

Super Bowl V is remembered as the "Blunder Bowl". The Colts beat the Cowboys 16-13 with five seconds to play, in a game filled with turnovers, miscues and costly penalties. Some NFL legends at that game – Bubba Smith, Herb Adderley, Johnny Unitas – need no introduction. There was a third team on the field that day, with NFL greats like Schachter, Marion, Graf, Fette – guys with a combined 15 Super Bowl appearances. This is their story ...

# NORM SCHACHTER IN SUPER BOWL V

## The Official Version

By Mark L. Ford

Norm Schachter had made it to his second Super Bowl. He and five other outstanding pros had gone to Miami because they were the best of the 1970 season. They were the officiating crew, and Schachter was the NFL's best referee that year. The mistakes of Baltimore and Dallas that day were legendary, but the "third team" was nearly flawless. "You have to be perfect the first game, then get better in every game the following weeks," Schachter wrote in his 1981 autobiography, *Close Calls*. While the Colts and Cowboys were beset by one mistake after another, the Zebras could not afford to be wrong even once, especially not in the Super Bowl.

The NFL didn't release the names of the officials until the week of the game. The crew was one of the best assembled for a championship:

- #56 NORM SCHACHTER, Referee
- #22 PAUL TREPINSKI, Umpire
- #26 ED MARION, Head Linesman
- #39 JACK FETTE, Line Judge
- #34 FRITZ GRAF, Field Judge
- #70 SONNY GAMBER, Back Judge

Schachter and his five teammates assembled at midfield with the captains from Dallas and Baltimore. Craig Morton called heads as Schachter flipped a silver dollar. Heads it was, and the Cowboys elected to receive, while Johnny Unitas chose to defend the west goal. The three teams then took their places on the field.

Like the players, the officials have a kickoff formation. The referee and the two linesmen (Schachter, Marion and Fette) assembled ten yards behind the receiving Cowboys, while the umpire and back judge (Trepinski and Gamber) took up behind the Colts and kicker Jim O'Brien. The field judge, Graf, was stationed at the midfield sideline. Schachter whistled to start the game and the ball was booted downfield. Calvin Hill fielded the ball for Dallas, and Marion signalled for the clock to start. Seconds later, the play was whistled dead as Jack Maitland downed Hill at the 24.

Marion's chain crew then took positions on the right sideline, stationing themselves at the line of scrimmage (the 24) and the first down line (34), with a third partner displaying the sign for first down. The officials now moved into their regular alignment. The referee stands 10 yards behind the quarterback, while the umpire is only a couple of yards behind the defensive line. The linesmen are on either side of the line of scrimmage and the back judge and field judge are further downfield.

On the first play, Craig Morton handed off to Walt Garrison for two yards gained. Ten yards behind quarterback Morton, and to his right, was the referee.

**NORM SCHACHTER'S** job was not only to keep an eye on the offense, but to protect the quarterback by quick enforcement of the rules. Schachter wrote in his memoir, "My job is to see that the quarterback stays in one piece. And doesn't get creamed." On weekdays, he was Mr. Schachter, the principal at Los Angeles High School, the oldest one in the city. He had been an English teacher and an assistant football coach at L.A.'s Washington High in the 1950s (one of his students, Hall of Famer Hugh McElhenny, made a point of loudly greeting him with "Hi Coach!" when he officiated at 49er games) and he was the co-author of the high

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 26, No. 2 (2004)

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school textbook, *Basic English Review*, now in its 7th edition. Schachter started as an NFL field judge in 1954 and was quickly promoted to referee. He had worked the '63 and '64 championships, and the first Super Bowl. Though other officials have been in more Super Bowls (Jerry Markbreit has five to his credit), Schachter was the referee for three of the first ten – and he retired after Super Bowl X.

After three plays, Dallas punted and the three teams on the field realigned. The referee and umpire fell in behind the punting team, the linesmen took each sideline, and the field judge and back judge were behind the receiving Colts. Ron Gardin signalled a fair catch at the 26, where Fritz Graf whistled the ball dead. The officials resumed normal alignment, Schachter behind offense and Johnny Unitas, Trepinski in the middle of the defenders. Baltimore went three and out before punting to Dallas, which couldn't gain enough in 3 downs. With not quite six minutes gone, the game had been routine until the Cowboys punted – and then the penalties and turnovers began occurring in rapid succession.

**1. PERSONAL FOUL, #43 DALLAS – 15 YARDS FROM THE POINT OF INFRACTION, FIRST DOWN**  
**FRITZ GRAF** spotted the first infraction. This was the first of four Super Bowls for Frederick W. Graf, in his 11th season as a field judge. A native of Akron, Graf had been a halfback at Western Reserve University. He made the pros as in 1960 an official for the AFL in its debut season, then jumped leagues the following year. His regular job was as a sales manager for the Ritter Company, a hospital supplier. He was part of Tommy Bell's crew, and he had worked the 1966 NFL championship.

As field judge, Graf was stationed furthest from scrimmage, watching pass receivers most of the time, and the receiving team during kickoffs and punts. When the Cowboys' Cliff Harris committed a personal foul during Jerry Logan's return, Graf threw the game's first flag and marked the spot of the infraction at the 32 yard line. The 15 yard penalty put Baltimore nearly at midfield on its own 47, but the advantage lasted mere seconds. Unitas' first pass was picked off by Chuck Howley, who ran it back to the 46 before being tackled by Unitas himself.

**2. HOLDING, #73 DALLAS – 15 YARDS FROM THE POINT OF INFRACTION**  
Even as Craig Morton's third down pass to Bob Hayes fell incomplete, head linesman **ED MARION** threw a flag for another costly penalty against Dallas. Marion was an Ivy Leaguer, a graduate of Penn and a pension administrator at Union Mutual Life Insurance Company in Philadelphia. Joining the NFL in 1960, he had worked with Schachter and was now on the crew of Chicago's George Rennix, a fellow insurance man. Starting with this game, Marion worked 3 of the first 11 Super Bowls. Among his responsibilities were to keep the time, place the ball after each play, and oversee the chain gang, those sentinels who mark the first down line as well as keeping track of the downs. Marion would later be sued (unsuccessfully) when the Colts' Bubba Smith was injured in a collision with one of the chain gang in 1972. Today, however, Marion was keeping his eye on the offensive and defensive lines, true to the name of his job.

In protecting Craig Morton, Dallas right tackle Ralph Neely had been holding, instead of merely blocking, Colt linebacker Bob Grant. Marion marked the scene of the crime on the Colts' 46, nearly ten yards behind the line of scrimmage, then marched the ball back another 15 yards to the Dallas 31 for a loss of twenty-five. With the down replayed, 3rd and 8 became 3rd and 33. By this time, Schachter's crew had moved the pigskin 40 yards – as opposed to 10 by Dallas, and only 4 by the Colts.

**3. FUMBLE, RECOVERED BY DALLAS, FIRST DOWN**  
Two plays later, Ron Widby punted to the 9 yard line. Ron Gardin fielded, then fumbled the ball, which was recovered by the Cowboys' Cliff Harris. Schachter signalled that Dallas was in possession, first and goal. After three plays without reaching the end zone, the Cowboys brought in Mike Clark for a field goal and the officials realigned – the referee back and to the left of the kicker, the back judges in the end zone. Graf and Gamber raised their arms to signal a successful kick and the first score of the game. With 5:32 remaining in the first quarter, it was Dallas 3, Baltimore 0.

**4. ROUGHING THE PASSER, #76 BALTIMORE – HALF THE DISTANCE, FIRST DOWN**  
On its next series, the Colts made little progress and punted into the endzone for a touchback, giving Dallas the ball at its 20. The Cowboys drove to their 47, and Morton hurled a pass down the right sideline to Bob Hayes, who was stopped at the 12. Meanwhile, Schachter flagged the Colts' Fred Miller for crashing into Morton moments after the ball was thrown. Normally a 15 yard penalty, the penalty was being marked from 12 out and carried half the distance, giving Dallas first down, six yards from goal. After two plays for no gain, Marion signalled the end of the first quarter, and the teams moved to the opposite six yard line.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 26, No. 2 (2004)

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### SECOND QUARTER

#### 5. INTENTIONAL GROUNDING, DALLAS, 15 YARDS

In a game fraught with flags, it was fitting that the second quarter began with a penalty. Craig Morton had dropped back for a pass when Billy Ray Smith drove him even further back. On his way down, Morton threw a desperation pass and Schachter flagged the Cowboys for intentional grounding and their third costly 15 yard penalty of the afternoon. The potential for a 10-0 lead evaporated as the Cowboys faced 4th and 22. Mike Clark booted a field goal from the 30 yard line.

#### 6. OFFSIDES, BALTIMORE, PENALTY DECLINED

Even before the ball split the uprights, both linesmen threw flags as some Colt defenders jumped offsides. Schachter conferred with Dallas and made them an offer he knew they would refuse, the chance to kick again. The penalty declined, three more points were put on the board for a 6-0 Dallas lead.

#### 7. PASS COMPLETION, TOUCHDOWN BALTIMORE

In a 3rd and 10 situation, Johnny Unitas fired a pass to Eddie Hinton, but the pass bounced off of the Colt receiver's hands and past Dallas defenders Mel Renfro and Cornell Green. Baltimore's John Mackey caught the ball at the 50 and raced to the end zone with what the broadcasters thought would have to be ruled an incomplete pass. At the time, the rules specified that a legal pass could not touch two offensive players in succession, so if the ball went directly from Hinton to Mackey, it meant no touchdown.

**It was back judge SONNY GAMBER whose sharp eyes made for the game's most controversial ruling. Hugh Gamber was a graduate of Dubuque University and worked as a safety engineer in Davenport, Iowa. On weekends, he was part of Fred Silva's officiating crew. Like Graf, Gamber had been one of the original AFL officials. He wore the red and white stripes for all ten AFL seasons, and had worked the AFL's 1962 double-overtime championship. This would be his only Super Bowl.**

Schachter raced up the field to confer with Gamber, and recounted the conversation later – "Did Renfro touch that ball? You got to be sure. Are you sure?" Replied Gamber, "I'm sure that I think he did." Schachter recounted later, "That was good enough for me. He had been right on the play, knew the rule and ruled correctly. That's why they pay him." The controversial touchdown stood, but Jim O'Brien's conversion attempt was blocked and the score remained tied, 6-6. Though TV replays were inconclusive, Gamber was proved correct the next day by game films.

#### 8. ILLEGAL PROCEDURE, #72 BALTIMORE – 5 YARDS

After Dallas made no headway, it punted back to the Colts. On the first play, George Andrie of Dallas jumped over the line and crashed into Baltimore's Bob Vogel before the ball was snapped. Line Judge Jack Fette had watched the sequence of events and ruled that the Colts had drawn Andrie offsides. Vogel was flagged for illegal procedure and the ball was moved back to the Colt 33, and a repeat of first down. In three more plays, Baltimore had to punt on 4th and 11.

#### 9. OFFSIDES, DALLAS – 5 YARDS

Dallas advanced only two yards in three plays, and Ron Widby punted the ball down to the Colts' 22, but Ed Marion flagged the Cowboys for being offsides. The Colts took the penalty and after a five yard sanction, Widby punted to the Colts' 21.

#### 10. LIVE BALL, FUMBLED AND RECOVERED BY DALLAS

Unitas had thrown the ball to no apparent receiver as Cowboy defenders approached, but Schachter concluded that it wasn't intentional grounding. On third down, Unitas was fumbled on his own 28 as Lee Roy Jordan was bringing him down, but before the play could be blown dead. Jethro Pugh recovered for the Cowboys, who scored three plays later. The point after gave Dallas a 13-6 lead.

#### 11. PASS INTERFERENCE, #26 DALLAS – 1ST DOWN AT POINT OF INFRACTION

Jim Duncan's return gave the Colts the ball at their 38. On the first play, Herb Adderley knocked down John Mackey at the Dallas 49 and was flagged by Jack Fette for pass interference.

#### 12. OFFSIDES, BALTIMORE, FIVE YARDS, FIRST DOWN

Unitas drove down to the 37 and was flattened by George Andrie as he released the ball. The hit was clean and no penalty was called, but Unitas was out with a broken rib, and Mel Renfro intercepted the pass. On a third and two situation, Marion called offsides against Baltimore, driving the Cowboys 5 yards for a first down on the 28.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 26, No. 2 (2004)

---

### 13. OFFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE, #88 DALLAS – FIFTEEN YARDS

It was 2nd and five for the Cowboys on their own 33, when Craig Morton threw ten yards to Reggie Rucker. Instead of getting a first down, Rucker drew another costly penalty from the Umpire.

**PAUL TREPINSKI** was a postal superintendent in Toledo, Ohio. Umpires tend to be big guys, because they are stationed directly behind the defense, usually the middle linebacker. In fact, many of the other umpires in 1970 had been NFL linebackers – Lou Palazzi (Giants), Frank Sinkovitz (Steelers), Pat Harder (Lions), Joe Muha (Eagles) and George Young (Browns). Trepinski had played college ball at the University of Toledo, but didn't go to pro football until 1963, when he was hired by the AFL. In 1970, he was part of Jack Reader's crew. As with Gamber, this was Trepinski's only Super Bowl.

The pass interference call turned what could have been 1st and ten on the 43 to 2nd and 20 on the 18 yard line. The Cowboys soon made the game's 10th punt.

### 14. PERSONAL FOUL, #55 DALLAS – HALF THE DISTANCE, FIRST DOWN

Earl Morrall had taken over for Uinitas. His first pass, to Chuck Hinton, put the Colts 26 yards away from a score. Roy Jefferson caught the ball at the five and was hit hard by Lee Roy Jordan, who drew a flag from Trepinski. The ball was moved to the two yard line, and in three plays, Norm Bulaich was held for no gain. The Colts decided to go for it on 4th and 2, but Morrall's pass sailed past Tom Mitchell. Dallas ran out the clock with 16 seconds in the half, leading 13-6 rather than tied 13-13.

By halftime, Dallas had moved the ball 143 yards, Baltimore 154 yards, and the officials had moved the ball 97 yards in 9 carries. The officiating crew had thrown the flag ten times for nine completions (the declined offsides penalty was incomplete), compared to only 8 complete passes for Dallas, and only 3 for Baltimore. The existing Super Bowl record for penalties had already been broken, and there was still another half to play.

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### THIRD QUARTER

#### 15. FUMBLE, RECOVERED BY DALLAS

Baltimore had missed a chance to tie the game at halftime, but was receiving the ball to start the second half. Jim Duncan fielded the ball at the 8 and ran it back 25 yards before being tackled by Claxton Welch. The ball sprang loose, bouncing to the 31, where Richmond Flowers dived on it.

#### 16. FUMBLE RECOVERED BY BALTIMORE

The Cowboys drove down the field on five consecutive runs, to the 24, the 15, the 13, the 7 and down to within 2 yards of the goal, and then it happened. Duane Thomas was hit by Jerry Logan at the one yard line and the ball jarred loose. The line judge kept a close eye on the ensuing pileup of blue and white uniforms, then made the second tough call of the game.

**JACK FETTE**, a Kansas City resident and a sales executive for Wilson Sporting Goods, hadn't gone to college, but his officiating in Big 8 games had attracted the NFL's attention. He was part of Schachter's crew during the 1970 season, and this was the first of a record five appearances in the Super Bowl for him. Fette is a legend in officiating circles, the only NFL signal caller to have a perfect rating during a season – a feat he accomplished in 1987.

As the mess was untangled, both teams were claiming the ball. Dallas center Dave Manders protested that he had fallen on the ball, only to have it stolen away by the Colts' Jim Duncan. To this day, some in Dallas feel that Fette was swayed by Baltimore's Billy Ray Smith – the Cowboys were three feet away from a 20-6 lead – but Fette ruled that Duncan fell on the ball before it was whistled dead. The Colts had the ball on their own one yard line.

#### 17. FIELD GOAL ATTEMPT, NO GOOD, DEAD BALL

Earl Morrall drove the Colts 55 yards in ten plays, including a 25 yard pass to Sam Havrilak. On 4th and five, Jim O'Brien tried a field goal from the Colts' 48, but the ball fell short and rolled toward the goal line. Before the ball reached the end zone, an alert Tom Goode dived on it for Baltimore, costing the Cowboys a touchback – and 20 yards. Gamber whistled the ball dead and gave Dallas a first down – on their own one yard line.

#### 18. CLIPPING, #40 BALTIMORE – 15 YARDS

Dallas could only get to the 4 yard line in three plays, so Ron Widby punted. The Colts' Ron Gardin got to the

## **THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 26, No. 2 (2004)**

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Dallas 46 before Claxton Welch stopped him, but Marion flagged Baltimore's Jack Maitland for clipping, moving the ball back to the Colts' 39.

### FOURTH QUARTER

#### 19. TOUCHBACK

Morrall had driven the Colts to the Dallas 11 as the third quarter ended, moving the Colts to the east side of the field for the final fifteen minutes. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Chuck Howley picked off Morrall's end zone pass to Norm Bulaich, turning a Colt touchdown into a Cowboy touchback. Dallas took the ball on its 20.

#### 20. PASS INTERFERENCE, #20 DALLAS – FIRST DOWN

Dallas drove to the 47, before punting. Ron Gardin took a fair catch for the Colts on their 18. Earl Morrall recovered a bad snap and threw the ball for an incomplete pass. On 3rd and ten, Mel Renfro was flagged by Graf for pass interference after knocking down intended receiver Chuck Hinton, giving the Colts first down on their 31.

#### 21. HOLDING, DALLAS, 5 YARDS AND FIRST DOWN

Dallas had broken up a pass on 3rd and 8, but Jack Fette flagged the Cowboys for holding and awarded Baltimore another first down, along with five yards to place the ball on the Dallas 39.

#### 22. TOUCHBACK – DALLAS

At the 30 yard line, Morrall ran the "flea flicker" to Sam Havrilak, who completed a pass to Chuck Hinton. Five yards from a Colt touchdown, Cornell Green's hit jarred the ball loose. Back judges Gamber and Graf watched a series of players touch the bouncing pigskin and were prepared to signal a Colt touchdown, a safety, or a touchback, depending on what happened next. The ball rolled out of the end zone and the whistles blew – the ruling, another touchback, and Dallas got the ball on their 20.

It didn't last. On the third play, Morton's pass to Garrison bounced off the receiver and into the grasp of Baltimore's Rick Volk, who ran all the way back to the three yard line. Two plays later, Tom Nowatzke crossed into the end zone, and Graf and Gamber signalled a Colts' TD. This time, O'Brien's kick was good, tying the game again – Baltimore 13, Dallas 13.

Cliff Harris returned the kickoff to the 35, and Morton drove the Cowboys to within 45 yards of a score, but ended up punting, pinning the Colts on their own 5. At the 2:00 warning, Baltimore had only made it to the ten by 4th down. A bad punt gave Dallas the ball at the Colts' 48.

#### 23. HOLDING, DALLAS – 15 YARDS FROM POINT OF INFRACTION

Less than two minutes to play, and 48 yards away from victory, the Cowboys were struck by double disaster. Schachter flagged Dallas for holding back at their 42 – moving the ball back to the Dallas 27. As the clock ticked down to the one minute mark, Baltimore's Tom Curtis picked off Morton's pass to Dan Reeves – and the Colts were now in scoring range on the Dallas 28. Two carries by Norm Bulaich gained three yards and ran the clock down to 30 seconds.

#### 24. TIME OUT, BALTIMORE; ATTEMPTED TIME OUT DALLAS; FIELD GOAL, GOOD

Only the team captain can call a timeout, and Earl Morrall walked over to Referee Schachter rather than lining his team up for a 3rd and seven play, waiting for the right moment to stop the clock. The seconds clicked off – 20, 19, 18, 17 – and the Colt players were shouting for their quarterback to call time ... 16, 15, 14, 13 ... but Schachter could stop the time only when Morrall spoke. Morrall looked at his teammates and the scoreboard clock ... 12, 11, 10 ... then, bowing to peer pressure, called time out sooner than he had planned. Schachter blew the whistle, halting the clock at 0:09.

The kicking team now assembled at the 25 yard line, while holder Morrall and kicker Jim O'Brien set up seven yards back.

Bill Curry hiked the ball back to Morrall and the clock started again ... 9, 8 ... Dallas captain Craig Morton shouted from the sidelines for Schachter to call another timeout, hoping to unnerve the rookie kicker. Schachter knew the rule that Morton didn't – consecutive timeouts could not be had without the running of an offensive play. O'Brien's 32 yard kick split the uprights, Graf and Gamber signalled it good, and the score, with 0:05 to play, was Baltimore 16, Dallas 13.

#### 25. CLOCK STOPPED, OUT OF BOUNDS; EXPIRATION OF TIME

Even with 5 seconds to play, the game wasn't over. Steve Kiner managed to hurry out of bounds at the Dallas 40 after fielding the ball, and Ed Marion signalled for time to stop at 0:03. Had Morrall allowed the

## **THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 26, No. 2 (2004)**

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clock to run down as originally planned, the winning field goal would have gone through as time expired, but now the Cowboys had time for one final, desperate play – and in this game where anything could and did happen, a 60 yard winning touchdown pass was not unimaginable. Morton took the snap and hurled the ball downfield to Walt Garrison – but Baltimore's Jerry Logan intercepted at the 29. Schachter fired the gun to signal the end of the game. The Colts celebrated, the Cowboys bemoaned their loss, and the officials were glad to be done with a game that tested their abilities to the limit. Another season over, Referee #56 went to the Miami airport to catch his flight back to L.A. Tomorrow would be Monday, another workday for Principal Norman Schachter.

### Epilogue

--- Dallas carried the ball 31 times for 102 yards, Baltimore 31 times for 69 yards. The officials outdid them both, moving the ball 164 yards in 15 carries.

--- The Colts made 14 first downs, the Cowboys 9. Seven first downs followed flags from the officials.

--- Both teams completed less than half of their pass attempts. The Colts had 11 catches on 25 passes, the Cowboys 12 for 26. On the other hand, the officials threw 15 flags, with 14 of them moving the ball (one penalty was declined).

--- The Cowboys' 120 yards of penalties and the Colts' 44 yards combined for a Super Bowl record that still stands.

--- The Steelers broke the Cowboys' record, running up 122 yards worth of flags (against the Vikings' 18) in their 16-6 win in Super Bowl IX.

--- The Dallas record of 10 penalties, and the combined record of 14 penalties, were both broken seven years later in Super Bowl XII. The Cowboys were cited 12 times in their 27-10 win over the Broncos, who were cited 8 times. Those records haven't been broken, but were tied in 2004 at Super Bowl XXXVIII. Carolina's 12 penalties and New England's 8 were part of another game which, like Super Bowl V, was a nailbiter that turned upon the rulings on the field. That's another story.