



2007 Notre Dame Football Post-Game Notes



Notre Dame vs. Michigan
September 15, 2007

TEAM

- The game between Notre Dame and Michigan is officially sold out, making it the 64th in the last 70 road games for the Irish that were sell-outs. The 2001, 2003 and 2005 games at Stanford, the 2004 game vs. Navy (The Meadowlands), the 2005 game at Washington and the 2006 game at Air Force were not sellouts.
- Today's final attendance: 111,178 - the fourth consecutive meeting between Notre Dame and Michigan at Michigan Stadium to draw over 111,000 fans.
- Today's game was the 18th time in school history Notre Dame played before a crowd of at least 100,000 people, and the second consecutive week. The Irish and Penn State played before the second largest crowd in Beaver Stadium history last week. The Irish now are 9-9 in such games.
- Notre Dame became the second school in NCAA history to play consecutive road games before crowds of over 100,000. Minnesota had been the only school to accomplish the feat prior to the Irish. The total attendance of 221,256 (110,078 last week and 111,178 this week) is a new NCAA record for combined road attendance in consecutive weeks (the Golden Gophers played in front of 217,721 in back-to-back weeks against Penn State and Michigan in 2005.)
- Notre Dame won the toss and elected to receive. The Wolverines defended the north end zone in the first half.
- The following Notre Dame players extended streaks for consecutive starts: senior ILB Maurice Crum, Jr. (28), senior DE Trevor Laws (28), senior C John Sullivan (16), sophomore OT Sam Young (16), senior DB Terrail Lambert (13), senior SS Tom Zbikowski (10) and junior David Grimes (8).
- The Irish defense has faced quite an uphill battle in terms of field position over its first three games. Of the 102 points Notre Dame has surrendered in 2007, 43, just over 42%, have come on drives of less than 38 yards. Georgia Tech had scoring drives of 16, 17, 21 and 36 yards (for a total of 16 points), Penn State used a punt return for touchdown and a drive of seven yards (following a 63-yard kickoff return to open the second half) to record 10 points and Michigan used a pair of 21 yard drives and a 38-yard drive to grab a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter.
- Notre Dame fumbled 13 times, losing seven, over the entire 2006 season. The Irish fumbled six different times (losing two) on the day, including five in the game's opening quarter. Notre Dame has fumbled 12 times (losing five) over the first three games of 2007. The Irish only lost six fumbles over the entire 2005 season as well.
- The six fumbles were the most fumbles since Notre Dame fumbled seven times against Boston College on Nov. 2, 2002.
- Through three games, Notre Dame has officially minus-14 yards rushing, but the stat is a somewhat misleading. The Irish have actually rushed for 241 yards over the first three games, but per NCAA rules sack yardage comes out of rushing as opposed to passing. Therefore, 167 of the 255 negative rushing yards have come via sacks. The rushing stat was skewed again on Saturday. The Irish, officially, accounted for minus-six yards on the ground, but 48 yards were erased by Michigan's eight sacks.
- Notre Dame limited the potent Michigan passing game to just 90 yards in the air Saturday. The Irish are allowing just 114.0 yards per game in the air, over 80 fewer yards per game in the air this season and almost 160 fewer yards when compared to the previous two years. The 114.0 yards passing per game would rank as the best for a Notre Dame defense since 1980 (when the Irish limited their opponents to 103.0 ypg). The Irish had allowed 281.2, 264.6 and 203.4 yards passing each of the last three seasons.
- The Irish passing defense has also limited the opposing quarterback trio of Georgia Tech's Taylor Bennett (11-of-23), Penn State's Anthony Morelli (12-of-22) and Michigan's Ryan Mallett (7-of-15) to a combined completion percentage of 48.3% (29-of-60).
- The 31 points in the first half were the most points surrendered in a half by Notre Dame since Michigan totaled 34 in the opening half of the

2006 meeting.

- The 31-0 halftime deficit was the largest deficit for Notre Dame since Sept. 12, 1998 when it trailed Michigan State, 42-3, at intermission.
- Notre Dame allowed a total of 31 sacks the entire 2006 season (13 games) and just 21 in 2005. The Irish have already allowed 23 sacks in 2007.
- Michigan finished the afternoon with 289 yards rushing on 61 carries. The rushing yards for the Wolverines are the most by a Notre Dame opponent since Stanford had 309 on Oct. 3, 1998.

TODAY'S LOSS...

- Makes the Irish 0-3 for the first time since 2001 and just the second time in Notre Dame football history.
- Drops Notre Dame to 14-20-1 (.443) in the all-time series with Michigan.
- Drops the Irish to 7-11-0 (.800) in the all-time series with the Wolverines in Ann Arbor.
- Drops an unranked Notre Dame squad to 1-3-0 all-time against Michigan.
- Drops an unranked Notre Dame squad to 0-2-0 all-time against Michigan in Ann Arbor.
- Drops Weis' record to 19-9 (.714) overall, 1-2 against Michigan and 5-5 against the Big 10 Conference.
- Drops Weis' road record to 8-3-0 (.818).
- Drops Weis' record to 7-5 (.667) in September games.
- Drops Weis' record to 13-6 (.737) in afternoon games.
- Drops Notre Dame's all-time record to 821-272-42 (.743).
- Drop the Irish all-time record on the road to 287-136-22 (.672).
- Drops Notre Dame's all-time record against the Big 10 Conference to 216-109-15 (.660).

NOTRE DAME VS. BIG 10

- Notre Dame has faced no other conference as often as the Big Ten. The Irish have played 339 all-time games against the 11 current members of the league. Notre Dame is 216-108-15 in those meetings. The Irish has played almost three times as many games against the Big Ten as any other conference. The Pac-10 (122) and ACC (104) are the only other conferences against whom Notre Dame has played at least 100 games.
- Notre Dame has faced Michigan 35 times (14-20-1), fourth most of any Big Ten program. Purdue leads the Big Ten with 77 all-time games against Notre Dame (51-25-2) followed by Michigan State (44-25-1) and Northwestern (37-8-2).
- Notre Dame played four members of the Big 10 in 2006 and will do the same in 2007. In addition to Penn State and Michigan, the Irish will face Michigan State and Purdue. Notre Dame has played a member of the Big Ten every single season since 1915. The Irish face Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue for the sixth consecutive season.
- Notre Dame has posted a 95-68-9 record against Big Ten opponents on the road.

NOTRE DAME - MICHIGAN SERIES NOTES

- This year's meeting was the 36th meeting between Notre Dame and Michigan, with the Wolverines now holding a 20-14-1 series lead. Notre Dame had captured two of the last three meetings, including its last trip to Ann Arbor. The Irish own a 7-11-0 record against Michigan in Ann Arbor.
- The first meeting between the two schools took place during the 1887 season. Michigan blanked Notre Dame, 8-0, in South Bend. The Wolverines proceeded to win the next seven games over the Irish. Notre Dame's first victory over Michigan came during the 1909 season in Ann Arbor by a score of 11-3. The two teams would not meet for another 33 years. After the Wolverines and Irish split meetings in 1942 and 1943, the series took another break, this time 35 years. Since renewing the rivalry in 1978, Notre Dame and Michigan have played every season except 1983, 1984, 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2001.



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- Prior to this year's matchup, either Notre Dame or Michigan had been ranked entering the game for each of the past 24 meetings. The last meeting between the Irish and Wolverines in which they were each unranked came way back in 1909 -- an era before national polls. (polls debuted in 1936). Furthermore, six times both teams have been ranked in the Top 10 and three games one or the other was ranked No 1.
- Michigan is one of only four schools that own a winning record against Notre Dame (based on a minimum of five all-time meetings). Florida State, Ohio State and Nebraska are the other programs.

IRISH, WOLVERINES RANK AT TOP OF MOST NCAA LISTS

- Notre Dame has won 11 consensus national championships, while Michigan has won nine titles.
- Notre Dame currently has 821 career Division I-A victories (second all-time), while Michigan leads with 861 career wins, although the Wolverines have played nine more seasons than the Irish.
- Michigan holds the record for times ranked in the Associated Press poll (747), followed closely by Ohio State (722) and Notre Dame (705).
- Notre Dame ranks first all-time with 95 consensus All-America selections (from 79 players), while Michigan is tied for second on that list with 76 consensus All-America picks (from 64 players each). USC (66 players) and Ohio State (58 players) each have 75 selections.

INDIVIDUAL

- Freshman **Golden Tate** recorded a new career-long 40 yard kickoff return. Tate returned five kicks for 133 yards on the afternoon (good for an average of 26.6). For the season, Tate is averaging 26.7 per return (seven returns for 187 total yards).
- Senior **Geoff Price** recorded his 17th and 18th career punts of over 50 yards. Price averaged 44.2 yards on his six punts on the day. Price is averaging 42.5 yards per boot this season.
- Despite constant pressure (resulting in seven Michigan sacks) freshman quarterback **Jimmy Clausen** managed to complete 11-of-17 for 74 yards. In his first two career starts, Clausen has completed 57.1% percent of his passes (28-of-49). By comparison, former Notre Dame All-American Brady Quinn completed just 44.7% (34-of-76) and tossed four interceptions over his first two starts as a freshman.
- Junior free safety **David Bruton** led the Irish with nine total tackles. Bruton has led the Irish in tackles in two of their three games this season.
- Senior defensive end **Justin Brown** registered a career-high eight tackles, including one for loss.
- Junior safety **Ray Herring** picked up his first two career fumble recoveries. His is the first Irish player to have two fumble recoveries in one game since Gerome Sapp against Navy on Nov. 17, 2001.
- Senior defensive tackle **Dwight Stephenson, Jr.** recorded a career-high seven tackles.
- Freshman linebacker **Brian Smith** picked up his first career forced fumble and first career tackle for loss.