

National Champions

1958

11-0

For years, LSU fans eagerly anticipated the coming of each new football season with talk of the two Tiger teams regarded as LSU's national champions—the great 10-0 team of 1908 and “next year.” After 50 years, next year finally came in 1958.

After seasons of 3-5-2, 3-7 and 5-5 under coach Paul Dietzel, and a team which included only three seniors among its 55-man roster, it didn't seem likely that 1958 would be “next year.” Indeed, with a squad dominated by juniors and sophomores, many pointed toward 1959 as the year LSU would make a run at the top.

The LSU Fighting Tigers opened the 1958 campaign Sept. 20 at Houston against the Rice Owls. Although early in the season, Dietzel's Tigers, divided into three units—the White team, the Gold team (later shortened to Go) and the Chinese Bandits—showed unusual poise and balance. LSU scored in each period en route to a 26-6 victory over a team it lost to the two previous seasons.

The following week, the Tigers traveled to Mobile to take on Alabama in its first game under Paul “Bear” Bryant. LSU came away

**Coch Paul Dietzel with
halfback Johnny
Robinson (34), quarter-
back Warren Rabb (12)
and halfback Billy
Cannon (20).**

with a hard-
fought 13-3
win before
return-
ing to
Baton



The 1958 LSU Football National Champions

Rouge for its home opener against Hardin-Simmons. Against the Cowboys, the Tigers built a 20-6 halftime lead and used it to coast to its victory before only 45,000 fans, indicating that few had any idea what kind of team this would become.

LSU, now ranked No. 11, hit the road again the following week and served notice to the college football world. The Tigers routed the Miami Hurricanes 41-0 at the Orange Bowl to improve their record to 4-0, their best start since 1937.

No. 9 LSU completed the first half of its schedule with a 32-7 victory over Kentucky before a home crowd of 65,000, the largest yet to see the Tigers play. Sixty-three thousand turned out the following week anxious to see if the Bayou Bengals could snap a three-game losing streak to Florida in LSU's Homecoming game. The outcome was in doubt until the final three minutes, when placekicker/fullback Tommy Davis booted a 29-yard field goal, giving the Tigers a 10-7 victory.

Now 6-0, LSU earned the AP poll's No. 1 ranking. But the Tigers knew they had to overcome Johnny Vaught's deadly Ole Miss Rebels if they wished to remain on top, something they hadn't done since 1950.

The Rebels drove to second-and-one, just a foot from LSU's end zone, early in the second quarter before 67,500 fans, the first sellout in Tiger Stadium history. They were turned back by a superb defensive effort by the White team defenders. After that, it was all LSU as White team quarterback Warren Rabb and Go

team signal-caller Durel Matherne ran for scores in the 14-0 Tiger triumph over their archrivals.

Now 7-0 and ranked No. 1 by AP, the Tigers had yet to impress the UPI board of coaches enough to earn the top rating, staying in the No. 3 position going into a home game with Duke. Although the Blue Devils did some things no other team could do against LSU all season—take an early lead, outgain the Tigers 353-yards to 285 and put a total of 18 points on the board—it was simply not enough. LSU bombed Duke for 22 points in the second quarter to take a 28-6 halftime lead and went on to a 50-18 victory.

When the UPI poll came out the following week, LSU was a unanimous No. 1 selection, a position it would not relinquish until it sustained a bitter 14-13 defeat at the hands of Tennessee in week eight of the 1959 season.

One week later, LSU traveled to Jackson, Miss., for a game against Mississippi State. It was a game in which 8-0 LSU could lose everything and the 3-4 Bulldogs could lose nothing. On a muddy field and with the Tigers tense, Miss. State took a 6-0 halftime lead and made it hold up until LSU faced a fourth and goal situation at State's 5 in the third quarter. With a possible national championship on the line, Rabb rolled left and found Billy Hendrix in the end zone to tie the game. Davis' extra point put LSU ahead 7-6 and allowed the Tigers to escape Jackson 9-0.

With one game against ancient rival Tulane separating LSU from its first recognized national championship (in those days, the wire services awarded their national championship trophies before the bowl games), some wondered how the Tigers would approach the 3-6 Green Wave, but a quote from Tulane halfback Claude “Boo” Mason took care of that. After losing to Vanderbilt, Mason told a reporter, “We'll beat



The Chinese Bandits pose for Life Magazine in 1958.

THE 1958 SQUAD

White Team

LE	Billy Hendrix	6-0	185	Rayville, La.
LT	Lynn LeBlanc	6-2	201	Crowley, La.
LG. . . .	Larry Kahlden	6-1	210	Weimar, Texas.
C	Max Fugler	6-1	203	Ferriday, La.
RG. . . .	Ed McCreedy	6-1	195	Biloxi, Miss.
RT	Charles "Bo" Strange	6-1	202	Baton Rouge, La.
RE	Mickey Mangham	6-1	192	Kensington, Md.
QB. . . .	Warren Rabb	6-0	190	Baton Rouge, La.
LH. . . .	Billy Cannon	6-1	204	Baton Rouge, La.
RH. . . .	Johnny Robinson	6-0	185	Baton Rouge, La.
FB	J.W. Brodnax	6-0	202	Bastrop, La.

Go Team

LE	Scott McClain	6-2	180	Smackover, Ark.
LT	Dave McCarty	6-2	200	Rayville, La.
LG. . . .	Al Dampier	6-1	201	Clayton, La.
C	Bobby Greenwood	5-10	195	Lake Charles, La.
RG. . . .	Mike Stupka	6-0	205	Bogalusa, La.
RT	Jack Frayer	6-2	210	Toledo, Ohio
RE	Don Norwood	6-3	202	Baton Rouge, La.
QB. . . .	Durel Matherne	5-11	188	Lutcher, La.
LH. . . .	Don Purvis	5-7	160	Crystal Springs, Miss.
RH. . . .	Donnie Daye	5-10	184	Ferriday, La.
FB	Tommy Davis	6-0	204	Shreveport, La.

Chinese Bandits

CB. . . .	Andy Bourgeois	5-10	174	New Orleans, La.
LE	Mel Branch	6-1	210	DeRidder, La.
LT	Emile Fournet	5-11	195	Bogalusa, La.
LB	John Langan	6-3	183	Carbondale, Ill.
RG. . . .	Tommy Lott	5-9	188	Texarkana, Ark.
RT	Duane Leopard	6-2	205	Baton Rouge, La.
RE	Gaynell Kinchen	6-3	196	Baton Rouge, La.
S	Darryl Jenkins	6-1	163	Franklinton, La.
S	Henry Lee Roberts	6-0	172	No. Little Rock, Ark.
CB. . . .	Hart Bourque	5-8	165	Gonzales, La.
LB	Merle Schexnaildre	5-9	182	Houma, La.

LSU because they'll choke."

Whether the Tigers would choke was subject to debate at halftime, as LSU led only 6-0 before a then Southeastern Conference record crowd of 83,221 in Sugar Bowl Stadium. However, LSU took command in the second half, taking full advantage of Green Wave mistakes en route to a 35-point fourth quarter and a 62-0 thrashing of Tulane, the most lopsided score in the history of the series. Incredibly, LSU would defeat the Greenies by the same score in 1961 and 1965.

With a 10-0 record and national championship in hand, LSU accepted an invitation to take on the Tigers of Clemson, in the 25th annual Sugar Bowl Classic on New Year's Day, 1959. Once again, LSU

found an opponent with little to lose but much recognition to gain in 8-2 Clemson, as Frank Howard's troops tried to deny LSU its first perfect season in 50 years.

After fighting off a series of bad breaks, including a fractured hand by Rabb in the first quarter, LSU got a break of its own when Chinese Bandit Duane Leopard recovered a fumbled punt attempt on the Clemson 11. On third and eight at the 9, Billy Cannon took a handoff from Matherne and hit Mickey Mangham with a touchdown pass on the halfback option for the game's only score.

The following season, a more experienced LSU team demonstrated how difficult it was to repeat as a national champion, going 9-1 during the regular season. Only the loss to Tennessee separated LSU from the school's second straight title.

This defensive stand by the Chinese Bandits was called "The Great Wall of China."



The Chinese Bandits

Kneeling: Mel Branch, Emile Fournet, Tommy Lott, Duane Leopard, Gaynell Kinchen. Standing: Andy Bourgeois, Darryl Jenkins, John Langan, Merle Schexnaildre, Henry Lee Roberts and Hart Bourque.

Billy Cannon

20

HB

Even by today's standards Billy Cannon was a rare athlete, combining sprinter speed with brute strength.

Cannon could consistently run a 9.5 in the 100-yard dash and, at 6-1, 210 pounds, he had the size to overpower his opponents as well as outrun them. In 1957, he was an immediate standout as a sophomore, offensively and defensively.

As a junior, Cannon was the driving force behind the Fighting Tigers as they carved out a perfect season and captured the 1958 national championship. He passed for a touchdown and kicked the extra point in LSU's 7-0 win over Clemson in the Sugar Bowl, and earned MVP honors.

Cannon's most memorable performance came in 1959 against Ole Miss. Top-ranked LSU trailed the third-ranked Rebels 3-0 early in the fourth quarter, when Cannon fielded a punt at the LSU 11 and broke seven tackles on his way to paydirt. LSU won the contest 7-3. Considered one of the best collegiate backs of his era, Cannon was awarded the Heisman Trophy at the conclusion of the 1959 season.



Billy Cannon was presented with the 1959 Heisman Trophy by then Vice President Richard Nixon.



1957

Second-Team All-SEC (UPI)
All-SEC Sophomore Team

1958

UPI Player of the Year
The Sporting News Player of the Year
Outstanding College Player (Columbus, Ohio Touchdown Club)
AP Back of the Year
UPI Back of the Year
All-America (consensus)
SEC Player of the Year (Nashville Banner)
SEC Back of the Year (Atlanta Touchdown Club)
SEC Back of the Year (Birmingham Touchdown Club)
All-SEC (AP and UPI)
Louisiana VFW Award (Louisiana outstanding athlete)

1959

Heisman Trophy Winner (Downtown Athletic Club of New York)
AP Player of the Year
UPI Player of the Year
The Sporting News Player of the Year
All-America (consensus)
Outstanding College Player (Columbus, Ohio Touchdown Club)
Walter Camp Memorial Trophy (Washington, D.C. TD Club)
College Back of the Year (Los Angeles Times)
AP Back of the Year
UPI Back of the Year
SEC Player of the Year (Nashville Banner)
SEC Player of the Year (Atlanta Touchdown Club)
SEC Player of the Year (Birmingham Touchdown Club)
All-SEC (AP and UPI)

CANNON GAME-BY-GAME

1957

	NO.	YDS.	AVG.
Rice	6	71	11.8
Alabama	8	140	17.5
Texas Tech	13	36	2.8
Georgia Tech	17	98	5.8
Kentucky	11	70	6.4
Florida	11	22	2.0
Vanderbilt	11	46	4.2
Ole Miss	3	5	1.7
Mississippi State	11	27	2.5
Tulane	14	68	4.8
Totals	105	583	5.5

1958

	NO.	YDS.	AVG.
Rice	9	53	5.9
Alabama	12	86	7.2
Hardin-Simmons	11	83	7.5
Miami	9	34	3.8
Kentucky	12	108	9.0
Florida	15	61	4.1
Ole Miss	11	34	3.1
Duke	8	53	6.6
Mississippi State	13	57	4.4
Tulane	15	117	7.8
Totals	115	686	5.9
Clemson (Sugar Bowl)	13	51	3.9

1959

	NO.	YDS.	AVG.
Rice	15	66	4.4
TCU	9	35	3.9
Baylor	8	73	9.1
Miami	17	90	5.3
Kentucky	11	11	1.0
Florida	15	55	3.7
Ole Miss	12	48	4.0
Tennessee	22	122	5.5
Mississippi State	16	32	2.0
Tulane	14	66	4.7
Totals	139	598	4.3
Ole Miss (Sugar Bowl)	6	8	1.3

Cannon's Career Statistics

	RUSHING				RECEIVING			PASSING				PUNT RETURNS			KICKOFF RETURNS			
	ATT	YDS.	AVG.	TD	REC.	YDS.	TD	ATT.	CMP.	HI	YDS.	TD	NO.	YDS.	TD	NO.	YDS.	TD
1957	105	583	5.5	4	11	199	1	16	7	1	84	0	7	39	0	11	343	1
1958	115	686	5.9	10	9	162	1	4	3	0	14	0	9	89	0	3	82	0
1959	139	598	4.3	5	11	161	0	6	2	2	20	0	15	221	1	8	191	0
Totals	359	1867	5.2	19	31	522	2	26	12	3	118	0	31	349	1	22	616	1

Punting: 111 for 37.8 average

Pass Interceptions: 7 for 165 return yards, one TD

Scoring: 24 TDs, four one-point conversions, three two-point conversions, 154 total points



Bowl History

LSU BOWL LOG

BOWL RECORD: 15-16-1
32 BOWL APPEARANCES

SUGAR (3-7-0)

vs.TCU	2-3	L	Jan.1,1936
vs.Santa Clara	14-21	L	Jan.1,1937
vs.Santa Clara	0-6	L	Jan.1,1938
vs.Oklahoma	0-35	L	Jan.1,1950
vs.Clemson	7-0	W	Jan.1,1959
vs.Ole Miss	0-21	L	Jan.1,1960
vs.Syracuse	13-10	W	Jan.1,1965
vs.Wyoming	20-13	W	Jan.1,1968
vs.Nebraska	10-28	L	Jan.1,1985
vs.Nebraska	15-30	L	Jan.1,1987

PEACH (3-0-0)

vs.Florida State	31-27	W	Dec.30,1968
vs.Clemson	10-7	W	Dec.28,1996
vs.Georgia Tech	28-14	W	Dec.29,2000

INDEPENDENCE BOWL (2-0-0)

vs.Michigan State	45-26	W	Dec.29,1995
vs.Notre Dame	27-9	W	Dec.28,1997

COTTON (2-0-1)

vs.Arkansas	0-0	T	Jan.1,1947
vs.Texas	13-0	W	Jan.1,1963
vs.Arkansas	14-7	W	Jan.1,1966

ORANGE (2-3-0)

vs.Texas A&M	19-14	W	Jan.1,1944
vs.Colorado	25-7	W	Jan.1,1962
vs.Nebraska	12-17	L	Jan.1,1971
vs.Penn State	9-16	L	Jan.1,1974
vs.Nebraska	20-21	L	Jan.1,1983

SUN (1-1-0)

vs.Iowa State	33-15	W	Dec.18,1971
vs.Stanford	14-24	L	Dec.31,1977

GATOR (1-0-0)

vs.South Carolina	30-13	W	Dec.31,1987
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FLORIDA CITRUS (1-0-0) (formerly Tangerine)

vs.Wake Forest	34-10	W	Dec.22,1979
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HALL OF FAME (0-1-0)

vs.Syracuse	10-23	L	Jan.2,1989
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LIBERTY (0-2-0)

vs.Missouri	15-20	L	Dec.23,1978
vs.Baylor	7-21	L	Dec.27,1985

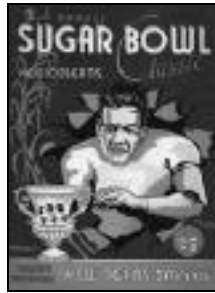
BLUEBONNET (0-2-0)

(Formerly Astro Bluebonnet)			
vs.Baylor	7-14	L	Dec.21,1963
vs.Tennessee	17-24	L	Dec.30,1972

1936 Sugar Bowl

TCU 3, LSU 2

Four days of rain turned an expected passing battle into a punting duel between quarterbacks Sammy Baugh of TCU and LSU's Abe Mickal. The Tigers threatened often, once getting to the six-inch line, but TCU's Taldon Manton kicked a winning 36-yard field goal. LSU scored when All America end Gaynell Tinsley harassed Baugh into throwing an incompleteness in the TCU end zone for an automatic safety.

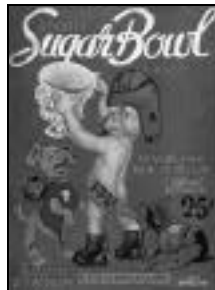


ATTENDANCE: 35,000

1937 Sugar Bowl

Santa Clara 21, LSU 14

Mike the Tiger's first year at LSU ended in an upset by the little-known Broncos. Coach Bernie Moore's previously undefeated Bengals were never in the ball game, trailing 14-0 after the first period. The Tigers scored their last touchdown late in the game, long after Santa Clara coach Buck Shaw had cleared his bench.



ATTENDANCE: 38,483

1938 Sugar Bowl

Santa Clara 6, LSU 0

A rematch of the 1937 Sugar classic saw the unbeaten Broncos score early and then hold off the Tigers with two goal line stands. It marked the first time in 50 games that an LSU team had been held scoreless. Pinky Rohm was the spark-plug for the Tigers, but LSU could not move on the west coast club.



PASSING: Pinky Rohm, 5 of 15, 63 yards
RUSHING: Cotton Milner, 13 att., 34 yards
RECEIVING: Ken Kavanaugh, 4 rec., 46 yards
ATTENDANCE: 40,000

1944 Orange Bowl

LSU 19, Texas A&M 14

The war-time Tigers went to Miami despite a 5-3 season, thanks largely to the presence of Steve Van Buren. The red-haired sensation ran and passed for two first quarter touchdowns and sewed up the victory with a 63-yard scoring run in the third period. It was Van Buren's 16th touchdown of the season, a mark that stood until Charles Alexander ran for 17 in 1977.



ATTENDANCE: 32,191

1947 Cotton Bowl

LSU 0, Arkansas 0

Shunned by the Sugar Bowl, the 9-1 Tigers marched in the Cotton behind quarterback Y.A. Tittle. But, Dallas was pelted with rain, sleet and snow and the scoreless standoff became known as the Ice Bowl. LSU held a 15-1 edge over the Razorbacks in first downs and a 271-54 advantage in total yardage, but the afternoon belonged to the weatherman.



ATTENDANCE: 38,000

1950 Sugar Bowl

Oklahoma 35, LSU 0

The Cinderella Tigers brought an 8-1 record to New Orleans only to see the clock strike midnight at the hands of a powerful Bud Wilkinson-coached Sooner team. Darrell Royal quarterbacked unbeaten Oklahoma to two second period touchdowns, and the Tigers could never recover. Charley Pevey quarterbacked LSU, but the Bengals could manage only 38 rushing yards to OU's 286.



ATTENDANCE: 82,000



Billy Cannon takes the hand off from Warren Rabb (12) in the 1959 Sugar Bowl. Cannon had 51 yards rushing and threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to Mickey Mangham to lead LSU to the 7-0 victory over Clemson.

1959 Sugar Bowl

LSU 7, Clemson 0

Paul Dietzel's great national champions closed LSU's first undefeated, untied season in 50 years with a thrilling victory over Clemson. It was the Bayou Bengals' first Sugar Bowl victory and couldn't have come in a sweeter year. Billy Cannon threw a nine-yard scoring pass to Mickey Mangham in the third quarter, and the Chinese Bandits held Clemson in check for the victory.

PASSING: Warren Rabb, 2 of 7, 33 yards

RUSHING: Billy Cannon, 13 att., 51 yards,

RECEIVING: Mickey Mangham, 2 rec., 33 yards, 1 TD

ATTENDANCE: 80,331



1960 Sugar Bowl

Mississippi 21, LSU 0

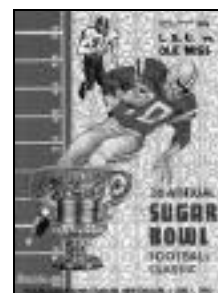
The regular season thriller won by Billy Cannon's 89-yard punt return proved to be a nightmarish rematch for LSU. Jake Gibbs hit Cowboy Woodruff with a 43-yard touchdown pass just before halftime and the Rebels coasted after that. The Tigers and Heisman Trophy winner Cannon never got inside the Ole Miss 38 the entire game.

PASSING: Durel Matherne, 5 of 9, 53 yards

RUSHING: Billy Cannon, 6 att., 8 yards

RECEIVING: Billy Cannon, 3 rec., 39 yards

ATTENDANCE: 81,141



Bowl History

1962 Orange Bowl

LSU 25, Colorado 7

Amidst rumors that Dietzel was leaving LSU, the Tigers romped behind Earl Gros, Wendell Harris and Jerry Stovall. All-America guard Roy Winston was outstanding as the Go Team, White Team and Chinese Bandits dominated the Buffalos. Charley White Cranford, Jimmy Field and Gene Sykes scored touchdowns for the Tigers as Harris kicked a 30-yard field goal.

PASSING: Lynn Amedee, 6 of 12, 88 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: Earl Gros, 10 att., 55 yards

RECEIVING: Ray Wilkins, 3 rec., 58 yards, 1 TD

ATTENDANCE: 62,391



1963 Cotton Bowl

LSU 13, Texas 0

The defense-minded Tigers gave Charlie McClendon a victory over the previously undefeated Longhorns in Mac's first bowl appearance as head coach. Lynn Amedee kicked field goals of 23 and 37 yards, and Jimmy Field ran 22 yards for the game's only touchdown. All-Americans Fred Miller and Jerry Stovall joined Amedee as the stars of the game.

PASSING: Jimmy Field, 9 of 13, 93 yards

RUSHING: Jerry Stovall, 11 att., 36 yards

RECEIVING: Billy Traux, 3 rec., 49 yards

ATTENDANCE: 75,500



1963 Bluebonnet Bowl

Baylor 14, LSU 7

Don Trull passed the injury-ridden Tigers dizzy, hitting on 26 of 37 passes and rolling up 430 yards in total offense. Still, it took two fourth period touchdowns for the Bears to pull the victory out before 50,000 frozen fans in Houston. Joe Labruzzo ran a kickoff back for 72 yards late in the game, but Baylor held and Trull ended the game still firing away at the Tiger secondary.

PASSING: Billy Ezell, 1 of 5, 13 yards

RUSHING: Billy Ezell, 9 att., 30 yards

RECEIVING: Billy Traux, 1 rec., 13 yards

ATTENDANCE: 50,000



1965 Sugar Bowl

LSU 13, Syracuse 10

Billy Ezell and Pat Screen quarterbacked the Tigers to a come-from-behind victory over the Orangemen. Ezell threw a 57-yard touchdown pass to Doug Moreau and then hit Joe Labruzzo on a two-point conversion. Moreau, the game's MVP, kicked a 28-yard field goal for the deciding points. The Tiger defense held the Syracuse running duo of Floyd Little and Jim Nance in check, as LSU defensive tackle George Rice dumped Little for a first half safety.

PASSING: Billy Ezell, 2 of 5, 67 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: Joe Labruzzo, 10 att., 25 yards

RECEIVING: Doug Moreau, 2 rec., 54 yards, 1 TD

ATTENDANCE: 60,322



1966 Cotton Bowl

LSU 14, Arkansas 7

Pat Screen took over for injured Nelson Stokley and directed the Tigers to a great upset over second-ranked and unbeaten Arkansas. Joe Labruzzo ran three yards for one score and went over from a yard out for the other. The Razorbacks scored on Jon Brittenum's 16-yard pass to Bobby Crockett, but a Jerry Joseph interception stopped the Hogs' last chance in the game and ended a 22-game Arkansas win streak.

PASSING: Pat Screen, 7 of 10, 82 yards

RUSHING: Joe Labruzzo, 21 att., 69 yards, 2 TD

RECEIVING: Billy Masters, 4 rec., 45 yards,

ATTENDANCE: 76,200



1968 Sugar Bowl

LSU 20, Wyoming 13

A topsy-turvy year for the Tigers ended in a come-back win over the previously unbeaten Cowboys. Glenn Smith came off the bench to spark the victory and became the first sophomore in Sugar Bowl history to win the MVP award. Nelson Stokley threw touchdown passes of 35 and 14 yards to Tommy Morel, and Smith ran one yard for the other score on a chilly and rainy New Orleans afternoon.

PASSING: Nelson Stokley, 6 of 20, 91 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: Glenn Smith, 16 att., 74 yards, 1 TD

RECEIVING: Tommy Morel, 4 rec., 38 yards, 2 TD

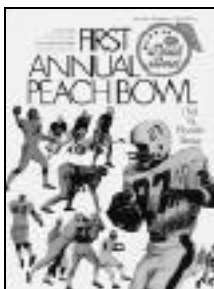
ATTENDANCE: 72,858



1968 Peach Bowl

LSU 31, Florida State 27

The see-saw contest left the Atlanta crowd limp with excitement as the Tigers moved 61 yards in nine plays behind Mike Hillman for the winning touchdown. Florida State's Bill Cappelman, who threw for three touchdowns, put the ball in the air 41 times and Hillman 30 with Barton Frye's diving deflection in the end zone. Super pass catcher Ron Sellers caught two scoring passes for FSU, but LSU's Tommy Morel made a great clutch reception on the Bengals' winning drive to set up Maurice LeBlanc's two-yard TD run.



PASSING: Mike Hillman, 16 of 29, 229 yards, 2 TDs
RUSHING: Maurice LeBlanc, 14 att., 97 yards
RECEIVING: Tommy Morel, 6 rec., 103 yards
ATTENDANCE: 35,545

1971 Orange Bowl

Nebraska 17, LSU 12

With the national title at stake, the Cornhuskers' Jerry Tagge leaped over from one yard out for the winning touchdown. Buddy Lee's 31-yard pass to Al Coffee had given the Tigers a 12-10 lead going into the final period. Mark Lumpkin kicked field goals of 36 and 25 yards for the Bengals, who could not stop Nebraska's winning 67-yard touchdown drive.



PASSING: Buddy Lee, 17 of 32, 182 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: Bert Jones, 8 att. 54 yards,
RECEIVING: Andy Hamilton, 9 rec., 146 yards
ATTENDANCE: 80,699

1971 Sun Bowl

LSU 33, Iowa State 16

Bert Jones completed 12 of 18 passes for 227 yards and three touchdowns as the Tigers routed the Big Eight Cyclones. Jones hit cousin Andy Hamilton six times with passes, once for a touchdown, and scored the clincher himself on a run from six yards out. Jay Michaelson kicked two field goals and caught a touchdown pass for the Bengals.



PASSING: Bert Jones, 12 of 18, 227 yards, 3 TDs
RUSHING: Allen Shorey, 12 att. 68 yards
RECEIVING: Andy Hamilton, 6 rec., 165 yards, 1 TD, Long 77 yards
ATTENDANCE: 33,530

1972 Bluebonnet Bowl

Tennessee 24, LSU 17

Tennessee struck for three first half touchdowns and then held off a determined LSU comeback in the second half, ending when a Bert Jones pass was deflected at the Volunteer 10 with less than two minutes left. Scrambling UT quarterback Condredge Holloway ran for two scores and passed for another, while Jones and Brad Davis ran for the two Bengal touchdowns. The Vols led 24-3 at the half before the Tigers clawed their way back before an Astrodome crowd of 52,961.

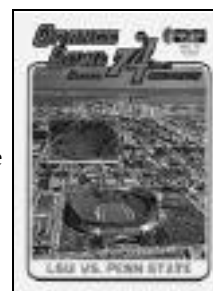


PASSING: Bert Jones, 7 of 20, 90 yards
RUSHING: Brad Davis, 1 TD
RUSHING: Charles Williamson, 1 rec., 18 yards
ATTENDANCE: 52,961

1974 Orange Bowl

Penn State 16, LSU 9

LSU won the statistical battle, but lost the war as the undefeated and untied Nittany Lions took advantage of LSU's consistently poor field position to keep their record unblemished. The Tigers, in spite of scoring on the first series of the game, were never able to get possession on the Penn State end of the field. Brad Davis was the leading rusher with 70 yards while the vaunted LSU defense held Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti to only 50 yards during the encounter.



PASSING: Mike Miley, 5 of 8, 36 yards
RUSHING: Brad Davis, 13 att., 54 yards
RECEIVING: Brad Davis, 4 rec., 23 yards
ATTENDANCE: 60,477

1977 Sun Bowl

Stanford 24, LSU 14

Charles Alexander won Offensive Player of the Game honors as he set a pair of Sun Bowl rushing records, carrying 31 times for 197 yards, but LSU mistakes and a superb passing attack by the Pac-8 team enabled the westerners to take the victory. LSU scored the second time it had the ball, but Stanford racked up a touchdown and a field goal for a brief lead which LSU topped with a final minute, first half six-pointer to take a 14-10 lead into intermission. The second half was all Stanford as quarterback Guy Benjamin added two more TD passes to his second period strike for the triumph.



PASSING: Steve Ensminger, 7 of 23, 68 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: Charles Alexander, 31 att., 197 yards, 1 TD, Long 54 yards
RECEIVING: Carlos Carson, 1 rec., 13 yards
ATTENDANCE: 31,318

Bowl History



David Woodley

1978 Liberty Bowl

Missouri 20, LSU 15

It was a case of two separate games: the first half was all Missouri and the second half all LSU. The only trouble was that the Big Eight team put more points on the board in its half than the SEC entry did in its. Missouri piled up a seemingly commanding 20-3 halftime advantage, but Coach Charles McClendon's charges came out firing. Although they were not able to overcome the score, they did pile up 247 yards to 84, and 15 first downs to four over Missouri. All-America tailback Charles Alexander played his last game as a Tiger and made it memorable as he gained 133 yards on 24 carries.



PASSING: David Woodley, 14 of 31, 170 yards
RUSHING: Charles Alexander, 24 att., 133 yards
RECEIVING: Mike Quintella, 6 rec., 81 yards
ATTENDANCE: 53,064

1979 Tangerine Bowl

LSU 34, Wake Forest 10

It was the end of the Cholly Mac era and it was a glorious end! The Tigers were 10 feet off the ground as they dashed out of their dressing room and immediately gave notice it was going to be their night. The first three times they had the ball they drove downfield, scoring two touchdowns and missing the third when they lost a fumble at the goal line. From then on, it was just a matter of what the final score would be.

PASSING: David Woodley, 16 of 26, 273 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: David Woodley, 10 att., 68 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING: Jerry Murphee, 5 rec., 60 yards, 1 TD
ATTENDANCE: 38,666



1983 Orange Bowl

Nebraska 21, LSU 20

In one of the most exciting games in LSU history, the Tigers came within an eyelash of upsetting powerful Nebraska. Leading 17-7 late in the third period by virtue of two Dalton Hilliard touchdown runs and a 28-yard Juan Carlos Betanzos field goal, it appeared the Bayou Bengals were on the verge of the upset of the year. But two late touchdowns by the Cornhuskers offset a 49-yard Betanzos field goal, and the Tigers' noble efforts resulted in a one-point heartbreaker.

PASSING: Alan Risher, 14 of 34, 173 yards
RUSHING: Dalton Hilliard, 15 att., 22 yards, 2 TDs
RECEIVING: Dalton Hilliard, 3 rec., 51 yards,
ATTENDANCE: 54,407



1985 Sugar Bowl

Nebraska 28, LSU 10

In a remarkable turnaround from a record of 4-7 in 1983, the 8-2-1 LSU Tigers found themselves in the 51st Sugar Bowl Classic under first-year coach Bill Arnsparger. The Tigers were again heavy underdogs to Nebraska, but quickly jumped out to a 10-0 lead behind a Ronnie Lewis field goal and Dalton Hilliard touchdown. After that it was all Cornhuskers. After pulling to within 10-7 at the half, Nebraska went ahead for good early in the third period, then pulled away as Jeff Wickersham threw five interceptions. Hilliard led the Tigers on the ground with 16 carries for 86 yards before a case of flu forced him to the sidelines.

PASSING: Jeff Wickersham, 20 of 37, 221 yards,
RUSHING: Dalton Hilliard, 16 att., 86 yards, 1 TD
RECEIVING: Eric Martin, 5 rec., 58 yards
ATTENDANCE: 75,608



1985 Liberty Bowl

Baylor 21, LSU 7

The Tigers got on the scoreboard first, but that would be all the scoring LSU could muster, as the Baylor defense stopped the Tigers, 21-7 before 40,186 at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis, Tenn. Norman Jefferson provided the LSU heroics with a 79-yard punt return with 5:17 left in the first quarter that would give the Tigers a 7-0 lead. The return would be a Liberty Bowl record and Jefferson's second scoring return in an LSU uniform. Baylor's high-powered offense was able to gain 489 yards against LSU's defense while the Tigers settled on 192 yards. Jeff Wickersham completed 11 of 24 passes for 95 yards while Dalton Hilliard carried 20 times for 66 yards.

PASSING: Jeff Wickersham, 11 of 24, 95 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: Dalton Hilliard, 20 att., 66 yards
RECEIVING: Garry James, 4 rec., 25 yards
ATTENDANCE: 40,186



1987 Sugar Bowl

Nebraska 30, LSU 15

LSU began its final bowl under coach Bill Arnsparger in impressive fashion, taking the opening kickoff and quickly moving 66 yards for a Harvey Williams touchdown. Nebraska responded with 30 unanswered points to subdue the SEC champion Tigers in the Louisiana Superdome. The loss marked the fourth straight setback for LSU in post-season bowl games and dropped the Tigers' record to 3-7 in Sugar Bowl games. The Cornhuskers took the lead for good just before halftime when quarterback Steve Taylor capped a 72-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown run, staking Nebraska to a 10-7 advantage en route to earning MVP honors. Nebraska capitalized on two LSU fourth-quarter turnovers to take a 30-7 lead before Tiger quarterback Tom Hodson threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to flanker Tony Moss and completed a two-point pass to tailback Alvin Lee with 2:01 left in the contest.



PASSING: Tommy Hodson, 14 of 30, 159 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: Harvey Williams, 12 att., 48 yards, 1 TD
RECEIVING: Wendell Davis, 3 rec., 63 yards
ATTENDANCE: 76,234

1987 Gator Bowl

LSU 30, South Carolina 13

The Tigers closed out Mike Archer's first year as head coach in grand fashion with a resounding 30-13 win over South Carolina. The LSU defense ran the South Carolina offense into confusion, but it was the offense that owned the show as the pitch-and-catch combination of Tommy Hodson and Wendell Davis thrilled the crowd of 82,119. LSU jumped out to a 14-0 lead before the Gamecocks could put a field goal on the board. The Tigers led 20-6 at the half and rolled from there in the second half. Davis--the game's MVP--caught nine passes for 132 yards and three touchdowns as Hodson completed 20 of 32 tosses for 224 yards and three scores.



PASSING: Tommy Hodson, 20 of 32, 224 yards, 3 TDs
RUSHING: Eddie Fuller, 14 att., 48 yards
RECEIVING: Wendell Davis, 9 rec., 132 yards, 3 TDs
ATTENDANCE: 82,119

1989 Hall of Fame Bowl

Syracuse 23, LSU 10

The Tigers went to Tampa, Fla., as co-champions of the Southeastern Conference, but came up short in this game as a solid Syracuse offense, spurred by the running halfback Robert Drummond, and a stingy Orangeman defense held the Tigers at bay. Drummond was the offensive star of the game, running for 122 yards on 23 carries while Tiger quarterback Tommy Hodson was picked off three times by the aggressive Syracuse defenders. A crowd of 51,112 was on hand in Tampa Stadium for this January 2 game that saw Syracuse jump out to a 10-0 lead before the Tigers got a touchdown on the board to make it 10-7 at the half. But the last two quarters belonged to Syracuse as LSU finished its season at 8-4.



PASSING: Tommy Hodson, 16 of 33, 192 yards
RUSHING: Calvin Windom, 7 att., 32 yards, 1 TD
RECEIVING: Tony Moss, 5 rec., 96 yards, Long 43 yards
ATTENDANCE: 51,112



In the 1995 Independence Bowl Gabe Northern received defensive player of the game honors after returning a second half fumble for a TD.

1995 Independence Bowl

LSU 45, Michigan State 26

The Tigers wrapped up the first year of the Gerry DiNardo era with a resounding 45-26 win over Michigan State before a sellout crowd of 48,835 in Shreveport. The teams battled evenly in a first half of big plays that included a 78-yard TD pass by Michigan State on the second play of the game, an Eddie Kennison kickoff return for a touchdown for LSU, a Michigan State kickoff return for a touchdown and a 51-yard TD run by Kevin Faulk that contributed to a 24-21 MSU half-time lead. But the Tigers broke it open in the second half with 24 unanswered points, including a fumble return for a touchdown by defensive end Gabe Northern. Northern went on to claim defensive player of the game honors and Faulk rushed for a bowl record 234 yards--the second most rushing yards by an LSU player ever--to capture the offensive MVP award. In all, LSU set or tied 11 Independence Bowl records in the romp.

PASSING: Herb Tyler, 10 of 20, 164 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: Kevin Faulk, 25 att., 234 yards, 2 TDs, Long 68 yards
RECEIVING: Eddie Kennison, 5 rec., 124 yards, 1 TD, Long 49 yards
ATTENDANCE: 48,835

Bowl History

1996 Peach Bowl

LSU 10, Clemson 7

Quarterback Herb Tyler led a balanced LSU attack against a stubborn Clemson squad to send the LSU Tigers to a 10-7 win in the Peach Bowl at the Georgia Dome. The win gave the Tigers their second straight bowl win and their first 10-win season in nine years. Clemson struck first, taking a 7-0 lead when quarterback Nealon Greene took the ball in from five yards out after LSU had turned the ball over deep in Clemson territory. But it would be Clemson's only points of the night. In the second quarter, Kevin Faulk capped a seven-play, 80-yard LSU drive with a three-yard touchdown run and Wade Richey added a 22-yard field goal before intermission for a 10-7 LSU lead at the half that would stand the test of the second half. The game was sealed when LSU's Aaron Adams batted away a 52-yard Clemson field goal try with less than two minutes to play.



PASSING: Herb Tyler, 14 of 21, 163 yards

RUSHING: Kevin Faulk, 23 att., 64 yards, 1 TD

RECEIVING: David Lafleur, 4 rec., 63 yards

ATTENDANCE: 63,622

1997 Independence Bowl

LSU 27, Notre Dame 9

Rondell Mealey electrified a frigid Independence Bowl crowd with a 222-yard rushing performance to pace LSU to a convincing 27-9 win over Notre Dame, avenging a loss to the Irish during

the regular season. Mealey subbed for starter Kevin Faulk who was injured early in the game and didn't miss a beat. The teams exchanged field goals early before the LSU touchdown surge began. Scott Cengia hit field goals of 33 and 21 yards for the Irish in the first half while Wade Richey booted a 37-yarder for a 6-3 Notre Dame lead at the half. Richey added a 42-yarder early in the second half before LSU's Herb Tyler hit Abram Booty with a 12-yard scoring strike for a 13-6 Tiger lead. Cengia hit one more field goal, a 33-yarder early in the fourth quarter, but the Irish would score no more. Mealey scored twice in the final period on runs of two and one yard to send LSU to victory before a nationally televised game on ESPN.



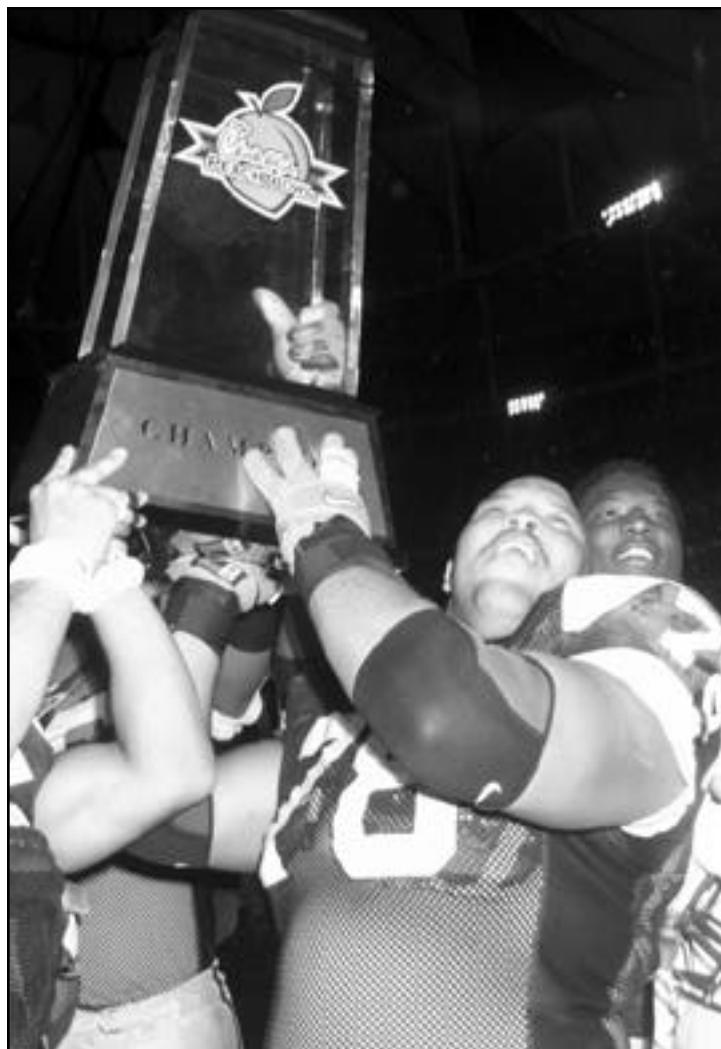
Rondell Mealey rushed for 222-yards in the 1997 Independence Bowl.

PASSING: Herb Tyler, 5 of 12, 61 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: Rondell Mealey, 34 att., 222 yards, 2 TDs, Long 78 yds

RECEIVING: Abram Booty, 5 rec., 61 yards, 1 TD

ATTENDANCE: 50,459



Dwayne Pierce raises the 2000 Peach Bowl trophy.

2000 Peach Bowl

LSU 28, Georgia Tech 14

Rohan Davey came off the bench in the second half to lead the Tigers to a 28-14 come-from-behind win over Georgia Tech in the Peach Bowl. Trailing 14-3 at halftime, Davey started the second half and led the Tigers to a TD on the first possession of the second half. In all, Davey threw three second half TD passes, tying an LSU bowl record, and he finished the contest with 17 completions in 25 attempts for 174 yards. Davey hit wideout Josh Reed on a 9-yard scoring pass early in the fourth quarter to give the Tigers the lead for good at 17-14. Reed finished the game with an LSU bowl record tying nine receptions for 96 yards, while fullback Tommy Banks capped his senior season with two TD receptions and a career-best seven catches for 71 yards. Georgia Tech entered the contest with only 12 turnovers all season, however the Tiger defense forced the Yellow Jackets into six turnovers, including four fumbles.



PASSING: Rohan Davey, 17 of 25, 174 yards, 3 TDs

RUSHING: LaBrandon Toefield, 22 att. 78 yards

RECEIVING: Josh Reed, 9 rec., 96 yards, 1 TD

ATTENDANCE: 73,614