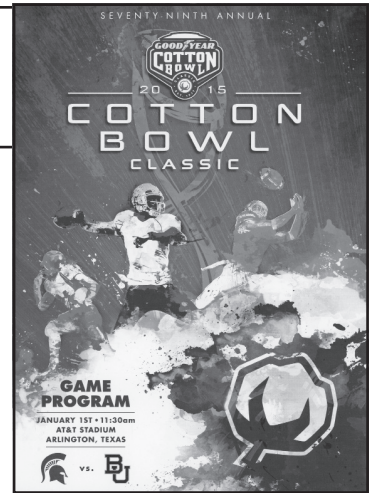


2015
JANUARY 1

MICHIGAN STATE 42
BAYLOR 41



ATTENDANCE: **71,464**

Baylor was out to make a statement to the College Football Playoff committee.

The only problem: Michigan State came to play.

Connor Cook passed for 314 yards and two touchdowns and Jeremy Langford rushed for 162 yards and three touchdowns as Michigan State rallied from a 20-point deficit in the fourth quarter to top Baylor, 42-41, in the 79th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic.

Trailing the Bears 41-21 to begin the final period, Connor Cook connected with Josiah Price for an 8-yard touchdown pass with 12:09 to play to ignite the Michigan State comeback. The Spartans recovered the ensuing onside kick and MSU's hopes were running high. However, on the third play of the drive, Baylor linebacker Taylor Young intercepted a Cook pass at the Bears' 16 and rambled 37 yards with the return. Momentum appeared to have shifted back to Baylor, but the Michigan State defense held strong and soon gave its offense the ball back.

The clock was down to 9:15 when the Spartans began the drive that would cut the the Baylor lead to six. Starting from its 40-yard line, MSU drove 60 yards in nine plays for the score. Langford crashed over from the one for the touchdown with 4:55 remaining. Baylor's once commanding 20-point lead had been trimmed to a touchdown, 41-35.

The Bears responded and drove deep into Michigan State territory. Then came the game-changing play. When the Baylor drive stalled at the 27-yard line, Chris Callahan came on for a 43-yard field goal attempt. Defensive end Marcus Rush stepped up to block the kick and safety RJ Williamson grabbed the loose ball and set sail up the sideline for a 36-yard return to the Baylor 45.

The Spartans were back in business, although they were out of timeouts and just 1:05 was left to play in the game. But, Cook delivered under pressure. The first play went to receiver Keith Mumphrey for 18 yards to the Baylor 27. Then came three straight incompletions before Cook found Tony Lippett for a 17-yard gain on 4th-and 10. Lippett moved the football to the 10. Two more incompletions added to the drama. On third down, Cook connected with Mumphrey over the middle to tie the score on a 10-yard touchdown strike with just 17 seconds to go. Michael Geiger's PAT pushed the Spartans back in front for the first time since late in the first quarter, 42-41.

It was an amazing finish. Football fans around the country voted the 2015 Goodyear Cotton Bowl as the No. 1 game of the 2014 season.

Michigan State came into the contest allowing just 19.9 points per game. But, early on, the Spartans had no answer for Baylor's arsenal of weapons and fast-paced offense. The Bears ranked first in the country in total offense (581.3 ypg) and scoring offense (48.8 ppg).

Bryce Petty set a Cotton Bowl Classic record with 550 yards passing and three touchdowns while wide receivers KD Cannon and Casey Coleman combined for 347 yards receiving and three scores. Petty became the first Baylor quarterback to win a bowl MVP since Cody Carlson in 1985.

However, Michigan State's defense came up big when it mattered most, holding Baylor to minus-20 rushing yards for the game and zero points in the fourth quarter. After the Spartans regained the lead, Thomas Lawrence and Rush sacked Petty twice on Baylor's final possession and Riley Bullough came away with the game-sealing interception for the Spartans at the Baylor 20.

Michigan State finished the year 11-2, which tied for the second-most victories in school history. More importantly, the Spartans had put together back-to-back major bowl victories, defeating Stanford in the 100th Rose Bowl the previous season. Baylor ended the 2014 campaign at 11-2. The Spartans pushed their all-time mark against Baylor to 2-0 with their last victory over the Bears coming in 1968.

Game Summary

MSU	14	0	7	21	42
BAYLOR	14	10	17	0	41

FIRST QUARTER

Michigan State: Jeremy Langford 2 run (Michael Geiger kick), 12:27, 75 yds in 6 plays following kickoff

Baylor: KD Cannon 49 pass from Bryce Petty (Chris Callahan kick), 8:56, 93 yds in 10 plays following kickoff

Michigan State: R.J. Shelton 11 run (Geiger kick), 5:06, 60 yds in 7 plays following kickoff

Baylor: Corey Coleman 53 pass from Jay Lee (Calahan kick), 2:32, 65 yds in 3 plays following punt

SECOND QUARTER

Baylor: Petty 1 run (Callahan kick), 8:13, 73 yds in 10 plays following on downs turnover

Baylor: Callahan 25 FG, 3:14, 77 yds in 6 plays following punt

THIRD QUARTER

Baylor: Cannon 74 pass from Petty (Callahan kick), 14:32, 76 yds in 2 plays following kickoff

Baylor: Callahan 46 FG, 11:23, 19 yds in 7 plays following punt

Michigan State: Langford 2 run (Geiger kick), 6:50, 63 yds in 9 plays following kickoff

Baylor: LaQuan McGowan 18 pass from Petty (Callahan kick), 4:03, 75 yds in 7 plays following kickoff

FOURTH QUARTER:

Michigan State: Josiah Price 8 pass from Connor Cook (Geiger kick), 12:09, 71 yds in 5 plays following missed FG

Michigan State: Langford 1 run (Geiger kick), 4:55, 60 yds in 9 plays following on downs turnover

Michigan State: Keith Mumphrey 10 pass from Cook (Geiger kick), 0:17, 45 yds in 8 plays following blocked FG

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Bryce Petty, Baylor
Taylor Young, Baylor

COACHES

Mark Dantonio, Michigan State
Art Briles, Baylor

WEATHER

Indoors

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	MSU	BU	RUSHING
First Downs	29	25	Michigan State: Langford 27-162, Hill 7-26, Lippett 1-19, Cook 6-11, Shelton 2-11, Geiger 1-6, Kings 1-4
Rushing	11	6	Baylor: Linwood 11-26, Jefferson 2 (-2), Chafin 1 (-2), Petty 7 (-36), Team 1 (-6)
Passing	15	17	PASSING
Penalty	3	2	Michigan State: Cook 24-42-2, 314 yds
Rushes-Net Yards	46-238	22- (-20)	Baylor: Petty 36-51-1, 550 yds; Lee 1-1-0, 53 yds
Net Yards Passing	314	603	RECEIVING
Passes	24-42-2	37-52-1	Michigan State: Lippett 5-74, Mumphrey 4-87, Burbridge 4-57, Price 3-27, Kings 3-19, Langford 2-7, Lyles 1-21, Shelton 1-17, Williams 1-5
Total Plays	88	74	Baylor: Goodley 9-93, Cannon 8-197, Coleman 7-150, Norwood 6-64, Lee 2-37, Fuller 2-25, McGowan 1-18, Linwood 1-14, Armstead 1-5
Total Net Yards	552	583	PUNTING
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0	Michigan State: Sadler 3-39.7
Penalties-Yards	7-75	11-105	Baylor: Roth 1-48.0
Punts-Average	3-39.7	1-48.0	