

# The Tide In 1963

## Alabama 32, Georgia 7

A slow-starting Crimson Tide had to overcome a 7-0 Georgia lead before piling up a lot of points in the second half to win 32-7 at Athens before 34,980 spectators. Alabama fumbled on its first series of downs, with Georgia recovering on the 26. Eight plays later the scoreboard blinked for the first time, but the Bulldogs were the ones who had gone ahead as Barber bucked over from the one. Joe Namath passed 47 yards to Charlie Stephens and Tim Davis' sure toe tied it at 7-7 just before the end of the first quarter. Davis tacked on a 37-yard field goal in the second period to send Bama ahead, 10-7, for the first time.

After that it was all Alabama. Mike Fracchia scored twice, Frank McClendon caught Georgia's Ridlehuber in the end zone for a safety and Jack Hurlbut pulled a little razzle-dazzle and passed 41-yards to Jimmy Dill for the final score.

Georgia	7	0	0	0	—	7
Alabama	7	3	7	15	—	32

G—Barber, 3-yard rush (McCullough kick.)  
 A—Stephens, 47-yard pass (Davis kick).  
 A—Davis, 37-yard field goal.  
 A—Fracchia, 5-yard rush (Davis kick).  
 A—Fracchia, 1-yard rush (Davis kick).  
 A—Safety.  
 A—Dill, 41-yard pass (pass failed).

	Brief Stats	
	UA	UG
First Downs .....	14	11
Yards Rushing .....	175	34
Yards Passing .....	146	104
Total Offense .....	321	138
Passes .....	16-7	23-10

## Alabama 28, Tulane 0

As usual, Tulane's Green Wave battled Alabama nose-to-nose in the early going but buckled under to the Tide's power in the second quarter as Alabama won, 28-0, before 30,102 in Mobile. Namath ripped over from the one the first time Bama had the ball and Davis added the point after. In the second quarter, Benny Nelson broke loose for 33 yards and six-points. The clincher came moments later when defensive ace Billy Piper grabbed off a Tulane pass and rambled 51 yards to score. Hudson Harris scored in the third period from 20 yards out to close out the scoring.

Tulane was unable to mount a serious threat and made only four first downs all night. The deepest penetration came in the fourth quarter and then only to Bama's 46 yard line.

Tulane	0	0	0	0	—	0
Alabama	7	14	7	0	—	28

A—Namath, 1-yard rush (Davis kick)  
 A—Nelson, 33-yard rush (Davis kick)  
 A—Piper, 51-yard pass interception (Davis kick)  
 A—Harris, 20-yard rush (Davis kick)

	Brief Stats	
	UA	TU
First Downs .....	16	4
Yards Rushing .....	264	65
Yards Passing .....	34	34
Total Offense .....	298	99
Passes .....	9-4	18-6

# Alabama 21, Vanderbilt 6

Benny Nelson's two long runs broke up a tough battle with Vanderbilt in Nashville as 23,848 onlookers saw why the speedy Tide halfback was to go on to All-America laurels. In the first period, Nelson stepped off 50-yards for a touch-down to give the Tide the lead, with teammate Davis booting the extra point. Vandy retaliated by scoring on a 25-yard pass from Jon Cleveland to Toby Wilt but missed a chance to tie it when the kick failed.

Fracchia broke through from one-yard out to give Alabama a 14-6 halftime lead. Nelson then went back to work. He took the second half kickoff on his own three, showed some fancy footwork and danced through the entire Commodore team for 97-yards and a touchdown. Vandy threatened repeatedly and it took a solid defensive effort to stave off the Commodores.

Alabama	7	7	7	0	—	21
Vanderbilt	0	6	0	0	—	6

- A—Nelson, 50-yard rush (Davis kick)
- V—Wilt, 25-yard pass (kick failed)
- A—Fracchia, 1-yard rush (Davis kick)
- A—Nelson, 97-yard kickoff return (Davis kick)

### Brief Stats

	UA	VU
First Downs .....	14	10
Yards Rushing .....	189	56
Yards Passing .....	45	163
Total Offense .....	234	219
Passes .....	6-4	17-10

# Florida 10, Alabama 6

A "sleeping giant" is the way Florida was touted in the pre-game analysis by coaches and the Gators lived up to their billing by upsetting Alabama, 10-6, before a sellout crowd of 42,309 in Tuscaloosa. Ray Graves' fired-up Florida team tallied in the first quarter on a 42-yard field goal by Bob Lyle and made that hold up until the final period when Dick Kirk broke loose for a 42-yard touchdown run.

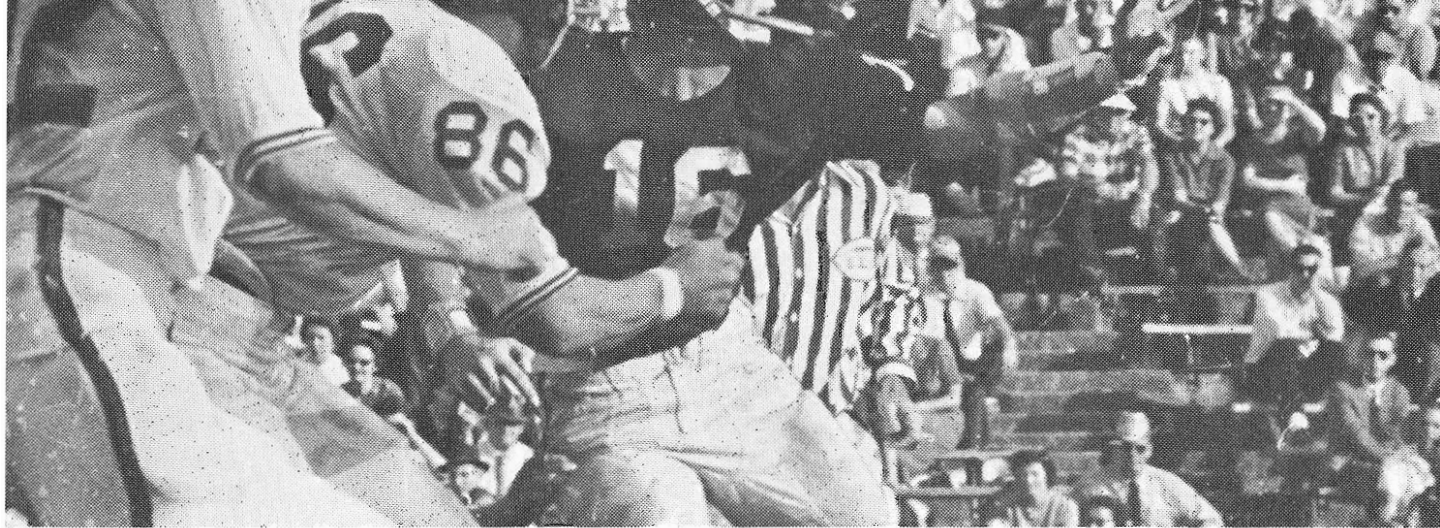
Namath sneaked over from the one late in the game but it was too late. Alabama coughed up the ball three times to the Gators and had to withstand a lot of defensive pressure all afternoon.

Florida	3	0	0	7	—	10
Alabama	0	0	0	6	—	6

- F—Lyle, 42-yard field goal.
- F—Kirk, 42-yard rush (Hall kick)
- A—Namath, 1-yard rush (pass failed)

### Brief Stats

	UA	UF
First Downs .....	14	10
Yards Rushing.....	107	148
Yards Passing .....	104	95
Total Offense .....	211	243
Passes .....	26-10	19-10



## Alabama 35, Tennessee 0

Bouncing back like a robust giant, Alabama waxed hot and often in blasting Tennessee, 35-0, before 53,454 enthusiastic fans in Birmingham. Namath pitched three scoring passes for touchdowns, sneaked over for a score himself and also passed to Nelson for a two-point PAT.

Nelson ripped through 36-yards of Volunteer territory for the first score. Bama kicked to Tennessee, only to regain possession one play later when the Vols fumbled. Jimmy Dill grabbed a 26-yard pass from Namath to score. In the second quarter, Charlie Stephens caught a three-yard scoring aerial to send the Tide to a 21-0 halftime lead.

Hudson Harris caught another Namath aerial for five yards and six points in the third quarter and Namath sneaked over the one in the same period. Tim Davis kicked three extra points but also missed his first of the season.

Tennessee	0	0	0	0	—	0
Alabama	14	7	14	0	—	35

- A—Nelson, 36-yard rush (Davis kick)
- A—Dill, 26-yard pass (Davis kick)
- A—Stephens, 3-yard pass (Davis kick)
- A—Harris, 5-yard pass (kick failed)
- A—Namath, 1-yard rush (Nelson pass)

### Brief Stats

	UA	UT
First Downs .....	16	10
Yards Rushing .....	195	98
Yards Passing .....	141	50
Total Offense .....	336	148
Passes .....	19-11	17-3



# Alabama 21, Houston 13

Winless Houston apparently forgot to read about Alabama prior to the game in Tuscaloosa where 28,022 came out to watch. By the time it was all over, Alabama had won, 21-13, but only by the hardest and it never was able to put a halter on the surprising Houston offensive machine.

Benny Nelson scored for Bama in the first period on a seven yard pass from Namath, but Houston came back in the second stanza to tie it on a 41-yard pass play from Jack Skog to Mike Spratt. It bounced along that way until the third quarter when Nelson broke away for 35 yards and a touchdown. Ray Ogden added the icing in the fourth period when he stretched high to haul in a Namath pass for 12 yards and a TD. Spratt gave the Cougar rooters a moment to cheer about by taking a swing pitch from Skog late in the game and breaking away for 75 yards and the final touchdown.

Houston	0	7	0	6	—	13
Alabama	7	0	7	7	—	21

- A—Nelson, 7-yard pass (Davis kick)
- H—Spratt, 41-yard pass (McMillan kick)
- A—Nelson, 35-yard rush (Davis kick)
- A—Ogden, 12-yard pass (Davis kick)
- H—Spratt, 75-yard pass-run (pass failed)

Brief Stats		
	UA	UH
First Downs .....	14	8
Yards Rushing.....	195	78
Yards Passing .....	127	221
Total Offense .....	322	299
Passes .....	21-13	20-11

# Alabama 20, Miss. State 19

One of the most exciting games of the year saw Alabama bounce back from behind twice in snaring a 20-19 triumph over Mississippi State. Some 42,508 homecoming fans watched the frenzied contest in Tuscaloosa. Tim Davis kicked two field goals and two extra points to provide the victory margin, but Joe Namath also was a handy man that afternoon.

Davis put Bama ahead in the first quarter with a 43-yard field goal, but State scored twice in the second period. Don Bland bucked over from the one to put the Bulldogs ahead and moments later Larry Swearer intercepted a Namath pass and scampered 45-yards to paydirt. Jimmy Dill pulled in a 40-yard scoring pass and Davis tacked on a 21-yard field goal before halftime to give the Tide a 13-12 margin.

State went ahead in the third quarter when Swearer slipped through from four yards out and it wasn't until the fourth quarter that Namath was able to sneak over and Davis booted the extra point to give Bama the win.

Miss. State	0	12	7	0	—	19
Alabama	3	10	0	7	—	20

- A—Davis, 43-yard field goal.
- MS—Bland, 1-yard rush (kick failed)
- MS—Swearer, 45-yard pass interception pass failed)
- A—Dill, 40-yard pass (Davis kick)
- A—Davis, 21-yard field goal.
- MS—Swearer, 4-yard rush (Canale kick)
- A—Namath, 1-yard rush (Davis kick)

Brief Stats		
	UA	MS
First Downs .....	16	11
Yards Rushing .....	156	150
Yards Passing .....	142	39
Total Offense .....	298	189
Passes .....	16-10	10-5

# Alabama 27, Georgia Tech 11

The running game took over in Birmingham where 53,938 watched as Alabama put together drives of 69, 77, and 76 yards in grinding out a 27-11 victory over arch-rival Georgia Tech. The Tide threw only three passes all afternoon, but mustered 252 yards on the ground in avenging 1962's 7-6 loss to the Yellow Jackets.

Ray Ogden moved Bama in front with a 44-yard touchdown blast in the first period. Billy Lothridge booted a 41-yard field goal to put Tech within range in the second quarter, only to have Benny Nelson cap a long drive by ripping over from the one and sending Bama to a 14-3 halftime lead.

Lothridge sneaked in for a third period score and then looped a two-point PAT pass to Joe Auer. That made it 14-11, but Bama took solid command in the final period. Nelson went over from the six and Namath pushed in from the one and the Tide had itself a sweet victory.

Tech	0	3	8	0	—	11
Alabama	7	7	0	13	—	27

A—Ogden, 44-yard rush (Davis kick).  
 T—Lothridge, 41-yard field goal.  
 A—Nelson, 1-yard rush (Davis kick).  
 T—Lothridge, 1-yard rush (Auer pass).  
 A—Nelson, 6-yard rush (Davis kick).  
 A—Namath, 1-yard rush (pass failed).

## Brief Stats

	UA	GT
First Downs .....	16	16
Yards Rushing .....	252	133
Yards Passing .....	11	99
Total Offense .....	263	232
Passes .....	3-1	20-10

# Auburn 10, Alabama 8

Mailon Kent returned to the limelight before 54,152 spectators in Birmingham to guide Auburn to an upset, 10-8, win over the Crimson. Kent, who was a starter as a junior but had been shuttled to the bench in favor of star Jimmy Sidle, threw an eight-yard pass to Tucker Frederickson and positioned Auburn for its field goal. The Auburn win snapped a four-year win streak by Alabama.

When Woody Woodall kicked a 32-yard field goal in the first quarter, it was the first points Auburn had scored against the Tide since 1958. In the third quarter, Frederickson caught the scoring pass and Woodall kicked the point.

Alabama's Benny Nelson broke away on an 80-yard touchdown footrace in the final quarter and Namath rushed for a two-point PAT, but Auburn held on for the win. Alabama dominated the statistics, outgaining the Tigers 181-111 on the ground and 43-20 in the air, for a total offense edge of 224 to 131.

Auburn	3	0	7	0	—	10
Alabama	0	0	0	8	—	8

AU—Woodall, 32-yard field goal.  
 AU—Frederickson, 8-yard pass (Woodall kick)  
 UA—Nelson, 80-yard rush (Namath rush)

## Brief Stats

	UA	AU
First Downs .....	7	5
Yards Rushing.....	181	111
Yards Passing .....	43	20
Total Offense .....	224	131
Passes .....	17-4	9-2

# Alabama 17, Miami 12

Gary Martin returned the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown and it looked like the Tide was off and running at Miami, but before it was over, the Tide was dizzy from George Mira passes. When the dust finally settled, Alabama had won, 17-12, but not before withstanding a tremendous last quarter push by the Hurricane.

Benny Nelson scooted over from the one and Tim Davis kicked a 36-yard field goal to put Bama in front 17-0 at halftime. It was the same going into the final quarter, but Mira hit Nick Spinelli on a four-yard TD pass and then Banaszak scored from the one later in the game.

Mira hit on 24 of 48 passes for a grand total of 301 yards, in a brilliant passing display. The Hurricane rolled to 32 first downs, but Alabama had the defensive strength when it was most needed.

Miami	0	0	0	12	—	12
Alabama	14	3	0	0	—	17

- A—Martin, 100-yard kickoff return (Davis kick)
- A—Nelson, 1-yard rush (Davis kick)
- A—Davis, 36-yard field goal.
- M—Spinelli, 4-yard pass (pass failed)
- M—Banaszak, 1-yard rush (pass failed)

### Brief Stats

	UA	MU
First Downs .....	10	32
Yards Rushing.....	108	162
Yards Passing .....	58	301
Total Offense .....	164	463
Passes .....	12-4	48-24

