake field goal pass from holder Jeff Wall to tight end David Lenoir. The Tide had impressively driven from its own 13 to the Auburn five-yard line when Bama bogged down near the Tiger goal. Opting for the fake, the Tide failed to connect on a play which would have given it the lead.

Bama went ahead late in the second quarter when Gary Hollingsworth hit Marco Battle for an 18-yard TD with 1:49 left in the half. Doyle's extra point gave Bama a 10-7 halftime edge.

While Alabama's fake field goal attempt hurt, the Tide also missed a golden opportunity to add to its three-point lead on the first series of the third quarter. Hollingsworth moved the Tide to the Auburn 30, but he missed an open Kevin Turner on a third and one pass. Doyle's field goal attempt came up short on fourth down.

Auburn quickly gained momentum it refused to yield the rest of this cool, late autumn afternoon. Slack found Shane Wasden open and the Tiger wideout moved 58 yards to the Tide 11-yard line. Only the incredible athletic talents of Keith McCants kept Wasden from scoring. The Tide junior linebacker chased the Auburn sprinter down from behind, barely tripping him on a last second drive. McCants' play, however, was not a positive omen for the Tide. Auburn scored three plays later on a four-yard run by Stacy Danley.

On its next drive, a 60-yard pass from Slack to Wright set up a Win Lyle field goal, and the third quarter ended with the Tigers in front 17-10.

In its most impressive drive of the afternoon, an 80-yarder in 13 plays, Auburn moved in front 24-10 when Darrell Williams scored from 12 yards out with 13:04 left in the game. After going up 27-10 on another Lyle field goal, Alabama made a desperation surge, scoring on a 15-yard pass from Hollingsworth to Battle and a 23-yard Doyle field goal. An on-sides kick with 1:49 failed and Auburn moved close enough for a final field goal by Lyle.

Game Notes: *Auburn's victory ensured a three-way tie for the SEC Championship with the Tigers and Tennessee Volunteers joining the Tide as tri-champs.

*After the game, Bama coach Bill Curry admitted he would have gone for a tie to make the Tide an outright SEC Champion.

*Keith McCants was chosen as the CBS Player of the Game for Alabama, after making 18 tackles, intercepting a pass and causing a fumble. Earlier in the week, McCants was chosen as the CBS "Defensive Player of the Year."

*Mike Ramil won the CBS Toyota Scholarship Award.

*Gary Hollingsworth moved past Scott Hunter on the all-time single

season yardage list, after completing 27 of 49 for 340 yards. For the season, Hollingsworth finished with 2,379 yards passing. He was 205 of 339 for the season.

*Alabama entered the game ranked No. 2 in both wire polls, the best ranking of a Bama team since the '86 team entered the Penn State game with the same ranking.

*In a game that was billed as a certain defensive struggle, the offenses prevailed with Auburn totaling 441 yards to Alabama's 427.

*Philip Doyle's eight points Saturday gave him 100 for the season and 248 for his career, ranking him second all-time in Crimson Tide scoring behind Van Tiffin who finished his career with 312 points.

*Before the Auburn game, the UPI All-SEC squad was announced with seven Tigers being honored as first team choices and head coach Bill Curry being picked as the league's best coach for 1989. The players honored were running back Siran Stacy, center Roger Shultz, tight end Lamonde Russell, tackle Terrill Chatman, linebacker Keith McCants, cornerback John Mangum, and nose guard Willie Wyatt.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

Auburn	7	0	10	13	—	30
Alabama	3	7	0	10	—	20

STATISTICS	UA	AU
First Downs	23	21
Rushing (Atts/Yds)	31-87	46-167
Passing (Comp/Atts/Int)	27-50-2	14-26-1
Passing Yards	340	274
Total Offense	427	441
Total Offensive Plays	81	72
Average Gain Per Play	5.3	6.1
Fumbles/Lost	2-1	2-1
Total Turnovers	3	2
Punting/No.-Avg.	3-42.3	4-36.0
Punt Returns	1-8	1-7
Kickoff Returns	7-123	4-74
Penalties/Yards	4-20	8-51
Time of Possession	28:36	31:24
Third Down Conversions	9-18	6-14
Sacks/Lost	0-0	3-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing (Att-Yds-TD): UA—Stacy 14-54-0; Houston 6-23-0; Turner 1-3-0; Hollingsworth 7-7-0; Owens Lassic 2-4-0; Russell 1-(-)-0. AU—Slack 2-13-0; Joseph 9-17-2; Danley 28-130-0; Williams 7-7-1.

Passing (Comp-Att-I-Yds-TD): UA—Hollingsworth 27-49-2-340-2; Wall 0-1-0-0-0. AU—Slack 14-26-1-274-0.

Receiving (Rec-Yds-TD): UA—Turner 5-51-0; Russell 7-116-0; Battle 6-82-2; Stacy 4-38-0; Owens Lassic 3-20-0; Sanderson 2-32-0.

AU—Wright 7-141-0; Joseph 3-31-0; Wasden 2-74-0; Casey 1-16-0; Taylor 1-12-0.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Tackles (Primary-Assists-Total)

UA—McCants 9-9-18; Sullins 5-4-9.

AU—Wiley 8-5-13; Riggins 7-4-11.

Sacks: UA—None.

AU—Campbell 1 (-)-8; Sutton 1 (-)-6; Ogletree 1 (-)-6.

Tackles for Losses

UA—Sullins 2 (-)-5; Wyatt 1 (-)-4; McCants 1 (-)-6; Webb 1 (-)-1.

AU—Crawford 1 (-)-4; Rogers 1 (-)-3; Tate 1 (-)-2; Wiley 1 (-)-1.

Passes Broken Up

UA—Hammond 1.

AU—Wiley 1, Ramsey 1, Billingslea 1, Barlow 1, Anderson 1.

Interceptions

UA—McCants 1-0; AU—Crawford 1-0; Wallace 1-0.

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

AU—James Joseph 1-yard run (Win Lyle kick), 12:10 (7 plays, 68 yards, 2:50) AU 7, UA 0.

UA—Philip Doyle field goal, 8:15 (5 plays, 15 yards, :48) AU 7, UA 3.

Second Quarter

UA—Marco Battle 18-yard pass from Gary Hollingsworth (Doyle kick), 1:49 (12 plays, 63 yards, 5:29) UA 10, AU 7.

Third Quarter

AU—Joseph 2-yard run (Lyle kick), 10:36 (6 plays, 69 yards, 2:47) AU 14, UA 10.

AU—Lyle 22-yard field goal, 5:58 (5 plays, 69 yards, 2:12) AU 17, UA 10.

Fourth Quarter

AU—Darrell Williams 12-yard run (Lyle kick), 13:04 (13 plays, 80 yards, 5:50) AU 24, UA 10.

AU—Lyle 31-yard field goal, 9:36 (6 plays, 21 yards, 3:13) AU 27, UA 10.

UA—Battle 15-yard pass from Hollingsworth (Doyle kick), 7:51 (7 plays, 73 yards, 1:45) AU 27, UA 17.

UA—Doyle 23-yard field goal, 1:49 (14 plays, 63 yards, 3:10) AU 27, UA 20.

AU—Lyle 34-yard field goal, :33 (7 plays, 30 yards, 1:16) AU 30, UA 20.