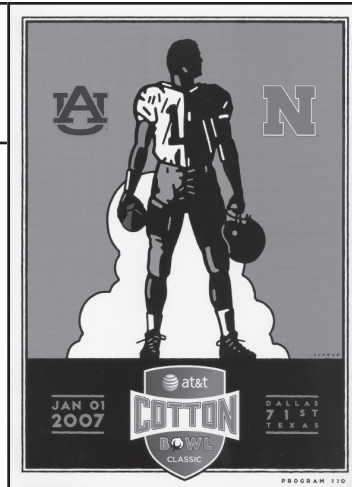


2007
JANUARY 1

AUBURN
NEBRASKA

17
14



ATTENDANCE: **66,777**

Nearly two decades had passed since Auburn ran its way into the AT&T Cotton Bowl behind the power running of Bo Jackson. This time around, the Tigers relied less on their offense and more on a bruising defense that continually shut down their opponents. The same was said after the 71st AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic.

Nebraska brought in a pro-style offense that was capable of rolling up large chunks of yards quickly, but Auburn's defense held to form and kept the Cornhuskers in check.

Auburn capitalized on two early Husker turnovers, and its defense made a critical fourth-down stop in the closing minutes to help the Tigers secure a 17-14 victory on New Year's Day.

"We were lucky to be in the game after the first half. And that's typical of Auburn – win and win ugly," said the Tigers' Tommy Tuberville, who coached his 100th game at Auburn. "That's what we did today. We found a way."

Under bright, sunny skies, a crowd of 66,777 watched as Auburn's John Vaughn provided the margin of victory with a 42-yard field goal with 6:20 left in the third quarter – marking the second straight year for the Field Scovell Trophy winner to be determined by a three-pointer.

Auburn, representing the SEC, finished 11-2 and was 33-5-0 – the school's best three-year record in terms of victories. The Tigers victory marked the fourth-straight SEC victory in the AT&T Cotton Bowl. Nebraska, representing the Big 12 Conference as North Division Champions, finished 9-5.

Auburn's Courtney Taylor, who caught six passes for 70 yards, received the Sanford Trophy, which honors the game's outstanding offensive player and commemorates Cotton Bowl Classic founder J. Curtis Sanford. Taylor finished his career as Auburn's record holder for 153 career pass receptions.

Auburn linebacker Will Herring, who was credited with seven solo tackles, received the McKnight Trophy, which recognizes the classic's outstanding defensive player and commemorates Felix McKnight, a celebrated newspaperman and long-time chairman of the Cotton Bowl Team Selection Committee.

When Nebraska's Stewart Bradley covered Cox's fumble at the Auburn 42 with 5:24 remaining, the Cornhuskers seemed in position to overtake the Tigers. But the Auburn defense stiffened at its 27, stopping a shovel pass for a two-yard loss on third down and forcing an incompletion on fourth down.

Nebraska's 15-play, 80-yard scoring drive on the Classic's opening possession was a timely blend of Marlon Lucky's running and Zac Taylor's third-down passing. Taylor's 13-yard throw to Nate Swift helped Nebraska to a 7-0 lead with 7:37 remaining in the first quarter.

Momentum swung suddenly in Auburn's direction late in the first quarter on Tiger linebacker Karibe Dede's 52-yard pass interception and return to the Nebraska nine. On second down, Brandon Cox threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to Carl Stewart, enabling the Tigers to even the score with 56 seconds remaining in the period.

On the fourth play of the second quarter, Nebraska's fake punt trickery from its 29 backfired, with Auburn's Tristan Davis covering the ensuing fumble at Nebraska's 14. Cox's 12-yard pass to Taylor gave Auburn a first down at the Nebraska one. Stewart scored from there on second down, putting Auburn in front, 14-7.

Nebraska evened the score on its next possession, moving 72 yards in seven plays. Brandon Jackson got the touchdown, sprinting 20 yards on a misdirection play over left tackle with nine minutes remaining in the half. The score stayed that way until Vaughn's kick. On fourth down from the Auburn 30 with just under four minutes to play, Nebraska chose not to attempt a possible game-tying field goal. Callahan explained later that the distance was beyond the comfort range set by the coaches before kickoff.

Auburn's defense ended up pitching a shutout in the second half, and despite Nebraska's big-play potential, the Tigers clamped down and walked away with a 17-14 victory and the Field Scovell Trophy.

Game Summary

AUBURN	7	7	3	0	17
NEBRASKA	7	7	0	0	14

FIRST QUARTER

Nebraska: Nate Swift 13 pass from Zac Taylor (Jordan Congdon kick), 7:37, 80 yards in 15 plays following opening kick.
Auburn: Carl Stewart 9 pass from Brandon Cox(John Vaughn kick), :56, 9 yards in 2 plays following interception.

SECOND QUARTER

Auburn: Stewart 1 run (Vaughn kick), 12:22, 14 yards in 4 plays following fumble recovery by Tristan Davis.
Nebraska: Brandon Jackson 20 run (Congdon kick), 9:00, 72 yards in 7 plays following kickoff.

THIRD QUARTER

Auburn: Vaughn 42 FG, 6:20, 55 yards in 10 plays following punt.

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Courtney Taylor, Auburn
Will Herring, Auburn

COACHES

Tommy Tuberville, Auburn
Bill Callahan, Nebraska

WEATHER

Clear, cool, wind N/NW 10mph, 46 degrees

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	AUBURN	NEB.
First Downs	12	17
Rushing	5	6
Passing	6	8
Penalty	1	3
Rushes-Net Yards	35-67	38-104
Net Yards Passing	111	126
Passes	10-21-0	14-27-1
Total Plays	56	65
Total Net Yards	178	230
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-45	4-45
Punts-Average	6-43.0	6-40.2

RUSHING

Auburn: Irons 24-72, Tate 4-23, Taylor 1-3, Stewart 1-1, Cox 5-(-32).
Nebraska: Lucky 25-88, Jackson 7-38, Nunn 1-(-2), Taylor 4-(-5), Todd 1-(-15).

PASSING

Auburn: Cox 10-21-0, 111 yards.
Nebraska: Taylor 14-26-1, 126 yards.

RECEIVING

Auburn: Taylor 6-70, Rodriguez 1-18, McKenzie 1-12, Stewart 1-9, Irons 1-2.
Nebraska: Lucky 6-67, Swift 3-44, Jackson 2-(-6), Purify 1-9, Nunn 1-8, Todd 1-4.

PUNTING

Auburn: Bliss 6-43.0.
Nebraska: Titchener 5-41.6, Congdon 1-33.0.