By Paul Vozzella NEFJ Staff

MOBILE, AL – A thriller took place in Hancock Whitney Stadium on Saturday afternoon as the American team stole the game from the National team on the last play from scrimmage in the 76th Reese's Senior Bowl, coming away with a 22-19 victory.

Texas Christian University wide receiver Jack Bech – who was one of the biggest stories of the week – was on the receiving end of Memphis quarterback Seth Henigan's game-winning throw. The pass-catcher's brother lost his life in the New Year's Eve attack in New Orleans and all players wore a "7" patch on the back of their helmets in remembrance – his brother's football number at Princeton University.

In cinematic fashion, seven seconds remained on the clock before the final snap of the game. Bech finished with six receptions for 68 yards along with his last-second touchdown.

Before the crazy finish, the National team never trailed from the first score until Bech's heroics. They received the ball first and started off with several solid rushes from Oklahoma State running back Ollie Gordon. With the American defense committed to the run, Gordon caught a screen and chucked the ball downfield to Iowa State wide receiver Jayden Higgins for a 32-yard touchdown. Miami tight end Elijah Arroyo caught the two-point conversion from Oregon quarterback Dillon Gabriel to make it 8-0.

Notre Dame quarterback Riley Leonard got the start for the American offense, but it wasn't until Ole Miss' Jaxson Dart took control that they were able to put points on the board. Dart's performance in practice throughout the week has been highly debated, however, he put on a show during the game. After delivering a 39-yard flea-flicker to Bech, Dart used his feet to scramble for a seven yard touchdown to cap off the drive.

Replacing Gabriel at quarterback in the second quarter was Louisville's Tyler Shough. The 25-year-old prospect got the ball in enemy territory following a strip-sack by Arkansas edge rusher Landon Jackson. Shough tried to hit consensus All-American Bowling Green tight end Harold Fannin Jr. for six points, but the throw was way behind him and ended up in the hands of Tulane safety Caleb Ransaw. The turnover kept the game knotted up at eight heading into halftime.

The second half saw local favorite Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe take over for the American roster. On the other side of the ball, Central Arkansas edge rusher David Walker halted the drive with a sack, forcing team America to attempt a field goal that was no good. The Buck Buchanan Award winner for the best FCS defensive player more than held his own this week and proved he is a legitimate pass-rush threat.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter the National team got a taste of its own medicine. Memphis quarterback Seth Henigan tossed the ball out right to University of Central Florida running back RJ Harvey who slung a great pass to a wide open Maryland wide receiver Tai Felton in the back of the end zone.

Down by just three points and with the ball back, the American team tried to convert on fourth down to keep its drive alive, but Iowa safety Sebastian Castro had other plans, sprinting up the field to meet Milroe short of the line to gain.

The National team was unable to keep possession of the ball long enough to drain out the clock, giving the American team another chance to score, setting up the dramatic, heart-warming finish.

Each player will now head back into their training in preparation for Pro Day's and the NFL Combine coming up in March.