

#5/5 Notre Dame vs. #8/7 Oklahoma Postgame Notes



COIN TOSS

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

TICKETS

▶ Including Saturday's game with Oklahoma, Notre Dame has played before 273 capacity crowds among its 450 road games (.607) since 1930. The Irish have played in front of sellout crowds in 250 of its previous 292 games (.856) overall.

▶ Notre Dame has played before 621 sellouts in 893 total games (.695) since 1930.

▶ Tonight's crowd of 86,031 was the largest in Memorial Stadium history and largest to ever watch a singular sporting event in the state of Oklahoma.

TONIGHT'S VICTORY...

▶ Improves Notre Dame to 8-0 for the first time since 2002.

▶ Gives the Irish eight straight victories to open a season for the 20th time in school history.

▶ Marks Notre Dame's 16th win over its past 19 games.

▶ Gives the Irish their longest winning streak since capturing eight straight during the 2006 season.

▶ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 861-300-42 (.733).

▶ Improves the all-time record on the road for the Irish to 282-144-23 (.654).

▶ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record when ranked in the top 25 to 417-133-15 (.751).

▶ Improves the all-time road record for the Irish when ranked in the top 25 to 145-61-8 (.696).

▶ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record when ranked in the top 25 against another top-25 opponent to 117-76-9 (.601).

▶ Improves the all-time road record for the Irish when ranked in the top 25 against another top-25 opponent to 44-34-3 (.562).

▶ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record when ranked in the top five to 178-44-7 (.793).

▶ Improves the all-time road record for the Irish when ranked in the top five to 66-18-3 (.776).

▶ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record when ranked in the top five against a top-10 opponent to 34-17-4 (.655).

▶ Improves the all-time road record for the Irish when ranked in the top five against a top-10 opponent to 13-5-1 (.711).

▶ Improves Notre Dame to 9-1 (.900) in the all-time series with Oklahoma.

▶ Improves the Irish to 5-0 (1.000) on the road in the all-time series with the Sooners.

▶ Improves Brian Kelly's record to 195-67-2 (.742) overall.

▶ Improves Kelly's record at Notre Dame to 24-10 (.706).

▶ Improves Kelly's record to 76-32 (.704) in FBS games.

▶ Improves Kelly's record to 67-20 (.770) since 2006.

▶ Improves Kelly's record to 118-34 (.776) since 2001.

▶ Improves Kelly's record to 70-21-2 (.763) all-time in the month of October.

▶ Improves Kelly's record to 10-3 (.769) in the month of October as Notre Dame head coach.

IRISH LEAD THE NATION IN TOP-25 VICTORIES

▶ Notre Dame already has recorded four victories over teams ranked in the AP top 25 at the time of the game (No. 10 Michigan State, No. 18 Michigan, No. 17 Stanford and No. 8 Oklahoma). No FBS team in the country has more victories over AP top-25 foes than the Irish.

▶ Notre Dame now has picked up a pair of road wins over top-10 foes.

▶ The Irish had not posted multiple wins over top-10 teams on the opponents' home fields since 1966.

▶ Notre Dame had not defeated four AP top-25 opponents in the same season since 2002. The only Notre Dame squads to register more top-25 wins in one season than the 2012 edition are 1990, 1989, 1953, and 1943.

ANOTHER ROAD GAME VS. TOP 10, ANOTHER STREAK ENDS

▶ Notre Dame snapped Oklahoma's 18-game winning streak at home against non-conference foes.

▶ Notre Dame ended No. 10 Michigan State's 15-game home-field win streak (fourth longest in country at the time) — dating back to a 42-14 Spartan loss to Penn State in 2009.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

▶ Notre Dame's all-time record in Norman, Okla., is now 5-0 — one of the more amazing feats in college football history. Just as notable is four of those five victories came against Sooner teams that were ranked in the top 10: No. 6 in 1953, No. 2 in 1957, No. 10 in 1966 and No. 8 this year. The Irish are 9-1 overall against Oklahoma, and this time they did it in front of a school record 86,031 in attendance.

NO TURNOVERS = VICTORIES

▶ Notre Dame was victimized by turnovers in 2011. To no surprise, the Irish went 3-0 in games when they did not commit a turnover. In fact, Notre Dame is 9-0 under **Brian Kelly** when playing an entire game without a turnover.

▶ Notre Dame has won its last nine games, including tonight, in which it failed to commit a turnover. The Irish have not lost a game without a turnover since Oct. 17, 2009 when USC upended Notre Dame, 34-27.

▶ Notre Dame is 23-4 in its last 27 games in which it failed to commit a turnover.

DEFENSE PRETTY STINGY ON THE SCOREBOARD

▶ Oklahoma scored 41, 63 and 52 points, respectively, in its three previous games entering tonight. The Irish limited them to 13, which is the fewest by Oklahoma this season and tied for the second-fewest at home during the 14-year Bob Stoops era at OU. The Sooners opened the 2005 season with a 17-10 home loss vs. TCU while the 2001 Oklahoma team ended that regular-season with a 16-13 home loss to Oklahoma State. In every other home game at Oklahoma since 1999, the Sooners have scored at least 14 points.

▶ Notre Dame's defense has allowed 0-2 offensive touchdowns in 20 of its past 25 games. The Irish actually have allowed 0-1 offensive touchdowns in 12 of those outings.

▶ Notre Dame's defense has allowed one rushing touchdown in 2012 (tonight to Oklahoma). The Irish still lead the nation in fewest rushing touchdowns allowed. Notre Dame allowed only eight rushing touchdowns in 2011.

▶ Notre Dame did not allow a rushing touchdown in its last two games of 2011, so the Irish went nine straight games overall without giving up a ground score before tonight. In fact, Notre Dame did not allow a rushing touchdown over 41 straight quarters (spanning 2011-12).

▶ Notre Dame has given up exactly 10 rushing touchdowns over its past 26 games (dating back to the Tulsa game in 2010). Even more amazing, only three of those rushing touchdowns have come from an opposing running back and two came against the Irish reserves: Jonathan Lee's eight-yard TD run for Air Force with the Irish leading 59-27 with 33 seconds left in the fourth quarter on Oct. 8, 2011; and D.J. Adams' two-yard TD on Nov. 12, 2011, with the Irish leading Maryland 45-14 with 37 seconds left.

▶ Over the past 30 games, only four running backs have recorded a rushing touchdown against Notre Dame (Gee Gee Greene, Navy, 2010; Jon Lee, Air Force, 2011; Josh Harris, Wake Forest, 2011; D.J. Adams, Maryland, 2011).

▶ The only defense to allow fewer rushing touchdowns than the 10 by Notre Dame over the past 26 games: Alabama with six.

▶ Notre Dame now had limited each of its previous six opponents — Purdue (288), No. 10 Michigan State (237), No. 18 Michigan (299), Miami (285), Stanford (272), and BYU (243) — to under 300 total yards. The Irish had not allowed six consecutive opponents under 300 yards of total offense since the 1983 season. Notre Dame actually limited eight straight foes to fewer than 300 yards that season.

▶ The Irish held the Sooners to 394 total yards tonight and 15 yards rushing on 24 carries.

▶ Oklahoma's 15 rushing yards is tied for seventh fewest in program history and the fewest since total-ing minus 16 against Texas in 2009.

OFFENSE MISSES NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RED ZONE

► Notre Dame managed only one field goal (and a missed field goal) on its first two redzone opportunities, but the Irish collected TDs on the final two chances.

DEFENSE DOMINATES THE RED ZONE

► Notre Dame's opposition has managed only five touchdowns in 22 redzone opportunities in 2012. The Irish actually have limited their foes to three TDs over the past 17 trips.

► Notre Dame entered tonight ranked second in the FBS in red zone defense (.526) according to the NCAA (which includes both field goals and touchdowns allowed), but the Irish are far superior when you factor touchdowns only and points allowed per opponent red zone opportunity. Notre Dame also entered the game tops in the country in both average points allowed per redzone opportunity (2.42) and TD redzone percentage (.211).

IRISH TOUGH TO BEAT WHEN WINNING THE RUSHING BATTLE

► Since the start of the 2005 season, Notre Dame has won 39 of its past 41 games when recording more rushing yards than their opponent.

► The Irish 27-game winning streak when outrushing its opponent was snapped in the loss at Michigan on Sept. 10, 2011. Notre Dame had not previously lost a game when outrushing its foe since Dec. 28, 2004, when the Irish lost to Oregon State, 38-21, in the Insight Bowl. Notre Dame also collected more rushing yards than Florida State in last year's Champs Sports Bowl, yet ended up on the losing side of that game.

► Third-year head coach **Brian Kelly** has his own fairly remarkable run when his teams outrush their opponent. He is 156-23-1 in his career and 18-2 at Notre Dame when winning the rushing battle.

DOUBLE CENTURY GROUND GAME

► Notre Dame ran for 215 yards today. The Irish have won 12 consecutive games when rushing for at least 200 yards. The Irish have not lost a game with more than 200 yards on the ground since Nov. 3, 2007 against Navy.

► Notre Dame is 24-1 since the start of the 2002 season when it gains 200 or more yards rushing.

► Notre Dame has run for at least 200 yards in four games, including three of the last four contests.

BALL SECURITY

► Notre Dame quarterback **Everett Golson** had fumbled seven times previously sesason (lost four) in his six games player, but the Irish signalcaller did not put the ball on the turf all night (spanning 66 total plays from scrimmage). Golson's ball security and Notre Dame's lack of any turnovers in the game helped the Irish total five more minutes of possession for the game.

STARTING FAST, MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AND ALWAYS CLOSING

► Notre Dame has blanked six of its eight opponents in the first quarter this season. Miami and Oklahoma are the only foes to score against the Irish in the opening 15 minutes (both field goals). The Irish have not surrendered a touchdown in the first quarter since Nov. 26, 2011, against Stanford — a span that extends over nine games.

► Notre Dame has outscored its first eight opponents this season by a 44-6 margin in the first quarter.

► Notre Dame has held its past two foes (Oklahoma and BYU) to a combined minus-23 yards rushing in the opening quarter. The Sooner had minus-four yards tonight (on eight carries) in the first 15 minutes.

► The Irish have been nearly as successful coming out of the halftime locker room. Notre Dame has outscored Navy, Purdue, No. 10 Michigan State, No. 18 Michigan, Miami, No. 17 Stanford, BYU and No. 8 Oklahoma by a combined 47-7 in the third quarter this season.

► Notre Dame has blanked seven of its eight opponents this season in the third quarter. In fact, the Irish have held 18 of their past 21 foes without an offensive score of any kind in the third quarter, dating back to the start of the 2011 season. Pittsburgh, USC and Florida State (all in 2011) as well as Navy this season are the only teams to register any points against the Irish in the opening quarter of the second half.

BY LAND, CIERRE

► Senior RB **Cierre Wood** exploded up the middle for a 62-yard TD run with 6:24 to go in the opening quarter to give the Irish a 7-3 advantage. The run was Notre Dame's longest of the year and Wood's longest career run. His previous career-best was a 55-yard burst at Purdue in 2011.

► The TD run was Wood's third of 2012 and 15th of his career.

TURK ENTERS FOURTH YEAR AS STARTING PUNTER

► Ben Turk launched a 51-yard punt following Notre Dame's first drive of the game. It was his 20th career punt of 50-plus yards.

WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOU

► Sophomore WR **Chris Brown** picked a great time to make his first career catch. He hauled in a 50-yard grab midway through the fourth quarter. The reception was the longest of the season for the Irish.

MAN(TI) AMONG BOYS

► Senior ILB **Manti Te'o** finished with a team-high 11 tackles. He now has led the Irish in stops on 26 different occasions in his career. The double-digit tackle game was his sixth of the season (fourth in a row) and 24th of his career.

► Only one player in the FBS has generated more turnovers than Te'o. He is the only player in the nation to rank in the top 10 in both total interceptions and fumble recoveries.

► Te'o has five interceptions this season, which leads the team. He shares the school record for interceptions by a linebacker in a single season with **Lyron Cobbins** (1995) and **John Pergine** (1966).

► Te'o leads the nation in interceptions by a linebacker.

► Te'o has played a role in nine of the 18 turnovers forced by Notre Dame's defense. The All-America linebacker has recorded five interceptions, recovered two fumbles and hurried passers on two occasions that resulted in interceptions.

► Te'o is the only defensive player in the FBS that has averaged over nine tackles/game and collected at least five interceptions in 2012.

► Te'o registered eight tackle in the opening quarter. He surpassed 400 for his career—just the third Irish player to ever eclipse 400 career stops. The other two Notre Dame players to accomplish the feat are Bob Crable (521; 1978-81) and Bob Golic (479; 1975-78).

► Te'o picked up his first sack of the season on a critical third-down play early in the second quarter to set up an Oklahoma punt. The sack was the eighth of his career.

► Te'o finished the first half with 11 tackles, including six solo stops, two for loss and one sack.

BRINDZA OWNS QUITE THE LEG

► Sophomore PK **Kyle Brindza** missed his first two field goal attempts a week ago in the 17-14 victory over BYU, but he connected on a 34-yard field goal with 5:58 left in the second quarter to give the Irish a 10-3 lead.

► Brindza missed a 35-yard field goal with 8:06 left in the third quarter, which would have given the Irish a 13-6 lead.

► Brindza converted a 44-yard field goal with 13:57 left in the fourth quarter to give Notre Dame a 13-6 advantage.

► Brindza connected on a 46-yard field goal with 3:22 left in the fourth quarter to give Notre Dame a 23-13 advantage.