



Notre Dame Postgame Notes

September 19, 2009 vs. Michigan State



TODAY'S VICTORY...

- Improves Notre Dame to 2-1 for the second consecutive year and the fourth time in five years.
- Snaps Michigan State's six-game winning streak at Notre Dame Stadium.
- Was the first for Notre Dame over the Spartans at Notre Dame Stadium since 1993.
- Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 7-2-1 (.750) the week following a loss in either OT or the final 12 seconds of regulation.
- Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 5-3 (.625) against the Spartans the week following a loss to Michigan.
- Improves Notre Dame to 45-27-1 (.623) in the all-time series with Michigan State.
- Improves Notre Dame to 27-13 (.675) in the all-time series with the Spartans in South Bend.
- Improves Notre Dame to 219-113-15 (.653) all-time against the Big Ten.
- Improves Notre Dame to 113-45-5 (.709) against Big Ten opponents at home and 92-40-3 (.693) at Notre Dame Stadium.
- Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 833-285-42 (.736).
- Improves Notre Dame's all-time record at Notre Dame Stadium to 304-98-5 (.753).
- Improves Notre Dame to 83-49-4 (.625) all-time against schools from the state of Michigan.
- Improves an unranked Notre Dame squad (post 1932) to 8-10 (.444) all-time against Michigan State (the eighth victory in the last 12 such meetings).
- Improves an unranked Notre Dame squad to 5-7 (.417) all-time against Michigan State in Notre Dame Stadium.
- Improves Notre Dame to 8-5 (.615) all-time against Michigan State when both teams are unranked.
- Improves Notre Dame to 4-3 (.571) all-time against Michigan State in Notre Dame Stadium when both teams are unranked.
- Improves Weis' record to 31-22 (.585) overall and 8-9 (.471) against the Big Ten.
- Improves Weis' home record to 17-11 (.607) overall and 5-3 (.625) against the Big Ten.
- Improves Weis' record to 12-9 (.571) in September games.
- Improves Weis' record to 25-17 (.595) in afternoon games.

Notre Dame won the toss and elected to defer. Michigan State received and the Irish defended the south end zone.

Streaks...

- The following players extended active starting streaks this afternoon: senior OT Sam Young 41, senior OC Eric Olsen 22, junior QB Jimmy Clausen 19, sophomore TE Kyle Rudolph 16 and senior SS Kyle McCarthy 16.
- Junior RB Armando Allen registered a rushing touchdown for the third consecutive game and eclipsed 100 yards on the ground for the second straight game.
- Sophomore WR Michael Floyd registered a receiving touchdown for the third consecutive game.

Team Notes...

- Notre Dame not only failed to face a single third down conversion attempt in the first quarter, but the Irish did not register a traditional running play (handoff from the quarterback) until the second play of the second quarter. Notre Dame's three rushes in the opening 15 minutes were a pair of Clausen scrambles and Allen's direct-snap touchdown run.
- In last year's meeting with the Spartans, Notre Dame rushed the ball on its first seven offensive plays of the game.
- Notre Dame's opening touchdown drive of the game went for 84 yards on four plays. The touchdown drive was the seventh this season by the Irish of 75 yards or longer.
- Michigan State regained the lead with a pair of second quarter touchdown drives. The Spartans benefitted from five Notre Dame penalties on the two scoring drives that accounted for 65 yards (the two drives totaled 161 yards).
- The first half was a tale of two quarters. Notre Dame racked up 152 total yards (128 passing and 24 rushing) in the opening quarter, compared to 66 total yards (10 passing and 56 rushing) in the second quarter. Meanwhile, Michigan State managed just 89 yards in the opening quarter (53 passing and 36 rushing), compared to 146 in the second quarter (106 passing and 40 rushing).
- Notre Dame's Ethan Johnson blocked Brett Swenson's extra-point attempt with 1:24 left in the third quarter. Swenson had converted 76 consecutive extra-point attempts. He is now 130-for-132 for his career. It marked the first time the Irish had blocked a PAT attempt since 2006 against North Carolina.
- Notre Dame limited Michigan State to just 29 yards rushing on nine carries in the second half.

Jimmy Clausen, Jr., QB

- Clausen went 4-for-5 for 59 yards, including a 33-yard touchdown pass to Tate, on Notre Dame's drive to grab a 33-30 lead with 5:18 remaining in the fourth quarter.
- Clausen became the first Irish quarterback to eclipse 300 yards passing over four consecutive games (including last season's Hawai'i Bowl)

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- Clausen has registered multiple touchdown passes 13 times over Notre Dame's last 18 games.
- Clausen connected on all nine pass attempts in the opening quarter for 128 yards and one touchdown.
- In fact, Clausen completed his first 10 passes of the game before Mike Ragone dropped his 11th pass attempt of the afternoon.
- Clausen's 10 straight completions to open the game is the no worse than the second-most consecutive completions to open a game in Notre Dame school history. Jarious Jackson opened the game with Navy on Nov. 14, 1998 with 12 straight completions.
- Clausen moved past Tony Rice (1986-89) into seventh place on the Notre Dame all-time total yards list.
- Clausen moved past Allen Pinkett (1982-85) into fifth place on the Notre Dame all-time total plays list.
- With his two touchdown passes this afternoon and 41 for his career, Clausen moved into a tie with Rick Mirer (1989-92) for third place on the Notre Dame all-time passing touchdowns list.
- Has now attempted 132 consecutive passes without an interception.

Michael Floyd, So., WR

- Floyd hauled in a 22-yard touchdown pass from Clausen with 4:59 to go in the opening quarter to give Notre Dame a 13-3 lead. The touchdown reception was Floyd's fifth of the season and the 12th of his career.
- Floyd moved into a tie with Tim Brown (1984-87) and Bobby Brown (1996-99) for ninth place on the Notre Dame all-time touchdown receptions list.
- Floyd had two catches for 38 yards, including a 22-yard touchdown catch, before leaving the game due to an injury late in the second quarter.

Golden Tate, Jr., WR

- Tate collected a 54-yard reception on Notre Dame's touchdown drive to open the third quarter. The reception for Tate was the third longest of his Irish career.
- Tate hauled in a 33-yard touchdown pass from Clausen to give the Irish a 33-30 lead with 5:18 to go in the fourth quarter. The touchdown grab was Tate's third of the season and the 14th of his career.
- Tate registered his eighth career 100-yard receiving game, which stands alone for fourth on the all-time Irish 100-yard receiving games list.

Armando Allen, Jr., RB

- On second and two from the MSU 13-yard line, Allen took the direct snap (in the Wildcat formation) and raced up the middle to give the Irish a 7-0 lead with 12:21 to go in the first quarter. The touchdown was his third of the season and the sixth of his career.
- Allen has now registered a touchdown rush in three consecutive games. He is the first Irish running back to rush for a touchdown in three straight games since Darius Walker did so during the 2006 season.
- Allen tossed his first career touchdown pass to Parris with 11:49 to go in the third quarter to give the Irish a 23-17 lead. Allen is now 2-for-2 passing in his career.
- Allen is the first Notre Dame non-quarterback to throw a touchdown pass since Nick Setta on Nov. 18, 2000 at Rutgers. Setta hit Tom Lopienski on a fake field goal for a 25-yard touchdown pass.
- Allen eclipsed 100 yards rushing for the second consecutive week and the third time in his career. Allen is the first Irish running back to post back-to-back 100 yard rushing games since Robert Hughes closed the 2007 season against both Duke and Stanford with 100+ yards.
- Allen finished with a career-high 23 carries.

Kyle Rudolph, So., TE

- Rudolph hauled in a career-best 52-yard reception on Notre Dame's opening drive of the first quarter and added an eight-yard reception on the touchdown drive as well. Rudolph totaled 60 of the 84 yards on the drive.
- Rudolph nearly bested his career-high in both receptions and receiving yards in the first half alone. He had four receptions for 74 yards before halftime. Rudolph's single-game high for receptions was five against Stanford on Oct. 4, 2008 and receiving yards was 78 against Hawaii on Dec. 24, 2008.
- Rudolph did set a career-high with six receptions and 95 yards receiving.

Kapron Lewis-Moore, So., DE

- Lewis-Moore picked up his first career forced fumble midway through the second quarter. He stripped Michigan State running back Caulton Ray.

Nick Tausch, Fr., PK

- Tausch connected on a pair of field goals for the second consecutive week. The rookie nailed a career-long 46-yard field goal with 5:34 left in the third quarter to give Notre Dame a 26-17 lead.

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Ethan Johnson, So., DT

- Johnson recorded his first career blocked kick on Michigan State's extra-point attempt with 1:24 remaining in the third quarter.

Kyle McCarthy, Sr., SS

- McCarthy intercepted Kirk Cousins' pass just short of the end zone with 1:10 remaining to seal the win for Notre Dame. It was the fifth consecutive game with an interception for McCarthy (including the USC and Hawai'i games last season), who entered the game tied for ninth in the nation with two interceptions. (The Irish had not recorded five straight games with an interception as a team since the 2005 season.) McCarthy also recorded nine tackles (seven solo, two assists) for the third consecutive game and set a new career high with two pass breakups (both in the first quarter).