

= 2013 Cotton Bowl Classic =

The 2013 AT & T Cotton Bowl Classic was a post @-@ season American college football bowl game held on January 4 , 2013 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington , Texas in the United States . The 77th edition of the Cotton Bowl Classic began at 7 : 00 p.m. CST and aired on Fox Sports . It featured the Texas A & M Aggies from the Southeastern Conference (SEC) against the Big 12 Conference co @-@ champion Oklahoma Sooners and was the final game of the 2012 NCAA Division I FBS football season for both teams . Both the Aggies and the Sooners accepted their invitations after finishing the regular season 10 ? 2 .

The pre @-@ game buildup was primarily focused on the two high @-@ powered offenses , both of whom were led by strong passing attacks led by quarterbacks Johnny Manziel and Landry Jones respectively . Both teams also had several quality wide receivers , but both were average to below average defensively . Experts were split in their prognostications , but most predicted a high @-@ scoring game .

Texas A & M defeated Oklahoma 41 ? 13 to win the Cotton Bowl Classic and to finish the season with an 11 ? 2 record . Manziel rushed for 229 yards during the game , a bowl record , rushing for two touchdowns and throwing for two more . Though the halftime score was 14 ? 13 Texas A & M , the Aggies went on to score 27 unanswered second half points to win the game .

= = Teams = =

= = = Oklahoma = = =

With an 8 ? 1 conference record , the Sooners once again won a share of the Big 12 Championship ; however , their loss to the Kansas State Wildcats prevented them from reaching the 2013 Fiesta Bowl spot . In addition , the non @-@ AQ Northern Illinois Huskies completed the qualifications to go to the 2013 Orange Bowl , leaving the Sooners out of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) .

This was the Sooners ' second Cotton Bowl ; they had won the 2002 game , defeating the Arkansas Razorbacks by a score of 10 ? 3 . The Sooners were the first team since Florida in 1993 to play against the teams with the top 3 Heisman vote @-@ getters for that season (having played against 3rd @-@ place finisher Collin Klein from Kansas State , runner @-@ up Manti Te 'o from Notre Dame , and Heisman winner Manziel from Texas A & M) ; they lost to all three .

= = = Texas A & M = = =

The Aggies ' first season as members of the SEC was led by freshman quarterback and 2012 Heisman Trophy winner Manziel , the Aggies posted a 6 ? 2 conference record (10 ? 2 overall) , good for a second @-@ place tie in the SEC West Division (tied with the LSU Tigers) . In perhaps their biggest game of the season , the Aggies defeated defending national champions and 2013 BCS National Championship Game participants the Alabama Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa , 29 ? 24 .

This was the Aggies ' thirteenth Cotton Bowl appearance ; with the win they hold a 5 ? 8 record in the game . With the appearance the Aggies became the first program to participate in the Cotton Bowl as members of three different conferences with automatic Cotton Bowl tie @-@ ins (the Southwest Conference , the Big 12 , and the SEC) .

= = Pre @-@ game buildup = =

Coming into the game , much of the buildup surrounded the matchup of two top @-@ flight quarterbacks , senior Landry Jones for Oklahoma and Heisman Trophy winner freshman Johnny Manziel for Texas A & M , both of whom ranked in the top @-@ 15 nationally in passing yards . In the all @-@ time series between the two schools , Oklahoma had won 19 games to Texas A & M 's

11 . This was the teams ' first meeting since Texas A & M left the Big 12 for the SEC . Aggies coach Kevin Sumlin had been an assistant under Bob Stoops ; coming into the game Stoops was 13 ? 4 against his former assistants .

= = = Oklahoma = = =

Oklahoma compiled a 10 win , 2 loss record during the regular season and was left out of the BCS for the second consecutive year .

= = = = Offense = = = =

Oklahoma ' s offense was led by their senior quarterback Jones who was primarily responsible for the Sooners ' 224 passing first downs , which was best in the country , and their 52 @. @ 2 third down conversion success rate , which was fourth @- @ best in the country . Jones , a senior who was ranked by ESPN as the number five quarterback prospect for the 2013 NFL Draft , completed 66 % of his 555 passes totaling 4267 yards , which was second @- @ best in the country , and 30 touchdowns . Jones threw primarily to a trio of upperclassmen wide receivers each of whom ended the season with more than 800 receiving yards , junior Kenny Stills , junior Jalen Saunders , who transferred in the offseason from Fresno State , and senior Justin Brown , who transferred to the Sooners in the offseason amid sanctions from the NCAA in wake of the Penn State child sex abuse scandal . Oklahoma ' s rushing attack , which was second @- @ worst in the Big 12 in terms of total yards , was led by juniors Damien Williams and Brennan Clay , who amassed 946 yards and 11 touchdowns and 555 yards and 6 touchdowns respectively .

= = = = Defense = = = =

Oklahoma ' s defense improved after head coach Bob Stoops ' brother , former Sooners co @- @ defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach Mike Stoops , returned to Oklahoma as the defensive coordinator after having served the previous seven and a half seasons as head coach of the Arizona Wildcats where he totaled 41 wins and 50 losses and was fired mid way through the 2011 season . Oklahoma ' s defense was led in tackles by safety Tony Jefferson , who recorded 113 becoming just the sixth Sooner defensive back ever to amass more than 100 . In addition to Jefferson , Oklahoma was represented by defensive back Aaron Colvin on the All @- @ Big 12 first team and defensive lineman David King and defensive back Demontre Hurst on the second team .

= = = Texas A & M = = =

It was announced on December 12 , 2012 that Texas A & M ' s offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury had left the university for the head coaching position at his alma mater , Texas Tech . Consequently , coach Kevin Sumlin announced that running backs coach and recruiting coordinator Clarence McKinney would call plays during the bowl .

= = = = Offense = = = =

The Aggies ' offense averaged 44 @. @ 8 points per game , third in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) . A & M ' s offense was led in both passing and rushing by Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Johnny Manziel . Manziel threw primarily to two receivers , fellow redshirt freshman Mike Evans , who totaled 82 receptions for 1105 yards and 5 touchdowns , and senior Ryan Swope , who totaled 72 receptions for 913 yards and 8 touchdowns . Together , the duo combined for 45 percent of the Aggies ' targets , catching 139 of 199 passes for 1 @, @ 845 yards and 12 touchdowns . Aside from Manziel , junior Ben Malena amassed 808 rushing yards and 8 touchdowns , while senior Christine Michael scored 8 rushing touchdowns to go along with 417 rushing yards . The Aggies also had two projected first @- @ round draft picks on their offensive line

, junior tackles Luke Joeckel and Jake Matthews .

===== Defense =====

The Aggies ' defense was led by first @-@ year defensive coordinator Mark Snyder , who had been a head coach at Marshall and defensive coordinator for Ohio State . Their leading tackler was junior defensive lineman Damontre Moore , who achieved first @-@ team All @-@ SEC accolades during the regular season and declared early to enter the 2013 NFL Draft , where he is considered one of the top prospects , and was the second overall pick in Todd McShay 's initial mock draft .

===== Game summary =====

===== First quarter =====

Texas A & M got the ball to start the game and marched down the field on an 8 @-@ play , 75 @-@ yard drive that culminated in the first of Manziel 's two rushing touchdowns , the first of which went for 23 yards . Oklahoma took over at their own 25 yardline after a touchback on the kickoff . Jones was 6 / 8 for 43 yards passing on the drive . The Sooners got as far as second and goal at the one yardline prior to two failed plays and a false start penalty that set up a 23 @-@ yard field goal to make the score 7 ? 3 Texas A & M. The drive totaled 16 plays and 69 yards in 5 : 43 . On the ensuing drive , Texas A & M was forced to punt after achieving only one first down .

===== Second quarter =====

Oklahoma 's next drive ran 18 plays and 87 yards taking up 7 : 26 . Once again , the Sooners stalled in the red zone and were again forced to settle for a field goal , this time a 24 @-@ yarder by Michael Hunnicutt . The next two drives by Texas A & M and Oklahoma both ended in interceptions thrown by Manziel and Jones respectively . Texas A & M took over at the Oklahoma 48 yardline following Jones ' interception . A trick play to start the drive resulted in senior wide receiver Kenric McNeal throwing a 20 @-@ yard pass to Mike Evans . On the next play , running back Ben Malena running the ball 23 yards to the five yardline . Manziel ran for a 5 @-@ yard touchdown on the next play to make the score 14 ? 6 . Oklahoma 's next drive lasted 13 plays and 83 yards that culminated in a 6 @-@ yard touchdown pass from Jones to Justin Brown .

===== Third quarter =====

Oklahoma 's first second @-@ half drive resulted in a quick three @-@ and @-@ out . After a 58 @-@ yard punt by Tress Way which was downed at the Texas A & M 9 @-@ yard line . Despite the poor field position , the Aggies put together a 7 @-@ play , 91 @-@ yard drive highlighted by a 35 @-@ yard pass from Manziel to Uzoma Nwachukwu and finished with a 7 @-@ yard touchdown run by Malena . Oklahoma had another three @-@ and @-@ out on their next drive . Texas A & M subsequently established a 7 @-@ play , 89 @-@ yard drive that featured three consecutive completed passes from Manziel to Malcome Kennedy and concluded with a 30 @-@ yard rushing touchdown by Trey Williams . Oklahoma 's next drive was their third consecutive three @-@ and @-@ out . Texas A & M then scored their third consecutive touchdown , this time on a 33 @-@ yard pass from Manziel to Ryan Swope making the score 34 ? 13 . Oklahoma then ran a 7 @-@ play , 31 @-@ yard drive before punting to end the quarter .

===== Fourth quarter =====

Texas A & M had their first three @-@ and @-@ out of the game to begin the fourth quarter . Oklahoma achieved one first down on their subsequent drive before turning the ball over on downs .

Texas A & M scored for the final time of the game on their ensuing drive via a 34 @-@ yard touchdown pass from Manziel to Nwachukwu to make the score 41 ? 13 . Oklahoma and Texas A & M then exchanged punts before the final drive of the game by Oklahoma which lasted four plays prior to time running out .

= = Scoring summary = =

= = = Statistics = = =

= = = = Team statistics = = = =

= = = = Individual statistics = = = =

= = = = = Passing = = = = =

= = = = = Rushing = = = = =

Manziel 's 229 @-@ yard performance set an FBS record for most rushing yards in a bowl game .

= = = = = Receiving = = = = =