

# BYU Defeats Michigan, 24-17

## Injured Bosco Leads Cougars to Holiday Bowl Victory

By CHRIS COBBS,  
Times Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO—Yes, Virginia. Yes, Oklahoma. Yes, Michigan.

It looks as if Brigham Young University is destined to be the national champion.

The Cougars, ranked No. 1 in the wire service polls, staked their claim to the national title with a stirring comeback that defeated Michigan, 24-17, in the seventh annual Holiday Bowl here Friday night.

"I don't think there's any question we should be No. 1," BYU Coach LaVell Edwards said.

Quarterback Robbie Bosco agreed.

"There's no doubt about it," Bosco said. "After such a gutty performance by our whole team, there's no way we can't be No. 1."

Before the game, Michigan Coach Bo Schembechler said he thought BYU would have every right to be No. 1 if the Cougars could beat his team.

Afterward, Schembechler was asked if BYU should be No. 1. He dodged the question.

"I don't know if they should be or not," he said.

Schembechler was then asked to compare BYU to teams in the Big 10.

"I'm not answering that question," he replied. "If we had won the game, I would tell you what I thought. We didn't win, so I can't tell you."

In the commotion at midfield just after the game ended, BYU supporters were not at all reluctant to tell how they felt. They unveiled a neatly-lettered banner that read, "Enough said."

■ BYU is virtually assured of the national championship. Kirk Kenney's story, Page 17.

Now, BYU must await the decision of the voters after all the bowl results are in on New Year's Day.

Oklahoma's Barry Switzer has challenged BYU's right to be No. 1 on the grounds of a supposedly soft schedule.

There was nothing easy, however, about BYU's comeback against Michigan, a 6-5 team whose objective was to add a little gloss to a poor season.

BYU (13-0) must be pretty good. After all, the Cougars made six turnovers and still managed to win.

Bosco threw two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter to preserve BYU's unbeaten streak at 24 games, longest in the nation.

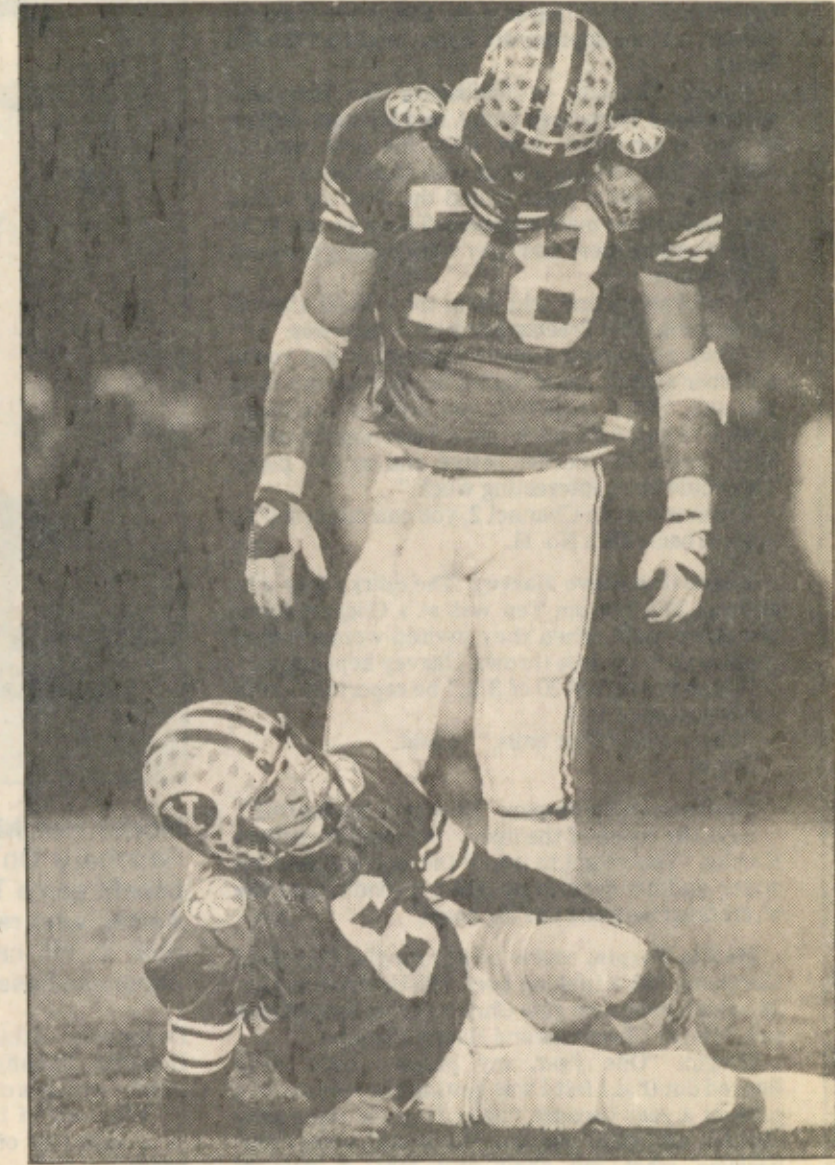
Bosco's 13-yard scoring pass to halfback Kelly Smith with 1:23 remaining in the game completed BYU's rally from a 17-10 deficit early in the final quarter.

Bosco, shaking off the effects of a first-quarter knee and ankle injury, was superb, completing 30 of 42 passes for 343 yards and two touchdowns.

He fumbled twice and threw three interceptions, but his overall performance earned him the designation of the game's top offensive player.

Edwards was singularly impressed with the performance of Bosco, a junior from Roseville, Calif., who was a hit all season as

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VINCE COMPAGNONE / Los Angeles Times

Quarterback Robbie Bosco was injured, but led BYU to the win.



BOB GRIESER / Los Angeles Times

BYU's Kelly Smith celebrates the first of the two touchdowns he scored Friday night in the Holiday Bowl game against Michigan.



## HOLIDAY BOWL / BYU 24, Michigan 17

## HOLIDAY

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the successor to Steve Young, the \$40-million quarterback who graduated to the Los Angeles Express.

"You can't give enough credit to Robbie," Edwards said. "He was in tremendous pain. Just when I think I've seen it all as far as top quarterback performances at BYU, something else happens. I can't think of a better effort than Bosco's tonight."

Bosco is the latest in a line of BYU quarterbacks that includes Young, Jim McMahon, Marc Wilson and Gifford Nielsen.

This was BYU's seventh appearance in the Holiday Bowl, and it gave the Cougars a 4-3 record.

BYU tied the game on a spectacular leaping catch by Glen Kozlowski, who outwrestled two Michigan defenders at the rear of the end zone.

His catch, easily the play of the night, brought the Cougars even, 17-17, with 10:51 to play.

But before Kozlowski could officially be certified as the game's hero, he came precipitously close to being the goat.

The next time BYU got the ball, Kozlowski bobbled a pass from Bosco and Michigan's Jim Scarcelli grabbed it, giving the Wolverines a first down at the 46.

That was the sixth turnover by BYU.

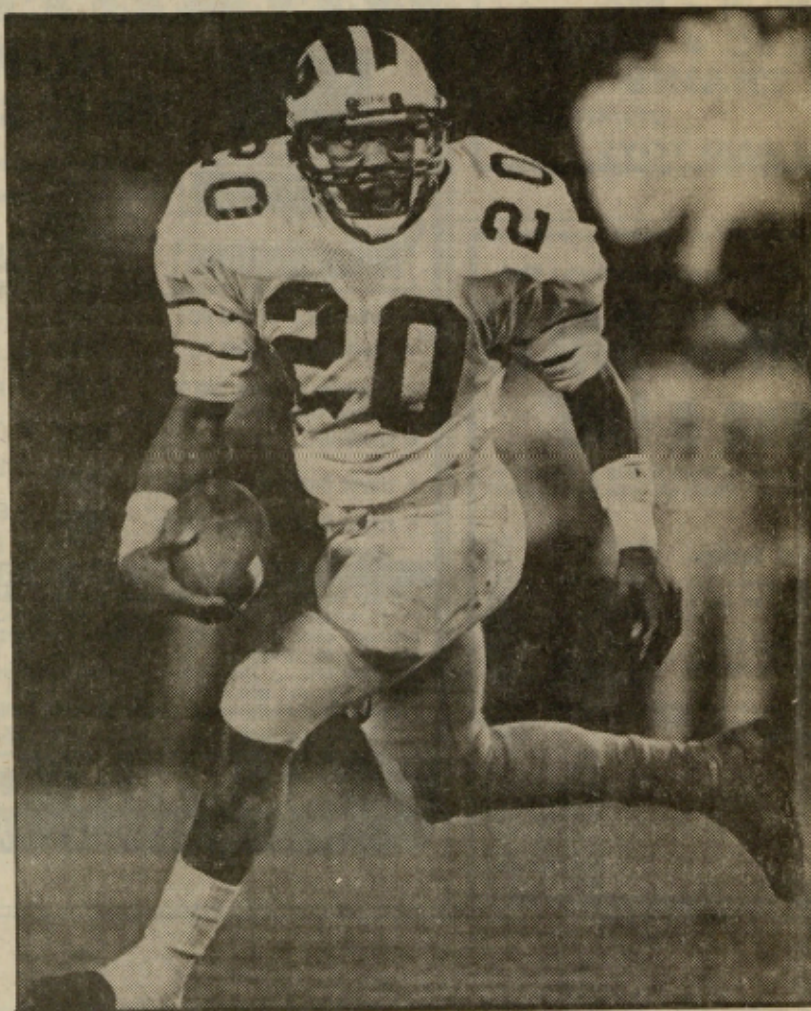
But Michigan failed to take advantage of its good fortune, and when BYU got the ball back, Bosco put together an eight-play, 83-yard drive for the winning score.

BYU suffered from its plethora of turnovers—five of them by Bosco. The fumbles were the costlier mistakes. One of the fumbles rolled into the end zone, depriving the Cougars of a touchdown. The other stopped a drive at the Michigan 25.

BYU, which averaged 36 points a game in defeating 12 straight opponents, endured a scoreless first quarter after Bosco suffered the knee and ankle injuries.

Bosco was injured on a late hit by Michigan tackle Mike Hammerstein, who was called for roughing the passer.

"As long as I could walk, I was going to stay in," Bosco said. "Sometimes I wondered if I was letting the team down, but things began to click in the fourth quar-



VINCE COMPAGNONE / Los Angeles Times

Michigan's Rick Rogers scored Wolverines' first touchdown.

ter."

Bosco, who led the nation in total offense, returned early in the second period—and things quickly began to happen.

The Cougars moved 80 yards in 11 plays to establish a 7-0 lead with 8:37 to go in the first half. Bosco completed five passes for 45 yards and ran once for 13 yards on the drive.

The touchdown was scored by Smith on a five-yard run.

Michigan went nowhere on its next series and appeared to be in big trouble on fourth down when punter Monte Robbins was tackled for an 11-yard loss by BYU linebacker Ladd Akeo.

This gave BYU the ball at the Wolverine 5-yard line—and prompted Schembechler to mutter a few choice words.

But the Cougars were not able to capitalize. A pass to tight end David Mills gained three yards before running back Lakei Heimuli was

stopped for no gain on second down.

Bosco tried a sneak on third down, but fumbled into the end zone and Michigan's Kevin Brooks recovered for a touchback, keeping the Wolverines very much in the game.

This turn of events put some thrust in the Michigan offense.

The Wolverines marched to the BYU 15, thanks to a 20-yard pass to Vince Bean and a 25-yard run by

Bob Perryman.

On fourth-and-four at the 15, Michigan's Bob Bergeron was summoned for a 33-yard field goal. But BYU linebacker Cary Whittingham ran into Bergeron, and a five-yard penalty was assessed, giving Michigan a first down at the 10.

Halfback Rick Rogers required just two tries to get the ball into the end zone and tie the score, 7-7, with 1:13 left in the half.

BYU then put its two-minute drill to good use, running off eight plays in the next 1:09 and moving into position for a 31-yard field goal by Lee Johnson. The kick gave the Cougars a 10-7 halftime lead.

It appeared BYU was headed for a 10-point advantage early in the third quarter, but a Bosco fumble wrecked the threat at the Michigan 25.

On its next series, BYU got close enough for a 52-yard field goal try by Lee Johnson. Michigan linebacker Tim Anderson blocked the kick, however, and Erik Campbell returned it 25 yards to the BYU 47.

The Wolverines soon turned this break into a 14-10 lead.

A 25-yard run by Perryman was the key element in a six-play drive that ended with 19 seconds left in the third period.

A 10-yard pass from quarterback Chris Zurbrugg to Perryman provided Michigan its first lead of the night.

BYU's fifth turnover of the night gave Michigan a chance to expand the lead as time dwindled in the third quarter.

The Wolverines' Brooks, who earlier pounced on the Bosco fumble in the end zone, recovered a Heimuli bobble at the Cougar 13.

But Michigan had to content itself with a 32-yard Bergeron field goal after Zurbrugg lost five yards on a second-down pass attempt. That made it 17-10 entering the fourth quarter and set the stage for BYU's comeback.