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2008 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL NOTES

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GAME 1: NOTRE DAME (0-0) vs. SAN DIEGO STATE (0-1)



DATE: Saturday, September 6, 2008

TIME: 3:43 p.m. ET

SITE (CAPACITY): Notre Dame Stadium (80,795); Notre Dame, Ind.

TICKETS: The game is officially sold out making it the 200th consecutive sellout at Notre Dame Stadium. Since 1966, every Notre Dame home football game has been a sellout except one - a 1973 Thanksgiving Day game vs. Air Force. The Irish have now played in front of sellouts in 248 of their last 249 home games.

TV: NBC national telecast with Tom Hammond (play-by-play) and Pat Haden (analysis), Alex Flanagan (sideline), David Gibson (producer) and John Gonzalez (director). NBC will stream a live 30 min. pre-game show (3-3:30 p.m.) and post-game show on NBCSports.com.

RADIO: ISP Sports is the exclusive national rights-holder for Irish football radio broadcasts. The Notre Dame-ISP relationship will begin with the 2008 season and extend through the 2017 season -- with ISP managing, producing and syndicating the Irish national football radio network. Notre Dame games to be broad-

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cast with Don Criqui (play-by-play), former Irish running back Allen Pinkett (analysis) and Jeff Jeffers providing pre-game, sideline and post-game reports. This broadcast can be heard live on SIRIUS Satellite Radio (channel 159).

All Notre Dame home games may be heard in South Bend on Sunny 101.5 FM and NewsTalk 960 WSBT-AM. See page 11 of this notes package for more information on Irish football radio and television shows.

WEB SITES: Notre Dame (und.com), San Diego State (goaztecs.com).

REAL-TIME STATS: Live in-game statistics will be provided through CBS College Sports Gametracker via each school's respective official athletic websites.

POLLS: Notre Dame is receiving votes in both the Associated Press and USA Today coaches polls, while San Diego State failed to receive any votes in either poll.

SERIES INFO: Notre Dame and San Diego State will meet on the gridiron for the first time in the 120-year history of Irish football. The Aztecs are the 135th different opponent in Notre Dame football history. San Diego State is the first inaugural foe for the Irish since 2003 when Notre Dame knocked off Washington State, 26-23, to open the season.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Notre Dame opens the 2008 season with Mountain West Conference foe San Diego State. The Irish, which dropped their season opener in 2007 to Georgia Tech, will look to avoid losses in consecutive season openers for the first time since 1985-86. Michigan knocked off Notre Dame to open each campaign. The Irish are also looking to avoid losses in consecutive home openers for the first time since 1994-95 (when Michigan, 1994, and Northwestern, 1995, upended Notre Dame).

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF

- 400 Saturday's game is the 400th in Notre Dame Stadium history.
- 200 Saturday's game will mark the 200th consecutive sellout of Notre Dame Stadium.
- 10 (0) With a victory over San Diego State this weekend, Notre Dame would improve to 100-15-5 in its 120 all-time season opening games.
- 9 Notre Dame's youth and inexperience was quite visible in the 2007 season opener against Georgia Tech as nine different Irish players made their first career start. In 2008, Notre Dame's starting lineup will likely feature just four first-time starters (OG **Chris Stewart**, TE **Kyle Rudolph**, DE **Morrice Richardson** and LB **Harrison Smith**).
- 8 Notre Dame lists eight freshman on its two-deep depth chart entering the season opener with San Diego State. Only SMU (13) and North Texas (9) list more.
- 7 Since 1950, only seven Irish running backs have ever eclipsed 100 yards rushing in three straight games. Sophomore TB **Robert Hughes**, who surpassed 100 yards against Duke and Stanford to close the 2007 season, could become the eighth this weekend.
- 6 Notre Dame enters the season opener with six players that have started 12 or more career games.
- 5 The Irish welcome back five of their top six receivers from a year ago. The quintet combined to grab 133 receptions.
- 4 Notre Dame opened the 2007 season with four of its first six games on the road. In 2008, though, the Irish open with four of their first five games inside Notre Dame Stadium.
- 3 Notre Dame will likely enter the season with a three-headed attack in the backfield. The Irish return junior HB **James Aldridge**, sophomore HB **Robert Hughes** and sophomore HB **Armando Allen** in 2008. This season is the first since 2001 that Notre Dame returned three ball carriers that all eclipsed 250 yards rushing the previous year.
- 2 After ranking 103rd and 60th in 2005 and 2006, respectively, Notre Dame finished 2007 ranked second in the nation in pass defense. The Irish limited their opponents to just 161.58 yards passing per game -- an improvement of over 100 yards from '05.
- 1 Freshman TE **Kyle Rudolph** will likely become the first freshman tight end to ever start a season-opener.
- 0 Notre Dame and San Diego State have never met previously in the 120-year history of Irish football.

2008 NOTRE DAME SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
September 6	SAN DIEGO STATE (NBC)	Notre Dame, Ind.	3:30 p.m.
September 13	MICHIGAN (NBC)	Notre Dame, Ind.	3:30 p.m.
September 20	at Michigan State (ABC)	East Lansing, Mich.	3:30 p.m.
September 27	PURDUE (NBC)	Notre Dame, Ind.	3:30 p.m.
October 4	STANFORD (NBC)	Notre Dame, Ind.	2:30 p.m.
October 11	at Notre Carolina (TBA)	Chapel Hill, N.C.	TBA
October 25	at Washington (TBA)	Seattle, Wash.	8:00 p.m.
November 1	PITTSBURGH (NBC)	Notre Dame, Ind.	2:30 p.m.
November 8	at Boston College (TBA)	Chestnut Hill, Mass.	TBA
November 15	vs. Navy (CBS)	Baltimore, Md.	12:00 p.m.
November 22	SYRACUSE (NBC)	Notre Dame, Ind.	2:30 p.m.
November 29	at USC (TBA)	Los Angeles, Calif.	8:00 p.m.

All Times Local

**Notre Dame vs. San Diego State Statistics
(2007 Statistics)**

Notre Dame	Category	San Diego State
197	Total Points	301
16.4	Points Per Game	25.1
187	First Downs	218
73	By Rushing	70
89	By Passing	136
25	By Penalty	12
903	Rushing Yards	1,247
437	Rushing Attempts	359
2.1	Yards Per Rush	3.5
11	TDs Rushing	19
75.2	Rushing Yards Per Game	103.9
2004	Passing Yards	3,272
389-217-9	Attempts-Completions-INT	458-270-9
167.0	Passing Yards Per Game	272.7
12	TDs Passing	16
2,907	Total Offense	4,519
826	Total Offensive Plays	817
242.2	Total Offense Per Game	376.6
19.7	Kick Return Average	20.2
9.1	Punt Return Average	10.7
78-693	Penalties-Yards	72-603
26-16	Fumbles-Lost	13-7
28:03	Time of Possession	27:14

SAN DIEGO STATE HEAD COACH CHUCK LONG:

Chuck Long's road to San Diego State has been paved by success. In 25 years as both a player and coach on the collegiate and professional levels, he has built a resume that most can only dream of.

As a collegian at Iowa, he was the runner-up for the 1985 Heisman Trophy, throwing for over 10,000 career yards, winning the Maxwell and Davey O'Brien Awards and leading his team to a Big Ten title and an appearance in the Rose Bowl. As a professional in the NFL, he was a first-round draft pick and spent eight seasons with the Detroit Lions and Los Angeles Rams.

As a coach, he won a national championship, logged five top-six finishes and made nine appearances in bowl games in 11 seasons as a collegiate assistant.

Long added to that already impressive list in December 2005 when he was named the 16th head coach in San Diego State football history and charged with returning the program to the national spotlight.

SAN DIEGO STATE SCOUTING REPORT:

The San Diego State football team was picked to finish seventh in the Mountain West

**All-Time Notre Dame
Season Openers**

Year	W/L	Opp.	Result	Year	W/L	Opp.	Result	Year	W/L	Opp.	Result
*1887	L	Michigan	0-8	1929	W	Indiana	14-0	*1969	W	(11) Northwestern	35-10
*1888	L	Michigan	6-26	*1930	W	SMU (4:00)	20-14	1970	W	(6) Northwestern	35-14
1889	W	Northwestern	9-0	1931	W	Indiana	25-0	*1971	W	(2) Northwestern	50-7
*1892	W	South Bend H.S.	56-0	*1932	W	Haskell	73-0	1972	W	(13) Northwestern	37-0
*1893	W	Kalamazoo	34-0	*1933	T	Kansas	0-0	*1973	W	(8) Northwestern	44-0
*1894	W	Hillsdale	14-0	*1934	L	Texas	6-7	1974	W	(2) Georgia Tech (NT)	31-7
*1895	W	Northwestern Law	20-0	*1935	W	Kansas	28-7	1975	W	(9) Boston College (NT) (Foxboro)	17-3
*1896	L	Chicago Physicians & Surgeons	0-4	*1936	W	Carnegie Tech	21-7	*1976	L	(11) Pittsburgh (9)	10-31
*1897	T	Rush Medical	0-0	*1937	W	Drake	21-0	1977	W	(3) Pittsburgh (7)	19-9
1898	W	Illinois	5-0	*1938	W	Kansas	52-0	*1978	L	(5) Missouri (12:50)	0-3
*1899	W	Englewood High School	29-5	*1939	W	Purdue	3-0	1979	W	(9) Michigan (6)	12-10
*1900	W	Goshen	55-0	*1940	W	Col. of Pacific	25-7	*1980	W	(11) Purdue (9)	31-10
*1901	T	South Bend Athletic Club	0-0	*1941	W	Arizona	38-7	*1981	W	(4) LSU	27-9
*1902	W	Michigan State	33-0	1942	T	Wisconsin	7-7	*1982	W	(*) Michigan (NT) (10)	23-17
*1903	W	Michigan State	12-0	1943	W	Pittsburgh	41-0	1983	W	(5) Purdue	52-6
*1904	W	Wabash	12-4	1944	W	Pittsburgh	58-0	1984	L	(8) Purdue (Hoosier Dome)	21-23
*1905	W	North Division H.S. (Chicago)	44-0	*1945	W	Illinois	7-0	1985	L	(13) Michigan	12-20
*1906	W	Franklin	26-0	1946	W	Illinois	26-6	*1986	L	Michigan (3)	23-24
*1907	W	Chicago Physicians & Surgeons (R)	32-0	1947	W	Pittsburgh	40-6	1987	W	(16) Michigan (9)	26-7
*1908	W	Hillsdale	39-0	*1948	W	Purdue	28-27	*1988	W	(13) Michigan (1:13) (NT) (9)	19-17
*1909	W	Olivet	58-0	*1949	W	Indiana	49-6	1989	W	(2) Virginia (NT) (Giants Stadium)	36-13
*1910	W	Olivet	48-0	*1950	W	(1) North Carolina (2:40) (20)	14-7	*1990	W	(1) Michigan (NT) (1:40) (4)	28-24
*1911	W	Ohio Northern	32-6	*1951	W	(14) Indiana	48-6	*1991	W	(7) Indiana	49-27
*1912	W	St. Viator	116-7	1952	T	(10) Pennsylvania (12)	7-7	1992	W	(3) Northwestern (Soldier Field)	42-7
*1913	W	Ohio Northern	87-0	1953	W	(1) Oklahoma (6)	28-21	*1993	W	(7) Northwestern	27-12
*1914	W	Alma	56-0	*1954	W	(2) Texas (4)	21-0	1994	W	(3) Northwestern (NT) (Soldier Field)	42-15
*1915	W	Alma	32-0	*1955	W	(11) SMU	17-0	*1995	L	(9) Northwestern	15-17
1916	W	Case Tech	48-0	1956	L	(3) SMU (NT)(1:50)	13-19	1996	W	() Vanderbilt (NT)	14-7
*1917	W	Kalamazoo	55-0	1957	W	Purdue	12-0	*1997	W	(11) *Georgia Tech (2:37)	17-13
1918	W	Case Tech	26-6	*1958	W	(5) Indiana	18-0	*1998	W	(22) Michigan (5)	36-20
*1919	W	Kalamazoo	14-0	*1959	W	North Carolina (R)	28-8	*1999	W	(18) * Kansas	48-13
*1920	W	Kalamazoo	39-0	*1960	W	California	21-7	*2000	W	Texas A&M (23)	24-10
*1921	W	Kalamazoo	56-0	*1961	W	Oklahoma	19-6	2001	L	(23) Nebraska (5) (NT)	10-27
*1922	W	Kalamazoo	46-0	1962	W	Oklahoma	13-7	2002	W	Maryland (21) (Nt) *(Giants Stadium)	22-0
*1923	W	Kalamazoo	74-0	*1963	L	Wisconsin (1:07) (6)	9-14	*2003	W	Washington State 29-26 (1 OT)	
*1924	W	Lombard	40-0	1964	W	Wisconsin (R)	31-7	*2004	L	at BYU (NT)	17-20
*1925	W	Baylor (R)	41-0	1965	W	(3) California	48-6	2005	W	at Pittsburgh (23) (NT)	42-21
*1926	W	Beloit	77-0	*1966	W	(6) Purdue (8)	26-14	2006	W	(2) at Georgia Tech (NT)	14-10
*1927	W	Coe (R)	28-7	*1967	W	(1) California	41-8	*2007	L	Georgia Tech	3-33
*1928	W	Loyola (New Orleans)	12-6	*1968	W	(3) Oklahoma (5)	45-21	TOTALS		99-15-5	

Conference preseason poll of MWC media members.

The Aztecs, who return 12 starters, including eight on the defensive side of the ball, received 92 points. Brigham Young, which captured its second straight MWC title in 2008, was selected to win the conference title after receiving 29 first-place votes and 299 overall. Utah earned 274 points and five first-place votes to come in second, while TCU was third with 293 points.

San Diego State has finished the same or better than predicted in the preseason poll in each of the last three seasons. Last season, SDSU was predicted to finish eighth in MWC play but managed to place sixth.

In addition, senior Russell Allen (Oceanside, Calif.) was named to the 2008 preseason all-conference team. A linebacker, Allen became the first Aztec to earn preseason all-conference honors since Antwan Applewhite's selection in 2006.

The only quarterback on the San Diego State roster to ever start a collegiate game at the position is senior wideout Darren Mougey, but redshirt freshman Ryan Lindley won the job to replace departed four-year starter Kevin O'Connell (third round pick of New England). O'Connell, who threw for 3,063 yards and 15 TDs, also led the Aztecs in rushing with 408 yards and 11 more scores. Sophomore Brandon Sullivan returns after limited action in 2007. He rushed for 220 yards on 58 carries, the most among the returnees, while adding 18 catches for 119 yards. Right behind Sullivan is junior Atiyah Henderson, who led SDSU in rushing in 2006 with 764 yards. He enters his junior campaign just 53 yards short of 1,000 for his career. San Diego State lost two wideouts to the NFL draft, but return both Mougey and sophomore Vincent Brown. Mougey, a 6-6, 230-pound converted QB, hauled in 32 passes for 368 yards in 10 games a year ago (his first at WR since his junior year of high school). Brown caught 31 passes for 349 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, the Aztecs return nine starters and 21 letterwinners on defense. San Diego State returns three starters from the defensive line, all three linebackers from possibly the best unit in the Mountain West Conference and three of the four in the secondary. Senior linebacker Russell Allen totalled 119 tackles last season to lead the team. Senior Vonnie Holmes and junior Aaron Moore, who each picked off four passes in '07, will lead an experienced secondary.

**2007 SAN DIEGO STATE RESULTS
(4-8 OVERALL, 3-5 MWC)**

Sept. 8	at Washington	L	17-45
Sept. 15	at Arizona State	L	13-34
Sept. 22	PORTLAND STATE	W	52-17
Sept. 29	CINCINNATI	L	23-52
*Oct. 6	at Colorado State	W	24-30
*Oct. 13	at Utah	L	7-23
*Oct. 20	NEW MEXICO	L	17-20
*Nov. 3	WYOMING	W	27-24
*Nov. 10	at UNLV	W	38-30
*Nov. 17	at Air Force	L	23-55
*Nov. 24	TCU	L	33-45
*Dec. 1	BYU	L	27-48

**Notre Dame
Probable Starting Lineup**

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
X	18	Duval Kamara	So.	Set school record for TD catches by freshman in '07
LT	77	Michael Turkovich	Sr.	Started all 12 games at LG in '07 (first 12 career starts)
LG	55	Eric Olsen	Jr.	Started the final six games of '07 at RG
OC	51	Dan Wenger	Jr.	Started first three games of '07 at RG and last two at C
RG	59	Chris Stewart	Jr.	Seen action in six career games at OG and OT
RT	74	Sam Young	Jr.	Has started all 25 games over the past two seasons
TE	9	Kyle Rudolph	Fr.	First freshman TE to ever start season opener
Z	11	David Grimes	Sr.	Tri-captain; 55 career rec. for 579 yds and four TDs
QB	7	Jimmy Clausen	So.	Maxwell, O'Brien Quarterback Award Watch List
FB	44	Armando Schwapp	Sr.	Prototypical lead blocking FB; Phil Steele's eighth best FB
HB	5	Armando Allen	So.	Started four games; rushed for 370 yds as a freshman

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
DE	53	Morrice Richardson	Jr.	Played in nine games in '07; seven tackles, one sack
NT	95	Ian Williams	So.	Played all 12 games in '07; sixth on team w/ 45 tackles
DE	96	Pat Kuntz	Sr.	Started first 10 games of '07 before injury ended season
SAM	22	Harrison Smith	So.	Versatile athlete will also see action at safety
MIKE	58	Brian Smith	So.	Played 11 games in '07 at OLB; moved inside in spring
JACK	40	Maurice Crum, Jr.	Sr.	Has started all 37 games for ND last three seasons
WILL	90	John Ryan	Jr.	Started 10 games in '07; 30 tackles, 5.0 TFL, 2.5 sacks
LCB	8	Raeshon McNeil	Jr.	Saw action in 11 games in '07 (only start came at Purdue)
FS	27	David Bruton	Sr.	Breakthrough season in '07; 85 tackles, 4.5 TFL, 3 INT, FF, FR, Blck Punt
SS	28	Kyle McCarthy	Sr.	Replaces graduated four-year starter Tom Zbikowski
RCB	20	Terrail Lambert	Sr.	Will make his 23rd straight start versus San Diego State

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
PK	14	Brandon Walker	So.	Converted 6-of-12 FG in '07
KO	39	Ryan Burkhart	Jr.	Did not kickoff in '07; Handled duties in '06 (8 touchbacks)
P	43	Eric Maust	Jr.	Punted 21 times for 884 yds (42.1 avg.) in '07
H	43	Eric Maust	Jr.	Holds for left-footed kicker Brandon Walker
	13	Evan Sharpley	Sr.	Holds for right-footed kicker Ryan Burkhart
SNP	39	Kevin Brooks	Sr.	Serves as snapper on punts
SNP	52	Braxton Cave	Fr.	Serves as snapper on field goals and extra points
PR	5	Armando Allen	So.	Did not return a punt as a freshman in '07
KR	5	Armando Allen	So.	Avg. 21.3 yds/return on 33 kickoff returns
	23	Golden Tate	So.	Avg. 21.7 yds/return on 15 kickoff returns

KEY PROBABLE NON-STARTERS

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
QB	13	Evan Sharpley	Sr.	Played eight games, two starts in '07; threw for 736 yds, 5 TDs
HB	34	James Aldridge	Jr.	Led ND in rushing with 463 yds in 11 games in '07
HB	33	Robert Hughes	So.	Rushed for 246 yds (7.0 avg.) in the final two games of '07
WR	82	Robby Parris	Jr.	Second-ranked returning WR with 361 yds in '07
WR	3	Michael Floyd	Fr.	Rookie will see immediate impact as the No. 3 or 4 WR
WR	19	George West, Jr.	Jr.	21 rec. for 172 yds in '07; Battled injury in fall camp
WR	23	Golden Tate	So.	Improved route running has moved him up depth chart
TE/FB	32	Luke Schmidt	Jr.	Move TE; also can spell time at FB position
TE	84	Will Yeatman	Jr.	All-American lacrosse player caught six passes for 37 yds in '07
NT	93	Paddy Mullen	Jr.	Saw action in three games in '07 (behind Kuntz, Williams)
DE	94	Justin Brown	Sr.	One of three (Lambert, Crum) fifth-year seniors
DE	9	Ethan Johnson	Fr.	Rookie ranked by Rivals.com as second-best DE recruit in '07
SAM	41	Scott Smith	Sr.	Voted by teammates onto leadership committee
MIKE	49	Toryan Smith	Jr.	Father, Charles, played football at Georgia
JACK	48	Steve Quinn	Sr.	Serves as one of the top players on special teams
WILL	56	Kerry Neal	So.	Started five games at OLB in '07; 20 tackles, two sacks
WILL	45	Darius Fleming	Fr.	Rookie has unlimited potential; Possesses incredible athleticism
CB	4	Gary Gray	So.	Did not see any game action in '07 with arm injury
CB	12	Robert Blanton	Fr.	Rookie will play right away; high jumped 6-7 in high school
FS	31	Sergio Brown	Jr.	Top special teamer in '07; will see action in both nickel, dime

**Notre Dame Head Coach
Charlie Weis**



PERSONAL INFORMATION

BIRTHDAY: March 30, 1956
FAMILY: Wife, Maura; Son, Charlie, Jr. (15) and Daughter, Hannah (13)
HIGH SCHOOL: Middlesex High School, Middlesex, N.J.
EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree in speech and drama, Notre Dame, 1978; Master's Degree in education, South Carolina, 1989

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Year	School/Team	Assignment
1979	Boonton (N.J.) High School	Assistant Coach
1980	Morristown (N.J.) High School	Assistant Coach
1981	Morristown (N.J.) High School	Assistant Coach
1982	Morristown (N.J.) High School	Assistant Coach
1983	Morristown (N.J.) High School	Assistant Coach
1984	Morristown (N.J.) High School	Assistant Coach
1985	South Carolina	Graduate Assistant Coach/Defensive Backs
1986	South Carolina	Graduate Assistant Coach/Linebackers
1987	South Carolina+	Volunteer Coach/Defensive Ends
1988	South Carolina@	Assistant Recruiting Coordinator
1989	Franklin Township (N.J.) High School	Head Coach
1990	New York Giants*	Defensive Assistant/Asst. Special Teams
1991	New York Giants	Running Backs
1992	New York Giants	Running Backs
1993	New England Patriots	Tight Ends
1994	New England Patriots	Tight Ends
1995	New England Patriots	Running Backs
1996	New England Patriots#	Wide Receivers
1997	New York Jets	Wide Receivers
1998	New York Jets^	Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers
1999	New York Jets	Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers
2000	New England Patriots	Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs
2001	New England Patriots*	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks/RBs
2002	New England Patriots	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
2003	New England Patriots*	Offensive Coordinator
2004	New England Patriots*	Offensive Coordinator
2005	University of Notre Dame%	Head Coach
2006	University of Notre Dame\$	Head Coach
2007	University of Notre Dame	Head Coach
2008	University of Notre Dame	Head Coach

Notre Dame Total (4 seasons)22-15 (.595)

+ Gator Bowl @ Liberty Bowl
 * Super Bowl champion # Super Bowl appearance
 ^ AFC Title game % Fiesta Bowl
 \$ Sugar Bowl

**Head-to-Head Statistical Comparison
(2007 Stats)**

NOTRE DAME			SAN DIEGO STATE			
#	NCAA	Category		Category	NCAA	#
16.42	116th	Scoring Offense	vs.	Scoring Defense	103rd	34.42
242.25	119th	Total Offense	vs.	Total Defense	115th	498.17
75.25	115th	Rushing Offense	vs.	Rushing Defense	118th	241.50
167.00	110th	Passing Offense	vs.	Passing Defense	94th	256.67
104.63	113rd	Passing Efficiency Off.	vs.	Passing Efficiency Def.	104th	143.23
28.75	72nd	Scoring Defense	vs.	Scoring Offense	76th	25.08
357.00	39th	Total Defense	vs.	Total Offense	73rd	376.58
195.42	96th	Rushing Defense	vs.	Rushing Offense	105th	103.92
161.58	2nd	Passing Defense	vs.	Passing Offense	28th	272.67
111.78	22nd	Passing Efficiency Def.	vs.	Passing Efficiency Off.	60th	126.61
37.89	13th	Net Punting	vs.	Net Punting	17th	37.59
9.12	52nd	Punt Returns	vs.	Punt Returns	35th	10.69
19.69	93rd	Kickoff Returns	vs.	Kickoff Returns	85th	20.22
0.00	55th	Turnover Margin	vs.	Turnover Margin	27th	0.50
1.50	96th	Sacks	vs.	Sacks Allowed	t-85th	2.50
4.83	119th	Sacks Allowed	vs.	Sacks	107th	1.25

NOTRE DAME HEAD COACH CHARLIE WEIS:

A record combined win total for the first two seasons of any University of Notre Dame head football coach, consecutive Bowl Championship Series appearances for the first time in Irish history, and the two most accomplished passing seasons in Notre Dame football annals - those are the most notable by-products of the first three seasons of the Charlie Weis era in South Bend.

Weis, a 1978 Notre Dame graduate and owner of four Super Bowl-champion rings as products of a stellar 15-season career as a National Football League assistant coach, wasted no time putting his signature stamp on his alma mater's program in his first two years as Irish head coach in 2005 and 2006.

Weis and his Irish followed up a 9-3 record in '05 and BCS appearance in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl with a 10-3 overall mark in '06 and a second consecutive BCS invitation, this time to the Allstate Sugar Bowl. Those 19 combined wins (including eight straight in the middle of the '06 regular season) qualified as most in a two-year period by the Irish since they collected 21 in 1992-93. It was also the first time Notre Dame played in BCS games in successive years and the most prominent two-season bowl qualification since the Irish played in the Fiesta and Orange Bowls after the 1994 and '95 campaigns. The only schools to play in BCS games after both the '05 and '06 seasons were Notre Dame, Ohio State and USC.

Notre Dame's 10 regular-season wins in '06 marked the ninth time that figure had been achieved in Irish history. Weis' 19 combined wins in his first two seasons were the most by a Notre Dame head football coach in his first two years (the previous high was 17 by both Terry Brennan in 1954-55 and Dan Devine in 1975-76). For the second straight season in '06 Weis was one of three finalists for the George Munger Award presented by the Maxwell Football Club (of Philadelphia) to the college coach of the year.

IRISH NOTEBOOK

► This game will mark the start of the 120th football season at the University of Notre Dame dating back to 1887 ... The Irish did not field teams in 1890 or 1891.

► Notre Dame enters the 2008 season with an all-time record of 824-278-42 (.739 winning percentage).

► The Irish return 38 lettermen and 16 starters from last year's squad.

► Notre Dame and San Diego State will meet on the gridiron for the first time in the 120-year history of Irish football. The Aztecs are the 135th different opponent in Notre Dame football history. San Diego State is the first inaugural foe for the Irish since 2003 when Notre Dame knocked off Washington State, 26-23, to open the season.

► The first game of the 200 straight sellout streak was the first game of Irish head coach Charlie Weis' freshman season in 1974.

► The Irish are 69-8-3 (.881) in season openers inside Notre Dame Stadium. Notre Dame will open a season at home for the second straight year after opening the 2004, 2005 and 2006 seasons all away from Notre Dame Stadium.

► The Irish, which lost last season to Georgia Tech to open the year, have never dropped back-to-back season openers inside Notre Dame Stadium. The only time Notre Dame lost consecutive season openers at home occurred the first two years of Irish football (1887 and 1888).

► In association with the beginning of Notre Dame's yearlong program "Celebrating Over 60 Years of Success by Black Student-Athletes at Notre Dame," Wayne Edmonds and Paul Thompson will present the colors. Edmonds is a 1956 graduate and the first black football player to win a monogram while competing for the Irish. Thompson is the son of the late Frazier Thompson, a 1947 graduate and former Irish track standout who was the first black graduate of the University and the first black monogram-winner in any sport at Notre Dame. They will be joined in the flag presentation ceremony by Ceyl Prinster, president of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, a 1976 graduate and president and chief executive officer of the Colorado Enterprise Fund.

► The Irish are 8-4 in season openers following a losing season and 12-5 following a non-winning campaign, including victories against five ranked opponents. In fact, when opening a season following a non-winning season the year prior Notre Dame is 5-1 against ranked foes.

Year	Record Previous Year	Opening Opponent	Site	Result
1888	0-1	Michigan	H	L, 0-8
1889	1-2	Northwestern	A	W, 9-0
1934	3-5-1	Texas	H	L, 6-7
1951	4-4-1	Indiana	H	W, 48-6
1957	2-8	Purdue	A	W, 12-0
1960	5-5	California	H	W, 21-7
1961	2-8	Oklahoma	H	W, 19-6
1962	5-5	Oklahoma	A	W, 13-7
1963	5-5	Wisconsin	H	L, 9-14
1964	2-7	Wisconsin	A	W, 31-7
1982	5-6	#10 Michigan	H	W, 23-17
1986	5-6	#3 Michigan	H	L, 23-24
1987	5-6	#9 Michigan	A	W, 26-7
2000	5-7	#23 Texas A&M	H	W, 26-7
2002	5-6	#21 Maryland	N	W, 22-0
2004	5-7	BYU	A	L, 17-20
2005	6-6	#23 Pittsburgh	A	W, 42-21

► Notre Dame will play its 400th all-time game in Notre Dame Stadium this weekend. The Irish are 6-2 in other landmark games in the House That Rockne Built.

1st	Oct. 11, 1930	Navy	W, 26-2
50th	Oct. 25, 1941	Illinois	W, 49-14
100th	Sept. 25, 1954	#4 Texas	W, 21-0
150th	Oct. 17, 1964	UCLA	W, 24-0
200th	Nov. 22, 1973	Air Force	W, 48-15
250th	Sept. 17, 1983	Michigan State	L, 23-28
300th	Nov. 2, 1991	Navy	W, 38-0
350th	Nov. 20, 1999	#25 Boston College	L, 29-31

2007 Irish Among National Leaders

Category	Rank	Stat	National Leader	Stat
Rushing Offense	115	75.25	Navy	348.77
Passing Offense	110	167.00	Texas Tech	470.31
Total Offense	119	242.25	Tulsa	543.93
Scoring Offense	116	16.42	Hawaii	43.38
Rushing Defense	96	195.42	Oregon State	70.62
Pass Efficiency Defense	22	111.78	Utah	96.50
Total Defense	39	357.00	Ohio State	233.00
Scoring Defense	72	28.75	Ohio State	12.77
Net Punting	13	37.89	Cincinnati	39.61
Punt Returns	52	9.12	Kansas State	22.53
Kickoff Returns	93	19.69	Oklahoma	28.27
Turnover Margin	55	.00	Kansas	1.62
Pass Defense	2	161.58	Ohio State	150.15
Passing Efficiency	113	104.63	Oklahoma	170.63
Sacks	96	1.50	Georgia Tech	3.69
Tackles For Loss	113	4.75	Oregon	9.38
Sacks Allowed	119	4.83	Tennessee	.29

Punting

Geoff Price	34th	41.85	Trevor Laws	t-41st	9.33
			Joe Brockington	t-52nd	9.00

Punt Returns

Tom Zbikowski	33rd	10.17
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Notre Dame's Record When...

	2008	Weis Era
At Home	0-0	11-9
On The Road	0-0	10-4
Neutral Site Games	0-0	1-2
In Overtime	0-0	0-2
Coming off a loss	0-0	6-9
Coming off a win	0-0	15-2
Coming of an open date	0-0	1-2
Both teams are AP-ranked	0-0	3-5
Neither team is ranked	0-0	2-5
ND is ranked higher	0-0	17-2
Opponent is ranked higher	0-0	3-8
Vs. In-state Opponents	0-0	2-1
In September	0-0	7-7
In October	0-0	7-4
In November	0-0	10-3
In December	0-0	0-0
In January	0-0	0-2
On Television	0-0	22-15
On NBC	0-0	11-9
On ABC	0-0	7-3
On ESPN	0-0	2-2
On CBS	0-0	1-0
On CSTV	0-0	1-0
On Fox	0-0	0-1
Afternoon Games	0-0	16-12
Night Games	0-0	5-3
Decided By 7 or Less	0-0	5-3
Scoring First	0-0	15-4
Opponent Scores First	0-0	7-11
Leading At Halftime	0-0	16-2
Tied At Halftime	0-0	2-0
Trailing At Halftime	0-0	4-13
Leading After 3 Qtrs.	0-0	17-1
Tied After 3 Qtrs.	0-0	1-1
Trailing After 3 Qtrs.	0-0	4-13
In Overtime	0-0	0-2
Scoring 40+ Points	0-0	9-2
Scoring 30+ Points	0-0	16-3
Scoring 20-29 Points	0-0	13-6
Scoring 0-19 Points	0-0	2-9
Allowing 40+ Points	0-0	0-6
Allowing 30+ Points	0-0	2-13
Allowing 20-29 Points	0-0	8-4
Allowing 0-19 Points	0-0	13-0
Outrushing Opponent	0-0	10-0
Getting Outrushed	0-0	12-15
Passing For More Yds	0-0	18-7
Passing For Fewer Yds	0-0	4-8
Outgaining Opponent	0-0	15-3
Getting Outgained	0-0	7-11
Winning Time of Poss.	0-0	16-4
Losing Time of Poss.	0-0	6-11
Scoring a Def./ST TD	0-0	8-3
Allowing a Def./ST TD	0-0	2-6
Fewer Penalty Yards	0-0	10-9
More Penalty Yards	0-0	12-6
Winning Turnover Battle	0-0	16-5
Losing Turnover Battle	0-0	2-7
Individual 100-yard rusher	0-0	13-4
Individual 100-yard receiver	0-0	12-4
Individual 200-yard passer	0-0	19-6
Opponent 100-yard rusher	0-0	3-11
Opponent 100-yard receiver	0-0	10-6
Opponent 200-yard passer	0-0	9-9

National Rankings

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Preseason)

Rk	School	Record	Pts
1.	Georgia (22)	0-0	1,528
2.	Ohio State (21)	0-0	1,506
3.	USC (12)	0-0	1,490
4.	Oklahoma (4)	0-0	1,444
5.	Florida (6)	0-0	1,415
6.	Missouri	0-0	1,266
7.	LSU	0-0	1,135
8.	West Virginia	0-0	1,116
9.	Clemson	0-0	1,105
10.	Auburn	0-0	968
11.	Texas	0-0	966
12.	Texas Tech	0-0	786
13.	Wisconsin	0-0	771
14.	Kansas	0-0	707
15.	Arizona State	0-0	631
16.	Brigham Young	0-0	590
17.	Virginia Tech	0-0	578
18.	Tennessee	0-0	509
19.	South Florida	0-0	496
20.	Illinois	0-0	483
21.	Oregon	0-0	366
22.	Penn State	0-0	293
23.	Wake Forest	0-0	227
24.	Alabama	0-0	89
25.	Pittsburgh	0-0	85

Others Receiving Votes

South Carolina 84, Fresno State 83, California 59, Utah 53, Cincinnati 44, Florida State 41, **Michigan 36**, Boston College 32, Rutgers 32, **Michigan State 21**, Boise State 17, Arkansas 14, **North Carolina 14**, Connecticut 10, Tulsa 7, UCLA 6, Oregon State 5, Mississippi State 4, Virginia 4, Arizona 3, Nebraska 2, **NOTRE DAME 2**, Hawaii 1, Washington 1.

USA TODAY/COACHES (Preseason)

Rk	School	Record	Pts
1.	Georgia (22)	0-0	1,438
2.	USC (14)	0-0	1,430
3.	Ohio State (14)	0-0	1,392
4.	Oklahoma (3)	0-0	1,329
5.	Florida (5)	0-0	1,293
6.	LSU (3)	0-0	1,163
7.	Missouri	0-0	1,143
8.	West Virginia	0-0	1,008
9.	Clemson	0-0	999
10.	Texas	0-0	979
11.	Auburn	0-0	888
12.	Wisconsin	0-0	747
13.	Kansas	0-0	714
14.	Texas Tech	0-0	644
15.	Virginia Tech	0-0	568
16.	Arizona State	0-0	560
17.	Brigham Young	0-0	547
18.	Tennessee	0-0	506
19.	Illinois	0-0	422
20.	Oregon	0-0	399
21.	South Florida	0-0	350
22.	Penn State	0-0	313
23.	Wake Forest	0-0	203
24.	Michigan	0-0	112
25.	Fresno State	0-0	91

Others Receiving Votes

Alabama 83, South Carolina 64, Utah 60, Rutgers 53, Florida State 53, **Boston College 47**, California 41, **Pittsburgh 34**, Boise State 25, Oregon State 23, Nebraska 17, Cincinnati 13, Virginia 12, Connecticut 9, **Michigan State 9**, Mississippi State 6, Kentucky 5, **NOTRE DAME 5**, TCU 5, Maryland 4, Texas A&M 3, UCLA 3, **North Carolina 3**, Louisville 2, Georgia Tech 2, UCF 2, Tulsa 1, Oklahoma State 1, Arizona 1, Colorado 1.
2008 opponents in **bold italics**

► In 119 years of Notre Dame football beginning in 1887, Notre Dame has had 101 winning years, only 13 seasons with a losing record and just five others with a .500 mark. Over the previous 17 non-winning seasons (excluding 2007), the Irish have improved their win total following that disappointing season on 12 different occasions, including a record seven-game increase in the 1964 campaign.

Non-Winning Season	Following Season	Improved Win Total
1887 (0-1)	1888 (1-2)	+1
1888 (1-2)	1889 (1-0)	0
1933 (3-5-1)	1934 (6-3)	+3
1950 (4-4-1)	1951 (7-2-1)	+3
1956 (2-8)	1957 (7-3)	+5
1959 (5-5)	1960 (2-8)	-3
1960 (2-8)	1961(5-5)	+3
1961 (5-5)	1962 (5-5)	0
1962 (5-5)	1963 (2-7)	-3
1963 (2-7)	1964 (9-1)	+7
1981(5-6)	1982 (6-4-1)	+1
1985 (5-6)	1986 (5-6)	0
1986 (5-6)	1987 (8-4)	+3
1999 (5-7)	2000 (9-3)	+4
2001 (5-6)	2002 (10-3)	+5
2003 (5-7)	2004 (6-6)	+1
2004 (6-6)	2005 (9-3)	+3
2007 (3-9)	2008 (-)	--

Top Irish Performances in Season Openers...

INDIVIDUAL

Total Offense

Terry Hanratty, 310, vs. Purdue (9.24.66)

Rushing Yards

Angelo Dabiero, 11-176, 1 TD, vs. Oklahoma (9.30.61)

Touchdown Rushes

3 by Rashon Powers-Neal vs. Pittsburgh (9.3.05)

Passing Yards

304 by Terry Hanratty vs. Purdue (9.24.66)

Pass Attempts

47 by Brady Quinn vs. BYU (9.4.04)

Pass Completions

26 by Brady Quinn vs. BYU (9.4.04)

Touchdown Passes

4 by Ron Powlus vs. Northwestern (9.3.94)

Receptions

Jim Seymour, 13-276, 3 TD, vs. Purdue (9.24.66)

Receiving Yards

*Jim Seymour, 13-276, 3 TD, vs. Purdue (9.24.66)

Touchdown Receptions

3 by Jim Seymour vs. Purdue (9.24.66)

***All Purpose Yards**

361 by Willie Maher vs. Kalamazoo (9.29.23)

Points Kicking

Nicholas Setta, 17 (2 XP, 5 FG), vs. Maryland (9.6.03)

***Field Goals**

5, twice

Kickoff Return Yards

Paul Castner, 4-253, 2 TD, vs. Kalamazoo (9.30.22)

Punt Return Yards

Vince McNally, 225, vs. Beloit (10.2.26)

Interceptions

Shane Walton, 3-11, vs. Maryland (8.31.02)

Tackles

18 by Courtney Watson vs. Nebraska (9.8.01)

TEAM

Points Scored

116 (W 116-7); 1912 in Notre Dame

Points Scored (quarter)

35 (W 56-0); 1921 (first) in Notre Dame

Points Scored (half)

64 (W 116-7); 1912 (second) in Notre Dame

Points Allowed

33 (L 3-33); 2007 in Notre Dame

Points Allowed (quarter)

17 (L 10-27); 2001 (first) in Lincoln

Points Allowed (half)

27 (L 10-27); 2001 (first) in Lincoln

A WIN THIS WEEK WOULD...

- ▶ Give the Irish a victory in their season opener for the third time in four years.
- ▶ Make the Irish 100-15-5 (.854) all-time in season openers and 95-19-5 (.819) in home openers.
- ▶ Be the 18th victory in the last 22 season openers and 10th win in the last 13 home openers.
- ▶ Improve Notre Dame to 71-10-3 (.863) when opening a season at home.
- ▶ Be its sixth victory in the last seven seasons when opening the year at Notre Dame Stadium.
- ▶ Improve Notre Dame to 1-0 in the all-time series with San Diego State.
- ▶ Improve Notre Dame to 28-8 all-time against the Mountain West Conference.
- ▶ Improve Weis' record to 23-15 overall and 3-1 against the Mountain West Conference.
- ▶ Improve Weis' home record to 12-9.
- ▶ Improve Weis' record to 8-7 in September games.
- ▶ Improve Weis' record to 16-12 in afternoon games.
- ▶ Improve Notre Dame's all-time record to 825-278-42 (.739).
- ▶ Improve Notre Dame's all-time record at Notre Dame Stadium to 299-96-5 (.754).

A LOSS THIS WEEK WOULD...

- ▶ Give Notre Dame a defeat in its season opener for the second straight season.
- ▶ Give the Irish losses in consecutive season openers for the first time since 1985-86.
- ▶ Give Notre Dame defeats in consecutive home openers for the first time since 1994-95 (when Michigan, 1994, and Northwestern, 1995, upended the Irish).
- ▶ Give Notre Dame back-to-back season openers inside Notre Dame Stadium for the first time in school history
- ▶ Give the Irish losses in consecutive season openers at home occurred for the first time since the initial two years of Notre Dame football (1887 and 1888).
- ▶ Make the Irish 99-16-5 (.846) all-time in season openers and 95-20-5 (.813) in home openers.
- ▶ Be the fifth defeat in the last 22 season openers and fourth loss in the last 13 home openers.
- ▶ Drop Notre Dame to 70-11-3 (.851) when opening a season at home.
- ▶ Drop Notre Dame to 0-1 in the all-time series with San Diego State.
- ▶ Drop Notre Dame to 27-9 all-time against the Mountain West Conference.
- ▶ Drop Weis' record to 22-16 overall and 2-2 against the Mountain West Conference.
- ▶ Drop Weis' home record to 11-10.
- ▶ Drop Weis' record to 7-8 in September games.
- ▶ Drop Weis' record to 15-13 in afternoon games.
- ▶ Drop Notre Dame's all-time record to 824-279-42 (.738).
- ▶ Drop Notre Dame's all-time record at Notre Dame Stadium to 298-97-5 (.751).

NOTRE DAME - SAN DIEGO STATE SERIES NOTES

- ▶ Notre Dame and San Diego State will meet on the gridiron for the first time in the 120-year history of Irish football. The Aztecs are the 135th different opponent in Notre Dame football history. San Diego State is the first inaugural foe for the Irish since 2003 when Notre Dame knocked off Washington State, 26-23, to open the season.

NOTRE DAME VS. THE MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

- ▶ Notre Dame has a 27-8 (.771) all-time record against current members of the Mountain West Conference, with the vast majority of those games (28) coming against Air Force.
- ▶ The .771 Irish winning percentage vs. the Mountain West Conference is the second best in school history against a major Division I-A conference, topped only by the .884 mark (23-3) Notre Dame has posted against Conference USA.

Starter Sheet

Offense	2007	Streak	Career
Young (RT)	12	25	25
Grimes (WR)	8	3	16
Duncan (LT)	12	12	12
Turkovich (LG)	12	12	12
Schwapp (FB)	7	1	10
Clausen (QB)	9	3	9
West (WR)	7	-	7
Olsen (RG)	6	6	6
Aldridge (HB)	5	-	5
Kamara (WR)	5	2	5
Wenger (RG)	5	2	5
Parris (WR)	4	-	4
Allen (HB)	4	-	4
Yeatman (TE)	3	-	3
Tate (WR)	2	-	2
Sharpley (QB)	2	-	2

Defense	2007	Streak	Career
Crum (ILB)	12	37	37
Lambert (CB)	12	22	22
Bruton (FS)	11	3	11
Kuntz (NT)	10	-	10
Ryan (OLB)	10	-	10
Brown (DE)	5	3	5
Neal (OLB)	5	2	5
Smith (OLB)	3	3	3
Smith, T. (ILB)	2	-	2
Williams (NT)	2	2	2
Herring (SS)	-	-	1
McNeil (DB)	1	-	1
McCarthy (FS)	1	-	1

Longest Active Streaks

Crum (LB)	37
Young (RT)	25
Lambert (CB)	22
Duncan (LT)	12
Turkovich (LG)	12
Olsen (RG)	6

Most Career Starts (Active)

Crum (LB)	37
Young (RT)	25
Lambert (CB)	22
Grimes (WR)	16
Duncan (LT)	12
Turkovich (LG)	12
Bruton (FS)	11
Schwapp (FB)	10
Kuntz (NT)	10
Ryan (OLB)	10

Memorable Irish Season Openers

The following games are among Notre Dame's more memorable season openers, based on ranked opponents and/or close finishes:

Oct. 4, 1930

at Notre Dame 20, SMU 14

Joe Savoldi-100-yd kick return; Marchy Schwartz-winning TD with 4:00 to play; 1st game in ND Stadium.

Sept. 25, 1948

at Notre Dame 28, Purdue 27

Irish win on Steve Oracko's field goal.

Sept. 30, 1950

at #1 Notre Dame 14, #20 North Carolina 7

Irish win game on pass from Bob Williams to Jim Mutscheller with 2:40 to play.

Sept. 27, 1952

#10 Notre Dame 7, at #12 Pennsylvania 7

Irish escape with tie, despite lackluster offense.

Sept. 26, 1953

#1 Notre Dame 28, at #6 Oklahoma 21

Johnny Lattner intercepts late pass in end zone; Sooners go on to win next 47.

Sept. 25, 1954

at #2 Notre Dame 21, #4 Texas 0

Ralph Guglielmi: two passing TDs, one rushing TD, three INTs.

Sept. 22, 1956

at SMU 19, #3 Notre Dame 13

Mustangs score winning TD with 1:50 to play, spoiling Paul Hornung's comeback heroics.

Sept. 28, 1963

#6 Wisconsin 14, at Notre Dame 9

Badgers win on Ralph Kurek's one-yard TD run with 1:07 to play.

Sept. 24, 1966

at #6 Notre Dame 26, #8 Purdue 14

Terry Hanratty to Jim Seymour: 13 passes for 276 yards; Irish go on to national title.

Sept. 21, 1968

at #3 Notre Dame 45, #5 Oklahoma 21

Irish QBs Terry Hanratty and Joe Theismann direct Irish to 571 total yards.

Sept. 11, 1976

#9 Pittsburgh 31, at #11 Notre Dame 10

Tony Dorsett leads Pitt with 181 rushing yards; Panthers go on to win national title.

Sept. 10, 1977

#3 Notre Dame 19, at #7 Pittsburgh 9

Irish hold Pitt to 82 total yds; Rusty Lisch (106 pass. yds) and Jerome Heavens (94 rush. yds) lead offense; Irish go on to national title.

Sept. 6, 1980

at #11 Notre Dame 31, #9 Purdue 10

Phil Carter leads Irish with 142 rushing yards.

Active Notre Dame Players In Season Openers

JAMES ALDRIDGE

	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
2007	6	19	0	19	0	7	3.2

ARMANDO ALLEN

	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
2007	3	25	0	25	0	11	8.3

	Rec	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/C
2007	1	1	0	1.0	1.0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/R
2007	5	84	0	25	16.8

JUSTIN BROWN

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2005	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0

SERGIO BROWN

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2006	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
2007	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0

DAVID BRUTON

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2006	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
2007	6	3	9	2.0-11	1.0-10	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	3	9	2.0-11	1.0-10	0	0	0	0

JIMMY CLAUSEN

	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.
2007	2	0	-14	-14	0	0	-7.0

	Com.	Att.	INT	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
2007	4	6	0	34	0	11	1

MAURICE CRUM, JR.

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2005	3	2	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
2006	4	2	6	2.0-15	1.0-14	0	0	0	0
2007	3	6	9	1.0-2	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	10	21	3.0-17	1.0-14	0	0	0	0

DAVID GRIMES

	Rec	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/C
2007	1	4	0	4	4.0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/R
2006	1	46	0	46	46.0

RAY HERRING

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2007	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0

ROBERT HUGHES

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/R
2007	2	8	0	6	4.0

DUVAL KAMARA

	Rec	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/C
2007	2	19	0	11	9.5

PAT KUNTZ

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2007	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	2	0	0	0

TERRAIL LAMBERT

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2006	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
2007	4	2	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	3	8	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0

KYLE MCCARTHY

	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT
2007	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0

**Active Notre Dame Players
In Season Openers**

RAESHON MCNEIL										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2006	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
PADDY MULLEN										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2007	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
ROBBY PARRIS										
	Rec	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/C					
2007	3	30	0	12	10.0					
MORRICE RICHARDSON										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2007	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
JOHN RYAN										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2007	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
ASAPH SCHWAPP										
	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.			
2005	2	6	0	6	0	4	3.0			
2006	3	13	0	13	0	6	4.3			
2007	1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-1.0			
TOTAL	6	19	-1	18	0	6	3.2			
EVAN SHARPLEY										
	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg.			
2007	10	3	-61	-58	0	3	-5.8			
	Com.	Att.	INT	Yds	TD	Long	Sack			
2007	10	13	0	92	0	29	7			
SCOTT SMITH										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2007	2	2	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
TORYAN SMITH										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2007	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
GOLDEN TATE										
Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/R					
2007	1	20	0	20	20.0					
GEORGE WEST										
	Rec	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/C					
2007	2	29	0	20	14.5					
Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/R					
2006	1	33	0	33	33.0					
IAN WILLIAMS										
	UA	A	Total	TFL-Yds	Scks	PD	FF	FR	INT	
2007	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0	0	0	
WILL YEATMAN										
	Rec	Yds	TD	Lg	Avg/C					
2007	1	10	0	10	10.0					

**Memorable Irish
Season Openers (cont.)**

Sept. 6, 1997
at #11 Notre Dame 17, Georgia Tech 13
Irish win on Autry Denson's 1-yard run with 2:37 to play; first game in expanded stadium.

Sept. 5, 1998
at #22 Notre Dame 36, #5 Michigan 20
Autry Denson (163 rushing yards, 2 TDs) helps Irish total most rushing yards by a Michigan opponent since '87 (321).

Aug. 31, 2002
Notre Dame 22, #21 Maryland 0
Nicholas Setta kicks five FG, Irish defense pitches first season-opening shutout since '73 to win Kickoff Classic XX.

Sept. 6, 2003
at #19 Notre Dame 29, Washington State 26 (ot)
The Irish used 20 fourth-quarter points to rally from a 19-0 deficit. Nicholas Setta kicks a 40-yard game-winning field goal.

Sept. 3, 2005
Notre Dame 42, at #23 Pittsburgh 21
The Irish open the Charlie Weis era with a rout on the road. Notre Dame scores on five of its first six possessions.

**Conference
Call**

► This season, Notre Dame faces teams from five different conferences. Here's a look at the conference breakdown for the 12 Irish opponents in 2008:

- Big Ten (3):** Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue
- Pac-10 (3):** Stanford, USC, Washington
- BIG EAST (2):** Syracuse, Pittsburgh
- Mountain West (1):** San Diego State
- ACC (2):** Boston College, North Carolina
- Independents (1):** Navy

► Notre Dame has had great overall success against the major conferences in the country, including the Mountain West, of which San Diego State is a member:

Conference	Winning %
Western Athletic	1.000
Conference USA	.885
Mountain West	.771
BIG EAST	.734
Atlantic Coast	.717
Big 12	.667
Big Ten	.654
Pac-10	.648
SEC	.618

Career Starts By Position

—OFFENSE—										
WR	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	WR	QB	FB	HB
Grimes (16) Tate (2)	Duncan (2) Young (10)	Turkovich (12)	Wenger (2)	Olsen (6) Wenger (3)	Young (15) Duncan (10)	Yeatman (3)	West (7) Parris (4) Kamara (5)	Clausen (9) Sharpley (2)	Schwapp (10)	Aldridge (5) Allen (4) Hughes (1)
—DEFENSE—										
DE	NT/DT	DE	OLB	ILB	ILB	OLB	CB	SS	FS	CB
Brown (6)	Kuntz (10) Williams (2)	Ryan (2)	Ryan (8) Neal (5)	Crum (37)	Smith, T. (2)	Smith, B. (3)	McNeil (1)	Herring (1)	Bruton (11) McCarthy (1)	Lambert (22)

2008 Notre Dame Honors

JAMES ALDRIDGE

▶ Phil Steele's #30 Running Back

ARMANDO ALLEN

▶ Phil Steele's #18 Kick Returner

DAVID BRUTON

▶ Phil Steele's #19 Free Safety
▶ Jim Thorpe Award Watch List
▶ Nagurski Trophy Watch List
▶ Lindy's #12 Safety

JIMMY CLAUSEN

▶ Phil Steele's #26 Quarterback
▶ Maxwell Award Watch List
▶ Davey O'Brien Quarterback Award Watch List
▶ Phil Steele Heisman Contender
▶ Pro Football Weekly Heisman Watch List

DAYNE CRIST

▶ Lindy's #25 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #3 Freshman Quarterback

MAURICE CRUM, JR.

▶ Phil Steele's #11 Inside Linebacker
▶ Lott Award Watch List
▶ Nagurski Trophy Watch List
▶ Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List
▶ Lombardi Award Watch List
▶ Sporting News Honorable Mention Preseason All-American
▶ Lindy's #11 Outside Linebacker

DARIUS FLEMMING

▶ Lindy's #89 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #12 Freshman Linebacker

MICHAEL FLOYD

▶ Lindy's #27 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #6 Freshman Wide Receiver

JONAS GRAY

▶ Lindy's #72 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #5 Freshman Running Back

ETHAN JOHNSON

▶ Lindy's #32 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #3 Freshman Defensive End

DUVAL KAMARA

▶ Phil Steele's #64 Wide Receiver

TERRAIL LAMBERT

▶ Phil Steele's #36 Cornerback

RAESHON McNEIL

▶ Phil Steele's #58 Cornerback

KERRY NEAL

▶ Phil Steele's #49 Inside Linebacker

ERIC OLSEN

▶ Phil Steele's #44 Guard

MIKE RAGONE

▶ Phil Steele's #22 Tight End
▶ John Mackey Award Watch List

TREVOR ROBINSON

▶ Lindy's #37 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #8 Freshman Offensive Lineman

JOHN RYAN

▶ Phil Steele's #39 Outside Linebacker

KYLE RUDOLPH

▶ Lindy's #20 Freshman
▶ Lindy's #1 Freshman Tight End

LUKE SCHMIDT

▶ Phil Steele's #19 Fullback

ASAPH SCHWAPP

▶ Phil Steele's #8 Fullback

CHRIS STEWART

▶ Phil Steele's #57 Guard

MIKE TURKOVICH

▶ Phil Steele's #46 Guard

DAN WENGER

▶ Phil Steele's #32 Center

IAN WILLIAMS

▶ Phil Steele's #58 Defensive Tackle

SAM YOUNG

▶ Phil Steele's Preseason Third-Team All-American
▶ Phil Steele's #6 Tackle
▶ Lombardi Award Watch List
▶ Outland Trophy Watch List

TEAM PRESEASON UNIT RANKINGS

▶ Phil Steele's #23 Running Backs
▶ Phil Steele's #14 Defensive Backs
▶ Phil Steele's #1 Most Improved Team

TEAM PRESEASON NATIONAL RANKINGS

▶ Lindy's #59
▶ Athlon Sports #60
▶ Phil Steele # 19
▶ Pro Football Weekly # 46

▶ Today's game is just the eighth for the Irish against a team representing the Mountain West since that league began play in 1999.

▶ The other seven meetings for Notre Dame against an MWC opponent came against Air Force in 2000 (a 34-31 overtime win), 2002 (a 21-14 win), 2006 (a 39-17 win) and 2007 (a 41-21 loss) along with the 2003, 2004 and 2005 meetings with BYU.

▶ The only other MWC team the Irish have faced is TCU (a 21-0 win in 1972).

▶ Other Mountain West Conference teams include: Colorado State, New Mexico, UNLV, Utah, Wyoming.

ON THIS DATE

Notre Dame has played three previous games in its history on Sept. 6. The Irish are 3-0 all-time on this date. All three previous meetings on this date have occurred inside Notre Dame Stadium.

2003	W	Washington State	29-26 (ot)	H
1997	W	(11) Georgia Tech	17-13	H
1980	W	(11) Purdue (9)	31-20	H

Beginning with the 1936 season, the number in front of the opponent name indicates Notre Dame's ranking in the Associated Press poll coming into the game. The number following the opponent name indicates its ranking.

Sept. 6, 2003: Nicholas Setta's 40-yard field goal in overtime gave the Irish a 29-26 come-from-behind victory over Washington State. Notre Dame, which trailed 19-0 at one point, registered its largest comeback since Oct. 16, 1999, when they trailed USC 24-3 early in the third quarter before storming back for a 25-24 win at Notre Dame Stadium.

Sept. 6, 1997: Autry Denson rushed for 71 yards and two touchdowns, while Ron Powlus tossed or 217 yards as Notre Dame escaped with a 17-13 victory over Georgia Tech in the season opener. The game not only marked the first for former head coach Bob Davie, but also served as the dedication game of the newly remodeled Notre Dame Stadium.

Sept. 6, 1980: Dan Devine's Irish beat Purdue in the first game of the season, 31-10. This made nine victories in the last eleven games against their in-state rivals. Heralded Purdue quarterback Mark Herrmann injured his thumb in practice during the week and did not play. Notre Dame quarterback Mike Courey survived Devine's five-man race to win the job. He completed 11-of-13 passes for 151 yards and a touchdown.

SEASON OPENERS

▶ The Irish are 99-15-5 (.853) in season openers and have taken 18 of the last 22.

▶ Notre Dame is 94-19-5 (.818) in home openers and have won eight of its last 11.

▶ Michigan State (and Georgia Tech in 2007) have been the Irish opponents in those home opening losses.

▶ There were no home games in 1929 due to construction of Notre Dame Stadium.

▶ When playing their season opener in Notre Dame Stadium, the Irish are 69-8-3 (.881).

▶ When Notre Dame's season and home openers are one in the same, the Irish are 70-10-3 (.861).

▶ Notre Dame has captured five of its last six such openers (five-game winning streak was snapped last season against Georgia Tech).

▶ The Irish previously last lost a season opener at home on Sept. 2, 1995 when Northwestern (whom eventually captured the Big Ten title and appeared in the Rose Bowl) knocked off Notre Dame, 17-15.

OPENERS AN INDICATOR?

As stated previously, Notre Dame is 99-15-5 in season openers, but have they been foretelling of the season ahead? Take a look:

▶ The 99 seasons Notre Dame has won its opener, the Irish went on to post winning records 91 times (91.9%), with four losing seasons and four .500 records.

▶ The 15 seasons Notre Dame has lost its opener, the Irish posted winning records six times and a losing mark eight times (with one .500 season).

► The five seasons Notre Dame registered a tie in its opener, the Irish had four winning records and one losing record.

MORE ON OPENERS

► Notre Dame has failed to score first in its last five season openers, but have posted a 3-2 mark along the way. The Irish last scored first in a season-opener on Aug. 31, 2002 in a 22-0 victory over Maryland. In fact, that 2002 game is the only time this decade that Notre Dame scored first in a season opener.

► The Irish have captured their last 11 season openers when scoring first. A span that dates back to the 1986 opening year defeat to Michigan.

► Notre Dame dropped both the 1985 and 1986 openers against the Wolverines, both times opening with the game's initial score.

► Since 1958 (when play-by-play became available), the Irish are 30-3 when scoring first and 12-5 when the opponent takes the game's first lead.

EVEN MORE ON OPENERS

At Home	70-10-3
On The Road	24-4-2
Neutral Site Games	5-1
In Overtime	1-0
*Both teams are AP-ranked.....	13-2-1
*Neither team is ranked	19-2-1
*ND is ranked higher	31-5-1
*Opponent is ranked higher.....	8-4
Vs. In-state Opponents	21-1-1
On Television	29-7
On NBC	7-2
On ABC.....	16-3
On ESPN	2-1
On CBS	3-1
On Raycom	1-0
Afternoon Games	88-12-5
Night Games	11-3
Decided By 7 or Less.....	17-9-5
Scoring First (circa 1958)	30-3
Opp. Scores First (circa 1958)	12-5
Scoring 40+ Points.....	32-0
Scoring 30+ Points.....	50-0
Scoring 20-29 Points	26-2
Scoring 0-19 Points	23-13-5
Allowing 40+ Points	0-0
Allowing 30+ Points	0-2
Allowing 20-29 Points.....	8-6
Allowing 0-19 Points	91-7-5
* post 1936 when the AP instituted national rankings	

COACHING IN THE CLUTCH

Knut Rockne owns the best career winning percentage among Notre Dame coaches in games decided by seven or fewer points, at 21-1-5 (.870). Among Irish coaches with 14-plus "close games," the other top winning percentages in tight games belong to Elmer Layden (22-7-3, .734), Frank Leahy (17-5-8, .700), Tyrone Willingham (10-5, .667), Ara Parseghian (13-6-4, .652), Dan Devine (15-9-1, .620), Bob Davie (14-12, .611) and Lou Holtz (20-18-2, .525). Current head coach **Charlie Weis** owns a .667 winning percentage in such games (6-3).

2008 Notre Dame Football Media Information

Interview requests and media access for the 2008 Notre Dame football team are administered by lead football contact Brian Hardin and assistant football contact Michael Bertsch.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian Hardin	bhardin2@nd.edu	Michael Bertsch	mbertscl@nd.edu
Office: (574) 631-9471		Office: (574) 631-8642	
Cell: (574) 532-4134		Cell: (574) 532-4154	

NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL WEEKLY MEDIA INFORMATION

Charlie Weis Teleconferences: Coach Weis will be available for two teleconferences each week of the season. (Media looking for the teleconference number should contact Brian Hardin)

SUNDAY - 4:00-4:30 p.m. ET

- Guglielmino Athletics Complex auditorium
- This teleconference will function as a look back at the previous Saturday's game.

TUESDAY - 12:00 noon-12:45 p.m. ET

- Guglielmino Athletics Complex auditorium
- This teleconference will function as a look ahead at the upcoming weekend's opponent and other football-related issues.
- Satellite coordinates: Galaxy 28C, Transponder 12, Downlink Freq: 3940.000 MHz – Horizontal (Available from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. ET)

THURSDAY - 6:45 p.m. ET

- Guglielmino Athletics Complex auditorium

For accredited members of the media who want to attend the weekly press conference, contact Brian Hardin or Michael Bertsch for more information. The Guglielmino Athletics Complex is located on the east side of campus, behind the Joyce Center and the Rolfs Recreation Center and just north of Moose Krause Stadium.

The Guglielmino Athletics Complex auditorium can be accessed through "The Gug's" main entrance, which is located on the west side of the building (facing the Rolfs Recreation Center and main campus).

Both teleconferences will be broadcast live (audio & video) and archived for future use on www.und.com each week. A full transcript from each teleconference will be posted as well on the website as soon as possible.

Notre Dame Captains Teleconferences: The three Irish captains will be available over two teleconferences each week of the season.

WEDNESDAY - 1:30 p.m. ET

- Jimmy Clausen, David Grimes

THURSDAY - 1:30 p.m. ET

- David Bruton, Maurice Crum

PLAYER/ASSISTANT COACH POST-PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

Notre Dame player interviews are available on a rotating schedule during the week.

Tuesday: Available by request-Offensive players (not including Grimes, Clausen), Offensive Coaches; **Wednesday:** Available by request-Defensive players (not including Bruton, Crum Jr.), Defensive Coaches; **Thursday:** Available by request-Special Teams players, Brian Polian. Coach Weis will also address the media following Thursday's practice.

There is no availability for players or coaches on Monday and Friday of each game week.

NOTE - All requests for player and coordinator interviews should be sent to Brian Hardin. A detailed description of the subject matter for the interview needs to be included. Requests are due at 10:00 a.m. each day of practice. Freshmen are not available with the exception of the bye week.

PRACTICE ACCESS & POST-PRACTICE INTERVIEW LOCATION

The first 20 minutes of each practice (during the season) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are open to the media for viewing. This is generally from 5:10-5:30 p.m. ET.

Post-practice interviews will take place in the Guglielmino Athletics Complex auditorium.

OFFICIAL NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL RADIO SHOW

The weekly show will be held at Villa Macri in Mishawaka. The show will air live on NewsTalk 960 WSBT-AM Mondays from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Jack Nolan will host the show along with former Irish All-American Reggie Brooks. Air dates: Sept. 2 (Tuesday), 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24. The show is a cooperative venture between Notre Dame Sports Properties, the Notre Dame athletic department and WSBT. The show can also be heard on www.und.com.

INSIDE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL WITH CHARLIE WEIS (TELEVISION SHOW)

Taped on Sunday nights, Inside Notre Dame Football will feature a recap of the week's contest, Notre Dame player features and more. The show can be seen locally Sunday evenings on WNDU-TV following the late local news. It will also re-air on WNDU-TV the following Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. as well as 90 minutes prior to kickoff of Notre Dame home games. All shows can also be viewed on www.und.com beginning on Monday of each week.

All Times Eastern

