



# 2007 Notre Dame Football Post-Game Notes



Notre Dame vs. Navy  
November 3, 2007

## TEAM

❑ Notre Dame won the toss and elected to receive. Navy defended the north endzone in the first half.

❑ The game was officially sold out, making it the 197th consecutive sell-out at Notre Dame Stadium. Since 1966, every Notre Dame home football game has been a sellout except one – a 1973 Thanksgiving Day game vs. Air Force. The Irish have now have played in front of sellouts in 245 of their past 246 home games.

❑ The following Notre Dame players extended streaks for consecutive starts: senior ILB **Maurice Crum, Jr.** (34), senior DE **Trevor Laws** (34), senior C **John Sullivan** (21), sophomore OT **Sam Young** (21), senior CB **Terrail Lambert** (18) and senior SS **Tom Zbikowski** (15).

❑ With junior FS **Kyle McCarthy** earning his first career start for Notre Dame today, 24 different Irish players (11 on defense, 13 on offense) have registered their first career starts this season.

Sr., OLB, Anthony Vernaglia  
Jr., NT, Pat Kuntz  
Jr., OG, Michael Turkovich  
So., QB, Demetrius Jones  
So., OLB, John Ryan  
Fr., HB, Armando Allen  
So., WR Robby Parris  
Jr., DT, Derrell Hand  
Fr., OLB Kerry Neal  
Fr., WR Golden Tate  
So., OG, Eric Olsen  
Jr., QB, Evan Sharpley

Jr., FS, David Bruton  
Jr., OT, Paul Duncan  
Jr., OG, Dan Wenger  
So., WR, George West  
Fr., QB, Jimmy Clausen  
So., ILB, Toryan Smith  
So., RG, Matt Carufel  
So., HB, James Aldridge  
So., DB Raeshon McNeil  
So., TE, Will Yeatman  
Fr., WR, Duval Kamara  
Jr., FS, Kyle McCarthy

❑ The Irish recorded a touchdown on their opening drive of the game for the first time this season. Notre Dame accomplished the feat on four occasions in 2006 – most recently at Air Force (Nov. 11). Today's score marked the 13th first-drive touchdown in the Weis era.

❑ Navy's initial scoring drive took 19 plays (all rushes), 85 yards and 8:04. The Midshipmen gained five first downs on the drive and converted three third-down plays. It was the longest drive of the season for an Irish opponent. The previous long drive in terms of plays was a pair of 13-play drives (Georgia Tech and UCLA) and both resulted in field goals.

❑ With the touchdowns from freshman running back **Robert Hughes** and rookie wide receiver **Duval Kamara**, the Irish have seen five different freshmen score touchdowns this season. Hughes and Kamara joined outside linebacker **Brian Smith**, wide receiver **Golden Tate** and quarterback **Jimmy Clausen** in that distinction.

❑ Notre Dame totaled 21 points, 11 first downs, 85 yards rushing and 170 total yards in the first half. The 21 points were not only a season-high for a half, but it topped the 19 points scored over the entire game against Purdue (9.22). The 11 first downs were more than Notre Dame managed in four full games earlier this season (Penn State, Michigan, Michigan State and USC). The 85 yards on the ground are more than the Irish totaled against Georgia Tech (minus-8), Penn State (0), Michigan (minus-6), Boston College (27) and UCLA (46) combined. The Irish have topped 170 total yards in only three previous games (Michigan State, Purdue and Boston College).

❑ Prior to the final minutes of regulation, Notre Dame and Navy each went without the need of a punt (Navy's only punt came with 2:23 left in the fourth quarter; the Irish had no punts). In fact, the Irish have not punted against the Midshipmen since the meeting in 2004. Notre Dame ran 90 plays over nine drives in Saturday's regulation, 62 plays over 10 drive in the 2006 versus Navy, and 70 plays over nine drives in 2005. The Irish have gone 230 plays (in regulation) against Navy without being forced to punt – dating back to a D.J. Fitzpatrick punt in the fourth quarter of the 27-9 Irish victory in 2004.

❑ Navy went ahead 28-21 following a 16-yard fumble return for touchdown. The touchdown (the second non-offensive TD by a Notre Dame opponent) was the 12th this season for a Notre Dame foe that failed to cover at least 45 yards. It was the 21st scoring drive (field goal or touch-

down) for an Irish opponent in 2007 of 45 yards or less. Notre Dame's 2007 opponents now have totaled 14 scoring drives of under 25 yards (six went for touchdowns).

## GAME RESULT NOTES ...

❑ This marks the sixth time in the history of the Notre Dame-Navy series that the game has been decided in the final 2:00 or in overtime (all but one of those games have come in Notre Dame Stadium) ... the previous five all were Notre Dame victories:

- 2003 – D.J. Fitzpatrick's 40-yard field goal as time expired gives ND a 27-24 win (at ND)
- 1984 – John Carney's 44-yard FG with 0:14 left secures an 18-17 Irish win (at Giants Stadium)
- 1959 – a 43-yard FG from Monty Stickles gives ND the final 25-22 margin (at ND)
- 1991 – With 0:36 remaining, Jarious Jackson connects on a 16-yard TD pass to Jay Johnson and the Irish add the extra point for a 28-24 win (at ND)
- 1937 – Chuck Sweeney's tackle of Alan McFarland in the endzone (with 2:00 remaining) ends up being the difference in a 9-7 Irish win (at ND)

❑ Notre Dame now is 2-5 in all-time overtime games (2-4 at ND Stadium), with wins over Air Force in 2000 (34-31) and Washington State in 2003 (29-26). The other ND overtime losses have come versus Air Force in 1996 (17-20), USC in 1996 (20-27; on road), Nebraska in 2000 (24-27) and Michigan State in 2005 (41-44).

## TODAY'S LOSS ...

- ❑ Snaps Notre Dame's 43-game winning streak over Navy (the NCAA record for one team against another).
- ❑ Snaps the 21-game winning streak over the Midshipmen inside Notre Dame Stadium.
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame to 71-10-1 (.872) in the series with Navy.
- ❑ Drops the Irish to 26-4 (.867) versus Navy in South Bend.
- ❑ Drops Weis' Notre Dame record to 20-14 overall, 2-1 against Navy and 4-1 against service academies.
- ❑ Drops Weis' Notre Dame home record to 10-8 (.556).
- ❑ Drops Weis' Notre Dame record to 7-2 (.778) in November games.
- ❑ Drops Weis' Notre Dame record to 5-8 (.385) following a defeat.
- ❑ Drops an unranked Notre Dame squad to 16-5 (.762) all-time against Navy.
- ❑ Drops an unranked Notre Dame squad to 9-3 (.750) all-time against the Midshipmen in South Bend.
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame to 64-6 (.914) all-time against an unranked Midshipmen squad.
- ❑ Drops Weis' record to 14-11 (.560) in afternoon games.
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record to 822-277-42 (.739).
- ❑ Drops the Irish all-time home record to 297-95-5 (.754).
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record against the service academies to 129-23-5 (.838).
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame's all-time home record against the service academies to 44-8 (.846).
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame's all-time record to 60-15-2 (.792) when it plays after a bye week (since 1900).
- ❑ Drops Notre Dame's recent record to 27-6 (.818) when it plays after a bye week (since 1984).



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## INDIVIDUAL

□ Sophomore running back **James Aldridge** had a career-high 125 rushing yards in today's game, besting his 104 versus Michigan State earlier this season. His 32 rushing attempts also a career-high, nine more than his total earlier this season versus UCLA (22).

□ Senior linebacker **Maurice Crum, Jr.** registered his third forced fumble of the season. Crum, who had two forced fumbles in the victory over UCLA (Oct. 6), now has four forced fumbles for his career.

□ Senior strong safety **Tom Zbikowski** registered his first fumble recovery of the season. Zbikowski now has been involved in a total of 17 turnovers (seven forced fumbles, seven interceptions, three fumble recoveries) during his four-year career. With his first tackle of the afternoon, he moved past Ned Bolcar (1986-89) into sole possession of 12th place on the Irish career tackles list (now 280, with 10 today). Zbikowski has the most career tackles ever by a Notre Dame defensive back, with the 11 players ahead of him on the list including nine linebackers and two defensive linemen:

### Career Tackles

1.	Bob Crable (LB)	521 (1978-81)
2.	Bob Golic (LB)	479 (1975-78)
3.	Steve Heimkreiter (LB)	398 (1975-78)
4.	Bob Olson (LB)	369 (1967-69)
5.	Tony Furjanic (LB)	361 (1982-85)
6.	Mike Kovaleski (LB)	353 (1983-86)
7.	Ross Browner (DE)	340 (1973, 1975-77)
8.	Brandon Hoyte (LB)	297 (2002-05)
9.	Greg Collins (LB)	295 (1972-74)
10.	Courtney Watson (LB)	294 (2000-03)
11.	Steve Niehaus (DT)	290 (1972-75)
12.	<b>Tom Zbikowski (SS)</b>	<b>280 (2004-07)</b>

□ Freshman running back **Robert Hughes** picked up his second rushing touchdown of the season on the game's opening drive. Hughes rumbled three yards to give the Irish a 7-0 lead. He also had a rushing touchdown against Michigan State on Sept. 22.

□ Freshman running back/kick returner **Armando Allen** recorded a season-best 38 yards kickoff return early in the second quarter. Allen opened the game with a 29-yard return and added another 29-yard return midway through the third quarter. He averaged 28.8 yards on four kickoff returns. Allen also rushed for a season-high a season-high 91 yards on 16 carries, including a season-long 15 yard rush. Allen has registered four kickoff returns this season of 30 yards or more.

□ Senior tight end **John Carlson** recorded four receptions covering 40 yards. Carlson's 90 career receptions remain third-most ever by a Notre Dame tight end (two behind his former teammate Anthony Fasano) while his 949 career receiving yards also now rank third, ahead of Dean Masztak's 924.

### Receptions – Career (Tight End)

1.	Ken MacAfee	128 (1974-77)
2.	Anthony Fasano	92 (2003-05)
3.	<b>•John Carlson</b>	<b>90 (active)</b>
4.	*Tony Hunter	70 (1979-82)
5.	Derek Brown	62 (1988-91)
	Dean Masztak	62 (1978-81)
7.	Mark Bavaro	55 (1981-84)

### Receiving Yards – Career (Tight End)

1.	Ken MacAfee	1,759 (1974-77)
2.	Anthony Fasano	1,102 (2003-05)
3.	<b>•John Carlson</b>	<b>949 (active)</b>
4.	Dean Masztak	924 (1978-81)
5.	*Tony Hunter	904 (1979-82)
6.	Derek Brown	899 (1988-91)
7.	Mark Bavaro	771 (1981-84)

\*played TE only in 1981-82

□ Senior running back **Travis Thomas** had multiple rushing touchdowns (3) for the first time in his career. Thomas now has four rushing TDs this season and 11 in his career.

his second rushing touchdown of the season and ninth of his career.

□ Senior defensive end **Trevor Laws** had a career-high 15 tackles in today's game, pushing his career total to 82 (seventh-most ever by a Notre Dame front-four lineman):

### Most Tackles by a Front-Four Lineman (since 1956)

1.	113, Steve Niehaus	1975
2.	104, Ross Browner	1977
3.	103, Melvin Dansby	1997
4.	94, Mike Calhoun	1978
5.	92, Chris Zorich	1989
6.	87, Eric Dorsey	1985
7.	<b>82, Trevor Laws</b>	<b>2007</b>

□ Freshman tight end **Mike Ragone** picked up his first reception of the season late in the second quarter. Ragone became the 15th different Notre Dame player to register a reception this season.

□ Freshman wide receiver **Duval Kamara** recorded his second touchdown of the season moments before halftime to give the Irish a 21-14 lead. He then latched onto an eight-yard touchdown pass in overtime, becoming the first Notre Dame freshman since 1992 (Derrick Mayes, vs. Pittsburgh) to have multiple TD receptions in a game. Kamara's previous touchdown this season catch came against Purdue on Sept. 29. Today's 21-yard touchdown grab also was his longest reception of the season.

□ Senior inside linebacker **Joe Brockington** recorded 10 tackles in the first half. Brockington has recorded double-digit tackles in four career games with the Irish, including three times in 2007. His 16 total tackles in today's game bested Brockington's career-high of 15, set in 2006 at Air Force.

□ Freshman nose tackle **Ian Williams** recorded seven tackles in the first half alone to establish his season high (ultimately finishing with 11). His previous season-high was four tackles (set against Michigan State and Purdue).