



**Notre Dame vs. No. 25 Florida State**  
**December 29, 2011**  
**Fighting Irish Post Game Notes**



**A DEFEAT TO FLORIDA STATE...**

- ▶ Drops Notre Dame's overall record to 8-5 (.615) overall and 4-3 (.571) away from Notre Dame Stadium.
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame's all-time bowl record to 15-16 (.484).
- ▶ Drops the all-time record for the Irish in games played in the state of Florida to 11-13-1 (.460).
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame to 142-130-10 (.521) all-time against AP top-25 foes, including 77-77-7 (.500) away from Notre Dame Stadium.
- ▶ Drops the all-time record for the Irish to 854-300-42 (.732).
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record outside of South Bend to 391-182-29 (.674).
- ▶ Drops the all-time record for the Irish on neutral fields to 110-37-6 (.739).
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record against Florida State to 2-5 (.286).
- ▶ Drops the all-time record for the Irish against the Seminoles in bowl games to 0-2 (.000).
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record against Florida State away from Notre Dame Stadium to 1-3 (.250).
- ▶ Drops the Irish record in 2011 to 3-1 (.750) against the ACC.
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record against the ACC to 81-32-2 (.713).
- ▶ Drops the all-time record for the Irish away from South Bend against the ACC to 36-20-2 (.638).
- ▶ Drops the Irish to 2-5 (.286) all-time against ranked Florida State.
- ▶ Drops Notre Dame to 0-3 (.000) all-time against the ranked Seminoles on neutral fields.
- ▶ Drops the unranked Irish to 0-4 (.000) all-time against Florida State.
- ▶ Drops unranked Notre Dame to 0-2 (.000) all-time against the Seminoles on neutral fields.
- ▶ Drops the unranked Irish to 0-4 (.000) all-time against ranked Florida State.
- ▶ Drops unranked Notre Dame to 0-2 (.000) all-time against the ranked Seminoles on neutral fields.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's record to 187-67-2 (.734) overall.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's record to 69-32 (.683) in FBS games.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's record to 59-20 (.747) over the last six seasons.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's record to 110-34 (.764) since 2001.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's record to 5-3 (.625) all-time against the ACC and 4-1 (.800) as head coach at Notre Dame.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's record to 9-2 (.818) all-time in the month of December.
- ▶ Drops Kelly's bowl record to 3-2 (.600).
- ▶ Drops Kelly's postseason record to 14-6 (.700).

**NOTRE DAME IN DECEMBER**

- ▶ Notre Dame is 21-15-3 (.577) all-time during the month.
- ▶ The Irish are 6-4-1 (.591) in December neutral games.

**ON THIS DATE**

- ▶ Notre Dame has played three games in its history on Dec. 29 - all bowl games. The Irish are 1-2 (.333) all-time on this date.

Season	Site	ND Coach	W/L/T	Score	ND Rank	Opponent	Opp. Coach	Opp. Rank
1983	Liberty	Gerry Faust	W	19-18	Not Ranked	Boston College	Jack Bicknell	13
1984	Aloha	Gerry Faust	L	20-27	17	SMU	Bobby Collins	10
2011	Champs Sports	Brian Kelly	L	14-18	Not Ranked	Florida State	Jimbo Fisher	25

**TAILS IT IS**

- ▶ Notre Dame won the coin toss and elected to defer. The Irish defended the North end zone.

**THE 2011 CAPTAINS**

- ▶ Senior S **Harrison Smith** was Notre Dame's lone season captain in 2011. He is the first Irish lone season captain since 1999 when Jarious Jackson held the individual honor. The other single individual captains for Notre Dame in the last 40 years include Rodney Culver (1991) and Mike Kovaleski (1986).
- ▶ In addition to Smith, the Irish will continue to name gameday captains. The 2011 gameday captains were as follows:

**USF:** Robert Blanton and Trevor Robinson  
**Michigan State:** Ethan Johnson  
**Purdue:** Tyler Eifert  
**USC:** Manti Te'o and Cierre Wood  
**Wake Forest:** Robert Blanton  
**Boston College:** None  
**Florida State:** Michael Floyd

**Michigan:** Zack Martin  
**Pittsburgh:** Taylor Dever  
**Air Force:** Jonas Gray  
**Navy:** Chris Salvi  
**Maryland:** Darius Fleming  
**Stanford:** Taylor Dever

**Notre Dame's Record When...**

	Kelly Career	Kelly at ND	2011
At Home	101-26-1	8-5	4-2
On The Road	80-37-1	5-3	3-2
Neutral Site Games	6-4	3-2	1-1
In Overtime	4-3	0-1	0-0
Coming off a loss	38-21	4-5	2-2
Coming off a win	135-36-1	11-5	6-2
Coming off an open date	12-2	1-1	0-1
Vs. AP top 25	10-7	2-3	1-2
Both teams are AP-ranked	4-3	0-1	0-1
Neither team is ranked	43-22	12-6	5-2
Ranked higher	24-4	1-1	1-1
Opponent is ranked higher	5-7	2-3	1-2
Vs. In-state Opponents	72-22	2-0	1-0
In August	3-2	0-0	0-0
In September	54-28	3-5	2-2
In October	64-22	6-3	3-1
In November	54-14	6-1	3-1
In December	9-2	1-1	0-1
In January	0-1	0-0	0-0
On Television	46-18*	16-10	8-5
On NBC	10-5	10-5	5-2
On ABC	5-2	3-2	1-1
On ESPN	9-4	1-2	1-2
On ESPN2	8-2	1-0	1-0
On CBS	1-1	1-1	0-0
Afternoon Games	126-48-2	10-5	5-1
Night Games	58-18	6-5	3-4
Decided By 3 or Less	35-14-2	2-3	2-1
Decided By 7 or Less	60-29-2	5-6	3-3
Scoring First	124-23	10-5	6-2
Opponent Scores First	61-44-2	6-5	2-3
Leading At Halftime	147-13	15-3	7-2
Tied At Halftime	11-6	0-1	0-0
Trailing At Halftime	26-48-2	1-6	1-3
Leading After 3 Qtrs.	159-11	14-3	7-2
Tied After 3 Qtrs.	8-2	0-1	0-0
Trailing After 3 Qtrs.	18-54	1-6	1-3
Scoring 40+ Points	72-1	4-0	3-0
Scoring 30-39 Points	51-6	4-2	2-1
Scoring 20-29 Points	49-25-1	6-3	1-1
Scoring 0-19 Points	15-35-1	2-5	2-3
Allowing 40+ Points	6-14	0-0	0-0
Allowing 30-39 Points	12-26	1-4	1-2
Allowing 20-29 Points	50-21-1	2-3	1-2
Allowing 0-19 Points	119-6-1	13-1	6-1
Outrushing Opponent	150-23-1	13-2	6-2
Getting Outrushed	33-43-2	2-9	1-4
Passing For More Yds	121-41-1	8-8	6-3
Passing For Fewer Yds	65-23-1	8-2	2-2
Outgaining Opponent	156-21-1	11-4	6-2
Getting Outgained	29-43-1	5-6	2-3
Winning Time of Poss.	96-24	7-2	4-2
Losing Time of Poss.	89-41-2	9-8	4-3
Scoring a Def./ST TD	62-6	3-2	2-2
Allowing a Def./ST TD	14-24	0-5	0-2
Fewer Penalty Yards	47-31-1	9-6	4-3
More Penalty Yards	132-34-1	7-4	4-2
Winning Turnover Battle	112-12	9-1	3-0
Losing Turnover Battle	48-37-1	7-9	5-5
Individual 100-yard rusher	86-19-1	3-2	3-2
Individual 100-yard receiver	74-23	4-6	2-2
Individual 200-yard passer	125-31-1	11-6	5-2
Opponent 100-yard rusher	33-34-1	1-6	1-2
Opponent 100-yard receiver	58-30	2-5	1-2
Opponent 200-yard passer	72-31-1	5-7	1-4

### IRISH DOMINANT IN THE OPENING 15 MINUTES

- ▶ Notre Dame outgained Florida State, 69-18, in the opening quarter. The 18 total yards by Florida State is a Notre Dame opponent low this season. The previous low was the 27 yards Michigan managed in the first quarter on Sept. 10.
- ▶ The Seminoles did not register their first down of the contest until the final play of the quarter; prior to that FSU had zero net rushing yards.
- ▶ Notre Dame limited Florida State to 11 yards rushing on seven carries – good for a 1.6 per rush average. The Irish also registered a pair of sacks in the opening 15 minutes.
- ▶ Florida State went 0-for-3 on third down in the first quarter.
- ▶ Notre Dame also outgained USF (152-62), Michigan (145-27), Michigan State (95-36), Pittsburgh (72-31), Purdue (185-39), Navy (118-57), Maryland (148-48) and Boston College (133-43) in the first quarter, also racked up 191 total yards in the opening quarter against Air Force. Notre Dame outgained its 13 opponents in the opening period by a 1,470-838 margin (despite the struggles in the opening quarter against USC on Oct. 22 when the Irish were outgained, 128-14).
- ▶ The Irish outgained their first six opponents and 11 of 13 foes overall in 2011 in the opening quarter by an average of 113-64.
- ▶ Notre Dame averaged 6.2 yards per play in the first quarter this season, while its opponents averaged just 4.4 yards per play.
- ▶ Notre Dame has limited seven opponents this season to less than 50 yards of total offense in the first quarter.

### IRISH RUSH DEFENSE STEPS UP

- ▶ Notre Dame limited Florida State to nine yards rushing on 14 carries in the first half – good for a 0.6 yards per rush average.
- ▶ The nine yards rushing by the Seminoles in the opening half are the fewest by an Irish opponent in any half this season.
- ▶ The nine yards rushing are the fewest allowed by Notre Dame in any half since Oct. 16, 2010 against Western Michigan – a span of 19 games (including tonight).
- ▶ Florida State finished the night with 41 yards rushing on 29 carries – good for a 1.4 per rush average.
- ▶ The 41 yards rushing allowed is the third-fewest in Notre Dame bowl history.

### IRISH DEFENSE SHOWS NO SIGN OF RUST

- ▶ Notre Dame held Florida State to 290 total yards and 4.8 yards per play. The Seminoles were just 3-of-14 on third down.
- ▶ Notre Dame limited Florida State to a total of 104 yards on 29 plays in the first half. The Seminoles averaged just 3.6 yards per play.
- ▶ The Irish also denied Florida State a first down on seven third down opportunities and one fourth down play in the opening 30 minutes.
- ▶ Notre Dame also collected four sacks, four tackles for loss, two pass breakups and two quarterback hurries before halftime.
- ▶ The Irish had not registered at least four sacks in a game, let alone one half, since Sept. 24 against Pittsburgh when Notre Dame had six in a victory over the Panthers.

### IRISH DEFENSE PICKS UP A TOUCHDOWN

- ▶ Junior S **Zeke Motta** collected a 29-yard fumble return for touchdown. The fumble return for touchdown was the first by an Irish player since **Brian Smith** against Michigan on Sept. 13, 2008.
- ▶ The fumble return for touchdown was only the second in Notre Dame bowl history. The only other Irish player to return a fumble for touchdown in a bowl game since **Ed Hunsinger** had a 20-yard scoop and score against Stanford in the 1925 Rose Bowl.

### IRISH DEFENSE ANSWERS FOLLOWING TURNOVERS AND SUDDEN CHANGE

- ▶ The 27 opponent possessions following an Irish turnover have resulted in only 526 yards on 112 plays – which averages to 4.1 plays and 19.5 yards per drive (18 those possessions failed to gain more than 20 yards and 11 resulted in fewer than 10 yards).
- ▶ Notre Dame allowed points on eight of the 27 drives, six touchdowns, but forced seven punts and registered five turnovers of its own, including tonight's fumble return for touchdown from junior S **Zeke Motta**.
- ▶ The last 22 opponent possessions following an Irish turnover have resulted in only 420 yards on 86 plays – which averages to 3.9 plays and 19.1 yards per drive (only seven of those possessions gained more than 18 yards, seven resulted in fewer than five yards and 14 resulted in less than 20 yards).
- ▶ Notre Dame's defense answered the bell following Lamarus Joyner's 77-yard kick return midway through the third quarter. Florida State started its drive at the Irish 21-yard line, but the Irish limited the Seminoles to minus-three yards on four plays (did allow a 42-yard field goal).

### TURNOVERS BITE THE IRISH

- ▶ Notre Dame committed at least three turnovers for sixth time in 2011.
- ▶ Notre Dame finished the season with 29 turnovers.
- ▶ As if the 29 turnovers this season were not costly enough, nine occurred inside the opponents' 25-yard line.
- ▶ Eight of the turnovers happened in the red zone, which led led the FBS and six came inside its opponents' 10-yard line. Four of the six turnovers inside the 10-yard line came on a first down play.
- ▶ Fifteen of Notre Dame's 29 turnovers came on Notre Dame's half of the field, including seven inside the Irish 20-yard line.
- ▶ In all, 15 of the 29 turnovers happened in either Irish red zone.
- ▶ Notre Dame committed its 27th turnover of the season on its opening dive of the first quarter. Sophomore QB **Tommy Rees** was picked off in the Florida State end zone.
- ▶ Notre Dame added another, an interception from sophomore QB **Andrew Hendrix**, that set up a Florida State touchdown. The Seminoles opened the drive at the Irish 18-yard line and scored a touchdown two plays later.
- ▶ Notre Dame would committ turn more costly turnovers later in the game.

### IRISH COME OUT OF LOCKER ROOM ON FIRE

- ▶ Notre Dame limited Florida State to a field goal in the third quarter. The Irish have outscored its opponents, 91-16, in the third quarter in 2011.
- ▶ Florida State was the first offense to score against the Notre Dame defense in the third quarter since Pittsburgh on Sept. 24 – a span of nine games (including tonight).
- ▶ Notre Dame had shutout each of its last five opponents (Navy, Wake Forest, Maryland, Boston College and Stanford) in the third quarter and outscored them, 42-0, in the period.
- ▶ Notre Dame has held 11 of its 13 foes without an offensive score of any kind in the third quarter this season. Pittsburgh, USC and Florida State are the only teams to register any points against the Irish in the opening period of the second half. The Panthers collected a touchdown (missed the ensuing two-point conversion attempt) drive that was extended only after a Notre Dame roughing the kicker penalty and the Trojans had a 80-yard fumble return for a touchdown. The Seminoles converted a 42-yard field goal following an 87-yard kickoff return.
- ▶ The 16 points allowed in the third quarter is the lowest for Notre Dame in any quarter by a wide margin (53 in the first, 81 in the second and 119 in the fourth).
- ▶ The Irish surrendered 16 points in the third quarter this season, which was the fewest points allowed in any quarter for Notre Dame since 1988. The Irish allowed 16 points in the opening quarter over the entire year.
- ▶ Here is a quick glimpse at the most dominant quarters in terms of points allowed in recent Notre Dame history (since 1968):

Year	Low Point Total (Quarter)	Year	Low Point Total (3rd Quarter)
1970	0 (4th)	1971	7
1976	7 (1st)	1980	10
1971	7 (3rd and 4th)	1973	13
1980	10 (3rd)	1977	13
1973	10 (1st)	<b>2011</b>	<b>16</b>
1982	13 (1st)	1969	21
1977	13 (3rd)	1998	26
1988	16 (1st)	1988	27
<b>2011</b>	<b>16 (3rd)</b>	1989	29

### STARTING 0-2?

- ▶ Notre Dame has started a season 0-2 seven times in the 123-year history of Irish football. Notre Dame has rebounded to secure a winning record on three occasions, including 2011.
- ▶ Notre Dame has rebounded with four consecutive wins after an 0-2 start just twice in school history. The 1978 Irish squad posted eight straight victories after their 0-2 start. Notre Dame won eight of its 11 games this season after the 0-2 start.
- ▶ The eight victories are the second-most in school history following an 0-2 start. The 1978 squad – led by senior QB **Joe Montana** – posted nine.

Year	Record after 0-2 Start	Final Record
1978	9-1	9-3
<b>2011</b>	<b>8-3</b>	<b>8-5</b>
2001	5-4	5-6
1986	5-4	5-6
1896	4-1	4-3
2007	3-7	3-9
1963	2-5	2-7
1888	1-0	1-2

## REBOUNDED FROM TOUGH START

- ▶ Notre Dame was one of 24 FBS teams that opened the 2011 season with an 0-2 record. The Irish (8-5), Western Kentucky (7-5) and Georgia (10-3) are the only teams of that group that have rebounded and own a winning record at this stage of the season.
- ▶ Notre Dame's eight victories in its 11 games following the 0-2 start is the second-best mark of any team that opened the season with two straight defeats.
- ▶ The Bulldogs have captured 10 of its 11 games.

## IRISH TURNAROUND JOINS SELECT GROUP

- ▶ Since the start of the 2001 season, 275 different FBS teams began the season 0-2.
- ▶ 46 of those 275 teams managed to finish the year with a winning record (includes Notre Dame, Georgia and Western Kentucky in 2011).
- ▶ 27 of those 275 teams managed to finish the year with eight or more victories (includes Notre Dame and Georgia in 2011).
- ▶ One of those four teams to post 10 or more wins despite an 0-2 start to the season – the 2006 Central Michigan squad led by second-year Irish head coach **Brian Kelly**.

## GREAT FOR TELEVISION

- ▶ Notre Dame has appeared on national or regional television in 235 consecutive games.
- ▶ The Irish have made 354 appearances on network television -- more than any other school and more than the next two combined.
- ▶ Notre Dame has become accustomed to nailbiting finishes. In addition to each of the first two games in 2011, Pittsburgh, Wake Forest, Boston College and Florida State all were decided by seven points. The Irish have been involved in 21 games decided by seven points or less since the start of the 2009 campaign. In fact, 15 of the last 22 losses for the Irish have been decided by a touchdown or less, including seven by a field goal or less.

## KELLY'S WINNING WAYS

- ▶ In his two years at Notre Dame, **Brian Kelly** has helped the Irish secure a 15-3 record when entering halftime with a lead and 14-3 mark when leading after three quarters.
- ▶ Kelly is 159-11 in his coaching career when taking a lead into the fourth quarter and 95-5 since 2001. He owns a 147-13 record when taking a lead into halftime, including an 92-4 mark since 2001 (Irish led at halftime and entering the fourth quarter tonight).
- ▶ Here are a couple other pretty remarkable win-loss records during Kelly's career:
- ▶ Kelly is 124-23 when scoring first.
- ▶ Kelly is 150-23-1 when outrushing his opponent.
- ▶ Kelly is 112-12 when his team wins the turnover battle.
- ▶ Kelly is 62-5-1 when his team gets a defensive or special teams touchdown.
- ▶ Kelly is 119-6-1 when his team allows 19 points or less.
- ▶ Kelly coached teams owned a 57-game winning streak in games where they hold their opponents to less than 20 points entering tonight, but Florida State snapped the streak. Kelly had not lost such a game since Dec. 8, 2001 when North Dakota edged Grand Valley State, 17-14, in the NCAA Division II title game.

## TYLER EIFERT'S HOUSE OF PAIN

- ▶ Junior TE **Tyler Eifert** finished tonight with six catches for 90 yards.
- ▶ Eifert finished the season with 63 receptions for 803 yards – both single-season school records for an Irish tight end.
- ▶ Eifert now has 90 career catches for 1,155 yards. The 90 career grabs is tied with Kyle Rusolph for fourth on the all-time tight end list. His 1,155 yards rank second all-time in tight end school history.
- ▶ Eifert's 60 receptions also tie Jack Snow (1964) for ninth all-time along all receivers. Eifert is the eighth Notre Dame player with at least 60 grabs in one year.

## TE'O PACKS A HAWAIIAN PUNCH

- ▶ Junior LB **Manti Te'o** recorded a game-high 13 tackles tonight. He added half a sack, forced fumble and pass breakup. Te'o eclipsed 10 or more tackles in nine of Notre Dame's 13 games in 2011 and 18 different times over his career. He has led Notre Dame in tackles nine times in 2011 and 19 different times over his career.
- ▶ Te'o finished the season with 128 tackles and now has posted 324 for his career, which ranks eighth in school history.

## HARRISON SMITH LEADS ACTIVE IRISH SECONDARY

- ▶ Senior S **Harrison Smith** closes his Irish career with 309 total tackles, which ranks ninth all-time in school history. He totaled 222 of his stops as a defensive back, which ranks fifth in defensive back school history.

## FLOYD IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

- ▶ Senior WR **Michael Floyd** – a Biletnikoff Award semifinalist – owns Notre Dame school records in career receptions (271), career receiving yards (3,686), career touchdown receptions (37), career receiving yards per game (86.6) and career 100-yard receiving games (17).
- ▶ Floyd collected Notre Dame's longest punt return of the season in the first quarter. The Irish managed a total of three yards on 10 punt returns entering tonight. Floyd's 41-yard return was also the first punt return of his career. The punt return was the longest for Notre Dame since Golden Tate had an 87-yard punt return for a touchdown on Nov. 14, 2009 against Pittsburgh.
- ▶ The 41-yard punt return was the longest in Notre Dame bowl history.
- ▶ Floyd hauled in a spectacular five-yard touchdown catch with 11:24 left in the third quarter to give the Irish a 14-0 lead.
- ▶ The touchdown catch was Floyd's ninth of the season and 37th of his career. Floyd is tied with Justin Blackmon of Oklahoma State for 16th in FBS history.

## FBS Career Touchdown Receptions Leaders

	Player, School	Years	TD Receptions
11.	Braylon Edwards, Michigan	2001-04	39
	Greg Jennings, Western Michigan	2002-05	39
	Austin Pettis, Boise State	2007-10	39
14.	Clarkston Hines, Duke	1986-89	38
	Marcus Harris, Wyoming	1993-96	38
16.	<b>Michael Floyd, Notre Dame</b>	<b>2008-11</b>	<b>36</b>
	Justin Blackmon, Oklahoma State	2009-11	37

- ▶ Floyd's 271 career catches left him one shy of 24th in NCAA FBS history. He could have become the ninth wideout in FBS history to rank among the top 25 all-time in both touchdown receptions and catches.

## FBS Career Receptions Leaders

	Player, School	Years	Receptions
20.	Emmanuel Sanders, SMU	2006-09	285
	Greg Salas, Hawaii	2007-10	285
22.	Ryan Wolfe, UNLV	2006-09	283
23.	Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	1996-98	280
24.	Darius Watts, Marshall	2000-03	272
	Vincent Marshall, Houston	2003-06	272
-	<b>Michael Floyd, Notre Dame</b>	<b>2008-11</b>	<b>271</b>

- ▶ Floyd's 3,686 career receiving yards left him 16 shy of 25th in NCAA FBS history. He finished 27th and had a chance to become the eight wideout in FBS history to rank among the top 25 all-time in touchdown receptions, catches and receiving yards.

## FBS Career Receptions Leaders

	Player, School	Years	Receptions
20.	Roy Williams, Texas	2000-03	3,866
21.	Emmanuel Sanders, SMU	2006-09	3,791
22.	Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech	1993-96	3,789
23.	Vincent Marshall, Houston	2003-06	3,770
24.	Marc Zeno, Tulane	1984-87	3,725
25.	Brandon Stokley, La.-Lafayette	1995-98	3,702
26.	Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	2003-06	3,697
27.	<b>Michael Floyd, Notre Dame</b>	<b>2008-11</b>	<b>3,686</b>
28.	Arnold Jackson, Louisville	1997-00	3,670
29.	Bryan Anderson, Central Michigan	2006-09	3,648

- ▶ The reception also was Floyd's 100th of the season – making him the first in Notre Dame history with 100 catches in a season.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE TWO

- ▶ Senior S **Jamoris Slaughter** entered tonight's game without a sack in 35 games over his Irish career. However, he had two sacks for a loss of 10 yards.
- ▶ Slaughter tied the Champs Sports Bowl record with his two sacks in the opening half.

## **REES PIECES TOGETHER IRISH OFFENSE**

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► Sophomore QB **Tommy Rees** is 12-4 as the Irish starting quarterback. He has captained the Irish to victories over both Michigan State and USC. Toss in a bowl victory as well and he is the first Notre Dame quarterback to accomplish those three feats since Rick Mirer in 1992. Mirer led Notre Dame to victories over the Spartans (52-31), Trojans (31-23) and Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl (28-3).

► Rees hooked up with senior WR **Michael Floyd** for a five-yard touchdown pass with 11:24 left in the third quarter to give the Irish a 14-0 lead. The touchdown pass was his 20th of the season and 32nd of his career.

► Rees is the third Irish quarterback to ever throw for 20 touchdowns in a single season, joining **Brady Quinn** and **Jimmy Clausen**.