

Game No. 1 Alabama 38, Southern Miss 6**SEPTEMBER 5, 1987 AT BIRMINGHAM (75,808)**

Bill Curry made his debut a successful one as Alabama outdistanced Southern Mississippi, 38-6, in front of a jam-packed Legion Field.

"I'm very proud of our football team," Curry said after his initial victory at the Capstone. "Today was a good start, but it was only a start."

Gene Jelks, who made his transition from tailback to cornerback a successful one, ignited the Tide with a first-quarter interception which led to the team's opening score. His 31-yard interception return set up quarterback David Smith's 16-yard scoring pass to split end Clay Whitehurst.

On the day, Smith completed 13 of 21 passes for 147 yards and two touchdowns.

"David Smith was phenomenal," said Curry of his junior signal-caller. "He displayed poise, accuracy and proper use of our audible system. He had an extremely good day."

Bobby Humphrey, who scored three touchdowns on the day, gave the Crimson Tide a 14-0 lead when he ran 10 yards for a touchdown with 58 seconds remaining in the first period.

On Alabama's next possession, Smith connected on a 43-yard scoring strike to Humphrey, who dodged the entire USM secondary to move the Tide out front, 21-0.

Like Smith, Humphrey's numbers were equally impressive. He rushed 17 times for 84 yards and two touchdowns; caught three passes for 60 yards and one touchdown and returned two kickoffs for 47 yards.

Freshman placekicker Philip Doyle booted a 22-yard field goal to give Alabama a 24-0 lead at intermission.

Southern Miss tallied in the second half when quarterback Ailrick Young scored on a two-yard run to cap a 14-play, 86-yard drive to cut Alabama's lead, 24-6.

But Alabama returned to score two additional touchdowns to put the game out of reach. Humphrey tallied on a 28-yard run in the third period and halfback David Casteal hauled in a 21-yard TD pass from freshman quarterback Jeff Dunn with 4:42 remaining in the game.

"I was disappointed in some things today," Curry admitted. "We'll need to improve on those when we play against the Top 10 teams on our schedule."

"Bama Pride" players, those demonstrating championship-caliber football, included linebacker Greg Gilbert, noseguard Willie Wyatt, defensive tackle Tommy Cole, holder Larry Abney, placekicker Philip Doyle, quarterback David Smith, halfback Bobby Humphrey, fullback Doug Allen, flanker Clay Whitehurst, split end Greg Payne, offensive guards Bill Condon and Roger Shultz and center Mike Zuga.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	0	0	6	0	—	6
ALABAMA	14	10	7	7	—	38
STATISTICS	ALA			USM		
First Downs	23			12		
Rushing (Net)	214			97		
Passing (Net)	168			69		
TOTAL OFFENSE	382			166		
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.	23-14-0			13-6-3		
Punting-No./Avg.	3-37.0			6-35.0		
Fumbles/No. Lost	0-0			1-1		
Penalties/Yards Penalized	5-57			5-60		

Leading Rushers: ALA.—Humphrey, 17-84, 2 TDs; K. Goode, 15-70; Wright, 7-19. USM—Gandy, 12-34; Carter, 4-17; Young, 12-9, 1 TD.
 Leading Passers: ALA.—Smith, 21-13-0, 147 yds., 2 TDs; Dunn, 2-1-0, 21 yds., 1 TD. USM—Young, 11-5-2, 60 yds.; Carter, 2-1-0, 9 yds. Leading Receivers: ALA.—Stafford, 4-40; Humphrey, 3-60, 1 TD; Whitehurst, 2-16, 1 TD; Casteal, 1-21, 1 TD. USM—Tillman, 2-23; Powell, 1-21; McGee, 1-14.

First Quarter	Time	ALA—Doyle, 22 FG	1:33
ALA—Whitehurst, 16 pass from D. Smith (Doyle kick)	7:20	Third Quarter	
ALA—Humphrey, 10 run (Doyle kick)	:58	USM—Young, 2 run (run failed)	8:20
Second Quarter		ALA—Humphrey, 28 run (Doyle kick)	4:20
ALA—Humphrey, 43 pass from D. Smith (Doyle kick)	12:37	Fourth Quarter	
		ALA—Casteal, 21 pass from Dunn (Doyle kick)	4:42

Game No. 2 Alabama 24, Penn State 13**SEPTEMBER 12, 1987 AT UNIVERSITY PARK (CBS-TV) (85,619)**

In front of the sixth-largest crowd to watch a Penn State football game and a national television audience, Alabama used a solid ground game and a few "wrinkles" to knock off the home-standing Nittany Lions, 24-13.

On the Crimson Tide's second possession of the game, Bobby Humphrey broke loose for a 73-yard run to give Alabama an early 6-0 lead. Humphrey who cut against the grain for the spectacular scoring play, wound up the night with 36 carries for 220 yards.

Freshman placekicker Philip Doyle's extra point attempt was wide after the Humphrey score, ending Alabama's national-leading consecutive conversion string at 199.

Doyle made up for his earlier miscue with a 46-yard field goal to give Alabama a 9-0 cushion on its following possession.

In the second stanza, quarterback David Smith, who orchestrated a 10-play, 89-yard drive, sneaked over from the one-yard line to give the team a 15-0 lead. The touchdown was set up by a 57-yard halfback pass from Humphrey to flanker Clay Whitehurst. On the two-point conversion, Whitehurst dipped into the bag of "razzle, dazzle" to find tight end Lamonde Russell in the end zone to move Alabama ahead, 17-0.

With 1:13 in the half, Penn State quarterback Tom Bill capped a 76-yard drive when he completed a 21-yard scoring pass to split end Ray Roundtree to make the halftime score: Alabama 17, Penn State 7.

Following a scoreless third period, senior fullback Bo Wright opened the fourth quarter with a 10-yard touchdown run which gave the Tide a 24-7 lead with 12:28 remaining in the game.

Penn State ended the game's scoring when quarterback Matt Knizner connected on a 60-yard scoring bomb to Roundtree.

"This was an outstanding win for our football team," said Curry upon Alabama's 24-13 win over Penn State. "But we still have areas we need to improve. And we will improve on those during the next week of practice."

"I thought Bobby Humphrey had an outstanding game and the offensive line did a good job of opening holes for him when we needed the tough yardage."

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	9	8	0	7	—	24
PENN STATE	0	7	0	6	—	13
STATISTICS	ALA			PSU		
First Downs	19			17		
Rushing (Net)	297			88		
Passing (Net)	106			251		
TOTAL OFFENSE	403			339		
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.	15-8-0			35-19-2		
Punting-No./Avg.	7-38.0			7-38.0		
Fumbles/No. Lost	2-1			2-1		
Penalties/Yards Penalized	4-30			4-34		

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 36-220, 1 TD; Wright, 8-50, 1 TD; Smith, 7-10, 1 TD; PSU—Thomas, 17-57; Greene, 6-39; Timpson, 2-33.
 Leading Passers: ALA—D. Smith, 14-7-0, 49 yds.; Humphrey, 1-1-0, 57 yds. PSU—Knizner, 24-12-1, 163 yds., 1 TD; Bill, 11-7-1, 88 yds., 1 TD.
 Leading Receivers: ALA—Whitehurst, 2-65; Stafford, 2-28. PSU—Coates, 6-42; Roundtree, 4-114, 2 TDs; Timpson, 4-22.

First Quarter	Time	PSU—Roundtree, 21 pass from Bill (Etze kick)	1:13
ALA—Humphrey, 73 run (kick failed)	8:21	Fourth Quarter	
ALA—Doyle, 46 FG	1:09	ALA—Wright, 10 run (Doyle kick)	12:28
Second Quarter		PSU—Roundtree, 60 pass from Knizner (pass failed)	6:05
ALA—D. Smith, 1 run (Russell pass from Whitehurst)	3:10		

SEPTEMBER 19, 1987 AT BIRMINGHAM (WTBS-TV) (75,808)

SEPTEMBER 26, 1987 AT NASHVILLE (41,824)

Florida freshman sensation Emmitt Smith ran his way into the record books gaining 224 yards on the Alabama defense and paced the Gators to a 23-14 win over the Tide at Legion Field.

Vanderbilt, with upset on its mind, gave Alabama all it wanted as the Crimson Tide used last quarter heroics by halfback Bobby Humphrey to post a 30-23 victory in Dudley Field.

"We said we weren't going to get excited with the first couple of wins and we're not going to get depressed over getting whipped," said Tide coach Bill Curry after his team dropped to 2-1 on the season. "We got whipped," Curry added, "coaches, players, we got outplayed and out-prepared by Florida."

"I was pleased the way we drove the football late in the game, especially the way Vince Sutton came in and directed the offense after David [Smith] was injured," said Crimson Tide Coach Bill Curry who saw his team improve to 3-1 on the young season. "But we're still lacking that killer instinct and that concerns me."

The first half, dominated by kicking and defense, saw Alabama's Philip Doyle give the Tide a 3-0 first quarter lead with a 36-yard field goal. Doyle's Gator counterpart, Robert McGinty, converted on 26 and 21-yard three-pointers to give Florida a 6-3 advantage at intermission.

In a high-scoring first half, Alabama tallied in the opening period when placekicker Philip Doyle converted a 29-yard field goal to take a 3-0 lead.

After Doyle tied the game at 6-6 with 10:58 remaining in the third period, Smith took the game completely over.

Vanderbilt returned on its next possession and drove the ball 73 yards in 11 plays to take a 7-3 lead. Commodore quarterback Eric Jones capped the march with a two-yard scoring toss to tight end Tim Kosanovich.

Rushing for 117 yards in the second half, he scored on a 30-yard delay to give Florida the lead for good, 13-6, with 5:39 left in the third quarter.

In the second period, Humphrey, who scored three touchdowns on the night, scored on runs of eight and nine yards while Vandy's Mac McCarroll tallied on a five-yard scoring burst. At halftime, Alabama held a 17-14 lead.

After a McGinty field goal (37 yards) opened the fourth-period scoring, Smith scored on a one-yard run to move Florida ahead, 23-6. On the day, Smith rushed for a school-record 224 yards and two touchdowns.

Vanderbilt tied the game in the second half when placekicker Johnny Clark booted a 46-yard field goal.

Junior quarterback Vince Sutton came off the bench in the fourth quarter to throw a 13-yard touchdown to Angelo Stafford with 3:12 remaining in the game. Sutton ended the game's scoring by completing a two-point pass to fullback Bo Wright.

But Alabama returned on its next possession to march 72 yards in nine plays to regain the lead. Smith connected on a 22-yard scoring strike to Marco Battle to move the Tide out front, 23-17. Doyle's extra-point attempt was missed.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

FLORIDA	0	6	7	10	—	23
ALABAMA	3	0	3	8	—	14
STATISTICS			ALA		FLA	
First Downs			14		15	
Rushing [Net]			148		233	
Passing [Net]			92		130	
TOTAL OFFENSE			240		363	
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.			24-8-0		17-8-2	
Punting-No./Avg.			7-43.6		4-39.5	
Fumbles/No. Lost			3-2		3-2	
Penalties/Yards Penalized			4-31		4-39	

In the final stanza, Clark kicked field goals of 39 and 27 yards to knot the score at 23-23.

Following a collarbone injury to Smith, Sutton came in and directed an Alabama drive that covered 54 yards in two-and-a-half minutes. Humphrey's one-yard touchdown dive with 42 seconds remaining in the game vaulted the Tide to its 30-23 victory.

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey 19-73; P. Goode, 1-39; Wright, 4-38. FLA—E. Smith, 39-224, 2 TDs; McGrady, 5-8; W. Williams, 4-7.

"Bama Pride" players for the Vanderbilt game included offensive guards Larry Rose and Roger Shultz, linebackers Willie Shephard, Greg Gilbert, Derrick Thomas, Randy Rockwell and George Bethune, holder Larry Abney, halfback Bobby Humphrey, placekicker Alan Ward, fullbacks Bo Wright and Doug Allen, center Butch Lewis, receivers Clay Whitehurst, Angelo Stafford, Marco Battle and Pierre Goode, defensive backs John Mangum and Kermit Kendrick and noseguard Willie Wyatt.

Leading Passers: ALA—Sutton, 14-6-0, 72 yds., 1 TD; D. Smith, 10-2-0, 20 yds. FLA—Bell, 17-8-2, 130 yds.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	3	14	6	7	—	30
VANDERBILT	7	7	3	6	—	23
STATISTICS			ALA		VANDY	
First Downs			21		19	
Rushing [Net]			252		74	
Passing [Net]			97		219	
TOTAL OFFENSE			349		293	
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.			14-10-2		29-19-0	
Punting-No./Avg.			2-37.0		3-34.3	
Fumbles/No. Lost			2-1		1-1	
Penalties/Yards Penalized			4-30		2-17	

Leading Receivers: ALA—Stafford, 3-45, 1 TD; Humphrey, 2-14; Battle, 1-14. FLA—Lomack, 2-50; W. Odom, 2-19; Mills, 1-49.

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 25-162, 3 TDs; K. Goode, 7-36; Wright, 7-29. VANDY—McCarroll, 17-58, 1 TD; Jones, 15-23; Barrett, 1-2. Leading Passers: ALA—D. Smith, 12-9-1, 88 yds., 1 TD; Sutton, 2-1-1, 9 yds. VANDY—Jones, 29-19-0, 219 yds., 1 TD.

First Quarter	Time	(McGinty kick)	5:39
ALA—Doyle, 36 FG	6:21	Fourth Quarter	
Second Quarter		FLA—McGinty, 37 FG	11:11
FLA—McGinty, 26 FG	13:44	FLA—E. Smith, 1 run	
FLA—McGinty, 21 FG	:48	(McGinty kick)	7:50
Third Quarter		ALA—Stafford, 13 pass	
ALA—Doyle, 25 FG	10:58	from Sutton (Wright pass	
FLA—E. Smith, 30 run		from Sutton)	3:12

Leading Receivers: ALA—Humphrey 3-25; K. Goode 2-18; Battle, 1-22, 1 TD. VANDY—Mitchell, 8-143; Crawford, 5-41; Kosanovich, 1-2, 1 TD.

First Quarter	Time	(Doyle kick)	1:13
ALA—Doyle, 29 FG	6:26	Third Quarter	
VANDY—Kosanovich, 2		VANDY—Clark, 46 FG	10:45
pass from Jones		ALA—Battle, 22 pass	
(Clark kick)	1:24	from Smith (kick failed)	6:32
Second Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
ALA—Humphrey, 8 run		VANDY—Clark, 39 FG	12:02
(Doyle kick)	9:47	VANDY—Clark, 27 FG	3:32
VANDY—McCarroll, 5		ALA—Humphrey, 1 run	
run (Clark kick)	5:46	(A. Ward kick)	:42
ALA—Humphrey, 9 run			

OCTOBER 3, 1987 AT BIRMINGHAM (72,233)
(Homecoming)

Alabama enjoyed a festive Homecoming with a 38-10 victory over visiting Southwestern Louisiana.

Junior quarterback Vince Sutton, who had not started since the 1984 Mississippi State game, directed the Crimson Tide to its fourth victory in five starts. On the day, the LaGrange, Ga., native, completed 7-of-15 passes for 166 yards and two touchdowns.

"Vince did some things that were very costly and he did some things that were very phenomenal," said Bill Curry in a mixed review. "I guess that could be expected considering how long it's been since he's played and how talented he is."

Curry was pleased with the play of the Alabama defense. "I was proud of the defense for scratching and fighting and keeping them out of the end zone. They kept giving the offense chances."

Particularly outstanding was the Tide secondary which picked off three Ragin' Cajun aerials.

The Crimson Tide bolted to a 24-3 halftime lead when Alan Ward booted a 51-yard field goal. Sutton scored on a 17-yard run and then connected on scoring passes of 40 and 46 yards to sophomore split end Pierre Goode.

USL placekicker Patrick Broussard got the Cajuns on the board with a 48-yard field goal in the first period.

In the second half, free safety Kermit Kendrick scored his first career touchdown on a 35-yard interception return.

USL fullback Steve McKinney scored his team's lone touchdown with 4:26 remaining in the third stanza to cut Alabama's lead, 31-10.

Senior halfback Kerry Goode ended the game's scoring when he ran one yard to give Alabama a 38-10 victory.

"Bama Pride" players for the USL game included halfback Kerry Goode, offensive tackles Jeff Bentley and Terrill Chatman, receivers Marco Battle, Pierre Goode and Clay Whitehurst, linebackers Greg Gilbert, Vantreise Davis, Willie Shephard, Phillip Brown and Derrick Thomas, defensive backs Kermit Kendrick, Mike Smith, John Mangum and Lee Ozmint, noseguard Willie Wyatt and special teams players Wayne Shaw, Spencer Hammond and Larry Abney.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

SOUTHWESTERN		ALABAMA		STATISTICS		
LOUISIANA	3	0	7	0	—	10
ALABAMA	17	7	7	7	—	38
				ALA	USL	
First Downs				13	10	
Rushing (Net)				147	114	
Passing (Net)				187	91	
TOTAL OFFENSE				334	205	
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.				18-10-1	30-8-3	
Punting-No./Avg.				5-36.4	7-28.0	
Fumbles/No. Lost				7-4	7-2	
Penalties/Yards Penalized				9-70	4-34	

Leading Rushers: ALA—K. Goode, 15-68, 1 TD; Sutton, 20-16, 1 TD; Humphrey, 7-16. USL—McKinney, 17-49, 1 TD; Parquet, 8-30; Campbell, 3-16.

Leading Passers: ALA—Sutton, 15-7-1, 166 yds., 2 TDs; Dunn, 2-2-0, 14 yds., Ray, 1-1-0, 7 yds. USL—Pannell, 16-5-1, 48 yds., Campbell, 9-3-1, 43 yds., Mitchell, 5-0-1, 0 yds.

Leading Receivers: ALA—Humphrey 3-27; P. Goode, 2-86, 2 TDs; Stafford, 1-40. USL—Atkins, 4-47; Lejeune, 1-39; P.D. Broussard, 1-5.

First Quarter	Time	Third Quarter	Time
ALA—A. Ward, 51 FG	8:16	ALA—Kendrick, 35 interception return	
ALA—Sutton, 17 run (A. Ward kick)	4:22	USL—McKinney, 1 run (Broussard kick)	4:26
ALA—P. Goode, 40 pass from Sutton (A. Ward kick)	3:25		
USL—Broussard, 48 FG	:53		
Second Quarter	Time	Fourth Quarter	Time
ALA—P. Goode, 46 pass from Sutton (A. Ward kick)	2:35	ALA—K. Goode, 1 run (A. Ward kick)	6:53

OCTOBER 10, 1987 AT MEMPHIS (40,622)

Miscues, in the form of turnovers, crucial penalties and missed assignments, spelled defeat for Alabama as Memphis State came away with a 13-10 upset win over the Crimson Tide at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium.

With grim determination, Bill Curry said his Alabama team would return to the form Crimson Tide faithful expected.

"I realize we're at a critical point in our season," he said following his team's three-point loss. "You could say our backs are against the wall. But looking at our team, every one of them wants to win. I want to win."

Early in the game, it looked as if Alabama would have no problem notching its fifth win in six starts.

Late in the first quarter, however, Memphis State held the Tide offense on a fourth-and-one play at the Tiger 32 to thwart an Alabama scoring opportunity to keep the initial stanza scoreless.

Again in the second quarter, the MSU defense stopped the Tide offense with a goal-line stand to keep Alabama off the scoreboard a second time.

After two missed opportunities, a John Cassimus punt return to the Tiger 30 set up Alabama's first touchdown of the day.

Bobby Humphrey scored on a nine-yard scoring reception from Vince Sutton to cap a three-play, 30-yard drive to give the Tide a 7-0 lead with 44 seconds remaining in the first half.

But Memphis State, with a potent passing attack and a crucial interference call on the Tide at the MSU goal line, drove 50 yards in five plays to set up John Butler's 38-yard field goal which cut the Tide's advantage at intermission, 7-3.

In the second half, Alabama moved impressively on its first offensive series and took a 10-3 lead when freshman placekicker Philip Doyle converted his longest field goal of the year, a 52-yarder. Doyle's kick followed the Tide's 10-play, 38-yard march.

But the stubborn Tigers took their next possession and moved 55 yards in eight plays as fullback Gerald White capped the drive with a three-yard scoring run to tie the game, 10-10.

Again two critical interference penalties set up MSU with first downs in the scoring march.

Following the MSU touchdown, Alabama was marching and had apparently taken a 16-10 lead when Kerry Goode went over from six yards out, but a holding penalty nullified the Tide score.

After the penalty, Tiger defensive tackle Greg Ross intercepted a batted pass and returned the ball to the Memphis State 45.

Six plays later, Butler kicked the winner, a 47-yard field goal, that gave Memphis State its 13-10 win.

"This should make us more determined than ever to do the things necessary to come back and win," Curry said in the Alabama locker room following the game.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA		MEMPHIS STATE		STATISTICS		
0	7	3	0	—	10	
0	3	7	3	—	13	
				MSU	ALA	
First Downs				18	16	
Rushing (Net)				170	208	
Passing (Net)				78	66	
TOTAL OFFENSE				248	274	
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.				10-7-1	21-8-3	
Punting-No./Avg.				5-35.2	3-48.3	
Fumbles/No. Lost				3-1	1-0	
Penalties/Yards Penalized				7-40	9-81	

Leading Rushers: MSU—Pryor, 19-112; G. White, 17-73, 1 TD; Moody, 3-7. ALA—Humphrey, 22-84; Sutton, 7-45; K. Goode, 7-31.

Leading Passers: MSU—Jones, 5-3-0, 47 yds; Whitwell, 5-4-1, 31 yds. ALA—Sutton, 18-8-1, 66 yds., 1 TD; Dunn, 3-0-2, 0 yds.

Leading Receivers: MSU—Craft, 3-30; Pryor, 2-24; Atkins, 1-19. ALA—Humphrey, 4-15, 1 TD; Cross, 2-27; Stafford, 1-14.

Second Quarter	Time	Third Quarter	Time
ALA—Humphrey, 8 pass from Sutton (Doyle kick)	:44	ALA—Doyle, 52 FG	8:11
MSU—Butler, 37 FG	:00	MSU—G. White, 3 run (Butler kick)	4:56
		Fourth Quarter	
		MSU—Butler, 47 FG	8:28

OCTOBER 17 AT BIRMINGHAM (75,808) (ESPN-TV)

Just as everything had gone wrong for Alabama a week earlier in Memphis, everything went just perfect as the Crimson Tide returned for a 41-22 victory over visiting Tennessee.

Alabama set the stage for a big evening when it marched 80 yards following the opening kickoff when fullback Bo Wright smashed one yard for a touchdown to give the Tide a 7-0 lead.

Gene Jelks gave Alabama a 14-0 margin when he caught a Bob Garmon punt on the run and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown and the Tide was never headed.

For good measure, freshman quarterback Jeff Dunn, getting his first collegiate start at signal-caller, hooked up with sophomore split end Pierre Goode on a school-record, 90-yard touchdown bomb which put Alabama ahead, 21-0, at the end of the first quarter.

In the second period, Alabama's Philip Doyle (47 yards) and Tennessee's Phil Reich (20 yards) traded field goals to give the Tide a 24-3 halftime lead.

In the second half, it was more of the same for Alabama.

The third period saw Reich (36 yards) and Doyle (43 yards) trade field goals before Bobby Humphrey scored on a four-yard run to put the Crimson Tide ahead, 34-6, after three quarters. Humphrey's touchdown romp was set up by a 43-yard circus catch by senior flanker Clay Whitehurst.

In the final stanza, Tennessee tallied when fullback William Howard scored on a two-yard run to cut the Tide lead, 34-14.

But Humphrey returned for Alabama's final touchdown when he ran 17 yards to paydirt to give the Tide an insurmountable 41-14 advantage.

The final touchdown of the game came when quarterback Jeff Francis completed a 33-yard touchdown strike to tight end John Rollins to make the final: Alabama 41, Tennessee 22.

"We learned a lot about the pride factor in this team tonight," said Bill Curry after the first evening meeting between Alabama-Tennessee in a series that began in 1901. "It wasn't a great performance, but it's great to be 2-1 in the Southeastern Conference."

"Bama Pride" players included (offensively) Humphrey, Kerry Goode, Doug Allen, Terrill Chatman, Joe King, Whitehurst, Marco Battle, Pierre Goode, Larry Rose, Bill Condon, (defensively) Steve Ramer, Lydell Mitchell, Robert Stewart, John Mangum, Kermit Kendrick, Shannon Felder, Mike Smith, Jelks, Willie Wyatt, Tommy Cole, Lee Ozmint, Randy Rockwell, Phillip Brown, Derrick Thomas, Anthony Smith, (special teams) Larry Abney, John Davis, Steve Turner and Todd Richardson.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

TENNESSEE	0	3	3	16	—	22
ALABAMA	21	3	10	7	—	41
STATISTICS				TENN	ALA	
First Downs				21	19	
Rushing (Net)				51	224	
Passing (Net)				358	229	
TOTAL OFFENSE				409	453	
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.				44-26-4	17-10-1	
Punting-No./Avg.				3-39.3	2-33.0	
Fumbles/No. Lost				4-2	1-0	
Penalties/Yards Penalized				9-64	2-25	

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 23-127, 2 TDs; Allen, 8-33; Wright, 6-24, 1 TD. TENN—Cobb, 11-29; Howard, 6-18, 1 TD.

Leading Passers: ALA—Dunn, 17-10-1, 229 yds., 1 TD. TENN—Francis, 44-26-4, 358 yds., 1 TD.

Leading Receivers: ALA—Whitehurst, 5-92; Humphrey, 2-23; P. Goode, 1-90, 1 TD. TENN—Howard, 6-66; Woods, 5-66; Rollins, 2-57, 1 TD.

First Quarter	Time	ALA—Doyle, 43 FG	6:00
ALA—Wright, 1 run (Doyle kick)	8:11	ALA—Humphrey, 4 run (Doyle kick)	:10
ALA—Jelks, 63 punt return (Doyle kick)	6:37	Fourth Quarter	
ALA—P. Goode, 90 pass from Dunn (Doyle kick)	1:00	TENN—Howard, 2 run (Woods pass from Francis)	5:00
Second Quarter		ALA—Humphrey, 17 run (Doyle kick)	2:30
ALA—Doyle, 47 FG	10:30	TENN—Rollins, 33 pass from Francis (Woods pass from Francis)	:45
TENN—Reich, 20 FG	2:30		
Third Quarter			
TENN—Reich, 36 FG	10:25		

OCTOBER 31 AT BIRMINGHAM (73,877)

Alabama's lack of killer instinct hurt the team again as the Crimson Tide scored late in the game to gain a come-from-behind, 21-18 win over Mississippi State at Legion Field.

"I think the story of this game was obvious," said a relieved, but disturbed Bill Curry. "It's a recurring theme with our team. It's disturbing, yet obviously the team has guts and does what it takes to win."

"We cannot continue to have that kind of lapse in concentration and put our defense on the field that often and win."

After spotting Mississippi State a 3-0 lead on a 41-yard field goal by Joel Logan in the first quarter, the Tide offense awoke and scored consecutive touchdowns to take a 14-3 advantage at halftime.

With 24 seconds remaining in the initial quarter, Bobby Humphrey scored on an 83-yard gallop, the longest run of his illustrious career, to put the Tide ahead, 7-3.

In the second stanza, Jeff Dunn connected on a 15-yard touchdown pass to Clay Whitehurst to give Alabama an 11-point cushion at intermission.

Whitehurst's scoring grab was set up by a fumble recovery by line-backer Greg Gilbert at the MSU 26.

All night long, the Tide defense hurried Bulldog quarterbacks, causing seven quarterback sacks and two Mississippi State fumbles.

In the third period, the Bulldogs cut the Tide lead to 14-11 when half-back Orlando Wade scored on a 10-yard run that capped a 10-play, 59-yard march.

Mississippi State then took its second lead of the game when halfback Hank Phillips crashed over from the one to give the Bulldogs an 18-14 advantage with 3:59 remaining in the contest.

On the ensuing kickoff, however, the Alabama offense, which had been held to only 29 yards total offense throughout the third and fourth quarters, awoke and drove the ball 77 yards in 11 plays for the winning points.

Humphrey added his second touchdown of the night, a one-yard scoring run, with 46 seconds left in the game to lift Alabama to its sixth victory in eight starts.

"On the last drive—that's the way we should have been playing all night," explained Curry.

"Bama Pride" players included (offense) Jeff Bentley, Humphrey, Whitehurst, Bo Wright, (defense) Gilbert, John Mangum, Gene Jelks, Willie Wyatt, Tommy Cole, Darryl Whetstone, Randy Rockwell, Anthony Smith, (special teams) Woody Wilson, Todd Richardson, Mike Smith, Spencer Hammond, Steve Turner, John Davis, Steve Ramer, John Cassimus, Shannon Felder, Earlando Courtney, Craig Epps, Butch Lewis, Larry Abney and Philip Doyle.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

MISSISSIPPI STATE	3	0	8	7	—	18
ALABAMA	7	7	0	7	—	21
STATISTICS				ALA	MSU	
First Downs				12	20	
Rushing (Net)				174	166	
Passing (Net)				103	178	
TOTAL OFFENSE				277	344	
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.				18-8-0	22-13-0	
Punting-No./Avg.				10-48.8	7-45.6	
Fumbles/No. Lost				1-1	2-2	
Penalties/Yards Penalized				10-67	4-35	

Leading Rushers: MSU—Phillips, 25-110, 1 TD; Peters, 6-40; Wade, 9-37, 1 TD. ALA—Humphrey, 18-135, 2 TDs; Wright, 2-20; K. Goode, 2-18.

Leading Passers: MSU—Davis, 16-8-0, 90 yds.; Underwood, 6-5-0, 88 yds. ALA—Dunn, 18-8-0, 103 yds., 1 TD.

Leading Receivers: MSU—Hadley, 5-127; Kenneybrew, 3-38; Peters, 3-0. ALA—Whitehurst, 3-57, 1 TD; Wright, 3-22; Cross, 2-24.

First Quarter	Time	Third Quarter
MSU—Logan, 41 FG	9:28	MSU—Wade, 10 run (Wade run)
ALA—Humphrey, 83 run (Doyle kick)	:24	Fourth Quarter
Second Quarter		MSU—Phillips, 1 run (Logan kick)
ALA—Whitehurst, 15 pass from Dunn (Doyle kick)	2:20	ALA—Humphrey, 1 run (Doyle kick)
		:46

NOVEMBER 7, 1987 AT BATON ROUGE (ESPN-TV) (79,379)

NOVEMBER 14, 1987 AT SOUTH BEND (CBS-TV) (59,075)

The old adage, "The best defense is a good offense," certainly held true in Alabama's 22-10 win over LSU in front of a packed house at Tiger Stadium.

In the Crimson Tide's worst defeat of the season, Notre Dame's offense rolled up 465 yards total offense to register a 37-6 win over Alabama at South Bend, Ind.

In front of a national television audience, the Crimson Tide held on to the football for more than 40 minutes to improve its record to 7-2, 4-1 in Southeastern Conference play.

"There is only one thing to say about a loss like that," said Bill Curry. "We were whipped by a vastly superior football team."

"We knew we were going against a very physical team, so we knew we had to be physical, too, and run our offense," said Bill Curry after his team banged out 252 rushing yards against one of the top defenses in the country. "We didn't always execute and there was a lot of hard hitting by both teams. But we showed courage and togetherness tonight and that was the difference in this game."

"They had superior personnel coached in a superior fashion. They did everything they needed to do to dominate the football game."

Alabama used a ball-control offense to move for two first-quarter field goals to take an early 6-0 lead. Philip Doyle connected on 45 and 29-yard three-pointers to put the Tide ahead.

Alabama's lone lead of the game came in the opening period when Philip Doyle kicked a 34-yard field goal with 12:03 left to put the Tide out front, 3-0.

In the first stanza, Alabama ran 24 plays from scrimmage compared to LSU's 12.

Notre Dame tied the game when Ted Gradel converted a 49-yard, three-pointer.

The Bayou Bengals' offense got untracked in the second quarter, however, to give LSU a 10-6 halftime lead.

With the score knotted 3-3 going into the second quarter, the Irish tallied on three-straight possessions to move ahead for good.

Following a David Brownkyke (37 yards) field goal, fullback Victor Jones ran nine yards on an off-tackle play to give the Tigers its four-point cushion at intermission.

Notre Dame scored when quarterback Tony Rice kept on the option 12 yards to go ahead, 10-3. On its next possession, the Irish converted a three-down-and-two play when Rice found tight end Andy Heck on a three-yard scoring pass. Gradel's 21-yard field goal put the Irish out front, 20-3.

With 10 minutes remaining in the third quarter, "big play" performer Derrick Thomas broke through the LSU line and stripped quarterback Mickey Guidry from the football. Thomas grabbed the loose ball at the Alabama 39, thwarting a Tiger march.

Doyle's 28-yard three-pointer with 14 seconds remaining in the half gave Notre Dame a 20-6 halftime edge.

From there, the Tide offense used its ball-control style to drive 61 yards in 11 plays to regain the lead when fullback Bo Wright crashed one yard for a touchdown. The Tide's 13-10 lead was directed by Jeff Dunn, who called nine rushing plays and two passes in the drive that ate up 5:12 of the clock.

Gradel's third field goal of the game, a 22-yarder in the third period, put the Irish out front 23-3.

Doyle increased the Alabama lead (16-10) when he kicked a 32-yard field goal with 7:08 left in the game. Halfback Kerry Goode completed a 40-yard pass to flanker Marco Battle to the LSU 35 to set up the three-pointer.

In the final stanza, a couple of long runs by Irish halfbacks Mark Green (74 yards) and Ricky Watters (75 yards) gave Notre Dame its 37-6 winning margin.

When LSU sent regular quarterback Tom Hodson into the game for the first time of the evening, Tide cornerback Gene Jelks was up to the task. Jelks' interception of Hodson's first pass attempt of the night gave Alabama the ball at the Tiger 30.

"Fortunately, we don't go out with a performance like this," ended Curry. "We still have a game left, and a very big one."

Four plays later, Humphrey, who finished the game with 35 carries for 177 yards, broke four tackles on his way to a 10-yard touchdown romp which sealed the 22-10 win for the Tide.

"Bama Pride" players included (offense) receivers Clay Whitehurst and Angelo Stafford and halfback Bobby Humphrey and (special teams) Lorenzo Ward, Earlando Courtney, Philip Doyle, Todd Richardson and Larry Abney.

"Bama Pride" players included (offense) Humphrey, Kerry Goode, Doug Allen, Wright, Howard Cross, Jeff Bentley, Terrill Chatman, John Fruhmorgen, Clay Whitehurst, Battle, Pierre Goode, Larry Rose, Bill Condon, Roger Shultz, (defense) Robert Stewart, Greg Gilbert, John Mangum, Jelks, Mike Smith, Kermit Kendrick, Tommy Cole, Willie Wyatt, Thomas Rayam, Lee Ozmint, Randy Rockwell, Thomas, Anthony Smith, Phillip Brown and (special teams) Earlando Courtney, Woody Wilson, Larry Abney, Todd Richardson, Chris Mohr and Spencer Hammond.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	3	3	0	0	—	6
NOTRE DAME	3	17	3	14	—	37
STATISTICS				ALA		ND
First Downs				10		17
Rushing (Net)				135		348
Passing (Net)				50		117
TOTAL OFFENSE				185		465
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.				29-9-1		9-5-0
Punting-No./Avg.				8-44.4		3-49.6
Fumbles/No. Lost				1-1		2-2
Penalties/Yards Penalized				8-70		7-70

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	6	0	7	9	—	22
LSU	0	10	0	0	—	10
STATISTICS				ALA		LSU
First Downs				21		20
Rushing (Net)				252		133
Passing (Net)				102		180
TOTAL OFFENSE				354		313
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.				18-8-1		26-16-2
Punting-No./Avg.				3-40.7		4-28.5
Fumbles/No. Lost				1-0		3-3
Penalties/Yards Penalized				4-45		5-36

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 35-177, 1 TD; K. Goode, 5-33; Wright, 10-26, 1 TD. LSU—V. Jones, 8-60, 1 TD; S. Martin, 8-44; H. Williams, 6-37.
 Leading Passers: ALA—Dunn, 17-7-1, 62 yds.; K. Goode, 1-1-0, 40 yds. LSU—M. Guidry, 17-10-0, 115 yds.; Hodson, 9-6-2, 65 yds.
 Leading Receivers: ALA—Whitehurst, 3-27; Cross, 2-19; K. Goode, 2-16. LSU—Davis, 9-101; Magee, 2-30; Haliburton, 2-14.

First Quarter	Time	Third Quarter	
ALA—Doyle, 45 FG	8:28	ALA—Wright, 1 run	
ALA—Doyle, 29 FG	4:27	(Doyle kick)	5:04
Second Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
LSU—Brownkyke, 37 FG	14:44	ALA—Doyle, 32 FG	7:08
LSU—V. Jones, 9 run		ALA—Humphrey, 10 run	
(Brownkyke kick)	6:14	(Doyle kick)	4:48

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 14-94; P. Goode, 1-11; K. Goode 5-11. ND—Green, 18-149, 1 TD; Watters, 4-81, 1 TD; Rice, 9-30, 1 TD.
 Leading Passers: ALA—Ray, 12-6-1, 33 yds.; Dunn, 14-3-0, 17 yds.; Sutton, 3-0-0. ND—Rice, 8-5-0, 117 yds., 1 TD; K. Graham, 1-0-1.

Leading Receivers: ALA—Cross, 3-35; Humphrey, 3-9; Whitehurst, 1-8. ND—Brown, 4-114; Heck, 1-3, 1 TD.

First Quarter	Time	ALA—Doyle, 28 FG	:14
ALA—Doyle, 34 FG	12:03	Third Quarter	
ND—Gradel, 49 FG	8:55	ND—Gradel, 22 FG	3:46
Second Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
ND—Rice, 12 run		ND—Green, 74 run	
(Gradel kick)	12:04	(Gradel kick)	12:11
ND—Heck, 3 pass from		ND—Watters, 75 run	
Rice (Gradel kick)	5:41	(Gradel kick)	4:01
ND—Gradel, 21 FG	2:26		

Game No. 11 Auburn No. 2, Alabama 0

NOVEMBER 27, 1987 AT BIRMINGHAM (CBS-TV) (75,808)

In an unusual defensive struggle from past-years, Auburn shut out Alabama 10-0 with two last minute scores in both halves before a packed stadium of 75,808 fans and a national television audience carried by CBS.

On its second possession with fourth down and inches from the Auburn 47, Alabama's Bo Wright failed to gain in what could have been a plus for the Crimson Tide in the early going.

Still, Alabama forced Auburn to punt and other punt exchanges resulted until Phillip Doyle attempted a 53-yard field goal with 7:56 left in the half. The ball had distance to spare but hit the left goal post and was no good.

On Auburn's next possession, Derrick Thomas blocked a Brian Shulman punt from the Auburn 18 and Thomas recovered going out of bounds on the nine-yard line. After three running plays got Alabama to the one yard line, Alabama tried for the touchdown on fourth down. Quarterback Jeff Dunn rolled to his right but his pass overthrew Howard Cross in the end zone.

Auburn took over and drove for its only touchdown of the game. It was highlighted by a 44-yard pass from Jeff Burger to Lawyer Tillman with 15 more yards added for a personal foul penalty. Another personal foul penalty against Alabama following a 13-yard quarterback sack proved costly and gave Auburn a first down at the Alabama 22.

Stacy Danley ran 17 yards up the middle and Harry Mose then ran five yards around left end for the score with :52 seconds remaining in the half. Win Lyle kicked the extra point.

In the second half, Alabama had little opportunity offensively as Auburn controlled the ball for all but seven minutes. Quarterback David Smith, playing for the first time since the fourth game (Vanderbilt), tried to get Alabama going in the fourth quarter. However, the strong Auburn defense stopped any threats the Crimson Tide could muster.

However, the Alabama defense, which played superbly throughout the contest, allowed only three points in the second half as Lyle kicked a 23-yard field goal with 1:19 remaining in the game.

Leading tacklers for Alabama were Greg Gilbert (17), Derrick Thomas and Tommy Cole (10 each) and Willie Wyatt and Willie Shephard (9 each). Thomas had two quarterback sacks besides his blocked punt. Randy Rockwell and Cole also recorded sacks.

"Our men played their hearts out," Coach Bill Curry said afterwards. "You hate to see an effort like that go unrewarded. There's no consolation in the fact that we're going to a fine bowl, because we wanted to be champions."

"When we blocked the punt, it was a good play by Auburn to keep us out of the end zone. Those are the plays you make to be a champion."

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	0	0	0	0	—	0
AUBURN	0	7	0	3	—	10
STATISTICS			ALA			AUB
First Downs			10			20
Rushing [Net]			136			185
Passing [Net]			47			128
TOTAL OFFENSE			183			313
Passes-Att./Comp./Int.			17-7-2			18-14-1
Punting-No./Avg.			6-36.5			6-39.6
Fumbles/No. Lost			1-1			3-1
Penalties/Yards Penalized			3-39			5-36

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 22-83; Wright, 6-28. AUB—Danley, 26-157; Ware, 19-61.
 Leading Passers: ALA—Dunn, 14-5-2, 38 yds. AUB—Burger, 18-14-1, 128 yds.
 Leading Receivers: ALA—Cross, 2-12; Battle, 1-15; Wright, 1-9. AUB—Tillman, 3-61; Danley, 4-13; Donaldson, 4-29.

Second Quarter	Time
AUB—Mose, 5 run [Lyle kick]	:52
Fourth Quarter	
AUB—Lyle, 23 FG	1:19

Game No. 12 Michigan 28, Alabama 24
Hall of Fame Bowl

JANUARY 2, 1988 AT TAMPA, Fla. (60,156)

In a battle of two traditional football powers, Alabama and Michigan met for the first time in the second Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa, Fla., and the Wolverines won 28-24 on a fourth down last minute touchdown.

NBC televised the game nationally and 60,156 fans looked on as Alabama Coach Bill Curry faced Michigan Assistant Head Coach Gary Moeller who replaced Head Coach Bo Schembechler, who had a heart attack three weeks prior to the game.

A 51-yard Philip Doyle field goal at 8:43 in the first quarter gave the Crimson Tide a 3-0 lead. Michigan's All-American halfback Jamie Morris then proceeded to score three unanswered touchdowns. Two came in the second quarter from 25 and 14 yards out. Michigan held a 14-3 lead at intermission.

On Michigan's second possession in the third quarter, Morris broke through the left side of his line for a 77-yard touchdown sprint with 9:36 remaining. Down 21-3, Alabama came to life and scored three touchdowns for the lead.

With 4:55 left in the third stanza, tight end Howard Cross took a 16-yard scoring strike from quarterback Jeff Dunn to complete a 72-yard drive. Then on Alabama's next possession, the team put together an 85-yard drive with its All-American tailback Bobby Humphrey leaping over from the one yard line.

After forcing Michigan to punt on its next two possessions, the passing of Dunn and the running of Humphrey completed a 79-yard drive with Humphrey scoring on a determined 17-yard run. Dunn completed a two-point play to Clay Whitehurst for a 24-21 lead with 4:49 remaining to play.

Starting from its own 38-yard line after the kickoff, Michigan caught fire and moved to Alabama's 20-yard line with a fourth and three situation. In a surprise move, quarterback Demetrius Brown completed a beautifully executed touchdown pass with 50 seconds left in the game to flanker John Kolesar in the end zone to give the Wolverines a 28-24 victory.

Dunn completed 23 of 40 passes for 269 yards and Humphrey rushed for 149 yards on 27 attempts to lead Alabama offensively.

GAME STATS AND SCORING

ALABAMA	3	0	6	15	=	24
MICHIGAN	0	14	7	7	=	28
STATISTICS						
First Downs				28		12
Rushing [Net]				191		278
Passing [Net]				269		68
TOTAL OFFENSE				460		346
Passes—Att./Comp./Had Int.				40-23-1		17-6-0
Punting—No./Avg.				4-42.5		6-42.5
Fumbles/No. Lost				1-1		0-0
Penalties/Yards Penalized				4-30		1-5

Leading Rushers: ALA—Humphrey, 27-149; K. Goode, 6-14; Dunn, 7-13. UM—Morris, 23-234; Bunch, 3-16; Hoard, 1-16.
 Leading Passers: ALA—Dunn, 40-23-1, 269 yds., 1 TD; Brown, 13-4-0, 72 yds., 1 TD.
 Leading Receivers: ALA—Whitehurst, 6-85; Cross, 6-81; Humphrey, 5-34. UM—McMurtry, 1-31; Kolesar, 1-20; Calloway, 1-14.

First Quarter	Time	Time
ALA—Doyle, 51 FG	8:43	ALA—Cross, 16-yard pass from Dunn [run failed]
Second Quarter		4:55
UM—Morris, 25-yard run (Gillette kick)	5:21	Fourth Quarter
UM—Morris, 14-yard run (Gillette kick)	14:13	ALA—Humphrey, 1-yard run (Doyle kick)
Third Quarter		12:54
UM—Morris, 77-yard run (Gillette kick)	9:36	UA—Humphrey, 17-yard run (Whitehurst pass from Dunn)
		3:45
		UM—Kolesar, 20-yard pass from Brown (Gillette kick)
		:50