



HOUSTON NEBRASKA

17
14

1980
JANUARY 1

ATTENDANCE: 72,000

Houston stamped itself in 1979 as a Cotton Bowl team, having earned its third appearance in the Classic in just four seasons as a competing member of the Southwest Conference. The Cougars' opponent was tradition-rich Nebraska, an established bowl veteran, making its 18th post-season visit and third trip to the Cotton Bowl. Both teams were ranked among the nation's top ten teams, the Huskers were seventh and the Cougars were eighth, and each had logged identical 10-1-0 records. Houston was the SWC co-champion, while Nebraska suffered its only loss at the hands of Oklahoma, 17-14, to end the season as the Big Eight runner-up.

The two teams mirrored one another in almost every way. No wonder the game went down to the final 12 seconds before declaring a winner. At the end of the first quarter, Nebraska had taken a 7-0 lead. The Huskers put together one of its patented 14-play, 85-yard drives to take the lead with 5:13 remaining in the opening period. Jarvis Redwine, the Cornhuskers great junior "I" back, skirted the left side for nine yards and the score. Meanwhile, Houston was floundering offensively, and at the end of the first quarter had just 28 total yards, all on the ground. Something had to change and Houston coach Bill Yeoman decided it had to be at quarterback. So, in came Terry Elston and the Cougars gained the spark they desperately needed.

Elston got the drive off and rolling with a nine-yard keeper to the Cougar 38. As Elston went down, so did a penalty flag, and the Huskers were penalized 15 yards for grabbing the Houston quarterback's face mask. The ball now was on the Nebraska 47, and two running plays gained four yards to the 42. Then Elston dropped back to pass for the first time and the target would be Lonell Phea. The play covered 27 yards to the Husker 15. Elston then rolled seven yards around the right side, and finished off the 71-yard march with an eight-yard sprint around left end. The game was tied at 7-7, and 12 minutes were left to play in the first half. Yeoman's decision to replace his starting quarterback, Delrick Brown, with Elston more than paid off.

The third quarter turned into a punting exhibition as seven of the two teams' eight total possessions failed to produce a first down. However, the fourth quarter saw plenty of offense as both teams surged to the lead. Houston jumped to a 10-7 advantage on a 41-yard Ken Hatfield field goal, and Nebraska moved in front on Jeff Quinn's six-yard scoring toss to his tight end Jeff Finn. The Huskers' score looked to be the game-clincher, coming with just 3:56 remaining. Trailing 14-10, the Cougars needed a touchdown, a field goal would do them no good. Elston went back to work with Houston 66 yards away. He used his time wisely, moving the Cougars steadily up the field. By the time they reached inside the Cornhusker 10, only 40 seconds were left to play. Elston gained four to the five, then lost one back to the six. The Cougars regrouped quickly and Elston stopped the clock with an incomplection. The clock now was down to 19 seconds and Houston was out of time outs. It was fourth and one, and Elston retreated one last time, looked and fired five yards deep into the end zone to Eric Herring. It was a pin-point pass and it had to go through two defenders to reach its target. But, it got there. Houston inflicted upon the Huskers exactly what Notre Dame had done to them one year earlier, scoring on a last second play to win for another great Cotton Bowl finish.

Game Summary

NEBRASKA	7	0	0	7	14
HOUSTON	0	7	0	10	17

FIRST QUARTER

Nebraska: Jarvis Redwine 9 run (Dean Sukup kick), 5:13, 85 yards in 14 plays following punt.

SECOND QUARTER

Houston: Terry Elston 8 run (Kenny Hatfield kick), 12:17, 71 yards in 6 plays following punt.

FOURTH QUARTER

Houston: Hatfield 41 FG, 8:25, 59 yards in 13 plays following punt.

Nebraska: Jeff Finn 6 pass from Jeff Quinn (Sukup kick), 3:56, 31 yards in 6 plays following fumble recovery by Bill Barnett.

Houston: Eric Herring 6 pass from Elston (Hatfield kick), 0:12, 66 yards in 13 plays following kickoff.

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Terry Elston, Houston
David Hodge, Houston

COACHES

Tom Osborne, Nebraska
Bill Yeoman, Houston

WEATHER

Good, sunshine

Game Statistics

TEAM STATS	NEB.	UH
First Downs	13	18
Rushing	7	11
Passing	6	6
Penalty	0	1
Rushes-Net Yards	41-136	61-206
Net Yards Passing	91	119
Passes	11-22-1	9-19-0
Total Plays	63	80
Total Net Yards	227	325
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	7-3
Penalties-Yards	7-90	2-22
Punts-Average	10-40.6	7-42.0

RUSHING

Nebraska - Redwine 17-58, Franklin 12-40, Hipp 3-8, Quinn 3-7, Brown 1-3, Miller 1-1, Steels 1-0, Hager 1-5, Johnson 2-14.

Houston - Clark 19-44, Newhouse 14-61, Brown 6-14, Elston 22-87.

PASSING

Nebraska - Quinn 10-19-1, 78 yards; Redwine 1-1-0, 13 yards; Miller 0-1-0; Hager 0-1-0.

Houston - Elston 9-16-0, 119 yards; Brown 0-3-0.

RECEIVING

Nebraska - K. Brown 5-30, Miller 2-26, Quinn 1-13, T. Smith 1-10, Finn 1-6, Redwine 1-6.

Houston - Herring 5-51, Phea 2-47, Miller 1-18, Clark 1-3.

PUNTING

Nebraska - T. Smith 10-40.6.

Houston - Ford 7-42.0.