

= Crab Bowl Classic =

The Crab Bowl Classic , also known as the Crab Bowl or the Maryland ? Navy rivalry , is an American college football rivalry between the Maryland Terrapins football team of the University of Maryland and the Navy Midshipmen football team of the United States Naval Academy . The two institutions , located in close proximity in the state of Maryland , first met for a football game in 1905 . Since then , the series has often been marked by controversy , with incidents by players and supporters occurring both on and off the field . The winner of the game is awarded the Crab Bowl Trophy .

Navy dominated the series early by winning the first eight games , between 1905 and 1930 , which remains the longest streak . Maryland secured its first win in 1931 at a neutral site in Washington , D.C. After two more meetings , the series was suspended in 1934 when the Maryland administration protested a play .

The teams met again in 1950 when Navy had a last @-@ minute opening in its schedule . The Terrapins won three consecutive games from 1950 to 1952 , and the Midshipmen won three from 1958 to 1963 . During the 1964 game , a Maryland player twice flashed an obscene gesture , which prompted Navy to cancel the series again . After contractual obligations were fulfilled with the following year 's game , the series was put on hiatus for 40 years . Maryland and Navy finally resumed the rivalry in 2005 and again in 2010 , with the Terps winning both contests .

= = Background = =

The Naval Academy and the University of Maryland are separated by about 30 miles in the state of Maryland . The schools by their nature , a Federal service academy and a public university , differ radically in terms of culture and lifestyle . For many years , the University of Maryland possessed the reputation of a blue @-@ collar , working @-@ class school . Some students viewed the Naval Academy , with its strictly regimented culture , as elitist . A former Terrapins linebacker , Jerry Fishman , believed that many Midshipmen " thought they were far superior to the Maryland redneck coal miners . " A former Navy fullback , Pat Donnelly , said that compared to a " public institution , [the Naval Academy] was night and day . I think there was a feeling of mutual dislike , but it wasn ' t personal , it was more institutional . "

According to former Maryland head coach (and former Maryland player) Ralph Friedgen , the sentiment at Navy has been that beating their archrival " Army is a must , but Maryland is a necessity . " Darryl Hill , who attended both schools and broke the color barrier on each team , said that the Midshipmen " had a saying that beating Army is great , but beating Maryland is a must . "

Despite a lopsided start in the early 20th century , the Terps and Midshipmen were evenly matched for most of the history of the series . Between 1931 and 1965 , Navy won six and Maryland five games . In the 2005 season opener , Navy was coming off one of its best seasons in history with a 10 ? 2 record the previous year . Maryland struggled later in 2005 , but proved a competitive match for Navy and achieved a last @-@ minute win , 23 ? 20 .

In addition to proximity and competitiveness , the rivalry was fueled by controversial incidents both on and off the field . Maryland supporters long held that Navy players used unnecessary roughness during play , a charge counter @-@ accused by the Academy after the 1963 game . Some Midshipmen would travel to College Park to meet female students , which served to aggravate the ill feelings . Pranks and vandalism were commonplace on both campuses and exacerbated the already tense situation between Maryland and Navy .

= = Series history = =

= = = Early Years : 1905 ? 1934 = = =

On October 25 , 1905 , the team then known as the Maryland Agricultural " Farmers " (or " Aggies ")

) traveled to Annapolis to meet the Navy " Admirals " for the first time . In the first eight games of the series , Navy outscored the teams of the Maryland Agricultural College , Maryland State College (1916 and 1917) , and finally , the University of Maryland (1930 onwards) by a combined margin of 256 points to 7 .

The 1930 game proved to be the first competitive match of the series . Navy scored the only points with a 65 @-@ yard touchdown run on the second play of the game . The remainder was a defensive struggle , and Navy and Maryland advanced to the opposing one- and nine @-@ yard lines , respectively , before being rebuffed . The 1931 match @-@ up was held for the first time at a neutral site , Griffith Stadium in Washington , D.C . In the first Maryland win of the series , the Terrapins scored the only points on a trick " triple @-@ pass " play . The Maryland administration put a halt to the series in 1934 amidst claims that Navy scored the winning go @-@ ahead , 16 ? 13 , on an illegal play after reviewing game tape .

= = = Revival : 1950 ? 52 = = =

The series resumed in 1950 after Georgetown unexpectedly canceled a scheduled game with Navy . Maryland agreed to fill in for Georgetown and hosted the Academy for the Byrd Stadium dedication game in front of a then Washington area @-@ record crowd of 43 @, @ 836 fans . The two teams last met in 1934 , and since that time the Terrapins had hired head coach Jim Tatum . Tatum , an innovator of the split @-@ T offense , had brought consistent success to Maryland in the intervening years . Fearing a renewal of post @-@ game mischief , the Midshipmen attending the match were given strict orders : " Behave like gentlemen and go straight home after the Maryland ? Navy football game in College Park tomorrow . No midshipmen will enter the goal post activity or other altercation following the game . "

Newspapers predicted that Navy would win the 1950 game due to the inexperience of the Maryland quarterbacks , who were led by 19 @-@ year @-@ old sophomore Jack Scarbath . A week before , Scarbath had his first start in a 27 ? 7 loss to Georgia , but he would later become one of Maryland 's greatest quarterbacks and the 1952 Heisman Trophy runner @-@ up .

In the first quarter against Navy , Scarbath scored on a quarterback keeper . Before the half , he completed passes to ends Stan Karnash and Pete Augsburger for 44- and 59 @-@ yard touchdowns . In the third quarter , the Midshipmen responded with a score of their own . In the final period , Maryland end Elmer Wingate returned an interception 34 yards for another touchdown . Then , 54 seconds later , end Lew Weidensaul recovered a Midshipmen fumble , which allowed Ed Modzelewski to rush five yards for the final score by the Terrapins . Navy scored twice more , but Maryland held on to win , 35 ? 21 .

In 1951 , pranks soon returned to the two campuses . Midshipmen were caught in the act of painting the letter " N " on various buildings on the Maryland campus and defacing the grass with the Navy emblem . Early in the 1951 game , Navy 's Frank Brady returned a punt 100 yards to take the lead , 7 ? 0 . It was the only time of Maryland 's undefeated season that they trailed an opponent . The Terrapins responded , and by the end of the third quarter , they had taken the game in hand , 34 ? 7 . Against the stubborn Navy line , Scarbath resorted to the pass more than usual , and completed 16 of 34 for 285 yards . Despite a late Midshipmen surge , Maryland held on for the win , 40 ? 21 .

= = = Navy resurgence : 1958 ? 1963 = = =

Maryland struggled after the departure of Jim Tatum , and , in the next meeting in 1958 , Navy routed them , 40 ? 14 . In 1959 , Maryland students painted a presumptive final score of " Maryland 59 , Navy 0 " on the statue of Tecumseh in front of Bancroft Hall . The prediction was off the mark , as first @-@ year head coach Wayne Hardin and future Heisman @-@ winning halfback Joe Bellino helped Navy to a victory , 22 ? 14 .

In the early 1960s , the Terrapins were coached by former Florida State head coach Tom Nugent . While with the Seminoles , Nugent had wanted to recruit a black player , but felt the racial climate

there was unsuitable . He said that " the head of the Ku Klux Klan lived in Tallahassee . You 'd come to your car and there 'd be a notice on it announcing a Klan meeting that night . " When he took over at Maryland in 1959 , Nugent saw his opportunity . He instructed the Terrapins ' quarterbacks coach Lee Corso to find a black player who was academically and athletically suited to come to College Park . Corso had been impressed by Roger Staubach 's preferred receiver , Darryl Hill , during a freshman match between Maryland and Navy , and had also heard a rumor that he was considering leaving the Naval Academy . In 1962 , Corso convinced Hill to transfer to Maryland , a school that had just 32 African @-@ Americans in its 35 @,@ 000 student body , and become the first black player in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) . Once there , Hill quickly befriended the team 's only Jew , linebacker Jerry Fishman .

= = = Middle @-@ finger incident : 1964 = = =

Before the 1964 game , Maryland supporters stole the Navy mascot , Bill the Goat , but what happened in the game itself was far more controversial . Terrapin players said they would seek revenge against Navy for roughing up Darryl Hill in 1963 . Roger Staubach , Navy 's Heisman Trophy quarterback , said that " it was not a friendly game ... Jerry [Fishman] did not have friendliness in his eyes . He had an extra mean streak that day . "

After a punt return , Fishman was penalized for a hard hit that injured receiver Skip Orr directly in front of the Navy stands , intensifying the ever @-@ present heckling from the crowd . In response , Fishman approached the Brigade of Midshipmen section and raised an extended middle finger . After Fishman was penalized again for a late hit on Staubach , Fishman gave the obscene gesture for a second time . High @-@ ranking Navy officers noticed Fishman 's middle finger and became incensed . Staubach later said that Fishman " told the fans he thought Maryland was number one and got his fingers wrong . "

Due to Fishman 's actions , Academy officials allowed their contractual obligation to the series to lapse after the 1965 game . Years later , Bud Thalman , Navy sports information director at the time , said the incident had taken place " when there was still some level of sportsmanship in athletes ... It was so out of character it was stunning . There was no inclination from Navy to seek out a renewal . That untoward act of sportsmanship created a bad taste among people . " Navy head coach Wayne Hardin called Fishman 's act " a disgrace to college football . " Maryland 's head coach , Tom Nugent , had a different opinion and said , " Both teams appeared to be just a bunch of red @-@ blooded guys trying to kill each other . "

The game itself was closely contested . Staubach completed 25 passes , but also threw two interceptions . Late in the fourth quarter , Navy took the lead , 22 ? 21 . With less than three minutes remaining , the Midshipmen kicked off and halfback Ken Ambrusko fielded the ball from the Terrapins ' endzone . Ambrusko returned it 101 yards for a touchdown , and Maryland won the game , 27 ? 22 .

= = = Another revival : 2005 = = =

In 1997 , Maryland had a new head coach , Ron Vanderlinden , and he immediately saw that Navy was a natural rival for his team , but was unaware of the past history . Vanderlinden attempted to renew the game , but it was not until after his relief that the idea materialized . In 2001 , Ralph Friedgen was hired as his successor and spearheaded efforts to reinvigorate the team 's old rivalries , including that against Navy . Friedgen , who played for Maryland as an offensive guard , was at the 1964 game as a recruit . He had also coached for nine years as Georgia Tech 's offensive coordinator , and he harbored nostalgic feelings for a rivalry with the passion of Clean , Old @-@ Fashioned Hate . Friedgen stated that , in addition to the rivalries with West Virginia and Virginia , a renewed in @-@ state series would be even more meaningful . In 2002 , the two schools agreed to meet for the first Crab Bowl Classic in forty years , scheduled for 2005 .

The 2005 game was played at the M & T Bank Stadium in Baltimore and attended by 67 @,@ 809 fans . The game was a close contest marked by costly Maryland turnovers and Navy penalties . A

Sam Hollenbach interception helped Navy to end the first quarter with a 14 ? 3 lead . Immediately before halftime , Maryland kicked a field goal and another third @-@ quarter field goal narrowed the deficit to 14 ? 9 . Both Maryland and Navy rushed for touchdowns and failed to make two @-@ point conversions in the final quarter . Maryland took over on their own 18 @-@ yard line after the Navy kick , trailing 20 ? 15 with 4 : 37 left on the clock . Hollenbach then engineered a 12 @-@ play , 82 @-@ yard drive capped by an 11 @-@ yard touchdown pass and a two @-@ point conversion . Navy took over with one minute left , and completed a first down on their 33 @-@ yard line before an interception sealed the game for the Terps 23 ? 20 .

= = = Bowl game snubs : 2006 ? 08 = = =

In the next postseason , Maryland declined an invitation to face Navy in the Meineke Car Care Bowl in Charlotte , North Carolina . Instead , the Terps had their sights on the Champs Sports Bowl , to play Purdue in Orlando . According to Maryland athletic director Deborah Yow and coach Friedgen , the decision was based on the players ' preference , a bigger school pay @-@ out , warmer weather , a Big Ten opponent , and more media exposure . Also , the Champs Sports Bowl was deemed to be the fourth @-@ most prestigious non @-@ BCS bowl while the Meineke game was number @-@ six .

Navy athletic director Chet Gladchuk stated that Maryland 's snub was the basis for their rejection of Maryland offers to renew the series in 2010 : " The stage was set for everything we had talked about , and all the good things that could have happened for fans ? a big rematch , a bowl setting , a great city ... It would have been a sellout in Charlotte , and they decided to do something else . That has caused us to pause a little bit and think through the whole relationship . " Ralph Friedgen responded by saying " He 's gotta get over it , " and that the Navy rivalry never entered into the decision @-@ making process .

In 2008 , Navy accepted a bid to play an ACC team in the inaugural EagleBank Bowl at Washington D.C. ' s RFK Stadium . Maryland officials said they could not accept an invitation to the game due to it conflicting with the school 's final exams . Gladchuk said , " We have exams that week , too , but we 're going to show up ... Everybody has an excuse why they can 't do this or can 't do that . We 're finding a way to accommodate the bowl 's situation . "

The Maryland staff reevaluated the EagleBank Bowl but determined it was impossible as many players had an exam on the game date . Yow said , " There are people who are at [academic] risk and need every moment of that week to prepare for the exams . " As a result , Navy played Wake Forest for the second time of the season in the EagleBank Bowl and Maryland traveled to Boise , Idaho to play Nevada in the Humanitarian Bowl .

= = = Future of the series : 2010 ? = = =

In 2007 , the two teams agreed to schedule a rematch for September 6 , 2010 . Deborah Yow stated that , " The citizens of Maryland have made it clear they want this game . " Alluding to the Navy athletic staff 's perceived reticence , she added , " We got past the Charlotte situation . " The delay in scheduling was attributed to the need for a three @-@ way contract between Maryland , Navy , and the stadium tenants , the Baltimore Ravens . For this reason , a renewal as far off as 2014 was not seriously discussed . Ralph Friedgen said , " I would like to see it as an annual game , but that 's not for me to decide . "

The 2010 game would be the first to award the Crab Bowl Trophy to the winner . 69 @, @ 348 fans turned out to see the game at M & T Bank Stadium in Baltimore , which was considered a home game for Maryland . Navy dominated the game statistically , controlling the ball for nearly 40 minutes and gaining 485 yards . The Midshipmen also converted 10 of 18 third @-@ down chances . But their errors and failure to convert near the goal line cost them dearly . Navy kicker Joe Buckley missed a 32 @-@ yard field goal attempt , quarterback Ricky Dobbs lost a fumble at the Maryland 1 @-@ yard line , and Maryland eventually walked away with a 17 @-@ 14 victory .

As of 2011 , there are no future football games scheduled between Navy and Maryland .

= = Trophy = =

In 2010 , the Touchdown Club of Annapolis commissioned the Crab Bowl Trophy , with underwriting by the D 'Camera group . The trophy is a large " pewter bowl overflowing with pewter crabs " , meant to be replicas of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab . The bowl " rests atop a mahogany base " , engraved with " the results of the twenty previous Maryland @-@ Navy games " , which reach back to the rivalry 's origin in 1905 . It was designed by Tilghman Company , a family @-@ owned jewelry store in Annapolis , Maryland . The Touchdown Club , founded in 1954 , has been associated with both teams for a long time , and annually hosts a dinner honoring both teams . The trophy has been well received ; the Terrapins ' Testudo Times newspaper said that having the trophy " awarded by a third party " rather than " having a trophy dreamed up by the administrations at each school to create a more ' rivalry @-@ y ' feel " makes the award seem " more legitimate and less cheesy " . Sports Illustrated included the award in its list of the 40 most " Unusual Trophies in College Football " .

= = Statistics = =

= = Game results = =