

1940 SEASON

FRANK THOMAS	Coach
HAROLD DREW, HENRY CRISP, TILDEN CAMPBELL	Assistant Coaches
PAUL BURNUM	Freshman Coach
HAL NEWMAN	Captain
DAVIS RANDMAN	Manager

PLAYERS

Ends: Hal Newman, Holt Rast, James Roberts, Sam Sharp, George Weeks, Tom Maxwell, Robert Brown . . . **Tackles:** Fred Davis, Tom Borders, Cliff Hansen, Noah Langdale, Jack McKewen, John Pope, Lloyd Wise . . . **Guards:** John Wyhonic, Ed Hickerson, George Hecht, Irby Woodall, Robert Luck, Morton Kimball, Tony Leon . . . **Centers:** Warren Averitte, Jce Domnanovich, Norman Wesley. . . **Backs:** John Hanson, James Nelson, David Brown, Charles DeShane, Paul Spencer, Al Sabo, Russell Craft, William Harrell, Russell Mosley, Don Salls, Julius Papias, Sumter Blackmon, George Gammon, Vaughn Tollett.



RICHARD C. FOSTER
Fifteenth President
1936—1941

SEPTEMBER 27: Alabama, playing the first night game in her history, defeated Spring Hill at Murphy High School stadium in Mobile by the score of 26 to 0 before a crowd of 7,500. The Tide used 35 players, not including Nelson who was out with injuries.

Two touchdowns were made by Spencer and one each by Dave Brown and Mosley.

Strickland, end, Tatum, guard, and Gallaher, tackle, were the line stars for Spring Hill while Fred Davis and Ed Hickerson were standouts for Alabama.

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OCTOBER 5: Alabama played under wraps at Denny Stadium to defeat Mercer 20 to 0 before a crowd of 6,000 spectators.

Spencer scored two touchdowns in the first quarter, gaining 51 yards on a 72 yard drive and making the second score after the recovery of a blocked punt by Rast.

Dave Brown scored in the third period on a line plunge that ended a 30 yard drive.

Page, Stager and Lazar were the defensive stars for Mercer.

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OCTOBER 27: Howard was defeated on Denny Field by the score of 31 to 0 as Alabama scored one touchdown in each of the first three periods and two in the final quarter.

Nelson intercepted a pass thrown by Jimmy Tarrant, whose running and passing featured for Howard, on the 12 yard line and ran 88 yards for a touchdown. Other touchdowns were made by Spencer 2, Brown and Salls.

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OCTOBER 19: On Legion Field in Birmingham before a capacity crowd of 24,500 spectators—40,000 would have been present had the accommodations been adequate—Tennessee's great team, sparked by Johnny Butler with one run of 68 yards from scrimmage and a punt return of 50 yards, defeated Alabama's less experienced Crimson Tide by the score of 27 to 12. The odds were decidedly against Alabama and the machine-like precision of the Volunteers was too much for a green but courageous Alabama. Tennessee had the experienced reserves and Alabama did not. The two first teams were about evenly matched.

Toward the end of the first period, which was scoreless, Alabama obtained possession of the ball when Butler's 37 yard punt went out of bounds on the Tennessee 48 yard line. Nelson circled right end for 9 and then drove through center for first down. Spencer made 4 yards through center to the Vol 37 as the period ended.

Nelson made 5 through center and Rast followed with a 6 yard gain on a reverse play. Craft circled left end for 9 and Nelson on a fake reverse ran 14 yards on a delayed buck through guard for a touchdown. DeShane's attempted goal was wide.

Newman of Tennessee returned the kickoff to the 20 yard line. Butler ran wide around his own right end and his blockers picked him up after he passed the line of scrimmage. The Crimson tacklers were mowed down. Butler kept going and was driven out of bounds by DeShane on the Alabama 11 yard line. Butler took the ball again and passed to Hust for a touchdown. Newman kicked goal.

Dave Brown returned the kickoff 19 yards. Nelson soon kicked to Butler on the Tennessee 42. After two plays failed, Butler punted 55 yards to the Alabama 6. Nelson punted to midfield where Butler took the ball and ran for a touchdown behind a mass of interference. When the Newman kicked goal, the score was Tennessee 14, Alabama 6.

Booming punts by both sides featured the early part of the third quarter. Butler kicked one for 55 yards and Nelson one for 64 to the Tennessee 22 yard line. Andridge lost 8 yards when smothered by Newman, Rast and Langdale. Butler then kicked 79 yards to the Tide 7. Nelson punted out of bounds on the Vols 49. After running plays failed, Butler punted to Alabama's 16. Nelson kicked a long one for 64 yards. Tennessee was penalized 5 yards to her own 24 where Butler punted to Dave Brown on the Tide 37 and Brown returned 63 yards for a touchdown. Brown received excellent down field blocking on this run.

Alabama dominated the play for the rest of the third period, marching from her 27 to the Vols 21 where Tennessee held and took the ball on downs. On this drive, Nelson made end runs for 22 yards and 8 yards while DeShane drove through center for a gain of 14 yards. Tennessee substituted

six fresh players to halt the drive. Hecht's attempted field goal was short and Warren returned the ball to his own 33. Broome made 11 yards as the period ended.

In the final period, Warren kicked out of bounds on the Tide 10 yard line. Brown and Hanson gained 13 in two plays. Brown circled right end for 17 yards but Alabama received a 15 yard penalty and, as a result, had the ball on their own 15 yard line instead of their 40. Nelson then punted 40 yards. The return and a 5 yard penalty against the Tide gave Tennessee the ball on the Alabama 35. In 10 plays the Vols scored again, the last play being a pass from Warren to Balistaris over the goal. These same two players completed two other passes on this drive. Newman converted.

The last Volunteer touchdown resulted from another pass from Warren to Balistaris for 24 yards. A short punt by Harrell for only 11 yards went out of bounds on the Alabama 26 to set up the score.

Alabama's inexperience, failure to rush the passers and their action in allowing two or three punts to roll instead of trying to return them cost heavily.

Suffridge and Shires were the line stars for Tennessee along with Warren and Butler in the backfield. Davis, Newman and Rast in the line and Nelson and Brown in the backfield were outstanding for Alabama.

Alabama—Ends: Rast, Newman, Roberts, Weeks, Maxwell, Sharpe. **Tackles:** Davis, Langdale, Borders, Hansen. **Guards:** Hecht, Wyhonic, Hickerson, Woodall, Kimbrall, Leon. **Centers:** Averitte, Domnanovich, Wesley. **Backs:** DeShane, Nelson, Brown, Spencer, Sabo, Blackman, Harrell, Papias, Craft, Tollett, Salls, Hanson.

Tennessee—Ends: Coleman, Cifers, Balistaris, Al Hust. **Tackles:** Shires, Luttrell, Edmiston, West. **Guards:** Molinski, Suffridge, Noel, Steiner, Young. **Centers:** Ackerman, Graves. **Backs:** Foxx, Peel, Andridge, Nowling, Lloyd, Broome, Butler, Newman, Thompson, Weber, Warren.

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NOVEMBER 2: Alabama defeated Kentucky at Lexington by the score of 25 to 0 before a Homecoming crowd making two touchdowns in the second quarter and one in each of the third and fourth periods.

In the second period, Alabama recovered a Kentucky fumble on the latter's 10 and Brown scored from the 3 yard line. Later, Brown returned a Kentucky punt and returned to Alabama's 24 yard line. Nelson carried the ball the remainder of the distance to a touchdown. He made 5 yards and then 8 more to the Tide's 37. He then ran 63 yards for the score on a beautiful run.

In the second half, Newman returned the kickoff to the Tide's 32 yard line. Nelson made 10, Spencer gained 6 and Nelson made 14 more. After Kentucky was penalized 5 yards for offsides, Nelson circled end for 34 yards and a touchdown.

In the final quarter, Papias fumbled and Kentucky recovered on her own 36. Allen was rushed as he attempted a pass and lost 12 yards. He tried another pass which Salls intercepted and ran for a touchdown.

Kentucky—Ends: Hardin, Denham, Parr, Scott, McGraw, Taylor. **Tackles:** Reid, Wood, Spears, Johnson. **Schlegal** **Guards:** Willoughgy, Parmer, Fritz, Beeler, Beck, Casner. **Center:** Bailey, Hulet, French. **Backs:** Jones, Zoeller, Mullins, Ishmael, Allen, Brown, Kincer, Hertbert, Coombs, Black Mitchell.

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NOVEMBER 9: By taking advantage of the breaks and fine punting by Jimmy Nelson, Alabama defeated Tulane in Birmingham 13 to 6. The game was hard fought and, up until the final minute of play, Tulane was very much in the game and had an excellent chance to tie the score.

After a scoreless first quarter, Alabama received a very lucky break that set up her first touchdown. Nelson punted to the Tulane 1 yard line. Thomas, Tulane back, tried to block out Rast, Alabama end, to prevent Rast from grounding the ball close to the Tulane goal in the hope that the ball would go over the goal. The ball, however, took an unexpected bounce and struck Smith, another Tulane back, and Rast recovered on the three yard line. Spencer then scored on the second play but goal was missed.

In the third period, Cassibry of Tulane punted from his own 5 yard line to midfield. As Nelson started for the ball it struck the ground and bounced backward to the Tulane 26. Alabama was over the goal in four plays. Spencer hit left guard for 4, Nelson circled end for 7 and Spencer made 3 more through the line. The Tulane secondary came in closer. The shift was to the right with Nelson back. Nelson reversed to Brown who was running to his left. The Tulane team had

overshifted and when the Tulane right halfback was fooled by the play, Brown went over standing up. DeShane kicked goal. Alabama 13, Tulane 0.

In the fourth quarter, with Alabama in possession of the ball on her own 39, Alabama called a pass play, which appeared to be bad judgment. Maudich, Tulane's center, intercepted the pass and ran it to the Tide's 37. Alabama lost 5 for offsides. Two running plays and a pass, Hays to DeFraités, made a first down on the Alabama 21. Smith made 5 and Sharpe threw Hays for a nine yard loss. Hays passed to Brinkman for 13 and line plays carried the ball to the Alabama 6. Hays then passed to Brinkman for a touchdown. Thibaut's try for extra point failed.

Later, Nelson intercepted a long pass on the Tide 5, which prevented a touchdown, and returned to about midfield but Alabama was guilty of clipping on the 17 and the ball was put in play on the Tide 2 yard line. Nelson punted from behind his goal to the Alabama 43 where Hays was dropped in his tracks by Rast and Hickerson, Thibaut, Cassibry and Hays drove to the Alabama 12. With only two minutes left, Hickerson intercepted a pass and ran to the Alabama 14. Nelson circled end for 14 yards. After Brown lost 4, Nelson punted to Tulane's 44 where Hays was tackled by Spencer. Sabo intercepted a pass as the game ended.

Nelson and Thibaut divided honors on the offense. Dufour and O'Boyle starred for Tulane on the defense as did Hickerson, Rast, Averitte and Newman for Alabama.

Tulane—Ends: Bodney, Hornick, Ibert, Mullin, DeFraités, Brinkman. **Tackles:** Blandin, Dufour, Brecke, Bentz. **Guards:** Sterne, O'Boyle, Burwick, Tittle. **Center:** Mandich, Flowers. **Backs:** McDonald, Thomas, Cassibry, Thibaut, T. Glass, Grush, Hays, Gloden, Smith.



NOVEMBER 16: Georgia Tech, rated the underdog by two touchdowns and in poor condition because of injuries, outplayed the Crimson of Alabama but lost by the score of 14 to 13 before a crowd of 25,000 in Atlanta.

The first quarter was scoreless although Tech drove as far as the Alabama 3 yard line. Alabama advanced as far as the Tech 24 on a march featured by a 49 yard run by Spencer.

After Alabama kicked over the goal, Tech started from her own 20 and went for a touchdown. Hancock made 16 and Bosch 15. Hancock took a lateral from Bosch for 28 yards. A pass, Bosch to Isom, resulted in a touchdown. Goree missed goal.

Nelson received the kickoff on his own 7 yard line. Alabama interferers swung to the right and Tech tacklers followed. Alabama blockers cut back to their left, making a perfect screen for Nelson, who had no trouble in reaching midfield. With the aid of good blocking, Nelson ran the rest of the way for a 93 yard touchdown. Hecht kicked goal. Alabama 7, Georgia Tech 6.

Later, Mosley punted 50 yards to Tech's 33 where Weeks tackled Bosch as the latter caught the ball. After Tech made two first downs, Averitte intercepted a pass as the half ended.

In the third quarter, Rast, whose end play was one of the features of the game, blocked a punt by Cavette and the ball went out of bounds on the Tech 29. Nelson passed to Brown for 12 yards. Runs by Nelson and Spencer moved the ball to the two yard line for a first down. After hitting the line four times, Spencer went over and DeShane kicked goal for the point that decided the game.

Bates returned the kickoff to Tech's 28 and then passed to Isom for 27. Two plays later, he hit Webb with a pass for 12 yards. After two line plays failed, Bates passed to Webb who caught the ball on the 5 yard line and went over. Goree kicked goal making the score Alabama 14, Georgia Tech 13.

In the fourth quarter, Bates passed to Webb for 14, to Isom for 6 and to Isom again for 11. Tech drove down the field to the Tide 3 yard line where it was fourth down. Goree attempted a field goal from the 12 yard line but Alabama blocked the attempt. A few plays later, Nelson kicked 57 yards to the Tech 5 where Bosch returned to his 13. Bosch ran and passed to Tech 38 where Alabama held. The game ended a few plays later.

Tech had the best of this game in every way but the score, making 16 first downs to Alabama's 6 and gaining 160 yards rushing to Alabama's 125. Tech also gained 165 yards on 12 passes against 13 yards on one by Alabama. Incidentally, Alabama passed only one time during the game.

Georgia Tech—Ends: Isom, Webb, Arthur, Burroughs, Marshall. **Tackles:** Muerth, Sanders, Dyke, Anderson, Holly. **Guards:** Aderhold, Cavette, Jordan, Hood, Quigg, Lamb. **Centers:** Wright, Sutton. **Backs:** Wilkins, Bosch, Hancock, Goree, Plaster, Beers, Dodd, Nettles, Bates, Kuhn, Oilver, Bradford.

Alabama—Ends: Rast, Newman, Sharpe, Maxwell, Weeks, Roberts. **Tackles:** Davis, Langdale, Richeson, Hansen, McEwen. **Guards:** Hickerson, Wyhonic, Leon, Luck, Hecht, Woodall, Kimball, Pope. **Center:** Averitte, Domnanovich, Wesley. **Backs:** DeShane, Nelson, D. Brown, Spencer, Gammon, Hanson, Harrell, Blackmon, Mosley, Sabo, Papias, Tollett, Craft.



NOVEMBER 23: Jimmy Nelson was the difference between the two teams as Alabama won over Vanderbilt by the score of 25 to 21 in Birmingham. Nelson, limping throughout the game, threw two passes for touchdowns and returned a pass which he intercepted for 48 yards to place the ball in position for another score. He was unable to punt and the kicking of both sides was very much below par with the Tide averaging 30 yards and Vandy 33.

The Commodores struck quickly. Atkinson intercepted one of Nelson's passes on the Tide 40 yard line. After Jenkins made one yard, Davis passed to Bushmaier, who had gotten behind Alabama's halfback, for a touchdown. Jenkins converted.

Later, Mosley punted to Davis who returned 10 yards to midfield. Davis' pass to Heistand was completed on the Alabama 14. Bushmaier drove to the Tide 6 yard line as the quarter ended.

Marlin went through right guard on a delayed buck for the second touchdown. Jenkins kicked goal. Later, Alabama carried the ball from her 32 to the Vandy 30 before losing the ball on downs. Vanderbilt then marched to the Tide 30 yard line as the half ended.

Early in the third quarter, Nelson intercepted a long pass thrown by Jenkins on his 39 and, with the aid of good blocking, ran to Vandy's 12 yard line, a return of 49 yards. After two line plays failed, Nelson passed to Newman for a touchdown. No goal.

Later, Alabama obtained possession of the ball on her 31. Spencer made 9 on a reverse. DeShane made 16 and then 8 more on a sneak play through the line. Spencer made 6 in two plays. Two passes failed and Vanderbilt was penalized placing the ball on the Vandy 34. Harrell made 2 and passed to Rast for 17. It required four downs to make the final five yards with Brown going over. When Hecht kicked goal, the score was Vanderbilt 14, Alabama 13.

Early in the fourth period, a short punt by Hickerson gave Vandy the ball on the Tide 44. After two plays lost ground, Davis passed to Rebrovich for 30 yards. Rebrovich made 9 and Marlin 2. Davis made a backward pass to Rebrovich who went off tackle for another touchdown. Jenkins kicked goal. Eleven minutes remained and Alabama trailed by eight points.

Brown returned the kickoff 33 yards to the Tide's 44. Rast made 12 on an end around. Three runs by Brown, Nelson and Spencer carried to Vandy's 34. Nelson passed to Rast for a touchdown. No goal. Vanderbilt 21, Alabama 19.

Hecht kicked over Vandy's goal and Goodgame returned to the Vandy 10. Davis punted 30 yards. On a series of plays, Alabama marched to Vandy's 11. When Vandy held, Hecht's try for a field goal was wide and Vandy took over on her 20. Goodgame made 3, then fumbled and Langdale recovered for Alabama on the Vandy 25. Brown made 15 but Alabama was holding and the ball was carried back to Vandy's 30. Nelson faded back and passed to Craft who caught the ball on the 20 near the sideline, dodged a Vandy tackler and ran across for a touchdown. No goal.

With less than three minutes to play, Nelson intercepted another pass thrown by Davis and Alabama froze the ball until the whistle blew ending the game.

Davis and Bushmaier were the offensive and defensive backfield stars for Vanderbilt. In the line, Gude, Atkinson and McElreath were outstanding.

For Alabama, Rast and Newman caught passes effectively, covered punts well and otherwise played excellent ball.

Vanderbilt—Ends: Heistand, McElreath. **Tackles:** Peebles, Holdgraf. **Guards:** Atkinson, Ellis. **Center:** Gude. **Backs:** Davis, Jenkins, Bushmaier, Marlin. **Substitutes:** Olsen, Harlow, Byrn, Walton, Rebrovich, Richter, Petrons, Goodgame, Holder.



NOVEMBER 30: Harvey Johnson, Mississippi State's halfback, led his team to a well deserved victory over Alabama in Denny Stadium by the score of 13 to 0. The Maroons presented an alert, fast, hard charging line in turning back four Alabama scoring threats. The sadness of the Alabama supporters in seeing their team meet defeat was softened in a way by the knowledge that the Maroons

had ended an undefeated and untied season and stood in line for an invitation to one of the New Year's games which they later received.

In the first period, Mississippi punted to midfield. Brown went through guard, fumbled and Captain Cohern, one of the Maroon stars of the game, recovered on his 45. Harvey Johnson circled left end behind good blocking and ran to the Tide 9 yard line. He then plunged through guard for the touchdown. Dees kicked goal.

Later, Johnson, in trying to pick up a rolling punt on his 4 yard line, fumbled and Wyhonic recovered. Here the Maroons dug in. On a reverse play, Brown lost 7. He tried the same play again and lost 8 more. Nelson passed to Newman but Johnson and Dees broke it up. Nelson passed to Rast and Dees batted it down over the goal.

In the second period, it was Alabama's ball on the Maroon 25 following a short punt out of bounds that went only 14 yards. Craft and Mosley failed to gain. Mosley passed to Craft on the 12 yard line. After two plays gained but two yards, Nelson passed to Rast for 5 yards. Nelson failed by inches to make a first down and the ball went over.

Alabama was still in the game, however. Nelson made a fair catch of Jefferson's punt from behind the goal on the Maroon 38. Two line plays and Nelson's pass to Newman made a first down on the Maroon 15 yard line. But Mississippi held and punted to safety. Alabama started goalward again aided by a 17 yard run by Nelson but a 5 yard penalty stopped the march and the Maroons held again as the half ended.

In the third period, both teams showed signs of offensive strength only to be stopped by alert defenses as goal lines were threatened.

In the fourth period, Alabama seemed to get started again. With the ball on the Tide 21, Craft circled end for 13 and Nelson made 8. Then Yancey intercepted a Nelson pass on the Alabama 41 and returned to the 23 yard line. Yancey swung to his right, cut back and ran 23 yards for the final score. No goal.

Alabama received and, aided by Nelson's passes to Craft and Newman, advanced the ball to the Maroon 15 but the ball again was lost on downs on the 8 yard line. Four plays later, the game ended.

Elrod, Tripson, Cohern, Johnson and Yancey were the Maroon stars as were Rast, Newan, Averitte and Nelson for the Tide.

Mississippi State—Ends: Elrod, Moore, Harrison, Varnado. **Tackles:** Tripson, Arnold, Jones, White. **Guards:** Cohern, McDowell, Ray, Grove, Carpi. **Centers:** Griffin, Price. **Backs:** Dees, Johnson, Craig, Tullos, Campbell, Jefferson, Black, Yancey.