

Bowl Games

2005 CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

Dec. 27, 2005 at Orlando, Fla.

Clemson 19
Colorado 10

ORLANDO — James Davis became the first player to rush for over hundred yards against Colorado for the season as the Clemson freshman ran for 150 yards and a touchdown in the No. 23 Tigers' 19-10 win over the Buffaloes in the 16th annual Champs Sports Bowl.

The game was a defensive battle, with the two schools combining for just 489 yards of total offense, with the Buffs netting just 124 against a stifling Clemson unit. Colorado had just three first downs and 38 yards of offense in the first three periods and went three plays and out in six of its first nine possessions before getting untracked in the fourth quarter.

Despite CU's struggles on offense, the game wasn't decided until 1:38 remained, when Davis scored from 6 yards out to answer the Buffs lone touchdown of the evening. Backup quarterback Brian White had replaced starter James Cox in the fourth quarter and piloted the Buffaloes on a 69-yard drive that cut the "other" CU's lead to 13-10. White rolled right on third and goal and found tight end Quinn Sypniewski for a 2-yard touchdown pass, temporarily getting the Buffaloes back in the game.

But a worn out Colorado defense couldn't muster enough energy to stop the Tigers on their next possession, who clinched the game on the Davis score after marching 61 yards in seven plays in knocking just over four minutes off the clock. James Garee blocked the extra point attempt, and the Buffs did scoop up the ball and try to return it for a defensive two points, but the Tigers were on top of it and thwarted CU on its last-ditch attempt to remain down by a single score.

Cox and White were playing because three-year starter Joel Klatt was ruled out of the game, still suffering from the effects of a concussion in the Big12 Championship game (he suffered the injury on a vicious illegal hit by UT linebacker Drew Nelson with the Longhorns up by nine scores).

The first half produced a two-to-one lead in field goals by the runner-ups for the Lou Groza Award, as Clemson's Jad Daen opened the scoring with a 26-yard field goal in the first quarter, which was matched by Mason Crosby with a 36-yard boot on the first play of the second stanza. Dean added an 18-yard make with less than six minutes left in the half and the 6-3 Clemson lead stood at halftime.

Tiger quarterback Charlie Whitehurst capped a 67-yard drive with a 5-yard scoring run to open the second half, with the key play on the drive a 40-yard run by Davis, a bowl record and the longest against CU in two years.

That put Clemson up 13-3, a score that would hold until White supplanted Cox and drove CU into the end zone for its first touchdown in 14 quarters.

White completed 7-of-12 passes for 81 yards, with Sypniewski on leading all players in the game with 50 receiving yards, including CU's longest play of the game, a 28-yard catch from White on CU's scoring drive. CU's other individual highlight came from punter John Torp, as the Ray Guy Award runner-up averaged 49.7 yards on nine kicks, including a CU bowl record long of 68, four kicks of 60-plus yards and four inside-the-20.

The only other meeting between the schools came some 49 years earlier in the 1957 Orange Bowl, with the Buffs claiming that one by 27-21.

Colorado was coached by Mike Hankwitz, who was named interim head coach after Gary Barnett stepped down on December 8 after six seasons at the reins of the program.

Clemson	3	3	7	6	—	19
Colorado	0	3	0	7	—	10

Clemson — Dean 26 FG	0-3	5:23	1Q
CU — Crosby 36 FG	3-3	14:56	2Q
Clemson — Dean 18 FG	3-6	5:48	2Q
Clemson — Whitehurst 5 run (Dean kick)	3-13	11:45	3Q
CU — Sypniewski 2 pass from White (Crosby kick)	10-13	5:45	4Q
Clemson — Davis 6 run (kick blocked)	10-19	1:38	4Q

Attendance: 31,470

Time: 3:13

Weather: 59 degrees, clear skies, winds from the north 5-10 mph

TEAM STATISTICS	COLORADO	CLEMSON
First Downs	10	17
Third Down Efficiency	3-14	6-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-0
Rushes—Net Yards	29-17	38-160
Passing Yards	107	205
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)	24-11-0	29-21-1
Total Offense	124	365
Return Yards	39	7
Punts: No-Average	9-49.7	6-33.8
Fumbles: No-Lost	3-0	1-0
Penalties/Yards	7/44	6/49
Quarterback Sacks—Yards	3-19	4-29
Time of Possession	25:30	34:30
Drives/Average Field Position	12/C31	12/C23
Red Zone: Scores-Attempts (Points)	2-2 (10)	4-4 (19)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Charles 13-16, Vickers 6-15, Ellis 3-8, Cox 6-minus 21, Team 1-minus 1. Clemson: Davis 28-150, Merrilweather 3-8, Grisham 1-5, Whitehurst 6-minus 3.

Passing—Colorado: White 12-7-0, 81, 1 td; Cox 12-4-0, 26, 0 td. Clemson: Whitehurst 29-21-1, 205, 0 td.

Receiving—Colorado: Sypniewski 4-50, Charles 2-5, Williams 1-17, Judge 1-16, Vickers 1-10, Klopfenstein 1-5, Sprague 1-4. Clemson: Kelly 4-36, Baham 3-49, Hunter 3-26, Taylor 3-19, Grisham 2-34, Davis 2-21, Stuckey 2-9, Harris 1-8, Jackson 1-3.

Punting—Colorado: Torp 9-49.7 (68 long, 4 in20). Clemson: Chason 5-36.0 (46 long, 2 in20), Team 1-23.0.

Punt Returns—Colorado: Robinson 2-20. Clemson: Kelly 2-7.

Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Robinson 3-44, Charles 0-20. Clemson: Kelly 2-37, Grisham 1-25.

Interceptions—Colorado: Henderson 1-19. Clemson: none.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Th.Washington 6-2—8; Sims 6-0—6; Ivuh 5-0—5; Burl 4-1—5; Henderson 3-2—5; Dizon 4-0—4; Te.Washington 3-1—4; Billingsley 3-0—3; Dawn 2-1—3; Wright 1-2—3. Clemson: Waters 5-3—8; Bennett 6-1—7; Jackson 3-1—4; Coleman 2-2—4; Fudge 3-0—3; Adams 3-0—3.

Quarterback Sacks—Colorado: Th.Washington 2-12, Ligon 1-7. Clemson: Adams 2-23, Jackson 1-5, Bennett 1-1.

Passes Broken Up—Colorado: none. Clemson: Coleman, Hamlin.

2007 INDEPENDENCE BOWL

Dec. 30, 2007 at Shreveport, La.

Alabama 30
Colorado 24

SHREVEPORT, La. — It was a game of two halves, or rather a game of fifths. Alabama owned a commanding 27-0 lead after the first 24 minutes of play, and though Colorado dominated the last three-fifths of the game, the Buffaloes fell short in their comeback, succumbing 30-24 to the Crimson Tide in the 32nd Annual PetroSun Independence Bowl.

A pair of Leigh Tiffin field goals and three touchdown passes to three different receivers by John Parker Wilson built a 27-0 lead for Alabama with 12:20 to play in the second quarter. At that juncture, the Crimson Tide also owned staggering edges in total yards (235-27), first downs (12-1) and total plays (27-12). CU picked up one first down on its next possession but then had to punt, followed by 'Bama moving from its 20 to the CU 44 in five plays with six minutes left in the half.

Then the play that would swing momentum to CU for the first time all game occurred. Wilson had completed 13-of-15 passes to that point, but Ryan Walters intercepted his next throw at the Buff 22 and returned it to the Alabama 43. From there, the offense finally exuded some confidence and marched into the end zone in eight plays, capped by a 4-yard pass from Cody Hawkins to Tyson DeVree.

The Buffs forced Alabama to punt and took over on their own 45 with 1:11 to play in the half. Hawkins and DeVree hooked up on three straight pass plays that picked up 29 yards and had CU in field goal range at the Tide 26-yard line. Hawkins spiked the ball to stop the clock and after a 1-yard pass to Patrick Williams, CU had a 3rd-and-9 at the 25 but the clock was running under 10 seconds. The Buffs took a chance for the end zone, and it paid off when Hawkins hit a streaking Dusty Sprague for the score with just four seconds on the clock. When the smoke cleared, Hawkins completed 8-of-9 passes on the two touchdown drives that brought the Buffs to within 27-14 at halftime.

Walters' interception and increased pressure on Wilson (one sack, four hurries) threw the Tide's offense off track. UA ran just six plays in the third quarter, but the Buffs couldn't capitalize. CU drove to the 'Bama 29 to open the half, but Kevin Eberhart missed a 48-yard field goal. He came back and made a 39-yard field goal that cut the lead to 10, though it was a bit of a letdown for the Buffs who had started the drive on their own 3 and had marched to the Tide 24 before a holding penalty helped stall the drive.

CU drove to the Alabama 30 on its next possession before a sack of Hawkins by Wallace Gilberry, the defensive player of the game, disrupted the drive. The teams wound up trading punts, and after CU regained possession, Hawkins was intercepted at the CU 22 by Darren Mustin. CU's defense stiffened and forced a third Tiffin field goal, but it put Alabama up 30-17 with 4:36 remaining.

The game was not over, however, as Colorado drove 69 yards in five plays in just 45 seconds. Hawkins hit DeVree for 27 yards to the 'Bama 42, and then Williams for 28 more to the 14. After two incomplete throws, he found DeVree in the back of the end zone for the touchdown, with Eberhart's PAT kick putting CU to within one score, 30-24.

The Tide earned two first downs after CU kicked off deep, eventually punting into the end zone with one second left. From its own 20, the Buffs tried the 'ol "pass it and lateral it to whoever you can," picking up 25 yards in the process from Hawkins to Scotty McKnight, who pitched it to Daniel Sanders and he to Cody Crawford. But time ran out on CU.

Colorado rallied to outgain the Tide, 397-388, as Hawkins (322 yards, 3 TDs) and DeVree (9-94 receiving) were CU's offensive stars, while Walters (8 tackles, an interception, one sack and one PBU) and Butkus Award runner-up Jordon Dizon (14 tackles) led the Buff defense.

Alabama	20	7	0	3	—	30
Colorado	0	14	3	7	—	24

Alabama — Tiffin 41 FG	0-3	11:30	1Q
Alabama — Tiffin 24 FG	0-6	9:13	1Q
Alabama — Brown 15 pass from Wilson (Tiffin kick)	0-13	5:09	1Q
Alabama — Caddell 34 pass from Wilson (Tiffin kick)	0-20	1:31	1Q
Alabama — Stover 31 pass from Wilson (Tiffin kick)	0-27	12:20	2Q
CU — DeVree 4 pass from Hawkins (Eberhart kick)	7-27	2:05	2Q
CU — Sprague 25 pass from Hawkins (Eberhart kick)	14-27	0:04	2Q
CU — Eberhart 39 FG	17-27	3:00	3Q
Alabama — Tiffin 26 FG	17-30	4:36	4Q
CU — DeVree 14 pass from Hawkins (Eberhart kick)	24-30	3:51	4Q

Attendance: 47,043

Time: 3:20

Weather: 49 degrees, clear skies, winds from the southwest at 1 mph

TEAM STATISTICS	COLORADO	ALABAMA
First Downs	19	22
Third Down Efficiency	9-16	7-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-0
Rushes—Net Yards	28-75	37-132
Passing Yards	322	256
Passes (Att-Comp-Int)	40-24-2	32-19-1
Total Offense	397	388
Return Yards	41	17
Punts: No-Average	4-31.8	4-45.0
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties/Yards	4/30	4/21
Quarterback Sacks—Yards	1-8	1-8
Time of Possession	30:21	29:39
Drives/Average Field Position	13/C31	13/A31
Red Zone: Scores-Attempts (Points)	2-2 (14)	3-3 (13)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Colorado: Charles 14-69, Sprague 2-14, Smith 3-10, Ellis 5-6, Lockridge 2-minus 8; Hawkins 1-minus 8; Team 1-minus 8. Alabama: Coffee 19-72, Upchurch 12-34, Wilson 4-24, Caddell 1-12, Stover 1-minus 10.

Passing—Colorado: Hawkins 39-24-2, 322, 3 td; Team 1-0-0, 0. Alabama: Wilson 32-19-1, 256, 3 td.

Receiving—Colorado: DeVree 9-94, McKnight 4-67, Smith 2-40, Sprague 2-30, Williams 2-29, Robinson 2-12, Lockridge 1-22, J.Sanders 1-13, Behrens 1-5, D. Sanders 0-10. Alabama: Caddell 4-76, Hall 4-58, Walker 4-38, Stover 2-35, Upchurch 2-23, Coffee 2-11, Brown 1-15.

Punting—Colorado: DiLallo 3-34.3, (47 long, 1 in20, 1 blk); Team 1-24.0.

Alabama: Fitzgerald 4-45.0 (51 long, 1 in20).

Punt Returns—Colorado: none. Alabama: none.

Kickoff Returns—Colorado: Charles 6-126. Alabama: Arenas 3-76, McCall 1-11, Hall 1-7.

Interceptions—Colorado: Walters 1-35. Alabama: McClain 1-17, Mustin 1-0.

Tackle Leaders—Colorado: Dizon 9.5—14; Jones 7.3—10; Smart 4.5—9; Walters 7.1—8; Wheatley 3.2—5; Hypolite 0.5—5; Barrett 2.2—4; Harris 1.3—4; Nicolas 1.2—3; C.Brown 2.0—2; Herrod 2.0—2; Burney 1.1—2. Alabama: Johnson 8.5—13; Mustin 6.2—8; Gilberry 4.4—8; Jackson 3.2—5; McClain 2.3—5; Mitchell 3.1—4; Knight 2.2—4; Greenwood 2.0—2.

Quarterback Sacks—Colorado: Walters 1-8. Alabama: Gilberry 1-8.

Passes Broken Up—Colorado: Burney, Walters. Alabama: McClain 2, Jackson, Johnson.