

MISSOURI 41 OKLAHOMA STATE 31

2014

JANUARY 3

ATTENDANCE: 72,690

It took a little while, but Missouri showed why it was the SEC East champion and a national title contender.

Mizzou struggled offensively during the first three quarters and were plagued by three turnovers. But, the Tigers exploded for an AT&T Stadium record 24 fourth-quarter points, and defensive end Shane Ray returned a fumble 73 yards for a touchdown with 2:13 remaining as Missouri topped Oklahoma State 41-31 in the 78th annual AT&T Cotton Bowl.

"All the drama you don't want in the fourth quarter we had," said Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel said. "We had a lot of adversity. I thought our team handled the adversity very well. Fortunately we made the plays we needed to make to win at the end."

With the victory, Missouri finished the season 12-2 and tied the school record for most victories in a season. Pinkel also became Missouri's all-time winningest coach, earning his 102nd victory to surpass Don Faurot.

The former Big 12 and Big 8 conference foes set a Classic record for most points scored in the fourth quarter with 41. The two teams exchanged scores on six consecutive possessions. The streak was broken when defensive end

Michael Sam sacked Oklahoma State quarterback Clint Chelf and forced the fumble that Ray scooped up for the game-clinching score.

Missouri made the move from the Big 12 to the SEC in 2012 and gave the conference its 10th win in the last 11 Classics - all coming against the Big 12.

"That's something really big, I mean, representing the SEC. The SEC is such a powerful conference," said Missouri running back Henry Josey. "That's the conference everybody looks to. That's where all the attention is."

Trailing 31-27 with 3:08 left, Josey broke loose for his third score of the game, a 16-yard scamper into the end zone that gave the Tigers the lead back for good. Josey finished the game with 92 yards rushing and three touchdowns and was named the game's Outstanding Offensive Player.

"Josey is a remarkable kid. He's special," Pinkel said. "That's what you see on the field. The reason he's special is great athleticism, he's tough, he's strong, all those other things."

Both offenses came into the game averaging close to 40 points per contest but were limited by a multitude of penalties and turnovers before finally catching fire late.

James Franklin set up Josey's go-ahead touchdown on a key 27-yard strike to Dorial Green-Beckham. Clint Chelf threw for 377 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for Oklahoma State. He also rushed for 52 yards and another touchdown.

The situation looked bleak for the Cowboys late in the third quarter. Trailing 17-7, Chelf was intercepted by Braylon Webb. However, on the very next play, Missouri had trouble with the snap and Oklahoma State recovered the fumble at the Tigers 33-yard line. Less than a minute later, Chelf responded with a 21-yard touchdown pass to Jhajuan Seales and the Cowboys were within three.

Momentum was starting to shift. OSU tied the game at 17-17 on Ben Grogan's 25-yard field goal to start the fourth quarter and open the floodgates for both teams. Josey answered with a 25-yard scoring run for a 24-17 Missouri lead, only to see Chelf respond with a 23-yard touchdown run of his own to tie things back up. Mizzou's Andrew Baggett tacked on a 46-yard field goal to put the Tigers back in front, 27-24, but the Cowboys countered with a 75-yard drive that was capped by Desmond Roland's 2-yard scoring plunge to give OSU its only lead of the game at 31-27.

That's where the Cowboys' comeback hopes finally came to an end. Josey's 16-yard dash into the end zone with 3:08 on the clock pushed Mizzou back in front, followed by Ray's defensive heroics that secured the win, 41-31. It was Missouri's second victory in the AT&T Cotton Bowl in a span of six seasons.

Game Summary

OSU 7 0 7 17 **31**
MISSOURI 7 10 0 24 **41**

FIRST QUARTER

Missouri: Henry Josey 3 run (Andrew Baggett kick), 3:00, 50 yds in 11 plays, following interception

Oklahoma State: Josh Stewart 40 pass from Clint Chelf (Ben Grogan kick), 1:44, 75 yds in 5 plays, following kickoff.

SECOND QUARTER

Missouri: Marcus Lucas 24 pass from Maty Mauk (Baggett kick), 80 yds in 6 plays, 10:20, following missed FG attempt

Missouri: Baggett 35 FG. 0:00, 62 yds in 11 plays, following punt

THIRD QUARTER

OSU: Jhajuan Seales 21 pass from Chelf (Grogan kick), 2:10, 33 yds in 3 plays, following fumble

FOURTH QUARTER:

OSU: Grogan 25 FG, 13:32, 2 yds in 4 plays following fumble

Missouri: Josey 25 run (Baggett kick), 11:32, 60 yds in 6 plays following kickoff

OSU: Chelf 23 run (Grogan kick), 9:51, 75 yds in 8 plays following kickoff

Missouri: Baggett 46 FG, 6:29, 47 yds in 8 plays following kickoff

OSU: Desmond Roland 2 run (Grogan kick), 5:04, 75 yds in 7 plays following kickoff

Missouri: Josey 16 run (Baggett kick), 3:08, 69 yds in 7 plays following kickoff

Missouri: Shane Ray 73 fumble return (Baggett kick), 0:55 following fumble

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Henry Josey, Missouri
Andrew Wilson, Missouri

COACHES

Mike Gundy, Oklahoma State
Gary Pinkel, Missouri

WEATHER

Indoors

TEAM STATS

First Downs

OSU 26 MU 29

Rushing 10 16

Passing 16 9

Penalty 0 4

Rushes-Net Yards 39-171 47-256

Net Yards Passing 377 206

Passes 33-57-2 17-44-1

Total Plays 96 91

Total Net Yards 548 462

Fumbles-Lost 2-1 2-2

Penalties-Yards 10-100 4-42

Punts-Average 8-37.2 7-41.0

Game Statistics

RUSHING

OSU: Roland 16-66, Chelf 10-52, J. Smith 7-43, Childs 3-12, Stewart 2-7, Team 1-(-9).

Missouri: Josey 12-92, Mauk 3-73, Franklin 16-36, Murphy 7-30, Hansbrough 9-25.

PASSING

OSU: Chelf 33-57-2, 377 yds.
Missouri: Franklin 15-40-1, 174 yds; Mauk 2-4-0, 32 yds.

RECEIVING

OSU: Stewart 8-80, T. Moore 7-100, C. Moore 4-53, Ateman 4-36, Seales 3-42, Sheperd 3-36, Goodlet 1-18, Glidden 1-5, Childs 1-4, Roland 1-3.

Missouri: Green-Beckham 4-53, Lucas 3-46, Washington 3-40, Sasser 3-35, Josey 1-10, Hunt 1-8, Murphy 1-8, Hansbrough 1-6.

PUNTING

OSU: K. Smith 8-37.2.
Missouri: Brinser 7-41.0.