



OKLAHOMA ARKANSAS

10 03

2002 JANUARY 1

ATTENDANCE: 72,955

The walk down the end zone tunnel was no different. The Sooner nation made the accustomed trek down Interstate-35. Even the title sponsor was unchanged. Another border war was to erupt, but this battle was of a different sort compared to the traditional SBC Red River Shootout.

The opposing chant of "Hook'em Horns" gave way to "Woooo Pig Sooooooie!" as 72,955 red-clad Oklahoma and Arkansas fans converged on Dallas for the 66th SBC Cotton Bowl Classic.

The clash between the crimson of Oklahoma and the cardinal of Arkansas renewed a rivalry that dates as far back as 1899.

The Razorbacks finished the regular season as one of the hottest teams in college football, having won six of their final seven games to finish 7-4 and 4-4 in the Southeastern Conference.

Oklahoma, ranked 10th nationally, brought a defensive unit into the New Year's Day Classic that had sparked a successful run at a national title the year before and led the team to a 10-2 record and a 6-2 mark in the Big 12.

The Sooners were accustomed to playing under pressure, and pressure is exactly what OU applied to Arkansas for the greater part of four quarters.

With a defensive roster loaded with weapons, it was only fitting that Butkus Award winner Rocky Calmus would thwart Arkansas' comeback attempt by pouncing on a loose ball coughed up by Razorback quarterback Matt Jones with 1:42 remaining.

Despite Oklahoma's defensive effort that limited Arkansas to 50 yards on 55 plays of total offense, the Razorbacks went into their final drive with a chance to tie the game. A similarly impressive defensive effort by Arkansas held the Sooner offense in check and limited OU to 231 total yards.

Arkansas opened the fourth quarter with a 12-play, 52-yard drive that culminated in a 32-yard field goal by Brennan O'Donohoe with 9:46 remaining. The Razorbacks best shot to tie the score came with less than three minutes to play. Arkansas drove to near midfield before linebacker Teddy Lehman sacked Jones and knocked the ball loose. Calmus recovered the fumble and ended any hope of a Hog comeback.

The Sooners created numerous openings in the Arkansas offensive line and rang up nine quarterback sacks, tying the SBC Cotton Bowl record set by Miami against Texas in 1991. The 50 yards of total offense by Arkansas was the third-fewest in Classic history.

The game's only touchdown came in the first quarter when Oklahoma put together a 13-play, 63-yard drive, including a fourth-and-one conversion at the Arkansas 16. Quarterback Nate Hybl scored on a sneak from the 1-yard line for the only points Oklahoma would need.

Oklahoma added a field goal early in the second half when Tim Duncan connected on a 32-yard field goal with 8:45 remaining in the third quarter.

Hybl eventually found a way to maneuver through the Arkansas defense to complete 24 passes, surpassing the previous SBC Cotton Bowl record of 21 held by Navy's Roger Staubach (1964) and BYU's Steve Sarkisian (1997). Hybl finished with 175 yards on 24-32 passing.

The offensive MVP award went to OU running back Quentin Griffin. The junior rushed for 56 yards and caught nine passes for 32 yards, extending to 30 his school record for consecutive games with a reception. His nine catches, at the time, ranked second in Cotton Bowl history behind Arkansas' Bobby Crockett who had 10 against LSU in 1966.

Oklahoma safety Roy Williams took the defensive MVP honor. The Bronko Nagurski and Jim Thorpe award winner was in on six tackles, including three tackles-for-loss for minus-17 yards.

In the end, the Sooner defense with its star power outlasted the Razorbacks, 10-3, and left Arkansas seeing red.

Game Summary

OKLAHOMA	7	0	3	0	10
ARKANSAS	0	0	0	3	3

FIRST QUARTER

Oklahoma: Nate Hybl 1 run (Tim Duncan kick), 2:54, 63 yards in 13 plays following interception.

THIRD QUARTER

Oklahoma: Duncan 32 FG, 8:45, 65 yards in 12 plays following kickoff.

FOURTH QUARTER

Arkansas: Brennan O'Donohoe 32 FG, 9:46, 52 yards in 12 plays following punt.

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Quentin Griffin, Oklahoma

Roy Williams, Oklahoma

COACHES

Bob Stoops, Oklahoma

Houston Nutt, Arkansas

WEATHER

Cloudy, cold, 36 degrees

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	OU	ARK.
First Downs	11	6
Rushing	3	4
Passing	7	0
Penalty	1	2
Rushes-Net Yards	34-56	42-37
Net Yards Passing	175	13
Passes	24-32-0	2-13-1
Total Plays	66	55
Total Net Yards	231	50
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	9-76	6-54
Punts-Average	9-34.9	8-40.5

RUSHING

Oklahoma: Griffin 19-56, Works 2-4, Savage 1-3, Fagan 1-(-3), Hybl 11-(-4).

Arkansas: Holmes 8-27, Jones 15-23, Talley 7-23, Pierce 2-9, Cobbs 2-(-1), Birmingham 2-(-5), Howard 1-(-9), Clark 5-(-30).

PASSING

Oklahoma: Hybl 24-32-0, 175 yards.

Arkansas: Clark 2-12-1, 13 yards, Jones 0-1-0, 0 yards.

RECEIVING

Oklahoma: Griffin 9-32, Norman 7-74, Smith 5-39, Fagan 1-23, Clayton 1-5, Savage 1-2.

Arkansas: Wilson 1-7, Pierce 1-6.

PUNTING

Oklahoma: Ferguson 9-34.9.

Arkansas: Butler 8-40.5.