

# GAME-BY-GAME IN 1965

## GEORGIA 18 — ALABAMA 17

A spectacular and controversial pass-and-lateral play in the last two minutes of play enabled Georgia's Bulldogs to upset a young, inexperienced Alabama team, 18-17. A field goal and an intercepted pass returned for a TD put the Tide down 10-0 before David Ray's first field goal of 1965 made it 10-3 just before intermission. Bama soared back on TD's by Steve Bowman and Steve Sloan in the second half to take a 17-10 advantage, but a pass and lateral set up Bob Taylor's 73-yard scoring jaunt with just over two minutes remaining. The two-point aerial conversion was good and Alabama scrambled back, but David Ray's 42-yard rushed field goal fell wide to the left and Georgia prevailed.

This loss, however, started Coach Bryant into his re-organization of the squad and he revamped his entire plans for the season in regard to playing platoon football. Soon, Alabama was to become a two-way team again and the results were nine wins against a single tie the rest of the season.

|         |   |    |   |   |   |    |
|---------|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| Georgia | 0 | 10 | 0 | 8 | — | 18 |
| Alabama | 0 | 3  | 7 | 7 | — | 17 |

### Brief Stats

|  | UA                  | UG        |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| G—Etter, 37-yard field goal  | First Downs .....   | 14 11     |
| G—Patton, 55-yard pass intercept (Etter kick)                        | Yards Rushing ..... | 164 130   |
| A—Ray 26-yard field goal   | Yards Passing ..... | 151 99    |
| A—Bowman, 8-yard run (Ray kick)                                      | Total Offense ..... | 229 315   |
| A—Sloan, 2-yard run (Ray kick)                                       | Passes .....        | 7-3 26-12 |
| G—Taylor, 73-yard pass, lateral<br>(Moore pass to Hodgson, 2 points) |                     |           |

## ALABAMA 27 — TULANE 0

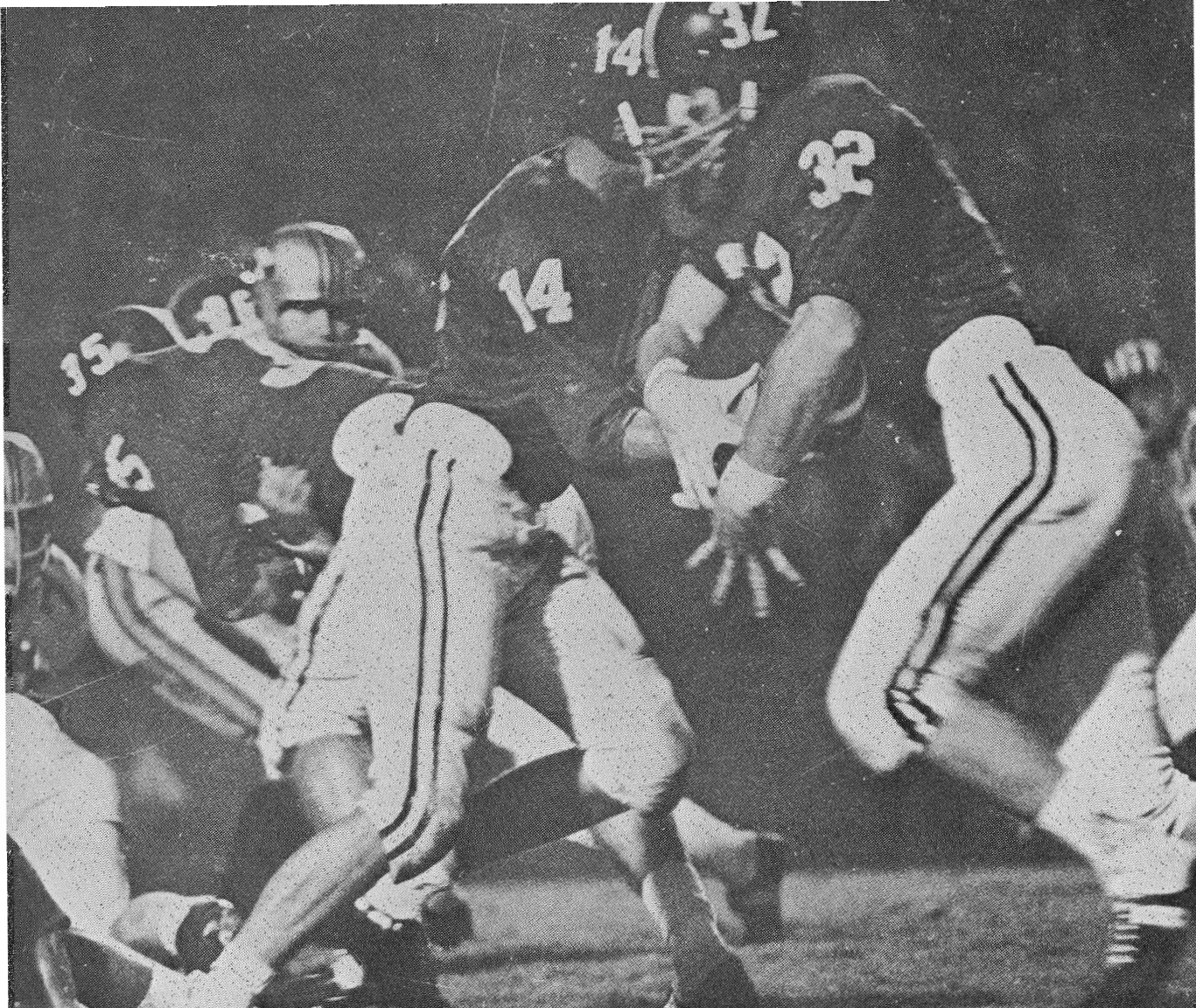
Two field goals by David Ray and two touchdown passes by Steve Sloan highlighted Alabama's first win of 1965. Ray got it rolling with a 37-yarder in the first period, followed by Les Kelley's one-yard plunge and Ray's conversion for a 10-0 lead at the first stop. Sloan cranked up for a 29-yard scoring bomb to Tommy Tolleson in the second period and Ray's PAT made it 17-0 at intermission.

Again, Sloan found the scoring bullseye with a 15-yard pass to soph Dickey Thompson in the third frame. After Ray's conversion it was 24-0 and in the fourth quarter Ray added a 25-yard field goal to close out the scoring.

|         |    |   |   |   |   |    |
|---------|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| Alabama | 10 | 7 | 7 | 3 | — | 27 |
| Tulane  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | 0  |

### Brief Stats

|  | UA                  | Tulane     |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| A—Ray, 37-yard field goal                        | First Downs .....   | 21 12      |
| A—Kelley, one-yard run (Ray kick)                | Yards Passing ..... | 123 97     |
| A—Sloan pass to Tolleson, 29-yards<br>(Ray kick) | Yards Rushing ..... | 228 96     |
| A—Sloan pass to Thompson, 15-yards<br>(Ray kick) | Total Offense ..... | 351 193    |
| A—Ray, 25-yard field goal                        | Passes .....        | 20-10 17-7 |



KELLEY READY TO RAMBLE

## ALABAMA 17 — OLE MISS 16

Two great scoring drives in the fourth quarter left 70,000 Legion Field fans breathless as Alabama fought its way to a 17-16 win over Ole Miss. The Rebs broke ice with a 34-yard field goal in the first period and added a TD for a 9-0 lead midway in the second half. Alabama made it 9-7 before intermission on Steve Sloan's five-yard tally and David Ray's extra point.

Ole Miss tallied again early in the fourth period, added the PAT and led 16-7, but Bama fought back immediately on Ray's 37-yard field goal, slicing the lead to 16-10. The Tide took over on its own 11-yard line with 7:33 left and drove 89-yards with Sloan scoring on a nine-yard run and Ray added the decisive point for victory over Ole Miss.

Alabama            0     7     0     10 — 17

Ole Miss           3     6     0     7 — 16

M—Keyes, 34-yard field goal  
M—Heidle pass to Street, 8-yards (kick failed)  
A—Sloan, five-yard rush (Ray kick)  
M—Heidle, 1-yard rush  
A—Ray, 37-yard field goal  
A—Sloan, 9-yard rush (Ray kick)

### Brief Stats

|                     | UA    | UM   |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| First Downs .....   | 17    | 11   |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 121   | 127  |
| Yards Passing ..... | 127   | 105  |
| Total Offense ..... | 248   | 232  |
| Passes .....        | 18-12 | 13-9 |

## ALABAMA 22 — VANDERBILT 7

A stunning 69-yard punt return for a touchdown provided the impetus for a stout Vanderbilt defense that imperiled Alabama's victory chances until the fourth period.

With a little more than nine minutes remaining, Steve Bowman bowled over from two-yards out and Steve Sloan then flipped a pressurized pass to David Ray for a two-point conversion and an 8-7 Alabama lead. The Tide's John David Reitz picked off a Vandy pass a few moments later and returned it for a TD, with Ray adding the PAT via toe. Bama added another the next time it got the ball when Bowman broke up the middle and raced 57 yards to paydirt, Ray again converting. John Mosley's goal line interception stopped Vanderbilt's last ditch effort in the waning moments.

Alabama            0     0     0     22 — 22

Vanderbilt        0     7     0     0 — 7

V—Boyd, 69-yard punt return (Wilt kick)  
A—Bowman, 2-yard rush (Ray, pass from Sloan, 2 points)  
A—Reitz, 35-yard pass interception return (Ray kick)  
A—Bowman, 57-yard rush (Ray kick)

### Brief Stats

|                     | UA   | Vandy |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| First Downs .....   | 11   | 9     |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 133  | 80    |
| Yards Passing ..... | 77   | 70    |
| Total Offense ..... | 210  | 150   |
| Passes .....        | 12-7 | 12-6  |

## ALABAMA 7 — TENNESSEE 7

A frustrating day for charged up Alabama before another capacity throng of 70,000 at Legion Field. The Crimson Tide rolled up 361 yards total offense to 195 for Tennessee, but three costly fumbles in the second half and some late-game confusion kept the Tide from gaining a favorable judgment from the scoreboard.

Tennessee drew first blood midway in the second period, but Bama bounced right back and with only minutes to play moved down for a score, on a one-yard plunge by Steve Sloan one second before intermission. David Ray added the point-after and that ended all scoring.

Time and time again the Tide marched within the shadows of the Tennessee goal posts, only to have each drive thwarted by fumbles and mistakes. It was frustration stacked upon frustration for Bama, but in the end it may have turned an average team into a great one. Certainly the offense which rambled up and down Legion Field was impressive and it may have given the lightweight Tide forwards the confidence they needed for the stretch drive.

Alabama            0     7     0     0 — 7

Tennessee        0     7     0     0 — 7

T—Mitchell, 1-yard rush (Leake kick)  
A—Sloan, 1-yard rush (Ray kick)

### Brief Stats

|                     | UA    | UT  |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| First Downs .....   | 22    | 10  |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 156   | 121 |
| Yards Passing ..... | 205   | 74  |
| Total Offense ..... | 361   | 195 |
| Passes .....        | 19-13 | 7-5 |

# ALABAMA 21 — FLORIDA STATE 0

Homecoming and a big victory for the Crimson Tide with Bama grabbing a 7-0 lead in the first period when Leslie Kelley scored from one yard out and David Ray booted the extra point. The Tide picked up another tally in the second frame on Steve Sloan's three-yard run, and led 13-0 at halftime when Ray missed his first PAT kick of the year.

Florida State simply couldn't get its offense moving against a rugged Tide defense and in the fourth period soph quarterback Ken Stabler took over and moved the team 65-yards into paydirt with some fancy running. Kelley scored from one-yard out and Stabler faked the PAT kick and raced into the end zone for a two-point conversion.

Alabama            7    6    0    8 — 21

Florida State    0    0    0    0 — 0

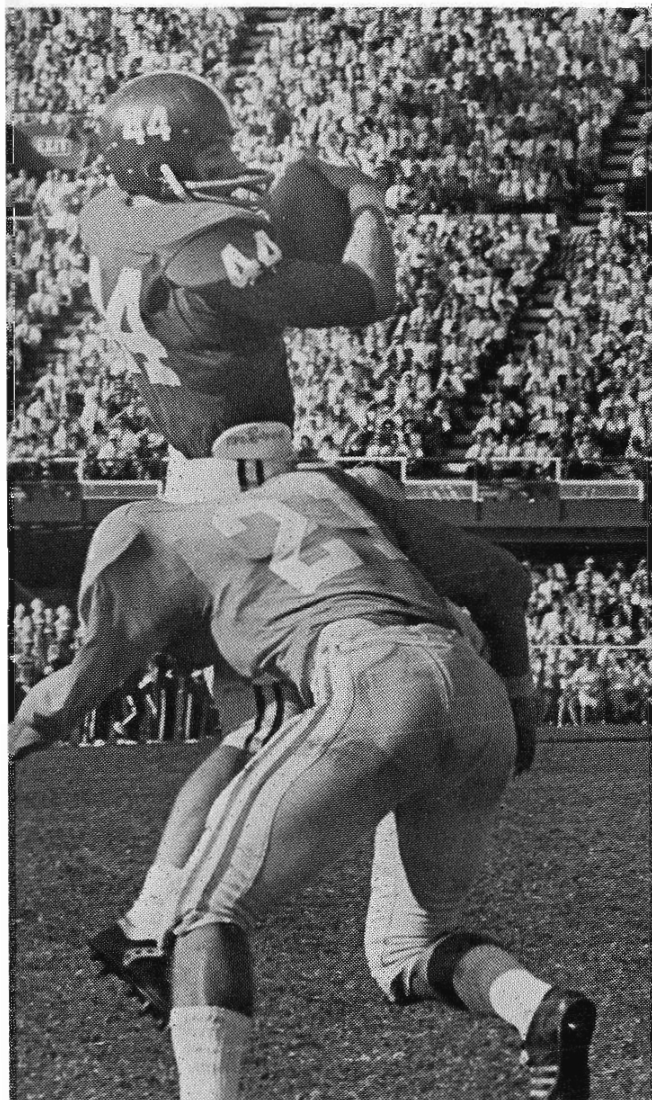
A—Kelley, 1-yard rush (Ray kick)

A—Sloan, 3-yard rush (Ray kick failed)

A—Kelley, 1-yard rush (Stabler, run)

## Brief Stats

|                     | UA  | FSU  |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| First Downs .....   | 15  | 15   |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 222 | 125  |
| Yards Passing ..... | 87  | 76   |
| Total Offense ..... | 309 | 201  |
| Passes .....        | 9-5 | 25-8 |



THOMPSON GRABS PASS



KELLEY IS BOWMAN'S BODYGUARD

## ALABAMA 10 — MISSISSIPPI STATE 7

Alabama had to hang on against the resurgent Mississippi State Bulldogs, who were down 10-0 at one point before fighting back to threaten the Crimson Tide with disaster.

Steve Sloan found a new scoring target in sophomore Dennis Homan and connected with the Muscle Shoals speedster for a 65-yard scoring bomb on the first play of the game. David Ray's PAT gave the Tide a quick 7-0 advantage and in the third period Ray's 27-yard field goal made it 10-0. The Bulldogs bounced back with a TD pass in the third frame and threatened seriously throughout the second half before Bobby Johns' interception in the waning minutes quelled their rally hopes.

It was a determined Bulldog team that finally gave in, but this was about as close as the Tide came to being scalped in the final half of the season. Earlier in the day, Mississippi fans had enjoyed the Ole Miss romp over LSU and the stage was set for another upset but the Tide held on to the bitter end.

Alabama 7 0 3 0 — 10

Mississippi State 0 0 7 0 — 7

A—Sloan pass to Homan, 65-yard (Ray kick)

A—Ray, 27-yard field goal

M—Cook pass to Rhoden, 11-yards (Neill kick)

### Brief Stats

|                     | UA    | MS   |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| First Downs .....   | 12    | 16   |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 154   | 116  |
| Yards Passing ..... | 124   | 144  |
| Total Offense ..... | 278   | 260  |
| Passes .....        | 18-11 | 17-9 |

## ALABAMA 31 — LSU 7

In its finest offensive explosion of the year, Alabama rolled up 24 points in the first half to shock LSU's proud Tigers in their own backyard. Steve Sloan's 45-yard TD pass to soph Dennis Homan got the ball rolling in the first frame and then a two-yard run by Steve Bowman, another TD pass from Sloan to David Ray and Ray's field goal made it 24-0 at intermission. By virtue of a field goal, three PAT's and a TD, Ray had half of those points.

Bama rocked the Tigers for another TD in the third quarter when Bowman took a pitchout from Sloan and raced 36 yards around right end to paydirt. With the count 31-0 in the final period, LSU finally scored on a long pass play to prevent a whitewash at the hands of the Crimson Tide. The Tide defense held the Tigers to 72 yards rushing in this game.

A regional television audience viewed this one and it was a shocker, in that the Tide made it look so easy. Even a desperation passing game by LSU couldn't cut into the Bama lead and Bryant knew another great team had been born.

Alabama 7 17 7 0 — 31

L. S. U. 0 0 0 0 — 7

A—Sloan pass to Homan, 45-yards (Ray kick)

A—Bowman, 2-yard rush (Ray kick)

A—Sloan pass to Ray, 6 yards (Ray kick)

A—Ray 41-yard field goal

ABowman, 35-yard rush (Ray kick)

L—Screen pass to Labruzzo, 53 yards  
(Moreau kick)

### Brief Stats

|                     | UA   | LSU   |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| First Downs .....   | 16   | 14    |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 207  | 72    |
| Yards Passing ..... | 150  | 203   |
| Total Offense ..... | 357  | 275   |
| Passes .....        | 18-9 | 35-15 |

## ALABAMA 35 — SOUTH CAROLINA 14

The record-shattering passing of Steve Sloan and the sensational receiving of soph Dennis Doman paved the way to victory for Alabama over a stubborn South Carolina club. Bama led only 7-0 at halftime, the product of a 2-yard run by Sloan in the second period.

Steve Bowman added a 2-yard burst in the third period, before the Gamecocks put up seven points on a Mike Fair to J. R. Wilburn pass. Sloan cranked up at this point and hit Homan on 50 and 39-yard scoring plays to put the game out of reach. South Carolina scored once again, but Tide soph quarterback Ken Stabler engineered a TD for his mates to make the final count 35-14. Ray had another productive day kicking, getting five straight PAT's, but Sloan snapped two career passing marks with 171 yards on nine of 13 completions.

Alabama                    7     0     14     14   —   35

South Carolina        0     0     7     7   —   14

A—Sloan, 2-yard rush (Ray kick)

A—Bowman, 2-yard rush (Ray kick)

S—Fair pass to Wilburn, 7 yards (Poole kick)

A—Sloan pass to Homan, 50 yards (Ray kick)

A—Sloan pass to Homan, 39 yards (Ray kick)

S—Brandon, 2-yard rush (Poole kick)

A—Stabler, 2-yard rush (Ray kick)

### Brief Stats

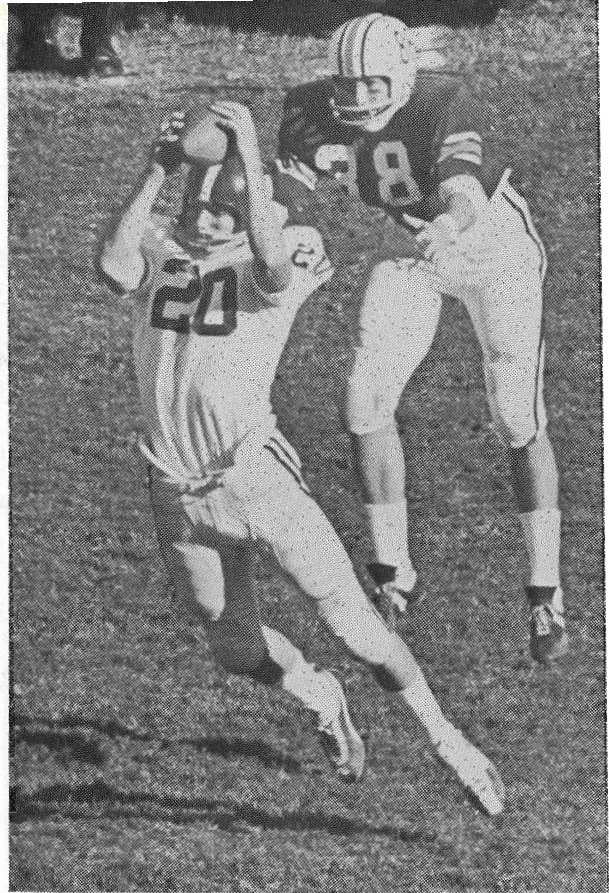
|                     | UA   | SC    |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| First Downs .....   | 22   | 21    |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 256  | 147   |
| Yards Passing ..... | 171  | 193   |
| Total Offense ..... | 427  | 320   |
| Passes .....        | 13-9 | 29-17 |



HOMAN SNAGS ANOTHER TD PASS



**KELLEY BATTERED TIGERS ALL DAY**



**TRIMBLE INTERCEPTS ONE OF FIVE AUBURN MISCUES**

## ALABAMA 30 — AUBURN 3

Steve Sloan wrecked the record book once again and led the Crimson Tide to a brilliant 30-3 win over state rival Auburn, which clinched the SEC title for Alabama, its second in a row.

Sloan connected on three touchdown passes and his first two—to Tommy Tolleson and Ray Perkins, plus David Ray's 27-yard field goal—gave Alabama a 15-0 lead. Auburn cut it to 15-3 on Don Lewis' 44-yard field goal by intermission.

Bama soared back in the second half on a two-yard run by Les Kelley and completed scoring when Sloan hit soph end Don Shankles on a 29-yard scoring play. Sloan passed to Tolleson for a two-point conversion after Kelley's score and Ray added the extra point after Shankles' tally. Alabama almost scored again, but its second team effort, led by soph quarterback Ken Stabler, was stifled at the one-yard line. Sloan's efforts for the day included 13-18 aerials for 226 yards.

|         |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Alabama | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | — | 30 |
| Auburn  | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | — | 3  |

- A—Sloan pass to Tolleson, 11-yards  
(Ray's kick wide)
- A—Sloan pass to Perkins, 33-yards  
(two-point attempt failed)
- A—Ray, 27-yard field goal
- Aub—Lewis, 44-yard field goal
- A—Kelley, 2-yard rush (Sloan to Tolleson,  
2 points)
- A—Sloan pass to Shankles, 29-yards  
(Ray kick)

### Brief Stats

|                     | UA    | AUB  |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| First Downs .....   | 20    | 13   |
| Yards Rushing ..... | 175   | 138  |
| Yards Passing ..... | 246   | 93   |
| Total Offense ..... | 421   | 231  |
| Passes .....        | 20-15 | 24-6 |