

Surprises for Southern Heritage Classic Fans

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Sept. 16, 2008. Almost 51,000 eager fans crowded the Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium last Saturday in anticipation of the 2008 Southern Heritage Classic presented by FedEx match between Jackson State University (JSU) and Tennessee State University (TSU). The annual game is traditionally a close match, but TSU beat JSU 41 to 18 in a game that surprised delighted fans.

JSU got a promising start in the first quarter of the game, with a 10 to 0 lead. Then in the second quarter, TSU grabbed the lead, going on to score 28 points consecutively and ultimately, winning the game.

TSU Quarterback Antonio Heffner finished 11 of 16 passes for 137 yards and 48 yards rushing and was designated FedEx Game MVP for the third year in a row. Fans got some unexpected romantic drama when Heffner proposed marriage to his girlfriend, Angel Parker, from the 50-yard line right after the game ended. She accepted.

The half-time show was an event itself, featuring the renowned JSU's The Sonic Boom of the South and TSU's Aristocrat of Bands. Other entertainment included the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon rifle drills; a live aerial demonstration by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Freefall Team; and the national anthem performed by The New Orleans Jazz Ramblers.

Many flocked to Memphis not only for the game, but also for other Classic events including tailgating, a parade, fashion show, golf tournament, and a spectacular, sold-out concert by Maze featuring Frankie Beverly. Attendance was high at all of this year's Classic events.

In return for their teams' participation, the Southern Heritage Classic makes annual donations to the universities to fund educational activities and expenses. The Classic has donated more than \$5 million over its 19-year history. This year, the Classic donated \$250,000 each to JSU and TSU

About the Southern Heritage Classic

Established in 1990, the Southern Heritage Classic was founded by Fred Jones Jr., a veteran of the national entertainment industry and owner/limited partner of the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies. The Southern Heritage Classic is the premier sports and entertainment event in Memphis and is produced by SMC Entertainment. For more information about the Southern Heritage Classic, visit online at www.southernheritageclassic.com.