

= Maryland Terrapins football =

The Maryland Terrapins football team represents the University of Maryland , College Park in the sport of American football . The Terrapins compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision ( FBS ) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association ( NCAA ) and the Big Ten Conference . The Terrapins joined the Big Ten Conference on July 1 , 2014 , following 62 years in the Atlantic Coast Conference as a founding member . The Terrapins are currently coached by D.J. Durkin . Since 1950 , the Terrapins have played their home games at Maryland Stadium in College Park , Maryland with occasional home games from time to time in Baltimore , Maryland , making them one of two FBS football teams in the Baltimore ? Washington metropolitan area ( Navy Midshipmen ) and the closest Football Bowl Subdivision team to Washington , DC . The team 's official colors of red , white , black , and gold have been in use in some combination since the 1920s and are taken from Maryland 's state flag , and the Terrapins nickname ? often abbreviated as " Terps " ? was adopted in 1933 after a turtle species native to the state . Maryland shares storied rivalries with Virginia and West Virginia .

The program 's achievements have included one NCAA @-@ recognized national championship , nine ACC championships , two Southern Conference championships , eleven consensus All @-@ Americans , several Hall of Fame inductees , and twenty @-@ four bowl game appearances . Maryland possesses the third @-@ most ACC championships with nine , which places them behind Clemson and Florida State with 15 each . Many former Terrapins players and coaches have gone on to careers in professional football including 16 first @-@ round NFL Draft picks .

= = History = =

= = = Early history ( 1892 ? 1946 ) = = =

In 1892 , the school then known as the Maryland Agricultural College fielded its first officially sanctioned college football team . They went scoreless in all three of that season 's games , but the following year , posted a perfect record of 6 ? 0 . For the first two decades of the program , the team primarily competed against local universities and high schools due to the prohibitive nature of long @-@ distance travel at the time .

In 1911 , Harry C. " Curley " Byrd became head coach and held that position for more than two decades until he was named the university president . In 1921 , Maryland joined the Southern Conference where it remained for thirty years . Between 1935 and 1946 , the school had several coaches that achieved fame elsewhere : Frank Dobson , a former assistant coach under John Heisman ; Clark Shaughnessy , architect of Stanford 's undefeated 1940 turnaround ; and Paul " Bear " Bryant , who later became the long @-@ time Alabama head coach . Bryant resigned after one season when a player he had suspended was reinstated by President Byrd .

= = = Jim Tatum ( 1947 ? 1955 ) = = =

Jim Tatum was hired in 1947 , after a brief stint at Oklahoma where he had led the Sooners to a conference championship in his only season there . He was Maryland 's sixth head coach in eight years , but Tatum stayed for nine seasons and became the school 's most successful head coach in modern history . During his tenure , he led Maryland to two national championships ( one retroactive ) , three conference championships , three perfect seasons , six top @-@ 20 final rankings , and five bowl game appearances . Seven of his players were named first @-@ team All @-@ Americans , including five consensus All @-@ Americans . Under Tatum , Maryland finished every season with a winning record .

After the 1947 season , the Terrapins participated in their first bowl game , the 1948 Gator Bowl , in which they tied Georgia , 20 ? 20 . NCAA season @-@ scoring leader Lu Gambino recorded all three Maryland touchdowns . In 1949 , Maryland again played in the Gator Bowl , where they defeated 20th @-@ ranked Missouri , 20 ? 7 . The Terrapins finished the season ranked 14th by the

Associated Press . Maryland 's current home field , Maryland Stadium , was constructed in 1950 , and named in honor of former coach and contemporary Maryland president Curly Byrd . Maryland started the 1950 season ranked 15th and defeated Navy , 35 ? 21 , in the Byrd Stadium dedication game .

The Terrapins won the 1951 Southern Conference co @-@ championship alongside the Virginia Military Institute . Their perfect season culminated with an upset over first @-@ ranked Tennessee in the 1952 Sugar Bowl . At the time , however , the wire services released their final rankings before the bowl games , and Maryland finished third in the Associated Press Poll . Several selectors , including analyst Jeff Sagarin , have retroactively credited Maryland with the national championship . In 1953 , Maryland and six other schools split from the Southern Conference to form the Atlantic Coast Conference . That year , Maryland shut @-@ out two 11th @-@ ranked teams : Mississippi , 38 ? 0 , and Alabama , 21 ? 0 , won the ACC co @-@ championship alongside Duke , and were named the national champions as the only undefeated and untied team in the nation . The Terrapins were defeated by fourth @-@ ranked Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl . After the 1955 season , Tatum resigned to return to North Carolina , where he soon died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever .

= = = Tommy Mont ( 1956 ? 1958 ) = = =

After Tatum resigned to coach at his own alma mater , North Carolina , Tommy Mont was appointed as his replacement . In his first season , Maryland was riddled with injuries and posted a disappointing 2 ? 7 ? 1 record . Mont had great difficulty recruiting to the same standard that his predecessor had , but managed to secure Rod Breedlove , a highly touted guard prospect . Breedlove later went on to play eight years in the NFL and made a Pro Bowl appearance .

In 1957 , the Terrapins improved to a 5 ? 5 record . The highlight of the season was a game featuring Jim Tatum 's return to College Park , Maryland . On October 19 , at Byrd Stadium , Maryland met the North Carolina team led by their former head coach . The game also had in attendance Queen Elizabeth II who had expressed a wish to see her first game of American football . The Tar Heels were ranked 6th in the nation and possessed a 3 ? 1 record . The Terrapins , on the other hand , were 1 ? 3 . In the first quarter , Maryland halfback Howard Dare fumbled and North Carolina linebacker Jack Lineberger recovered the ball on the Terrapins ' 44 @-@ yard line . North Carolina was subsequently forced to punt , but recovered it at the Maryland 35 . On the ensuing possession , Tar Heel halfback Daley Goff rushed 11 yards for a touchdown . In the third quarter , Maryland gained excellent field position when Goff received a bad punt snap and the Terps took over on the Carolina 38 @-@ yard line . Maryland quarterback Bob Rusevlyan later scored on a one @-@ yard sneak . In the fourth quarter , halfback Ted Kershner broke away for an 81 @-@ yard touchdown run . Fullback Jim Joyce capped a 67 @-@ yard drive with a 13 @-@ yard rush for a score . With a final result of 21 ? 7 , the Maryland players carried Mont to the Queen and Prince Philip 's box . Mont said it was a day that " I will revel in for the rest of my life . "

In 1958 , however , Maryland again backslided with a 4 ? 6 record and Mont subsequently resigned .

= = = Tom Nugent ( 1959 @-@ 1965 ) = = =

At the first practice before the 1959 season , new Terps head football coach Tom Nugent addressed his team , " Hi , I 'm Tom Nugent and I hate West Virginia . " The Mountaineers were Maryland 's first opponent of the season , and Nugent guided the Terrapins to a 27 ? 7 victory in that game .

In 1961 , Nugent 's Maryland team became the first college football program in the nation to put players ' names on the back of their jerseys . That season , he led the Terrapins to the best season of his tenure and finished with a 7 ? 3 record . The Terrapins also defeated seventh @-@ ranked Syracuse , 22 ? 21 .

Nugent amassed a 36 ? 34 record during his tenure at Maryland . He remained the last Maryland coach to win his inaugural game with the team until Ralph Friedgen matched that feat in 2001 .

Under Nugent , in 1962 , Maryland integrated its football team after Darryl Hill caught the eye of Maryland assistant coach Lee Corso. who had been encouraged by Nugent to find a black athlete to play for his team . Hill became not only the first African @-@ American football player at Maryland but the first in the Atlantic Coast Conference and at any college or university in " the old South . "

= = = Lou Saban ( 1966 ) = = =

In a surprising move , Lou Saban unexpectedly resigned as head coach of the AFL 's Buffalo Bills in January 1966 to the head football coach position at Maryland . He said he was leaving because " there can be little left to conquer in professional football " . His record at Buffalo was 36 ? 17 ? 3 . Saban , however , only stayed at Maryland for one season in which the team posted a 4 ? 6 record , as he departed back to the AFL to become head coach of the Denver Broncos .

= = = Bob Ward ( 1967 @-@ 1968 ) = = =

In 1967 , Bob Ward returned to his alma mater to take the head coaching position . Before the season , 12 players failed to academically qualify to play on the team . During that first season , the team lost all nine of their games for the first time in the modern era . Ward 's second year saw slight improvement , recording eight losses but with wins over North Carolina and South Carolina . However , many of his players were growing increasingly disgruntled with his coaching style .

In March 1969 , Maryland athletic director Jim Kehoe called a meeting among 120 players , Ward , his assistants , and a three @-@ man committee . Thirty @-@ one of those players told Ward that they no longer wished to play for the Terrapins and accused him of using intimidation tactics , including verbal and physical abuse . Ward listened to the player 's grievances , but did not respond at the time . Two days later , he resigned as head coach . Later that year , Sports Illustrated interviewed Ward , and he said :

" I won 't go into all the specifics , but it wasn 't the good players who started it . It was the guys who couldn 't fight their way out of a paper bag , guys who sat on the bench and couldn 't take it and a couple of pip @-@ squeak cub newspaper guys who don 't know what football 's all about ... He gets on the campus newspaper and all of a sudden he 's got power he never thought of having . "

The Diamondback , the university 's student newspaper , had criticized Ward for moving the team into one dormitory , which forced some other students out . Ward stated that the move was done on the advice of Kehoe ? which Kehoe denied ? and with the intent of focusing the players on their studies and building camaraderie . Ward and his assistants monitored the players ' academic performance , enforced class attendance , and placed curfews on perceived troublemakers . Ward stated that , in his first year , only two of his players failed out of the school that he claimed had a history of poor athlete academics . He complained that he was a scapegoat and that there had been poor communication between him and Kehoe . In fact , Penn State head coach Joe Paterno was concerned with the situation surrounding Ward 's resignation and sent a letter to the American Football Coaches Association demanding an investigation . Paterno said :

" I don 't know who 's right or wrong , but ... I don 't think it 's a good thing for a squad to fire a coach . As an association , we ought to know what happened . If a university fired an English professor because his class didn 't like the way he was doing things , I know darn well that the American Association of University Professors would want to know what happened . "

= = = Roy Lester ( 1969 @-@ 1971 ) = = =

In 1969 , Roy Lester was hired as Maryland 's fourth head coach in five years .

Lester had previously twice applied for the Maryland head coach position , but didn 't get it . The Daytona Beach Morning Journal speculated that Lester 's undisclosed salary probably matched that of Ward : \$ 20 @,@ 000 .

Lester reintroduced the split @-@ T formation at Maryland , which Jim Tatum had used to great effect there in the 1950s .

Lester 's philosophy was explained by the Maryland sports information director Jack Zane : " the pass should open up the defense for the running game . " In the sixth game of his first season , Maryland 's starting quarterback , junior Dennis O 'Hara , was injured in a loss at South Carolina , and was replaced by sophomore Jeff Shugars .

In the season 's penultimate game , Maryland lost to Penn State , 48 ? 0 . Penn State halfback Lydell Mitchell had been recruited by Lester and originally intended to go to Maryland before he opted for Penn State instead . Lester was bothered by a similar situation with fullback Franco Harris , whose high school coach was a friend of Lester 's . Lester attributed Maryland 's football woes to the turnover at head coach and lack of depth because of recruitment shortcomings . Maryland won the finale against Virginia to finish the season with a 3 ? 7 record .

In 1970 , Lester 's Terrapins finished with a 2 ? 9 record . After an upset loss in the season opener against Villanova , 21 ? 3 , Lester shuffled the roster . He switched the positions of eight players , which included Tom Miller from fullback to linebacker. The season prior , Miller had gained 629 yards , the second @-@ most ever by a Maryland sophomore .

After losing their first five games , Maryland beat South Carolina on Homecoming weekend , 21 ? 15 , which prompted Maryland fans to tear down the goalposts in celebration. In the 25 @-@ mile per hour winds , the Terrapins capitalized on the Gamecocks ' poor punting game , which included one blocked punt .

Two weeks later , Maryland was beaten by Clemson , which scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to win , 24 ? 11 .

With the loss , Maryland slid to a 1 ? 7 record , and Lester said he was giving serious consideration to stepping down before the next season . He said , " If I 'm not doing the proper job I 'm willing to relinquish the job . I took this loss very personally . "

In 1971 , some observers considered Maryland , which returned 37 lettermen , to be the dark horse in the Atlantic Coast Conference ( ACC ) . Lester said he expected a winning season and that " a lot of people may be surprised . "

However , the Terrapins dropped the season opener to underdog Villanova once again , 28 ? 13. Star @-@ News called it the most stunning of five upsets in the ACC teams ' opening weekend , rating it ahead of NC State 's loss to Kent State , Virginia 's loss to Navy , South Carolina 's win against Georgia Tech , and Duke 's win against Florida. Maryland won the following week against NC State , but then dropped five straight before beating the Virginia Military Institute on Homecoming . Maryland closed the season with losses to Penn State , Clemson , and Virginia to again finish with a 2 ? 9 record. Lester was fired at the conclusion of the 1971 season . Athletic director Jim Kehoe cited Maryland 's worst record in the ACC for two consecutive years and stated his goal of making Maryland a " nationally ranked caliber " team .

Kehoe also said , " financial factors are a serious consideration , " and that home game attendance had fallen to its lowest point , which threatened the financial well @-@ being of the athletic department . Lester was replaced by Jerry Claiborne , who later went on to considerable success in the position .

In September 1973 , Maryland All @-@ American guard Paul Vellano , then playing under Claiborne , said of the past coaches ' difficulties : " A lot of the kids said that Ward was a good coach but that he had a lot of bad apples . Lester was a high school coach and nobody had ever heard of him . I can 't understand it . We had nine freshman who were All @-@ Americans my first year here under Lester . Maybe if they had let him stay he could have done the job .

One of Lester 's lasting contributions was the recruitment of future Maryland and NFL star Randy White .

At the end of his tenure , Lester had a combined collegiate coaching record of 7 ? 25 .

= = = Jerry Claiborne ( 1972 ? 1981 ) = = =

In 1972 , Jerry Claiborne took over as head coach of the Terrapins , which had only nine wins in the past five years . In his first season , Maryland improved to 5 ? 5 ? 1 , and the following year , they reached their first bowl game in almost two decades . The team steadily improved until his fifth

season , 1976 , when they finished the regular season with an 11 ? 0 record , their first perfect mark since Tatum 's 1955 squad . Boomer Esiason later described Claiborne 's coaching style as " vanilla " , and said his strategy was " run right , run left , run up the middle , punt , and play good defense . " He went on to say , " But , there 's no question he made me a tougher player . . . We 'd do drills where the quarterback had to take on a linebacker . It was like he had a sign on our back , ' Hit us , we 're stupid ' . It made you a tougher player . "

In 1974 , Maryland had a preseason rank of 14th and later beat 17th @-@ ranked NC State to win the ACC championship . The Terrapins were defeated by 20th @-@ ranked Tennessee in the Liberty Bowl and finished the season ranked 13th . In 1975 , Maryland again won the ACC and defeated 13th @-@ ranked Florida in the Gator Bowl to finish 13th in the nation . That season , the Terrapins led the ACC in total offense with 375 @.@ 2 yards per game . Maryland started 1976 ranked 12th , and quarterback Mark Manges led them to eleven consecutive wins to secure their third straight ACC championship . Maryland 's loss to sixth @-@ ranked Houston in the Cotton Bowl Classic , 30 ? 21 , ended any hopes for a national championship .

In 1978 , Maryland beat 20th @-@ ranked NC State and finished with a ranking of 20th . The game that pitted 11th @-@ ranked Maryland against 12th @-@ ranked Clemson has been described as one of the most exciting games of the era . The " big @-@ play caravan " ultimately saw Clemson triumph , 28 ? 24 . From 1974 to 1978 , Claiborne and the Terrapins secured five consecutive bowl game berths and three consecutive ACC championships . Maryland made it to a sixth bowl game in 1980 . After the 1981 season , Claiborne left the program for his alma mater , Kentucky , and was replaced by Bobby Ross , an assistant coach for the Kansas City Chiefs .

= = = Bobby Ross ( 1982 ? 1986 ) = = =

In a surprising choice , former Maryland assistant coach and Citadel head coach Bobby Ross , who was not a big name at the time , was selected as head coach in 1982 . In contrast to Claiborne 's style , Ross implemented a high @-@ powered offense . He replaced the I @-@ veer triple option with an NFL @-@ style offense that emphasized dropback passes , bootlegs , and play action passes . This change in tactics and strategy enabled starting quarterback Boomer Esiason the opportunity to excel to a degree not seen under Claiborne the season prior . Esiason said , " Ross has an uncanny knack of putting players in a position to not only succeed , but to overachieve . . . If he didn 't show up at Maryland , I don 't know what would have happened to me . I don 't know if I would have turned into the player I was and played in the NFL . " In the following years , several Maryland quarterbacks went on to careers in the National Football League ( NFL ) , and the school was nicknamed " Quarterback U " as a result .

In Ross 's inaugural season , Maryland defeated 10th @-@ ranked North Carolina , and then edged Miami before their most important conference game of the season against the 1981 national champions , the Clemson Tigers . Between 1974 and 1988 , either Clemson or Maryland won the ACC title all but three years . Clemson had lost to the 1980 national champions , seventh @-@ ranked Georgia , 13 ? 7 , and tied Boston College , 17 ? 17 , after the opposing quarterback , Doug Flutie , led a comeback . Clemson was therefore unable to defend their NCAA championship , but either Clemson or Maryland , with perfect conference records , would secure the ACC title . Thus , decades before the official ACC Championship Game , 1982 saw a rare de facto title match . Clemson scored first , then pulled away 14 ? 7 before half . In the second half , a favorable wind twice yielded Maryland excellent field position , Esiason threw for two rapid @-@ fire touchdowns and a two @-@ point conversion , and the defense held Clemson at bay . However , the Terrapins also turned the ball over five times in the second half and lost , 24 ? 22 . With the win , Clemson won the ACC and Maryland finished second . Immediately after the game , the NCAA announced its investigation into Clemson recruiting had found improprieties . As a result , the Tigers were denied a bowl game and television coverage in the following season . The ACC instituted further punishment , making Clemson ineligible for a conference title for the next two years . Maryland finished 1982 ranked 20th after losing to ninth @-@ ranked Washington in the Aloha Bowl . In 1983 , Maryland lost to third @-@ ranked Auburn and 20th @-@ ranked West Virginia , but beat 17th @-@ ranked

Pittsburgh and third @-@ ranked North Carolina . Clemson and Maryland once more met with perfect ACC records , and Maryland again lost , this time blown out , 52 ? 27 . Despite the loss , Maryland was awarded the conference championship because of the sanctions against Clemson .

In 1984 , Maryland defeated the defending national champions , sixth @-@ ranked Miami , in what was then the biggest comeback in college football history and judged by some as the most exciting . At half time , Maryland trailed Miami , 31 ? 0 . Back @-@ up quarterback Frank Reich replaced Stan Gelbaugh and proceeded to throw four touchdown passes , and capitalizing on Miami errors , the Terrapins won , 42 ? 40 . The recovery from the 31 @-@ point halftime deficit stood as the greatest college football comeback for the next 22 years , until the record was finally broken by Michigan State against Northwestern . Reich later repeated the feat in his professional career when he led the Buffalo Bills to overcome a 32 @-@ point deficit and set the NFL comeback record . That season , Maryland also defeated 17th @-@ ranked West Virginia and 20th @-@ ranked Clemson , and secured the ACC championship . In the postseason , they edged Tennessee , 28 ? 27 , in the Sun Bowl and finished 12th in the nation . Maryland entered the 1985 season with a number @-@ one preseason rank , and set its all @-@ time home attendance record in Byrd Stadium with an average of 49 @,@ 385 over five games . However , they dropped to a ranking of 17th in Week 2 , and then out of the polls in Week 4 after a shutout by Michigan . Despite the early setbacks , the Terrapins finished undefeated in six conference games to take the ACC championship for the third consecutive year . Maryland defeated Syracuse , 35 @-@ 18 , in the Cherry Bowl and earned a final ranking of 18th . In 1986 , the Terrapins posted a mediocre 5 ? 5 ? 1 record .

After the season , Ross resigned as head coach . He expressed frustration over the university 's failure to improve Byrd Stadium and its associated facilities . Ross had shown recruits stadium and facility renovation plans as an indication of the program 's direction , and when they did not come to fruition , he felt that he had misled the players . Ross also stated that he was hurt by " innuendo , insinuation , and guilt by association " with respect to the cocaine @-@ induced death of Maryland basketball star Len Bias . He said , " I feel the football team has represented the university well , both on and off the field . " The athletics department investigation report had commended the propriety of the football program , but university chancellor John B. Slaughter did not offer his vocal support for Ross until a month later .

= = = Joe Krivak ( 1987 ? 1991 ) = = =

Maryland athletics in general were marred by the death of Len Bias , and the football team was no exception . After Ross resigned , offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Joe Krivak was promoted to head coach . This was the beginning of a lackluster period for Terrapins football . From 1987 to 2000 , the Terrapins went 55 ? 88 overall ( .385 ) with only two winning seasons and one bowl appearance . The Krivak era was met with a brutal schedule with non @-@ conference opponents consisting of national powers Michigan , Miami , Penn State , and Syracuse among others . After a 4 @-@ 7 season in 1987 , a controversial loss to Virginia in the final game of 1988 cost the team a sixth win for bowl eligibility . In 1989 , Maryland tied Joe Paterno 's 13th @-@ ranked Penn State. existence . The following season , the Terrapins beat 25th @-@ ranked West Virginia and upset 8th @-@ ranked Virginia . Maryland received a bid to the Independence Bowl and tied Louisiana Tech in what would be their only postseason appearance during this period . Athletic director Andy Geiger rewarded Krivak with a five @-@ year contract extension , but the 1991 season unraveled after a rash of injuries , and Maryland had its worst finish in two decades with a 2 ? 9 mark . After public criticism from several players , Krivak felt he lost credibility as the head coach and resigned on December 6 .

= = = Mark Duffner ( 1992 @-@ 1996 ) = = =

Geiger named Holy Cross head coach Mark Duffner as Krivak 's replacement . Duffner had amassed a 60 ? 5 ? 1 record and two undefeated seasons in his six years at Holy Cross . At Maryland , he installed a run and shoot offense which shattered many school records . However ,

his defenses were notoriously weak , usually giving up points so quickly that even his prolific offense couldn't keep up . For example , in the 1993 game against Virginia Tech , the Terrapins lost by 27 points despite gaining 649 yards of total offense . During this time , quarterbacks Scott Milanovich and John Kaleo set numerous school records for passing under Duffner , most of which still stand . In 1993 , Maryland earned the dubious honor of most yards allowed per game , a record which also stands : in eleven games , the Terrapins surrendered 6 @, @ 083 yards ? an average of 553 @. @ 0 yards per game . Maryland also gave up 236 more points than they scored , the worst point differential in school history . After the season , Duffner reorganized his staff by firing three assistant coaches . The team showed moderate improvement the next two years , and in 1995 finished 6 ? 5 , which was the first winning record since 1990 . However , Maryland backslid in 1996 with a 5 ? 6 record and a struggling offense . Duffner was fired after the season , having accumulated a combined record of 20 ? 35 .

= = = Ron Vanderlinden ( 1997 @-@ 2000 ) = = =

Ron Vanderlinden was hired as head coach for the 1997 season under a five @-@ year contract . Vanderlinden had helped engineer turnarounds at Northwestern as defensive coordinator and at Colorado as a defensive assistant . The 1995 Northwestern team in particular had shocked observers when it recorded a 10 ? 2 season and the Big Ten championship . In 1999 , Maryland showed signs of significant improvement , and a winning season appeared certain when Maryland possessed a 5 ? 2 record . The Terrapins , however , then suffered a three @-@ game losing streak . In their finale against Virginia , the Terrapins needed a win to garner a likely invitation to either the Aloha Bowl or Oahu Bowl ? a Maryland alumnus was the chief executive officer of both events . The Terrapins came from behind and held the lead , 30 ? 27 , with 5 : 18 left to play . They regained possession with 1 : 40 remaining , but an inexperienced quarterback unintentionally stopped the clock by going out of bounds . After the ensuing punt , Virginia mounted a touchdown drive to win the game and end Maryland 's bowl hopes . Despite narrowly missing a winning season , Vanderlinden was granted a two @-@ year contract extension . In 2000 , Maryland again fell short of a winning season and bowl game . The Terrapins entered their season closer with a 5 ? 5 record , and again fell , this time in a rout by 24th @-@ ranked Georgia Tech . Vanderlinden was fired the following day .

Despite the failure to deliver a winning season , Vanderlinden did oversee substantive improvement in the program . In 1998 , the Terrapins were one of the most improved teams in defense , scoring defense , passing defense , and rushing . In 1999 , Maryland allowed a conference low of 11 sacks compared with 56 in 1997 . In that same period , Maryland also improved from last to first in the conference in rushing , due in large part to Heisman Trophy candidate and school career rushing leader LaMont Jordan . During Vanderlinden 's tenure , Maryland also recruited several key players who were instrumental in the team 's later success .

= = = Ralph Friedgen ( 2001 ? 2010 ) = = =

Ralph Friedgen , a former Maryland player and assistant under Bobby Ross , was hired as Vanderlinden 's replacement for the 2001 season . Friedgen had previously been denied an interview for the position twice by his alma mater . While offensive coordinator at Georgia Tech , he had been described as an " offensive genius " , and Friedgen later received similar plaudits while at Maryland . When he took over , Maryland had not won a bowl game in 16 years and had only one winning season since 1990 .

In 2001 , Maryland won its first four games and entered the AP Poll for the first time since September 1995 . Maryland beat 15th @-@ ranked Georgia Tech in overtime when placekicker Nick Novak , the ACC 's future all @-@ time scoring leader , equalized and then won the game with 46- and 26 @-@ yard field goals , thereby ensuring a winning season and bowl appearance . In Tallahassee , 18th @-@ ranked Florida State broke a stalemate in the fourth quarter to hand Maryland its only defeat of the regular season , 52 ? 31 . Maryland closed the year with a win over

NC State , which secured the ACC championship and made the Terrapins the first team other than Florida State to take the title outright since the Seminoles joined the conference in 1991 . Sixth @-@ ranked Maryland then faced fifth @-@ ranked Florida in the Orange Bowl ? their first @-@ ever BCS appearance , and their first major bowl of any sort since the 1977 Cotton Bowl . The Terrapins lost , 56 ? 23 , and finished with a 10 ? 2 record and ranked 10th in the nation .

In 2002 , Maryland had a preseason rank of 20th , but their first three games included a shutout by 12th @-@ ranked Notre Dame , 22 ? 0 , and a loss to 16th @-@ ranked Florida State , 37 ? 10 . The Terrapins rallied to defeat 13th @-@ ranked West Virginia and 17th @-@ ranked NC State , while losing only to Virginia . That loss , however , prevented Maryland from earning a share of the ACC championship alongside Florida State . The Terrapins routed Tennessee in the Peach Bowl , 30 ? 3 , and finished with an 11 ? 3 record and final ranking of 18th . Maryland began the 2003 season with losses to Northern Illinois and eighth @-@ ranked Florida State . They later defeated 23rd @-@ ranked West Virginia , but were edged by Georgia Tech . In the postseason , 24th @-@ ranked Maryland delivered a second crushing defeat against 20th @-@ ranked West Virginia in the Gator Bowl , 41 ? 7 , and finished the season ranked 17th . The New York Times computer poll ranked Maryland third in the nation , behind only split @-@ national champions Louisiana State and Southern California . The 2004 season was Friedgen 's first with a losing record . Maryland finished with a 5 ? 6 mark that included an overtime loss to West Virginia , 19 ? 16 . The highlight of the season was an upset victory over fifth @-@ ranked Florida State , which was Maryland 's first against the Seminoles and their first win against a top @-@ 10 team since 1990 . The Terrapins again ended the 2005 season with a 5 ? 6 record . That season opened with a victory over Navy , which was the first meeting between the intrastate foes in 40 years .

In 2006 , Maryland returned to a bowl game and finished with a 9 ? 4 record . During the season , the Terrapins upset 19th @-@ ranked Clemson , 13 ? 12 , and five of their games were won by four points or less . In the Champs Sports Bowl , Maryland beat Purdue , 24 ? 7 . In 2007 , Maryland overcame extensive injuries to again secure a postseason appearance . During the season , unranked Maryland tallied two shocking upsets against 10th @-@ ranked Rutgers , 34 ? 24 , and eighth @-@ ranked Boston College , 42 ? 35 . They finished the season with a rout of NC State to attain bowl eligibility , 37 ? 0 , but lost to Oregon State in the Emerald Bowl , 21 ? 14 . According to the final Sagarin computer @-@ generated rankings , Maryland had the second @-@ hardest schedule in the ACC and the 27th @-@ hardest schedule among Division I teams .

Numerous observers described Maryland 's 2008 season as " wildly inconsistent " . The Terrapins defeated four of their five ranked opponents ? 25th @-@ ranked California , 19th @-@ ranked Clemson , 19th @-@ ranked Wake Forest , and 17th @-@ ranked North Carolina ? but also lost to heavy underdogs Middle Tennessee and Virginia . Ultimately , Maryland defeated Nevada in the Humanitarian Bowl and finished the season with an 8 ? 5 record . Before the 2009 season , many analysts projected the Terrapins to finish last or second @-@ to @-@ last in the Atlantic Division of the ACC , and expressed particular concern with the inexperienced offensive line . The prognostications proved accurate , and Maryland finished 2 ? 10 for their first ten @-@ loss season in program history . Maryland rebounded in 2010 to finish with a 9 ? 4 record , including a win in the Military Bowl , and ranked 23rd in the AP Poll . The ACC named Friedgen Coach of the Year , while freshman quarterback Danny O 'Brien became the first Terrapin ever named ACC Rookie of the Year . Citing lack of fan support , the athletic department bought out the final year of Friedgen 's contract for \$ 2 million .

= = = Randy Edsall ( 2011 ? 2015 ) = = =

After Friedgen was let go , the Terrapins hired Randy Edsall away from Connecticut to be Maryland 's head coach . The 2011 season was not a successful one for Maryland . After a nationally televised win over Miami , the Terrapins struggled for the remainder of the season . They only managed to record one more win ( against FCS opponent Towson ) and finished with a 2 ? 10 record . The team did attract national attention for its " Maryland Pride " uniforms that were created by Under Armour , who had become the official outfitter of the Maryland Athletic Department in



September 2008 .

After the 2011 season , Edsall fired both his offensive coordinator Gary Crowton and his defensive coordinator Todd Bradford . Mike Locksley , who had been fired in 2011 from his head coaching position at New Mexico , was hired to be the new offensive coordinator . Locksley had previously worked at Maryland under head coaches Vanderlinden and Friedgen , and was the recruiting coordinator for Maryland before and during the three consecutive 10 + win seasons under Friedgen . Brian Stewart , who had been the defensive coordinator for the Houston Cougars , was hired to replace Bradford as the new defensive coordinator .

Edsall 's 2012 team compiled a 4 ? 8 record , losing four quarterbacks to injury , and eventually starting a linebacker at the position . The team 's record improved from 2011 nonetheless but still not as much as fans , alumni and the administration had hoped .

The 2013 Maryland Terrapins football team under head coach Edsall improved to 7 ? 6 , capping the season with a loss in the Military Bowl to Marshall , The 61st and final season the Terrapins would be playing football in the Atlantic Coast Conference .

Edsall 's 2014 Terps finished their regular season with a 7 ? 5 record , comprising a 4 ? 4 record in Big Ten Conference play that put them third in the Big Ten East Division , their Inaugural season in the Big Ten Conference . Maryland ended its season at the Foster Farms Bowl , where it lost to Stanford .

On October 11 , 2015 , Edsall was relieved of his duties with offensive coordinator Mike Locksley named as the interim head coach for the rest of the 2015 season .

= = = D. J. Durkin ( 2016 ? present ) = = =

On December 2 , 2015 , the Terps announced that former Michigan defensive coordinator D. J. Durkin will be named the new head coach .

= = Home stadium = =

During its first few decades , the football program had only one poorly suited athletic field on which to play and practice and had no dedicated facilities such as locker rooms . Former coach and contemporary university president Dr. Harry C. Byrd allocated funds for the construction of a stadium in 1915 , and it was completed in 1923 . The Board of Regents voted to name it Byrd Stadium in honor of its main advocate . The stadium 's capacity was 5 @ , @ 000 . During this time , it was common for Maryland to play its better @ - @ drawing games in larger stadiums in Washington , D.C. or Baltimore .

In 1950 , that small field was replaced by the identically named but much larger Byrd Stadium , which was constructed at the cost of \$ 1 million . The new stadium had an initial capacity of 34 @ , @ 680 , which has since been upgraded to 51 @ , @ 055 through extensive additions . Shortly after its construction , the stadium hosted its dedication game against Navy , which Maryland won 35 ? 21 . That same year , the new field held its first and only bowl game , the Presidential Cup Bowl , which featured Texas A & M and Georgia . In 2006 , the University of Maryland became the first school to sell naming rights to its field . The home field was officially branded " Chevy Chase Bank Field at Byrd Stadium " in a 25 @ - @ year , \$ 20 million contract . In 2008 , Chevy Chase Bank was bought out by Capital One , and the stadium was renamed Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium . On December 11 , 2015 , the Board of Regents voted 12 @ - @ 5 to remove the " Byrd " from the stadium 's name because of Harry " Curley " Byrd 's segregationist history , renaming it Maryland Stadium for the time being .

= = Traditions = =

= = = In @ - @ Game = = =

A cannon furnished by the Mighty Sound of Maryland is fired to signify that the Terrapins have scored . This tradition has been in place since 1960 . Also , the cannon is fired before the game to let the tailgaters know that the game is about to start .

= = = Nickname = = =

When the school was known as the Maryland Agricultural College , from 1856 to 1916 , the media called the athletics teams the " Farmers " and the " Aggies " . As the University of Maryland , the teams became known as " The Old Liners " in reference to the state nickname . During the 1923 season , The New York Times referred to Maryland as the Orioles , after a bird species endemic to the region that was already the namesake for several baseball teams . In 1932 , Curley Byrd suggested that the namesake become the diamondback terrapin ( *Malaclemys terrapin* ) , a species of land @-@ dwelling turtle common throughout the state , particularly the Chesapeake Bay area where Dr. Byrd spent his early life . The student newspaper had already been named The Diamondback since 1921 , and the athletics teams were sometimes referred to as the " Terrapins " as early as 1928 . Newspapers began referring to the team simply as the " Terps " to shorten headlines . The truncated name stuck and is now in official use by the school .

The mascot is a diamondback terrapin named Testudo , which means " turtle " in Latin . It is also the name of an ancient Roman military tactic , in which soldiers protected their infantry square from projectiles by completely enclosing it with their shields . Derivations of the word have also been used in scientific nomenclature related to the reptile , such as the order Testudine and the family Testudinidae . In 1933 , the graduating class raised funds for a 300 @-@ pound bronze replica of a terrapin . It was initially placed in front of Ritchie Coliseum , which was then the home arena of the basketball team . In 1951 , after being the subject of numerous pranks , the statue was relocated to Maryland Stadium , reinforced with 700 pounds of concrete , and anchored with steel rods . It was moved again in the 1960s , in front of McKeldin Library , and a second replica was placed at Maryland Stadium in 1992 . In the 2000s , under coach Ralph Friedgen , it was a pregame tradition for the football players to walk 200 yards , through what is known as " Terp Alley " , to the locker rooms , and touch the bronze Testudo .

= = = Colors = = =

Originally , the athletic teams had no official colors and often used gray or maroon and gray for their uniforms . Senior classes would sometimes select colors of their own choosing . In modern times , the uniforms have been based on some combination of the four colors of the Maryland flag : red , white , black , and gold . The dominant colors have occasionally changed back and forth with changes of the head coach . In 1904 , Maryland adopted a state flag based on the heraldry of Lord Calvert : the Calvert family arms ( black and gold ) quartered with his mother 's Crossland family arms ( red and white ) . From the early 1920s until 1942 , the black and gold were adopted as the official school colors .

In 1942 , Clark Shaughnessy left Stanford to coach at Maryland . He brought with him an affinity for a red and white color scheme and changed the team 's uniforms . Shaughnessy left after one season , and the school switched back to the more traditional black and gold . He returned in 1946 and again changed the colors to red and white . When Jim Tatum replaced him the following season , Shaughnessy 's colors were retained . In 1961 , Maryland wore gold jerseys with black numerals for the first time since 1945 for their season opener against Southern Methodist . In 1987 , Joe Krivak introduced black jerseys with the Maryland flag on the sleeves for selected games and then black pants followed in 1991 . Ron Vanderlinden took over in 1997 and a new black and white uniform was adopted . Under Ralph Friedgen , Maryland returned to red and white in 2001 , with black uniforms being reserved for select games . Maryland was one of the first schools to utilize the " blackout " concept , where fans uniformly wear the color to stand out in the stadium . It was introduced unofficially as the " Byrd Blackout " in 2005 . For the 2011 season , Maryland wore new Under Armour uniforms that offered a " dizzying array " of combinations in the four school colors . In

the season opener against Miami , the Terrapins unveiled a unique uniform based on the Maryland state flag that received nationwide media attention . In recent years since 2001 under Ralph Friedgen and continued by Randy Edsall , Maryland has worn a uniform combination of all @-@ red , red jerseys and red pants for the annual game on homecoming weekend .

= = Rivalries = =

= = = Penn State = = =

Main Article : Maryland ? Penn State football rivalry

Maryland and Penn State have met 39 times since the 1917 season . Although Penn State leads the series with a lopsided 36 @-@ 2 @-@ 1 record against Maryland , many of those games were decided by field goals and turnovers . Because Maryland was in the ACC before joining the Big 10 Conference in July of 2014 , this rivalry was mainly kept alive through recruiting . The teams seldom played each other while Maryland was in the ACC but they competed in recruiting in the Baltimore @-@ Washington metropolitan area and Delaware Valley . The teams met in State College on November 1st 2014 for the first time in 11 years . Maryland defeated Penn State 20 @-@ 19 , and at the conclusion of the game , Randy Edsall finished his interview by saying " You know what ? Let the rivalry begin " . The following year , the rivalry game was played at M & T Bank Stadium in Baltimore , Penn State defeated Maryland 31 @-@ 30 .

= = = Virginia = = =

Main Article : Maryland @-@ Virginia football rivalry

The Maryland @-@ Virginia rivalry was a designated official ACC cross @-@ divisional series when Maryland was an ACC member and the teams have a long @-@ standing rivalry due to proximity and history . The programs also vie for recruits in the same region , and more recently , an additional factor has been the schools ' academic competition . Maryland and Virginia have occasionally served as spoilers for one another by precluding a championship or bowl game appearance . Since Maryland is moving out of the ACC and into the Big Ten , the future of this series is in question .

= = = West Virginia = = =

Main Article : Maryland @-@ West Virginia football rivalry

West Virginia has often been called Maryland 's biggest rival , and the teams have met 51 times since their first game in 1919 . The Maryland @-@ West Virginia rivalry had a chance of becoming an annual game with West Virginia potentially joining the ACC in 2012 , but the Mountaineers wound up joining the Big 12 Conference . In 2001 , both programs hired new head coaches , with West Virginia being taken over by Rich Rodriguez . Due to their proximity , the schools regularly raid their opponent 's recruiting areas . The long @-@ running series was put on hiatus for the 2008 and 2009 seasons , but resumed in 2010 .

= = = Navy = = =

Main Article : Crab Bowl Classic

Maryland played the Naval Academy , which is also located in the state of Maryland , several times between the 1930s and 1960s . The rivalry is known as the Crab Bowl Classic . In 1964 , an incident in which a Terrapins player flashed an obscene gesture prompted Navy officials to suspend the series for 40 years . They finally played again in 2005 . As of 2010 , the winner of the Crab Bowl Classic is awarded the Crab Bowl Trophy .

== Top 10 rivals ==

Below are Maryland's record against its top ten most @-@ played opponents .

== Big Ten rivals ==

Below are Maryland's record against its Big Ten opponents .

== East ==

== West ==

== Team achievements ==

Maryland has accumulated various titles and distinctions in its 116 years of intercollegiate competition . Some of the most prestigious achievements are annotated below :

National championships : 1951 ( retroactive ) , 1953

Atlantic Coast Conference championships : 1953 , 1955 , 1974 , 1975 , 1976 , 1983 , 1984 , 1985 , 2001

Southern Conference championships : 1937 , 1951

Undefeated regular seasons : 1893 , 1951 , 1953 , 1955 , 1976

Undefeated conference seasons : 1937 , 1943 , 1949 , 1951 , 1953 , 1954 , 1955 , 1974 , 1975 , 1976 , 1984 , 1985

Bowl appearances : 1947 , 1949 , 1951 , 1953 , 1955 , 1973 , 1974 , 1975 , 1976 , 1977 , 1978 , 1980 , 1982 , 1983 , 1984 , 1985 , 1990 , 2001 , 2002 , 2003 , 2006 , 2007 , 2008 , 2010 , 2013 , 2014

== Individual honors ==

Over the years , many Maryland players have received All @-@ American honors . Eleven Terps have been named consensus ( received a majority of votes ) first @-@ team All @-@ Americans and one , E.J. Henderson , has received that honor twice . Additionally , some have been awarded prestigious awards , including the Bednarik Award , Butkus Award , Lou Groza Award , Outland Trophy , and Lombardi Award . While no Terrapin has ever received the Heisman Trophy , which is bestowed upon college football's most outstanding player , several have received votes by the award's selection committee . Quarterbacks Jack Scarbath and Bernie Faloney finished second and fourth in the voting in 1952 and 1953 , respectively . Additionally , Bob Pellegrini , Gary Collins , Randy White , and Boomer Esiason all finished in the top @-@ ten of the voting for a Heisman . Six Maryland players and four coaches have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame . Bear Bryant , Jerry Claiborne , Clark Shaughnessy , and Jim Tatum were inducted as coaches . The players included Dick Modzelewski , Bob Pellegrini , Jack Scarbath , and Bob Ward . Stan Jones and Randy White were also inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

== College Football Hall of Famers ==

^ denotes player is also in Pro Football Hall of Fame

== Future non @-@ conference opponents ==

Announced schedules as of February 2 , 2016