

2001
JANUARY 1

KANSAS STATE
TENNESSEE

35
21



ATTENDANCE: **63,465**

The 65th Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic proved to be a battle of experience against youth. The wily veterans of Kansas State had one last bit of unfinished business. Tennessee was all that stood between the Wildcats and their fourth-consecutive 11-win season. Entering the Classic, Tennessee was on a tear. The Volunteers, 8-3, led by freshmen quarterback Casey Clausen, rolled off six straight wins and had outscored their opponents 206-107 in that stretch, despite having only two senior starters on offense. Tennessee's defense was anchored by John Henderson, the fifth Outland Trophy winner to play in the Classic. Kansas State, 10-3, was fresh from a narrow loss to Oklahoma, the eventual national champion, in the Big 12 Championship. The Wildcats, with 11 senior starters on offense and defense, were hungry to finish the year on a positive note.

An overnight winter storm blanketed the Cotton Bowl's playing surface in white but did nothing to dampen Kansas State's offensive attack as the Wildcats stormed to a 35-21 victory. K-State senior quarterback Jonathan Beasley ushered in the New Year by throwing for two touchdowns and rushing for another while en route to earning Outstanding Offensive Player honors.

After halftime, most of the snow had evaporated along with Tennessee's chances of winning. The No. 21 Volunteers saw a 21-14 halftime deficit expand to 35-14 just five minutes into the third quarter.

K-State junior running back Josh Scobey scored twice in the third quarter on runs of 12 and six yards. However, it was Beasley's steady control of the offense that made the difference. His 308 yards in total offense were the second-most in Cotton Bowl history. Entering the Classic, Beasley had compiled only 500 rushing yards all season, but he saved his best rushing performance for last. He ran for 98 yards on 17 carries, including a 14-yard touchdown run to open the scoring at 5:46 in the first quarter.

The Vols responded to Beasley's challenge when Clausen connected with wide receiver David Martin on a 17-yard touchdown pass to tie the score at 7-7 in the opening minutes of the second quarter. He became only the second true freshman to start at quarterback in a bowl for Tennessee behind Peyton Manning. Clausen was also the third true-freshman quarterback to ever start in a Cotton Bowl Classic.

The Wildcats regained the lead a minute later when Beasley threw a 56-yard touchdown strike to Quincy Morgan. Morgan, a senior from Garland, Texas, put on a show for the hometown crowd and added another touchdown reception on the Wildcats' next possession, hooking up with Beasley one more time on a 10-yard pass play. He finished the day with 145 yards on seven receptions. In front 21-7, Kansas State was hoping to put the game out of reach on its ensuing drive, but Tennessee's Jabari Greer picked off Beasley and returned the interception 78 yards for a touchdown. Greer's defensive heroics trimmed the lead to 21-14 at halftime and brought a wild first half to a close. The combined total points in the first 30 minutes was the second highest total in Cotton Bowl history.

By the start of the third quarter, Tennessee's struggle was not with the elements, but rather, finding a way to stop Kansas State's unrelenting ground attack. The Wildcats rolled up 179 yards rushing in the second half on a Tennessee defense that had allowed just 74.3 rushing yards a game during the season. Scobey finished with 147 yards on 28 carries, including his two third-quarter touchdown runs. With a 35-14 score at the end of the third quarter, the outcome of the Classic seemed inevitable.

Kansas State's defense kept Tennessee at bay by holding Clausen to 7-of-25 passing for 120 yards and three interceptions. Senior defensive end Chris Johnson, the Outstanding Defensive Player of the game, accounted for both of K-State's sacks.

Tennessee's bright spot offensively came from senior tailback Travis Henry who managed 180 rushing yards on 17 carries, including an 81-yard touchdown scamper with 2:44 remaining, the second longest scoring run in the game's 65-year history. Henry's 10.6 average yards per carry also was a notable achievement as the second best rushing effort at the Cotton Bowl.

Yet it wasn't enough. The sea of purple-clad Kansas State fans numbering nearly 35,000 were witness to a dominant performance on both sides of the ball by a veteran Wildcat team. K-State's offense totaled 507 yards, the sixth-most in Cotton Bowl history, while the defense held a potent Tennessee offense to 298 total yards. In the end, experience won out, 35-21.

Game Summary

TENNESSEE	0 14 0 7	21	THIRD QUARTER
KANSAS STATE	7 14 14 0	35	Kansas State: Josh Scobey 12 run (Rheem kick), 13:18, 75 yards in 5 plays following kickoff.
FIRST QUARTER			Kansas State: Scobey 6 run (Rheem kick), 10:14, 28 yards in 5 plays following interception.
Kansas State: Jonathan Beasley 14 run (Jamie Rheem kick), 5:46, 74 yards in 9 plays following punt.			FOURTH QUARTER
SECOND QUARTER			Tennessee: Travis Henry 81 run (Walls kick), 2:44, 96 yards in 3 plays following punt.
Tennessee: David Martin 17 pass from Casey Clausen (Alex Walls kick), 14:26, 96 yards in 5 plays following punt.			OUTSTANDING PLAYERS
Kansas State: Quincy Morgan 56 pass from Beasley (Rheem kick), 13:36, 65 yards in 2 plays following kickoff.			Jonathan Beasley, Kansas State
Kansas State: Morgan 10 pass from Beasley (Rheem kick), 10:33, 59 yards in 7 plays following punt.			Chris Johnson, Kansas State
Tennessee: Jabari Greer 78 interception return (Walls kick), 4:13.			COACHES
			Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee
			Bill Snyder, Kansas State
			WEATHER
			Cloudy, cold, 29 degrees, snow on field

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	TENN.	KSU	
First Downs	12	25	RUSHING
Rushing	6	15	Tennessee: Henry 17-180, Fleming 1-1, Clausen 5-(-1), Team 1-(-2).
Passing	5	9	Kansas State: Scobey 28-147, Beasley 17-98, Roberson 3-24, Cartwright 4-15, Morgan 1-13, Clayborn 3-9, Team 1-(-1), Allen 1-(-4), Lockett 1-(-4).
Penalty	1	1	PASSING
Rushes-Net Yards	24-178	59-297	Tennessee: Clausen 7-25-3, 120 yards.
Net Yards Passing	120	210	Kansas State: Beasley 13-27-1, 210 yards.
Passes	7-25-3	13-27-1	RECEIVING
Total Plays	49	86	Tennessee: Wilson 3-54, Parker 1-27, Martin 1-17, Bartholomew 1-11, Henry 1-11.
Total Net Yards	298	507	Kansas State: Morgan 7-145, Lockett 3-22, Meier 1-16, Clark 1-14, Cartwright 1-13.
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1	PUNTING
Penalties-Yards	5-40	7-44	Tennessee: Leaverton 8-29.2.
Punts-Average	8-29.2	5-34.0	Kansas State: Brown 4-35.8; Beasley 1-27.0.