Thirty years after “The Game of the Century,” the year 2000 began with a classic “Shootout” when long-time foes Arkansas and Texas renewed their rivalry in the 64th Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic.

The last time these two rivals met was in 1991 when the Razorbacks carted home a 14-13 victory prior to their departure to the Southeastern Conference from their long-time home in the Southwest Conference. However, the most famous meeting of all took place on December 6, 1969, in the final game of college football’s 100th season. Texas was ranked No. 1 and Arkansas was No. 2. President Richard Nixon flew into Fayetteville to proclaim the winning team as national champions.

That dreary winter day proved to be an afternoon the Hogs could never forget and one the Longhorns would point to with pride. Texas rallied from a fourth quarter 14-0 deficit in the “Big Shootout” to pull off a stunning 15-14 victory and propelled the Horns to a memorable battle with Notre Dame in the 1970 Cotton Bowl Classic.

No doubt, this wouldn’t be just any match-up on just any New Year’s Day. It was Texas vs. Arkansas, and the stage would be the Cotton Bowl at the “Turn of the Century.” And for Arkansas, it was a chance to bury some painful memories from the past.

The first half turned into a textbook defensive struggle with field goals coming from Arkansas’ Tony Dodson and Texas’ Kris Stockton to produce a 3-3 stalemate that stretched well into the third quarter.

At last, the fireworks ignited five minutes into the second half when Texas pinned the Razorbacks just outside the goal line after Ryan Long’s 44-yard punt was downed on the three. On two successive plays, Arkansas narrowly avoided being trapped for a safety. First, quarterback Clint Stoerner escaped the fierce Texas rush by diving out of the end zone to the one for a loss of two. Next, tailback Chrys Chukwuma was swarmed by three Longhorn defenders, yet somehow fought his way out of the end zone and back to the one for no gain.

Then came the game’s most decisive play. On third-and-12, Stoerner launched a 47-yard bomb to split end Anthony Lucas. It was the spark the Razorbacks needed to bring their offense to life. Quickly, Stoerner moved Arkansas from midfield to the Texas 30, and while scrambling to avoid another fierce pass rush, he lobbed a wobbly pass to Cedric Cobbs. The Hogs’ freshman tailback turned and sprinted down the sideline and into the end zone for a 10-3 lead.

The Arkansas defense rose up to stop Texas on three consecutive plays, Arkansas narrowly avoided being trapped for a safety. First, quarterback Clint Stoerner escaped the fierce Texas rush by diving out of the end zone to the one for a loss. On the first play from scrimmage, the elusive freshman Chris Simms who was promptly sacked for a six-yard loss and Texas had to punt.

Texas came right back. Led by sophomore quarterback Major Applewhite who connected on six-of-seven passes during the drive, the Longhorns marched 73 yards to the Arkansas one. But, that’s where the threat ended. The Arkansas defense rose up to stop Texas on three consecutive plays and forced the Longhorns to settle again for a field goal by Stockton.

Riding the momentum from its goal line stand, Arkansas pounded Texas with a 17-point barrage in the fourth quarter. The Hogs drove 86 yards in just seven plays to increase the lead to 17-6 when tailback turned and sprinted down the sideline and into the end zone to give Arkansas a 10-3 lead and finish a remarkable 97-yard touchdown drive.

The smothering Arkansas defense produced eight sacks for the day and held Texas to 262 yards passing for just 6.2 yards per attempt. The defensive MVP honors. The final gun produced Arkansas-Tony Dodson 27 FG, 2:46, 38 yards in 1 play following punt

First Quarter:

Texas-Kris Stockton 35 FG, 7:51, 23 yards in 6 plays following interception by Everick Rawls.

Second Quarter:

Arkansas-Cedric Cobbs 30 pass from Clint Stoerner (Dodson kick), 5:44, 97 yards in 9 plays following punt.

Third Quarter:

Texas-Stockton 22 FG, 1:07, 68 yards in 10 plays following kickoff.

Fourth Quarter:

Arkansas-Michael Jenkins 42 run (Dodson kick), 12:48, 86 yards in 7 plays following kickoff.

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

D. J. Cooper, Arkansas
Cedric Cobbs, Arkansas

COACHES

Mack Brown, Texas
Houston Nutt, Arkansas

WEATHER

Clear and Sunny, 50 degrees