

# 1927 SEASON

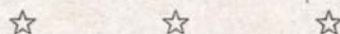
WALLACE WADE . . . . . Coach  
HENRY CRISP, RUSSELL COHEN . . . . . Assistant Coaches  
FRED PICKHARD . . . . . Captan  
WILLIAM PARTLOW . . . . . Manager

## PLAYERS

**Ends:** S. D. Beale, Hugh Starling, Graham McClintoch, Earl Smith . . . **Tackles:** Fred Pickhard, Clark Pearce, Leslie Payne, Molton Smith, James Skidmore, Cecil Hurt . . . **Guards:** James Bowdoin, Ellis Hagler, James McDonald, Roy Dismukes . . . **Center:** George Dye . . . **Backs:** William Hicks, Harry Holder, Davis Brasfield, Friar Tuck, Archie Taylor, Tolbert Brown, Tony Holm, Neal Rogers, R. L. Hamner, William Brown.



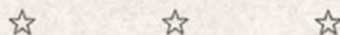
**SEPTEMBER 24:** Alabama scored in every quarter to defeat Millsaps on the campus by the score of 46 to 0. Touchdowns were made by Holm 2, Taylor, Brown, Hicks, McClintoch and Brasfield. Archie Taylor returned a punt 55 yards through the entire Millsaps team for a score while Brasfield ran 80 yards.



**SEPTEMBER 30:** Alabama defeated the Lynx of Southwestern Presbyterian University on the campus by the score of 31 to 0, playing a very ragged game. Touchdowns were made by Brown, Holm, Brasfield 2 and Hicks.

Brasfield, sophomore back, who did not go out for Spring training, showed considerable promise as did Holm, a hard charging fullback. Beale also showed up well at end.

For the visitors, Dulion, guard, Waring, end, and King, tackle, were outstanding.



**OCTOBER 8:** Alabama and the Tigers of Louisiana State University met in Birmingham in a down pour of rain and a sea of mud, the game ending in a scoreless tie. Alabama showed a team that was superior to the Tigers on offense but poor handling of the ball and some spectacular and consistent punting by Mason of the Tigers more than offset any advantage that the Tide possessed. As a matter of fact, Alabama was fortunate to get out with a tie.

In the first half, Brasfield was behind his own goal to punt. The pass from center was bad and the ball got away from Brasfield, who recovered it and kicked out with his left foot. Later, Archie Taylor received a bad pass from center behind his goal, recovered the ball and then ran it out to a grassy spot on the infield.

Neesom and Tinsley, tackles, and Freeman, end, were the stars for L. S. U. along with Mason.

Alabama's backs were inexperienced as a whole but Holm, Brasfield and Taylor showed plenty of drive and power.



**OCTOBER 15:** Georgia Tech, held scoreless by Alabama for four years, paraded a smooth, aggressive and powerful eleven to defeat the Crimson Tide in Atlanta by the score of 13 to 0. A crowd of 25,000 witnessed the game.

In the second period, it was Tech's ball on her own 40. Line plays and end runs advanced the ball to the Alabama 30 yard line. Stumpy Thomason swung to his left, cut inside Alabama's right end, and, driving with tremendous power, dodged Alabama's right halfback and scored. He also kicked goal.

In the final two minutes of play, Watkins of Tech recovered a fumble on the Alabama one yard line. Mizell went over for the last touchdown.

The Tech team was loaded with future stars and they all gave good accounts of themselves. Thomason ran with tremendous speed and drive. Durant was a fine quarterback, while Mizell, Parham and Randolph were outstanding on offense and defense.

Tech used two lines from tackle to tackle and the Tide simply couldn't outcharge them consistently,

although Alabama did gain 188 yards and 13 first downs to 144 yards and 8 first downs for Tech. Pund, center, and Speer, tackle, were the line stars.

Red Brown, Alabama's only experienced back, was outstanding. How he must have missed Red Barnes, Cupe Perry and Herschel Caldwell! Archie Taylor, although crippled, ran 40 yards on one play but was caught from behind by Watkins on Tech's 11 yard line in the final period.

Alabama lost because two things that made her invincible in recent years—hard blocking and deadly tackling—were conspicuous by their absence.

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**OCTOBER 22:** Alabama's sophomore backs showed plenty of drive in defeating Sewanee in Birmingham by the score of 24 to 0.

In the first period, Alabma scored three times. Friar Tuck returned the opening kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown. Later, it was Alabama's ball on her own 35. Brasfield went off tackle for 20 yards. McClintoch made 14. On a double reverse, Brown gained 7. After McClintoch made 3 yards, Brown scored.

Babe Pearce blocked a Sewanee punt and Beale, end, fell on the ball over the goal for the score.

In the second period, it was Alabama's ball on her 35. Brasfield punted to Young who was tackled on the Tiger 1 yard line. Hamner intercepted a pass thrown by Schoolfield of Sewanee from behind his own goal and ran it back to the Sewanee 5 yard line. On the fourth down, Brasfield scored.

For Sewanee, Schoolfield gave a fine exhibition of punting while Esdorn and Spencer, ends, played well in the line.

Skidmore was the line star for Alabama along with Pearce and Earl Smith. Brasfield was outstanding in the backfield.

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**OCTOBER 29:** Alabama and Mississippi A. and M. met in one of the hardest fought games of the year on the campus, Alabama scoring in the final quarter to win by the score of 13 to 7, after trailing 7 to 6. A crowd of 7,000 witnessed the game.

In the first period, the Maroons recovered a fumbled punt and drove down the field to the Tide 20. Pappenheimer, quarterback, dropped back to pass. Pearce rushed in, snatched the ball from Pappenheimer's hands and ran for the score. Goal was missed.

In the third period, Alabama fumbled a punt on her own 40 and Captain Brunson recovered. Pappenheimer and Pickens made a first down. Chadwick's pass to Pappenheimer gained 12 yards to the Tide's 3. Line plays failed and Chadwick passed to Gregory over the goal for the score. Chadwick kicked goal.

In the final quarter, Hicks circled end for 50 yards being tackled from behind by McElveen, Maroon center. The Maroons held on their two yard line and, when a pass over the goal was incomplete, the ball went over. Chadwick punted to midfield and six minutes remained. Brasfield passed to Red Brown, who caught the ball on the Maroon 40, cut back behind good blocking and scored. Bowdoin kicked goal and the game ended a few minutes later.

Bowdoin, Hagler, Skidmore and Pickhard were the line stars for Alabama as were Hicks, Brown and Brasfield in the backfield.

For the Maroons, Chadwick was a splendid punter and passer. Weir and Thompson, guards, Brunson, Gregeory and Hartness formed an excellent line.

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**NOVEMBER 5:** Alabama defeated a light team of Kentucky Wildcats 21 to 6 in Birmingham after trailing 6 to 0 at the half.

In the first period, Taylor and Holm advanced the ball 27 yards to the Tide 45 where Hicks fumbled and Covington recovered and ran to the Tide 5 yard line. Mohny scored but Bowdoin blocked Mohny's attempted drop kick for the extra point.

The Tide drove into Kentucky territory several times during the half but Kentucky stiffened when danger threatened.

In the third period, a short punt gave Alabama the ball on the Wildcat 32. Taylor and Holm made a first down. Taylor then passed to Skidmore, end, for a touchdown and Bowdoin kicked goal.

Earl Smith returned the kickoff 23 yards. After Holm and Taylor gained 5 yards, Taylor passed to Earl Smith who ran to the Kentucky 29. Another pass between the same parties moved the ball to the 15 yard line. Four plays later, Holm scored and Bowdoin kicked goal.

In the last period, Red Brown intercepted a pass on the Tide 38. Alabama drove 62 yards in 17 plays with Holm carrying the ball 13 times and scoring. Bowdoin converted.

Kentucky's lack of weight proved to be a serious handicap. They presented a fine tackling team as well as a real tackle in Drury. Walters and Portwood were first class ends in spite of their weight.



**NOVEMBER 12:** "Cannon Ball" Clyde Crabtree of the Florida Gators, who can punt with either foot, while running or standing, but who very definitely runs on both feet, as the Crimson Tide will verify, led his team mates to a thrilling and deserved victory over a favored Alabama team at Montgomery by the score of 13 to 6.

In the first period, as the result of punt exchanges, it was Alabama's ball on the Florida 35 yard line. Two first downs carried to the 15 where Florida held with the aid of a penalty and punted to safety.

In the second period, Crabtree took Brasfield's punt on his 5 yard line and raced 95 yards for a touchdown. It was a combination of poor tackling by Alabama and shifty running by Crabtree, who showed an excellent change of pace. Bishop kicked goal.

In the fourth period, Molton Smith intercepted one of Crabtree's passes on the Florida 45 and ran across for a touchdown. Goal was missed.

Later, in the fourth period, Brasfield passed to Taylor who stepped, out of bounds before he caught the ball and then ran back on the field. The ball was given to Florida on the Tide 15 yard line. A few plays later, Brumbaugh scored on an end run.

Crabtree, of course, was Florida's star. He rolled up 271 yards during the afternoon. Florida's line, outweighed 10 to 15 pounds per man, played heroically with Van Sickle and Stanley, ends, Clemons, tackle, and Alex Reeves, a Montgomery boy, playing alert football.

Bowdoin was Alabama's outstanding star.



**NOVEMBER 24:** A superior Georgia team, led by Nash and Shiver, perhaps the best pair of ends in the nation, and Roy Estes, punter and passer de luxe, defeated Alabama, playing her best game of the year, by the score of 20 to 6 before 25,000 fans at Legion Field in Birmingham. The game marked the first appearance of these two teams on Legion Field, which was dedicated the pervious Saturday.

In the first quarter, Brasfield, starting from his own 20, circled end for 45 yards to the Georgia 35. Hicks fumbled and Georgia recovered. McCrary and Estes made 9. Alabama lost 5 for offside. Estes passed to Nash to the Tide 29. Three plays later, Estes passed to Nash over the goal for the score. Johnson converted.

Alabama marched into Georgia territory but Boland, center, intercepted a pass on his 28 and returned 40 yards to the Tide 32. McCrary made 25 yards and, four plays later, Estes scored. Johnson again kicked goal. Georgia 14, Alabama 0.

In the third period, it was Georgia's ball on her own 37. Alabama was penalized 15 yards for holding. Estes passed to Nash over the center of the line for 18 yards. He then threw another over the goal to Nash for a touchdown.

Late in the fourth period, Alabama advanced the ball to Georgia's 37. Brasfield dropped back to pass and, seeing no receiver open, started running. He dodged three tacklers behind the line, evaded three more who dived for him and scored on the most sensational play of the game.

Johnson, a smart field general, Dudley, the finest defensive back of the day, and Smith, an excellent guard, headed a team of Georgia stars.

Brasfield was the Tide's backfield star with his sensational running and passing. Bowdoin starred in the line.

The game was hard fought but clean. Hagler and Hicks were knocked unconscious. Hagler and Holm collided while diving for McCrary, Holm losing a few teeth and Hagler receiving a scalp wound.

**DECEMBER 3:** Bounding Bill Spears, Vanderbilt's All-American runner, passer, punter and quarterback, piloted the good ship Commodore over, around and through the waves and white caps of the Crimson Tide in the final game of the season in Birmingham before a crowd of 20,000, who braved the elements and risked pneumonia to see a great game: Spears ended his football career as Vanderbilt won by the score of 14 to 7.

Alabama kicked off and Vanderbilt wasted no time in disclosing her intentions. Spears made 9 and Armistead 6 through the line. Owens made 9. Short plunges by Spears, Armistead and Owens moved the ball to the Tide 34. Spears passed to Armistead for 20 yards. Three plays carried to the Tide 3 where Armistead scored. Spears kicked goal.

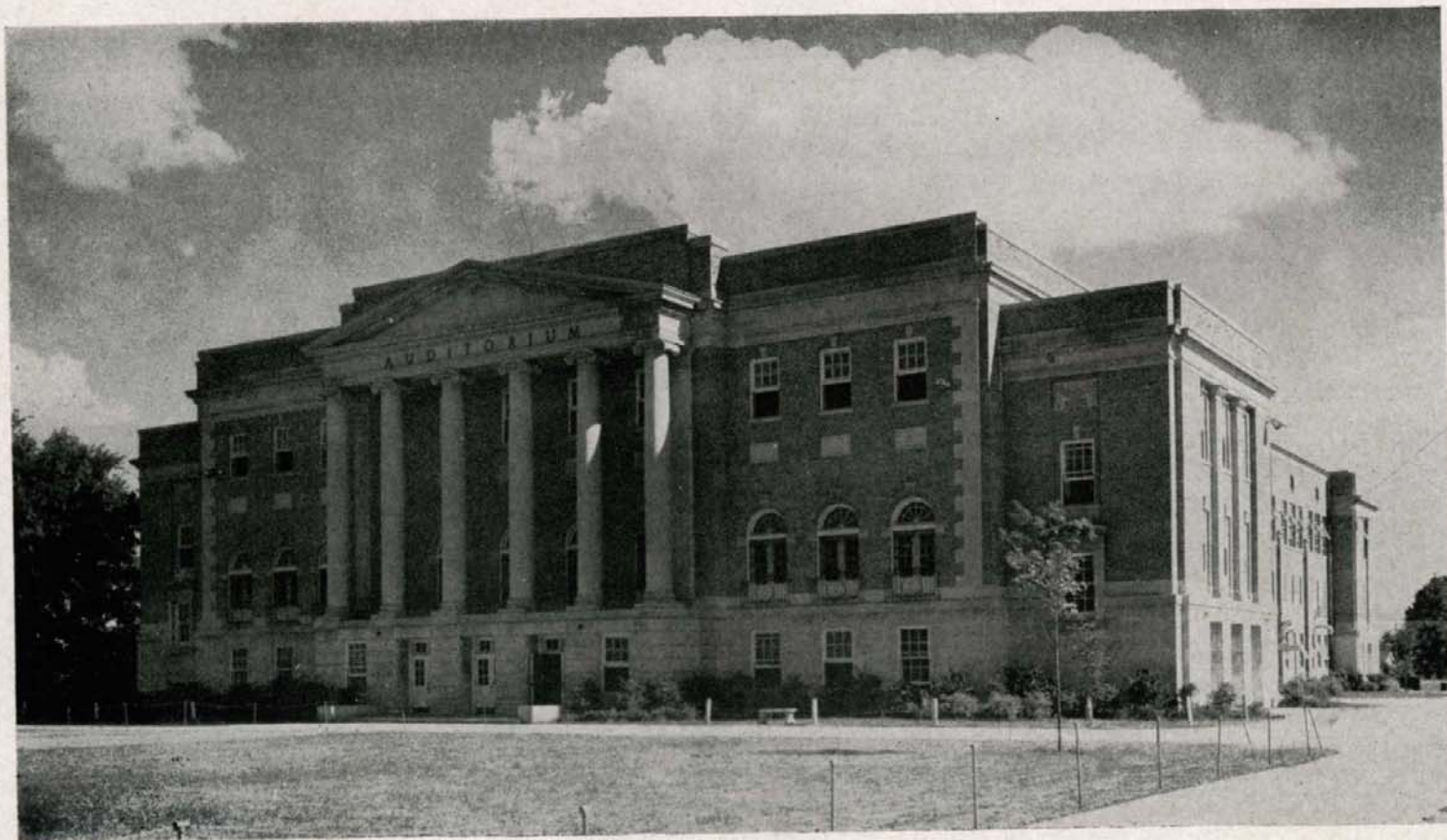
Brasfield returned the kickoff 30 yards and Alabama drove to the Vandy 30 yard line before the threat ended. Vandy punted and the Tide came roaring back to the Vandy 33, aided by a 13 yard run by Holm. Holm then circled end for 23 yards to the 10 yard line. The Commodore's held again on the 5 and the ball went over. The quarter ended a few plays later.

The second period opened with Rogers returning a Spears' punt to Vanderbilt's 38 yard line—a return of 36 yards. Holm hit the line four times for 11 yards. Red Brown on a reverse ran 23 yards to Vandy's 4. Two plays later, Holm scored and Bowdoin kicked goal. The score was tied and Alabama was making a game of it after all.

The third period was scoreless but Vanderbilt started another drive in the fourth period from her own 21. Spears circled end for 34 yards, being tackled by Starling when he seemed to be in the open. Spears passed to Creeson for 10. Spears ran 6, then 13 more around end and the ball was on the Alabama 16 yard line. After Spears and Armistead made 7, Spears passed to Gibson for a touchdown. Spears kicked goal.

From the above and foregoing, it is apparent that Spears did about everything a good football player can do. But the story is incomplete. He gained 184 yards from scrimmage—6 yards more than the entire Alabama backfield made. He threw 15 passes and completed 8 for 77 yards. And his selection of plays was flawless. Creeson, end, Lusky, tackle and Shap, center, were outstanding in the Vanderbilt line.

Holm and Brown were the backfield stars for Alabama. Brasfield was injured early in the game which doubtless affected his playing. McClintoch, playing his best game of the year, Bowdoin and Molton Smith were the line stars for Alabama.



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