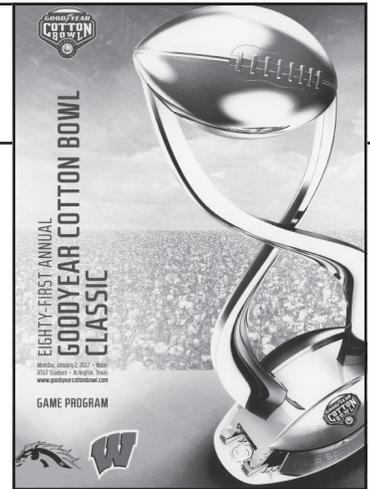


2017
JANUARY 2

WISCONSIN 24
WESTERN MICHIGAN 16



ATTENDANCE: **59,615**

Arlington was new territory for both Western Michigan and Wisconsin. For the first time, the Broncos and Badgers traveled to North Texas to settle midwest bragging rights in the 81st Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. Western Michigan brought a perfect 13-0 mark to AT&T Stadium and became the Classic's first undefeated team in 24 seasons. Wisconsin was 10-3 after advancing to the Big Ten Championship Game for the fourth time in six seasons. The Badgers checked in at No. 8 in the final College Football Playoff rankings. The Broncos were ranked 15th.

With head coach P.J. Fleck's leadership, the turnaround of the Western Michigan football program had been remarkable. The Broncos went 1-11 in Fleck's first year in 2013, and in four seasons he transformed Western Michigan into a Mid-American Conference powerhouse. His celebrated "Row The Boat" mantra motivated the Broncos to pull together and row in the same direction to make sure the boat does not veer off course.

Wisconsin was a solid program in the Big Ten. In two seasons under head coach Paul Chryst, the Badgers compiled an impressive 20-6 overall record. This was Wisconsin's sixth 10-win season in eight years and a victory over the Broncos would push the Badgers to the 11-victory mark for the second time in three seasons and the sixth time in school history. Chryst earned Big Ten Coach of the Year honors and became just the fourth coach ever in the conference to begin his career with consecutive 10-win seasons.

The Badgers opened the game in dominating fashion, taking the opening kickoff and marching 75 yards in 11 plays to jump to a 7-0 lead with Corey Clement's two-yard scoring run. The key play in the drive was a stunning one-handed circus catch by 6-6 tight end Troy Fumagalli, who had a way of making the difficult look easy. His 20-yard reception came on a third-and-13-play and moved Wisconsin to the Western Michigan 12 to set up the Badgers first touchdown. Wisconsin came right back on its next possession with an even longer drive of 88 yards to go up 14-0. This time it was Dare Ogunbowale punching it in from the one. Wisconsin controlled the clock and established the run game in the first quarter to eat up 11:16 on its two scoring possessions. Senior quarterback Bart Houston was equally as hard to stop through the air going 4-for-4 passing for 62 yards.

Western Michigan got on the board in the second quarter on its third possession of the game. Quarterback Zach Terrell, named in early December as college football's top scholar-athlete by the National Football Foundation, scored on a two-yard bootleg on third and goal at the 5:27 mark. The 16-play drive chewed up 8:45 off the clock and cut the lead to 14-7.

The potent Wisconsin offense scored again on its third consecutive possession of the afternoon. Following Houston's only incompleteness of the day, a dropped pass in the end zone, the Badgers turned to Andrew Endicott to kick a 30-yard field goal with 18 seconds to play in the half to push their advantage to 17-7.

Western Michigan became more assertive offensively in the third quarter. On the Broncos' opening possession, Terrell connected with All-America receiver Corey Davis for 17 yards to the Wisconsin 42, and two plays later Jarvion Franklin dashed 23 yards to the 13. Unable to advance past the Wisconsin 10, the Broncos called on Butch Hampton to boot a 27-yard field goal and trim the deficit to just seven points, 17-10.

This set the stage for an exciting fourth quarter. A Wisconsin punt pinned the Broncos on their three-yard line, and on the first play Terrell was picked off by linebacker T.J. Edwards at the Western Michigan 12. The Badgers quickly took advantage of the turnover as co-starting quarterback Alex Hornibrook connected with Fumagalli on an eight-yard touchdown pass on third down to boost the Badgers lead to 24-10.

Trailing by two touchdowns and time becoming a factor, Terrell and the Broncos responded with a 75-yard, 16-play march that resulted in an amazing 11-yard touchdown catch by Davis between two defenders. However, the downside of the drive was that it consumed nearly nine minutes and left Western Michigan trailing 24-16 with just 3:27 to play in the game. Wisconsin recovered the Broncos' subsequent onside kick and was able to wind down the clock thanks to Fumagalli's 26-yard catch on third and eight at the Western Michigan 20. The Badgers then used three rush plays to run out the clock and secure Wisconsin's third consecutive bowl victory.

Fumagalli and Edwards were named the game's outstanding players, and Houston tied the Classic's 71-year old record for the highest pass completion percentage of .917 set in 1946, connecting on 11-of-12 attempts.

Game Summary

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|-----------|
| WMU | 0 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 16 |
| WISCONSIN | 14 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 24 |

FIRST QUARTER

Wisconsin: Corey Clement 2 run (Andrew Endicott kick), 8:52, 75 yds in 11 plays following kickoff
 Wisconsin: Dare Ogunbowale, 1 run (Endicott kick), 3:23, 88 yds in 7 plays following punt

SECOND QUARTER

Western Michigan: Zach Terrell 2 run (Butch Hampton kick), 5:27, 65 yds in 16 plays following punt
 Wisconsin: Endicott 30 FG, 0:18, 63 yds in 9 plays following kickoff

THIRD QUARTER

Western Michigan: Hampton 27 FG, 10:00, 65 yds in 11 plays following kickoff

FOURTH QUARTER:

Wisconsin: Troy Fumagalli 8 pass from Alex Hornibrook (Endicott kick), 12:26, 12 yds in 3 plays following interception
 Western Michigan: Corey Davis 11 pass from Terrell (Hampton kick failed), 3:27, 75 yds in 16 plays following kickoff

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Troy Fumagalli, Wisconsin
 T.J. Edwards, Wisconsin

COACHES

P.J. Fleck, Western Michigan
 Paul Chryst, Wisconsin

WEATHER

Indoors

Game Statistics

| TEAM STATS | WMU | WIS | RUSHING |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--|
| First Downs | 18 | 18 | Western Michigan: Bogan 16-58, Franklin 7-53, Terrell 7-14, Team 1-(-2). Wisconsin: Clement 22-71, Peavy 3-50, Cephus 2-34, Ogunbowale 5-22, Ramesh 1-10, Deal 2-9, Team 1-(-2), Houston 2-(-10). |
| Rushing | 9 | 9 | PASSING Western Michigan: Terrell 16-28-1, 157 yds. Wisconsin: Houston 11-12-0, 159 yds; Hornibrook 2-2-0, 19 yds. |
| Passing | 9 | 9 | RECEIVING Western Michigan: Davis 6-73, Franklin 4-33, Thompson 4-32, Henry 2-19. Wisconsin: Fumagalli 6-83, Clement 2-28, Ogunbowale 2-28, Rushing 2-27, Wheelwright 1-12. |
| Penalty | 0 | 0 | PUNTING Western Michigan: Coleman 3-40.7 Wisconsin: Lotti 3-41.7. |
| Rushes-Net Yards | 31-123 | 38-184 | |
| Net Yards Passing | 157 | 178 | |
| Passes | 16-28-1 | 13-14-0 | |
| Total Plays | 59 | 52 | |
| Total Net Yards | 280 | 362 | |
| Fumbles-Lost | 4-0 | 1-0 | |
| Penalties-Yards | 2-15 | 5-35 | |
| Punts-Average | 3-40.7 | 3-41.7 | |