

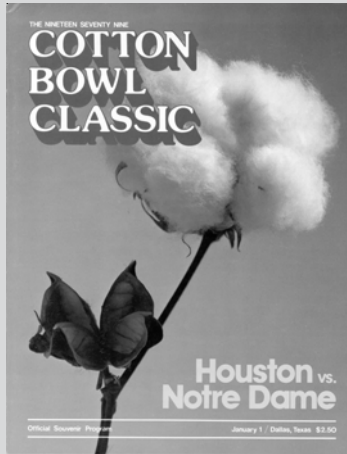


January 1, 1979

Attendance - 72,000

Notre Dame 35, Houston 34

GAME SUMMARY



Notre Dame	12	0	0	23	-	35
Houston	7	13	14	0	-	34

First Quarter:

Notre Dame-Joe Montana 3 run (Joe Unis kick fail), 6:55, 66 yards in 9 plays following fumble recovery by Jay Case
 Notre Dame-Buchanan 1 run (Montana pass fail), 4:40, 25 yards in 6 plays following fumble recovery by Bob Crable
 Houston-Willis Adams 15 pass from Danny Davis (Kenny Hatfield kick), 0:17, 12 yards in 3 plays following fumble recovery by Chuck Brown

Second Quarter:

Houston-Randy Love 1 run (Hatfield kick), 6:27, 21 yards in 6 plays following fumble recovery by David Hodge
 Houston-Hatfield 21 FG, 3:00, 21 yards in 6 plays following pass interception by Hatfield
 Houston-Hatfield 34 FG, 0:03, 39 yards in 7 plays following pass interception by Steve Bradham

Third Quarter:

Houston-Davis 2 run (Hatfield kick), 6:29, 38 yards in 8 plays following punt
 Houston-Davis 5 run (Hatfield kick), 4:40, 19 yards in 3 plays following blocked punt by Bobby Harrison

Fourth Quarter:

Notre Dame-Steve Cichy 33 return of blocked punt (Vagas Ferguson pass from Montana), 7:25, following punt blocked by Tony Belden
 Notre Dame-Montana 2 run (Kris Haines pass from Montana), 4:15, 61 yards in 5 plays following punt
 Notre Dame-Haines 8 pass from Montana (Unis kick), 0:00, 29 yards in 4 plays after taking over on downs with 28 seconds left

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Joe Montana, Notre Dame
 David Hodge, Houston

COACHES

Dan Devine, Notre Dame
 Bill Yeoman, Houston

WEATHER

Extremely cold and windy
 (wind chill -6 degrees)

Knute Rockne must have been looking down upon the Cotton Bowl festivities on this cold and windy day as the Fighting Irish staged one of the greatest comebacks in bowl history. Weather conditions were less than ideal, but even the elements couldn't offset the classic matchup between Notre Dame's Power-I and the Houston Veer, and the man who invented it, Bill Yeoman. The Cougars boasted of two backs who rushed for more than a thousand yards each, Emmett King and Randy Love, along with a quarterback named Danny Davis, a born leader with a knack of making something out of nothing. Of course, Notre Dame returned to Dallas with its unflappable miracle man, quarterback Joe Montana.

The stage was set for a great show and the teams promptly delivered. The temperature at kickoff was 20 degrees with a wind chill factor of minus-six. The winds were whipping in at 15 to 20 mph, and it got worse after that, especially for Houston. The Fighting Irish jumped to a 12-0 first quarter lead, taking advantage of a pair of Cougar fumbles. Then the momentum shifted, Davis threw to his flanker Willis Adams for the first score, and minutes later, Love carried over from the one to push Houston ahead 14-12 with 6:27 left in the first half. After gaining the lead, the Cougars scored on its next two possessions, both off the toe of Ken Hatfield on 21-yard and 34-yard field goals. By the end of the first half, the two teams had traded positions, the Cougars were up by eight, 20-12. When the two teams changed ends of the field to begin the final period, Houston had increased its lead to 34-12.

That's the way the score stood until the 7:37 mark when the Irish began their comeback. Notre Dame's Tony Belden roared in to block a Houston punt. The ball shot up in the air and came back down into the arms of Steve Cichy who burst out of a crowd and raced 33 yards for the Irish touchdown. Montana, who missed most of the third quarter because of below-normal body temperature, threw for the two-point conversion and it was a 34-20 ballgame. Momentarily, however. Following a Houston punt, Montana took his team 61 yards to the end zone again. What once appeared to be an almost insurmountable 22-point Cougar advantage had quickly evaporated to six. But time was becoming a factor, 4:15 was left to play and the Irish had to hurry.

In two minutes, Notre Dame was threatening again. Montana had just ripped 16 yards for an apparent first down to the UH 20, but was stripped of the ball by linebacker David Hodge and Houston took over. The clock was down to 1:50 and all UH needed was one first down. They never got it. Gambling on fourth and one at its 29, Houston called the dive, but Notre Dame's Joe Gramke and Mike Calhoun stopped King in his tracks. The Fighting Irish had the ball, just 29 yards away from paydirt and 28 seconds to get it there. In succession, Montana scrambled for 11, then hit Kris Haines for a gain of 10 to the eight. The clock stopped as Haines stepped out of bounds. Six seconds were left, and Montana again went for Haines in the corner of the end zone. The pass fell incomplete. Two seconds left, Montana called the same play to Haines, and this time the two connected. With no time left, the score was tied, and Dallas native Joe Unis completed the game-winning extra point. It was a pressurized kick, but Unis came through. What a finish — 35-34, Notre Dame!

FUN FACT #43

Joe Montana's performance in the 1979 Classic was remarkable. Montana rallied Notre Dame from a 22-point, fourth-quarter deficit to tie Houston at 34-34 on the final play of the game. Dallas native Joe Unis completed the miracle comeback by adding the winning extra point with no time remaining...Notre Dame 35, Houston 34.

GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATS	ND	UH
First Downs	13	16
Rushing	4	12
Passing	7	3
Penalty	2	1
Rushes-Net Yards	40-131	63-229
Net Yards Passing	163	60
Passes	13-37-4	4-13-0
Total Plays	77	76
Total Net Yards	294	289
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	6-3
Penalties-Yards	8-74	6-39
Punts-Average	7-26.3	10-25.5

RUSHING

Notre Dame - Heavens 16-71, Montana 7-26, Ferguson 10-19, Pallas 4-11, Mitchell 1-3, Buchanan 2-1.
Houston - Davis 19-76, King 21-74, Love 22-73, Brown 1-6.

PASSING

Notre Dame - Montana 13-34-4, 163 yards; Koegel 0-3-0. **Houston**: Davis 4-12-0, 60 yards; Brown 0-1-0.

RECEIVING

Notre Dame - Heavens 4-60, Haines 4-31, Masztak 3-49, Holohan 1-14, Ferguson 1-9.
Houston - Adams 2-35, Herring 2-25.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PUNTING

Notre Dame - Boushka 4-33.5, Restic 2-25.0, Team 1-0-0.
Houston - Wyatt 8-31.9, Team 2-0-0.

came on to add the extra point. Illegal procedure was called on the first kick, forcing Unis to try again. It was a pressurized kick, but Unis came through. What a finish — 35-34, Notre Dame!