

#23 Notre Dame Postgame Notes

September 5, 2009 vs. Nevada



Nevada won the coin toss and elected to defer to the second half. The Irish will receive and the Wolf Pack will defend the South end zone.

Notre Dame's win today...

- ... gives the Irish a victory in their season opener for the fourth time in five years.
- ... makes the Irish 101-15-5 (.855) all-time in season openers and 96-19-5 (.821) all-time in home openers.
- ... was the 19th victory in the last 23 season openers and 11th win in the last 14 home openers.
- ... improves the Irish to 72-10-3 (.865) when opening a season at home.
- ... was the seventh victory in the last eight seasons when the Irish open the year at Notre Dame Stadium.
- ... improves the Irish to 1-0 in the all-time series with Nevada.
- ... improves the Irish to 4-0 all-time against the WAC.
- ... improves Weis' record to 30-23 overall and 2-0 versus the WAC.
- ... improves Weis' home record to 16-11.
- ... improves Weis' record to 11-8 in September games.
- ... improves Weis' record to 24-16 in afternoon games.
- ... improves the Irish all-time record to 832-284-42 (.737).
- ... improves the Irish all-time record at Notre Dame Stadium to 303-98-5 (.752).
- ... improves the Irish all-time record in a season opener following a bowl game victory the previous year to 11-2.
- ... improves the Irish all-time record in a season opener following a bowl game appearance the previous year to 24-5.

Streaks...

- ... today's game was the 206th consecutive sellout at Notre Dame Stadium. Since 1966, every Irish home football game has been a sellout except one - a 1973 Thanksgiving Day game vs. Air Force. Notre Dame has now played in front of sellouts in 254 of their last 255 home games
- ... the following players extended active starting streaks this afternoon: senior OT Sam Young 38, senior OC Eric Olsen 20, junior QB Jimmy Clausen 17, sophomore TE Kyle Rudolph 14, senior CB Raeshon McNeil 14 and senior SS Kyle McCarthy 14

Debuts...

- ... the following players made their Notre Dame debuts this afternoon: sophomore LB Anthony McDonald, freshman S Zeke Motta, freshman RB Theo Riddick, senior TE Bobby Burger, freshman LB Manti Te'o, sophomore LB David Posluszny, sophomore CB Jamoris Slaughter, sophomore DE Kapron Lewis-Moore, sophomore QB Dayne Crist, freshman PK Nick Tausch, freshman LS Jordan Cowart, freshman WR Shaquell Evans, sophomore DT Hafis Williams, sophomore WR Deion Walker, freshman TE Tyler Eifert, sophomore OT Lane Clelland, sophomore WR John Goodman and sophomore DT Sean Cwynar.

Season openers...

- ... Notre Dame posted its first shutout in a season opener since blanking Maryland, 22-0, on Aug. 31, 2002.
- ... Notre Dame posted its first shutout in a season opener inside Notre Dame Stadium since Sept. 22, 1973 when the Irish beat Northwestern, 44-0.
- ... Notre Dame scored first in a season opener for the first time in eight seasons. The Irish last scored first in a season opener against Maryland on Aug. 31, 2002 en route to a 22-0 shutout triumph over the Terrapins.
- ... the 28 first half points are the second most for an Irish team in a season opener under Weis. Notre Dame registered 35 points in the opening 30 minutes in his coaching debut against Pittsburgh in 2005.
- ... the 28-point halftime lead was the largest for the Irish in a season opener since Notre Dame led 33-0 over Virginia at intermission of the 1989 Kickoff Classic.
- ... Notre Dame has captured its last 12 season openers when scoring first.

More Notes...

- ... Notre Dame posted its first shutout since blanking Rutgers 42-0 on Nov. 23, 2002.
- ...The 35-point margin of victory was the largest for the Irish since Sept. 25, 2004 when Notre Dame defeated Washington 38-3.
- ... Notre Dame not only converted both of its third downs of nine or more yards (nine and 16 yards), but did so each time with touchdown passes. Jimmy Clausen's touchdown pass to Kyle Rudolph in the first quarter came on a third and 16, while Clausen's second quarter touchdown pass to Michael Floyd came on a third and nine.
- ...The Irish totaled exactly 300 yards on 34 plays in the opening half, good for an average of 8.8 yards per play.
- ...Notre Dame finished with 510 yards of total offense, the most since recording 663 yards at Stanford on Nov. 26, 2005.
- ...The Irish recorded the 510 yards on just 61 plays, an average of 8.36 yards per play (best in the Charlie Weis era).
- ...Nevada was shut out for the first time since Dec. 12, 2007 versus New Mexico. The shutout was also just the third in Hall of Fame coach Chris Ault's 25-year coaching career at Nevada. This comes after Nevada scored an average of 37.6 points per game last season and set the school record for rushing yards. Nevada quarterback Colin Kaepernick threw two interceptions in the game after throwing just seven all of last year.

Jimmy Clausen, Jr., QB

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... finished the afternoon 15-for-18 for 315 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions. Clausen completed 83.3% of his passes, which ranks tied for sixth-best in Irish single-game history (equaling his effort against Navy on Nov. 15, 2008).

... he now has posted completion percentages of over 80% in three games over his career, making him the only Notre Dame quarterback to post three such games. Clausen's trio of games all rank among the top 10 completion percentages in single-game Irish history.

... Clausen also set a school record for average passing yards per attempt. His average of 17.50 yards per attempt bested his own previous school record of 15.42 set in the 2008 Hawai'i Bowl. Clausen has best the previous school record for single-game yards per attempt record in consecutive outings.

... Clausen recorded a pass efficiency rating of 303.67 in the game, surpassing his career best of 277.63 set in the Hawai'i Bowl last season. The rating was the best by an Irish quarterback in a single game in the Charlie Weis era.

... over his last two games, Clausen has completed 84.1% of his passes (37-of-44) for 716 yards, nine touchdowns and no interceptions.

... connected with Tate for a 36-yard pass play late in the first quarter, which was his 26th over the past two seasons.

... tossed touchdown passes of 19 and 24 yards to Rudolph and Floyd, respectively, in the first half. The signal caller was nearly perfect in the opening 15 minutes. Clausen completed 8-of-9 passes for 90 yards and one touchdown in the opening 15 minutes.

... following his third touchdown pass of the game to Floyd (a 70-yard pass completion), Clausen moved past Jarious Jackson (1996-99) into fourth place on the Notre Dame all-time touchdown passes list.

... the 70-yard connection with Floyd was the longest pass play of Clausen's career and longest completion by an Irish QB since Brady Quinn hooked up with Jeff Samardzija for an 80-yard TD on the first offensive play from scrimmage for Notre Dame against Stanford on Nov. 26, 2005.

... Clausen and Floyd each set new career-highs for longest completion and reception when the duo hooked up for 88 yards and another touchdown with 10:12 left in the third quarter.

... the 88-yard completion was the third longest in Notre Dame football history and longest since Nov. 7, 1981 when Blair Kiel found Joe Howard for a school record 96 yards.

... Clausen has now thrown three or more TD passes in eight career games.

... his four TD passes ranks tied for fifth-best in single-game Irish history.

... recorded his fourth career 300-yard passing game.

... he is the second Irish quarterback to ever have multiple games with at least four touchdown passes.

... moved past Joe Montana (1975-78) into 10th place on the Notre Dame all-time total yards list.

... moved past Joe Theismann (1968-70) into sixth place on the Notre Dame all-time plays list.

... moved past Rick Mirer (1989-92) into fourth place on the Notre Dame all-time pass attempts list.

Michael Floyd, So., WR

... recorded four catches for 189 yards and three touchdowns. He averaged 47.3 yards per reception, which broke the previous school record of 41.6 yards per catch by Jim Morse against USC on Nov. 26, 1955.

... his 189 yards receiving are the most for an Irish player since Jeff Samardzija totaled 191 against Stanford on Nov. 26, 2005.

... hauled in a 24-yard touchdown strike from Clausen with 14:54 to go in the first half to give the Irish a 14-0 lead. The TD reception was the eighth of his career.

... raced 70-yards for his second touchdown reception of the game, and ninth of his career, to give the Irish a 21-0 lead with 11:42 remaining in the second quarter.

... the 70-yard reception by Floyd was the longest grab of his career and longest reception by an Irish WR since Jeff Samardzija sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown on the first offensive play from scrimmage for Notre Dame against Stanford on Nov. 26, 2005.

... Clausen and Floyd each set new career-highs for longest completion and reception when the duo hooked up for 88 yards and another touchdown with 10:12 left in the third quarter.

... the 88-yard reception was the third longest in Notre Dame football history and longest since Nov. 7, 1981 when Blair Kiel found Joe Howard for a school record 96 yards.

... registered his second career multi-touchdown game (Floyd recorded a pair of touchdown receptions against Pittsburgh on Nov. 1, 2008).

... recorded his fifth career 100-yard receiving game, which moves him into a tie with Rhema McKnight (2002-06) for eighth place on the Notre Dame all-time 100-yard receiving games list.

Kyle Rudolph, So., TE

... hauled in a 19-yard touchdown pass from Clausen with 8:58 remaining in the first quarter to give the Irish a 7-0 lead. The TD reception was the third of his career.