

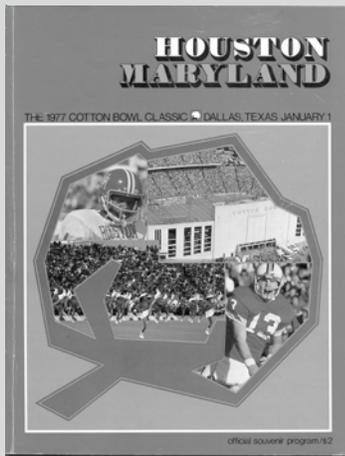


January 1, 1977

Houston 30, Maryland 21

Attendance - 58,500

GAME SUMMARY



Maryland	0	7	7	7	-	21
Houston	21	6	0	3	-	30

First Quarter:

Houston-Dyral Thomas 11 run (Lennard Coplin kick), 6:27, 80 yards in 11 plays following missed field goal  
 Houston-Alois Blackwell 33 run (Coplin kick), 3:13, 38 yards in 3 plays following blocked punt by Mark Mohr  
 Houston-Blackwell 1 run (Coplin kick), 0:51, 24 yards in 5 plays following fumble recovery by Mohr

Second Quarter:

Maryland-Mark Manges 6 run (Ed Loncar kick), 9:36, 49 yards in 8 plays following punt  
 Houston-Don Bass 33 pass from Danny Davis (Coplin kick fail), 0:55, 97 yards in 7 plays following punt

Third Quarter:

Maryland-Eric Sievers 11 pass from Manges (Mike Sochko kick), 1:41, 35 yards in 8 plays following fumble recovery by Larry Seder

Fourth Quarter:

Maryland-Tim Wilson 1 run (Sochko kick), 8:46, 30 yards in 6 plays following fumble recovery by Chip Garber  
 Houston-Coplin 28 FG, 0:18, 81 yards in 14 plays following punt

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Alois Blackwell, Houston  
 Mark Mohr, Houston

COACHES

Jerry Claiborne, Maryland  
 Bill Yeoman, Houston

WEATHER

Cold, cloudy

With the 1976 season, Houston accomplished what few teams in the nation could ever hope for — join a major conference and in its first season, grab a share of the championship and play in a major bowl game. The 1977 Classic was the Cougars' first New Year's Day bowl game since 1952, and they made the most of it. Houston attacked the undefeated Terrapins relentlessly. By the time the first quarter had come to an end, the Cougars held a commanding 21-0 lead. No other team in Cotton Bowl history had rung up as many points in the opening period as had Houston. Yet, here were the Cougars, relative newcomers to all the festivities that go along with a major bowl appearance, and enjoying every minute of it, or at least the first 48.

Maryland was the 10th team in the Classic's 41-year existence to appear in Dallas undefeated. The Terps were 11-0-0, and naturally, were eyeing a possible national championship as well as boosting the football image of the Atlantic Coast Conference. All the ingredients were there for a classic battle. With the exception of the first three quarters, that's exactly what it turned out to be.

The Cougars had trouble hanging onto the football all season long, and on their first possession, added yet another turnover to its list, as quarterback Danny Davis fumbled at his 36-yard line. This was the break the Terps had been hoping for, but things didn't go as expected for them either. Moving to the UH 10, the Terps could go no further, called on Ed Loncar for the field goal, but the kick was wide. Breathing a sigh of relief, the Cougars quickly went to work, putting together drives of 80, 38, and 24 yards en route to their 21 first quarter points. Dyral Thomas got the first touchdown, rushing for 11 yards. Alois Blackwell then blazed 33 yards for the second score, set up by a blocked punt, and then came back two minutes later with a one-yard run to all but douse Maryland's national championship plans.

By the time the contest had reached the start of the fourth quarter, the Cougars were in front, 27-14. Suddenly, momentum swung to the Terps, adding a bit of drama to what once looked like a Houston runaway. Aided by another UH fumble and quarterback Mark Manges' pin-point passing, Maryland soon was back on the scoreboard, cutting the deficit to a mere six points, 27-21. It wasn't a promising position for the Cougars, and two possessions later, things looked even worse. Houston was backed up deep at its own 11, faced with a must first down situation. Davis dropped back to pass and quickly was surrounded by a fierce Terp pass rush. But, he got

the pass off and flanker Robert Lavergne made the most important catch of the season for the Cougars at the 24. It was a miracle pass and bailed Houston out of a very deep hole. From that point, the Coogs drove to their final score, a 28-yard Lennard Coplin field goal with only 18 seconds left to play.

**FUN FACT #41**  
 When measured from a convention perspective, the Classic has a major influence upon the City of Dallas economy. Thanks to football fans attending the 2006 game, the AT&T Cotton Bowl generated a direct economic impact of more than \$30 million. This dollar figure ranks second only to the annual State Fair of Texas.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	Maryland	UH
First Downs	17	20
Rushing	7	14
Passing	10	4
Penalty	0	2
Rushes-Net Yards	40-120	64-320
Net Yards	179	108
Passing	17-32-0	5-8-0
Total Plays	72	72
Total Net Yards	299	428
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	4-3
Penalties-Yards	8-80	5-22
Punts-Average	6-43.7	4-35.8

**RUSHING**  
**Maryland** - Scott 11-47, Manges 14-32, Wilson 9-28, Maddox 5-13, Richards 1-0.  
**Houston** - Blackwell 22-149, Thomas 14-104, Davis 21-51, Love 2-8, Housman 5-8.

**PASSING**  
**Maryland** - Manges 17-32-0, 179 yards.  
**Houston** - Davis 5-8-0, 108 yards.

**RECEIVING**  
**Maryland** - Kinney 5-72, Wilson 5-26, Richards 3-39, Sievers 2-28, Scott 1-11, White 1-3.  
**Houston** - Foster 3-62, Bass 1-33, Lavergne 1-13.

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**PUNTING**  
**Maryland** - Sochko 5-52.4; Team 1-0.0.  
**Houston** - Wyatt 4-35.8.