



January 2, 1939

St. Mary's 20, Texas Tech 13

Attendance - 40,000

GAME SUMMARY



St. Mary's	7	7	6	0	- 20
Texas Tech	0	0	0	13	- 13

First Quarter:

St. Mary's-Ed Heffernan 9 run (Mike Perrie kick), 38 yards in 6 plays following fumble recovery by Whitey Smith

Second Quarter:

St. Mary's-Michael Klotovich 1 run (Andy Marefos kick), 40 yards following punt

Third Quarter:

St. Mary's-Whitey Smith 24 interception return (Perrie kick fail)

Fourth Quarter:

Texas Tech-Elmer Tarbox 33 pass from Gene Barnett (Jodie Marek kick), 76 yards in 4 plays following kickoff

Texas Tech-E. J. McKnight 31 pass from Barnett (Marek kick fail), 65 yards in 9 plays following St. Mary kickoff (losing team had receiving option)

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Jerry Dowd, St. Mary's
Elmer Tarbox, Texas Tech

COACHES

Slip Madigan, St. Mary's
Pete Cawthon, Texas Tech

WEATHER

Ideal

If football had a collegiate "darling" in 1938, then it must have been St. Mary's College of California, and by a landslide. In fact, sportswriters went as far as to tag the Gaels as America's No. 1 Cinderella team. St. Mary's counted 31 sophomores on its 47-man roster. Still, the youthful Gaels came to Texas with an impressive 5-2-0 record to face unbeaten Texas Tech, the nation's 11th-ranked team. The Red Raiders had compiled a 10-0 record and felt a Cotton Bowl victory might enhance their chances of gaining admission into the Southwest Conference.

But, St. Mary's stood in the way. Turnovers proved to be Tech's downfall, as the Gaels picked off five Red Raider passes and scooped up three Tech fumbles. By halftime, St. Mary's held a 14-0 lead on touchdown runs by Ed Heffernan and sophomore sensation Michael Klotovich. As the third quarter came to an end, the Gaels extended their lead to 20-0 when Whitey Smith returned an interception 24 yards for the Gaels' third and final score. It was a tough day for Tech. Everytime the Raiders worked themselves out of a hole, St. Mary's Jerry Dowd, the nation's leading punter, kicked them back in.

However, it was in the final period that the Red Raiders finally got to work, and it was the arm of Gene Barnett that sparked the comeback. With the ball resting at its 24, Tech launched its bid, moving steadily up the field to reach the Gaels' 33-yard line. On first down, Barnett faded back to pass. Just as his protection was beginning to cave in, he flipped a short screen pass to Elmer Tarbox who was waiting with a solid wall of blockers ahead of him. Tarbox made the reception and then swivel-hipped his way downfield, outrunning Klotovich to the end zone for Tech's first score. Four minutes later, Barnett came through again. This time throwing on fourth down to his tallest receiver, E. J. McKnight, for 31 yards and the touchdown. A missed extra point attempt left Tech trailing by seven.

Barnett now readied himself for one last scoring attempt. Late in the fourth quarter, Barnett dropped back to throw again behind good protection, and let it fly for George Webb. Webb made the catch with nothing but the goal line in front of him. But, Lou Rimassa made what had to be the defensive play of the game, hauling Webb down from behind. The play cover 60 yards, however the Raiders could go no further than the Gaels' 15-yard line. It was a sensational finish, but on this day, the Sanford Trophy was meant to go home with those California "darlings."

FUN FACT #3

Texas Tech waited 56 years to represent the Southwest Conference in the Cotton Bowl. The Red Raiders earned their first trip to the Classic in 1939 as representatives of the Border Conference. Then, six decades later on January 2, 1995, Tech finally got its wish to serve as the Cotton Bowl's host team against USC. It happened just in the nick of time, too. The 1995 Classic was the SWC's final Cotton Bowl appearance.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	St. Mary's	Tech
First Downs	11	7
Net Yards Rushing	180	73
Net Yards Passing	22	210
Passes	2-15-2	11-31-5
Total Net Yards	202	283
Fumbles-Lost	1	3
Penalties-Yards	8-65	5-30
Punts-Average	11-47.5	11-34.3

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

Texas Tech: Barnett 11-23, 210 yards.

PUNTING

St. Mary's: Dowd 11-45.7