

# Last Minute Wins and Losses

Memorable finishes and heart-breaking losses have been part of Notre Dame football lore for more than 100 years. Nine Irish victories since 1961 have occurred on the game's final play; six of those wins as time expired were produced by Notre Dame placekickers. Among the most famous of those kicks were Harry Oliver's 51-yard field goal against Michigan on Sept. 20, 1980, which propelled the Irish to a 29-27 victory and former walk-on Pat Dillingham's slant pattern to Arnaz Battle in which Battle ran for the game-winning score against Michigan State in 2002.

In its long and storied history, 25 wins have come with under a minute to play in the game. Darius Walker's six-yard run off a direct snap with 55 seconds to play propelled the Irish to a 38-31 win at Stanford in 2005 clinched a Fiesta Bowl berth for the Irish and capping a clutch 80-yard drive in the final 1:46 of the game.

Below is a listing of the Notre Dame victories and some losses decided with under five minutes to play.

## Memorable Finishes Resulting in Wins or Ties...

OT Nicholas Setta 40-yard field goal vs. Washington State, 29-26 (2003)  
OT Joey Getherall 9-yard run vs. Air Force, 34-31 (2000)  
0:00 D.J. Fitzpatrick 40-yard field goal vs. Navy, 27-24 (2003)  
0:00 Nicholas Setta 38-yard field goal vs. Purdue, 23-21 (2000)  
0:00 Jim Sanson 39-yard field goal vs. Texas, 27-24 (1996)  
0:00 John Carney 19-yard field goal vs. USC, 38-37 (1986)  
0:00 Harry Oliver 51-yard field goal vs. Michigan, 29-27 (1980)  
0:00 Joe Unis extra point following a Joe Montana to Kris Haines eight-yard pass in Cotton Bowl vs. Houston, 35-34 (1979)  
0:00 Joe Perkowski 41-yard field goal vs. Syracuse, 17-15 (1961)  
0:05 Scott Cengia 20-yard field goal vs. Hawaii, 23-22 (1997)  
0:06 Don Schaefer extra point following Ralph Guglielmi nine-yard pass to Dan Shannon vs. Iowa, 14-14 (1953)  
0:11 Mike Johnston 32-yard field goal vs. Miami, 16-14 (1982)  
0:11 Mike Johnston 35-yard field goal vs. Oregon, 13-13 (1982)  
0:14 John Carney 44-yard field goal vs. Navy, 18-17 (1984)  
0:20 Rick Mirer two-point conversion to Reggie Brooks following three-yard pass from Mirer to Jerome Bettis vs. Penn State, 17-16 (1992)  
0:31 Bill Shakespeare 19-yard pass to Wayne Millner vs. Ohio State, 18-13 (1935)  
0:32 Monty Stickers 43-yard field goal vs. Navy, 25-22 (1959)  
0:34 Rodney Culver one-yard run vs. Michigan State, 20-19 (1990)  
0:35 Steve Oracko extra point following Red Sitko one-yard run vs. USC, 14-14 (1948)  
0:36 Jarius Jackson 16-yard pass to Jay Johnson vs. Navy, 28-24 (1999)  
0:42 Rusty Lisch two-point conversion to Pete Holohan following 14-yard pass from Lisch to Dean Masztak vs. South Carolina, 18-17 (1979)  
0:55 Bob Joseph extra point following John Lattner one-yard run vs. Iowa, 20-20 (1951)  
0:55 Darius Walker six-yard run vs. Stanford, 38-31 (2005)  
0:57 Jim Sanson 17-yard field goal vs. Purdue, 31-30 (1998)  
1:03 Joe Montana 80-yard pass to Ted Burgmeier vs. North Carolina, 21-14 (1975)  
1:06 Jim Sanson 48-yard field goal vs. Army, 20-17 (1998)  
1:13 Reggie Ho 26-yard field goal vs. Michigan, 19-17 (1988)  
1:15 Pat Dillingham 60-yard pass to Arnaz Battle vs. Michigan State, 21-17 (2002)  
1:16 Paul Hornung one-yard run vs. North Carolina, 21-14 (1956)  
1:24 Ron Powlus two-point conversion to Derrick Mayes after an Autry Denson seven-yard run followed by an Allen Rossum 76-yard interception return with 0:28 remaining vs. Washington, 29-21 (1995)  
1:27 Jarius Jackson 10-yard pass to Raki Nelson followed by a safety of Jackson with 0:03 remaining vs. LSU, 39-36 (1998)  
1:39 David Mitchell 5-yard td run vs. Purdue 31-24 (1977)  
1:40 Rick Mirer 18-yard pass to Adrian Jarrell vs. Michigan, 28-24 (1990)  
2:00 Chuck Sweeney safety of Alan McFarland in end zone vs. Navy, 9-7 (1937)  
2:00 Art Parisien 23-yard pass to Johnny Niemiec vs. USC, 13-12 (1926)  
2:08 Carlyle Holiday 67-yard pass to Omar Jenkins vs. Navy, 30-23, (2002)  
2:15 Paul Hornung 25-yard field goal vs. Iowa, 17-14 (1955)  
2:22 Kevin Pendergast 31-yard field goal in Cotton Bowl vs Texas A&M, 24-21 (1994)  
2:30 Butch Niemiec 32-pass to Johnny O'Brien vs. Army, 12-6 (1928)  
2:37 Autry Denson one-yard run vs. Georgia Tech, 17-13 (1997)  
2:40 Jabari Halloway recovers Jarius Jackson fumble in the end zone vs. USC, 25-24 (1999)  
2:40 Bob Williams 30-yard pass to Jim Mutscheller vs. North Carolina, 14-7 (1950)  
2:49 Tom Clements three-yard run vs. Pittsburgh, 14-10 (1974)  
2:54 Scott Hempel 24-yard field goal vs. LSU, 3-0 (1970)  
2:58 Pat Steenberge two-point conversion to Mike Creaney after Fred Swendsen's fumble recovery in end zone vs. Purdue, 8-7 (1971)  
3:08 Wayne Bullock two-yard run vs. Rice, 10-3 (1974)  
3:23 Jerome Heavens one-yard run vs. Air Force, 31-30 (1975)  
3:25 George Izo 44-yard pass to George Sefcik vs. Iowa, 20-19 (1959)  
3:50 Dick Lynch three-yard run vs. Oklahoma, 7-0 (1957)  
4:26 Bob Thomas 19-yard field goal in Sugar Bowl vs. Alabama, 24-23 (1973)

4:44 Harry Oliver 47-yard field goal vs. Georgia Tech, 3-3 (1980)  
4:56 Ron Powlus 11-yard pass to Bobby Brown vs. West Virginia, 21-14 (1997)  
4:59 Marc Edward three-yard run vs. Vanderbilt, 14-7 (1996)

## Some of the Losses...

OT Brad Otten five-yard pass to Rodney Sermons for USC, 27-20 (1996)  
OT Dallas Thompson 27-yard field goal for Air Force, 20-17 (1996)  
OT Eric Crouch seven-yard run for Nebraska, 27-24 (2000)  
OT Jason Teague 19-yard run for Michigan State, 44-41 (2005)  
0:00 Mike Biselli 22-yard field goal for Stanford, 40-37 (1999)  
0:00 Max Zendejas 48-yard field goal for Arizona, 16-13 (1982)  
0:00 David Gordon 41-yard field goal for Boston College, 41-39 (1993)  
0:01 Josh Cummings 32-yard field goal for Pittsburgh, 41-38 (2004)  
0:02 Remy Hamilton 42-yard field goal for Michigan, 26-24 (1994)  
0:02 Frank Jordan 37-yard field goal for USC, 27-25 (1978)  
0:03 Matt Leinart one-yard run for USC, 34-31 (2005)  
0:04 Craig Payak 34-yard field goal for Penn State, 24-21 (1990)  
0:11 Bill Kaliden five-yard run for Pittsburgh, 29-26 (1958)  
0:19 Doug Strang eight-yard run for Penn State, 34-30 (1983)  
0:19 Scott Campbell seven-yard pass to Steve Bryant for Purdue, 15-14 (1981)  
0:33 Steve Lach five-yard pass to Paul Anderson for Great Lakes, 19-14 (1943)  
0:36 Tommy Vardell one-yard run for Stanford, 36-31 (1990)  
0:38 Sandro Sciortino 26-yard field goal for Boston College, 27-25 (2003)  
0:48 Michael Harper one-yard run for USC, 17-13 (1982)  
0:54 Paul Peterson 30-yard pass to Tony Gonzalez for Boston College, 24-23 (2004)  
1:00 Johnny Baker 23-yard field goal for USC, 16-14 (1931)  
1:05 Adam Abrams 37-yard field goal for USC, 20-17 (1997)  
1:07 Ralph Kurek one-yard run for Wisconsin, 14-9 (1963)  
1:08 Kenneth Toulon one-yard run for Stanford, 17-13 (2001)  
1:08 Billy Dale one-yard run for Texas, 21-17 (1970 Cotton Bowl)  
1:25 Jeff VanHorne 29-yard field goal for Pittsburgh, 10-9 (1986)  
1:33 Craig Fertig 15-yard pass to Rod Sherman for USC, 20-17 (1964)  
1:35 Sean Pavlich extra point following a John Kerschner one-yard run for Air Force, 23-22 (1983)  
1:38 Anthony Thomas one-yard run for Michigan, 26-22 (1999)  
1:48 Jeff Smoker 68-yard pass to Herb Haygood for Michigan State, 27-21 (2000)  
1:50 Charlie Arnold 31-yard pass to Lon Slaughter for SMU, 19-13 (1956)  
2:53 Warrick Dunn five-yard run for Florida State, 23-16 (1985)  
3:26 Garry James two-yard run for LSU, 10-7 (1985)  
3:28 Richard King 35-yard pass to Michael Koski for Syracuse, 14-7 (1963)  
3:28 Jim Ellis 10-yard pass to Jim Story for Mississippi, 20-13 (1977)  
3:48 Todd Blackledge one-yard run for Penn State, 24-21 (1981)  
3:50 Levi Jackson four-yard run for Michigan State, 10-3 (1975)  
4:03 John Becksvoort extra point following Andy Kelly 26-yard pass to Aaron Hayden for Tennessee, 35-34 (1991)  
4:27 Marvin Tibbetts six-yard run for Georgia Tech, 13-10 (1959)  
4:52 Todd Spencer 26-yard run for USC, 14-7 (1981)

## Overtime History (2-4)...

### Wins...

2000 Joey Getherall nine-yard run after an Air Force field goal, 34-31  
2003 Nicholas Setta 40-yard field goal after Wash. State missed field goal attempt, 29-26

### Losses...

2000 Eric Crouch seven-yard run for Nebraska after a Notre Dame field goal, 27-24  
1996 Brad Otten five-yard pass to Rodney Sermons for USC, 27-20  
1996 Dallas Thompson 27-yard field goal for Air Force, 20-17  
2005 Jason Teague 19-yard run for Michigan State, 44-41