

Notre Dame Postgame Notes

September 26, 2009 vs. Purdue



Notre Dame won the coin toss and elected to defer to the second half. Purdue will receive and the Irish will defend the North end zone.

Tonight's attendance was 59,082. It marked the first game between Notre Dame and Purdue in West Lafayette that failed to sellout since Oct. 5, 1963.

Tonight's Victory...

- Improves Notre Dame to 3-1 for the second consecutive year and the fourth time in five years.
- Gives Notre Dame a victory over Purdue for the fourth time in five years.
- Improves the all-time record for Notre Dame to 17-3 (.850) against Purdue the week after facing Michigan State.
- Improves Notre Dame to 53-26-2 (.667) in the all-time series with Purdue.
- Improves Notre Dame to 26-14-2 (.643) in the all-time series with the Boilermakers in West Lafayette.
- Improves an unranked Notre Dame squad to 11-6 all-time against Purdue and 10-4 against an unranked Boilermaker team.
- Improves an unranked Notre Dame squad to 5-4 all-time against Purdue in West Lafayette and 4-3 against an unranked Boilermaker team in Ross Ade Stadium.
- Improves Notre Dame to 220-113-15 (.654) all-time against the Big Ten.
- Improves Notre Dame to 96-72-9 (.568) all-time on the road against the Big Ten Conference.
- Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 834-285-42 (.736).
- Improves Notre Dame's all-time record on the road to 292-142-22 (.664).
- Improves Weis' record to 32-22 (.593) overall and 9-9 (.500) against the Big Ten.
- Improves Weis' road record to 12-9 (.571) overall and 4-5 (.444) against the Big Ten.
- Improves Weis' record to 13-9 (.591) in September games.
- Improves Weis' record to 7-5 (.583) in night games.

Streaks...

- The following players extended active starting streaks this afternoon: senior OT Sam Young 42, senior OC Eric Olsen 23, junior QB Jimmy Clausen 20, sophomore TE Kyle Rudolph 17 and senior SS Kyle McCarthy 17.
- Notre Dame has now won 18 straight games when outrushing its opponent. In fact, head coach Charlie Weis is now 18-0 in his career when the Irish outrush their foe.

Against the Boilermakers...

- Since the series resumed in 1946, there have been just five games where the winning points were scored in the final five minutes. Ironically, three have come on the date of Sept. 26. Here is a list of those five games:

Sept. 25, 1971 #2 Notre Dame 8, at Purdue 7

Sept. 26, 1981 at Purdue 15, #13 Notre Dame 14

Sept. 26, 1998 at #23 Notre Dame 31, Purdue 30

Sept. 16, 2000 at #21 Notre Dame 23, #13 Purdue 21

Sept. 26, 2009 Notre Dame 24, at Purdue 21

Team Notes...

- Notre Dame has now won 16 games in its storied history with 25 seconds or left remaining in regulation and five on the road.
- Notre Dame has never registered a longer drive (72 yards) to win a game on the road with less than 25 seconds to go in the contest in school history.
- Junior QB Jimmy Clausen was limited to just 24 plays due to a turf toe injury before returning to action with 7:34 remaining in the fourth quarter.
- Clausen led the Irish on a 12-play, 72-yard drive capped off on a touchdown pass to sophomore TE Kyle Rudolph on fourth down with 24.8 seconds left in regulation.
- Clausen went 6-for-9 on the drive for 69 yards, including the go-ahead touchdown pass.
- The Irish scored with just 24.8 seconds remaining on the clock. It is the latest Notre Dame has scored to secure a victory on the road since 1997 when Scott Cengia booted a field goal with five seconds left to secure a 23-22 victory at Hawaii.
- Entering tonight's game with Purdue, Notre Dame was the only offense among all 120 FBS schools that had a running back rank among the top 20 in rushing yards per game (Armando Allen), two wide receivers rank among the top 20 in receiving yards per game (Michael Floyd, Golden Tate) and a quarterback rank among the top 20 in passing yards per game (Jimmy Clausen).
- Floyd ranked seventh (119.33 ypg), Clausen ranked eighth (317.0 ypg), Allen ranked tied for 15th (108.67 ypg) and Tate ranked 20th (100.33 ypg).
- The Irish were without half of that quartet as both Floyd and Allen missed tonight's game and Clausen was quite limited.
- Notre Dame had the ball for 11:40 and ran 21 plays in the third quarter. Purdue, on the other hand, had the ball for just 3:20 and ran nine plays.
- Purdue took the opening kickoff and marched 80 yards on eight plays to grab a 7-0 lead with 11:53 to go in the first quarter. Notre Dame's defense had allowed three points or less in the opening quarter in 10 of its previous 12 games before tonight.
- Of Notre Dame's 73-yard, nine play scoring drive to grab a 10-7 lead with 10:43 remaining in the first half, all 73 yards come on the ground. In fact, Notre Dame attempted just one pass on the drive and it fell incomplete.
- The Irish came right back with another touchdown drive midway through the second quarter. Notre Dame went 62 yards on seven plays, all rushes, to grab a 17-7 advantage with 4:43 to go before halftime.
- Notre Dame managed just two yards on six rushes in the first quarter tonight, but rumbled for 136 yards on 16 carries in the second quarter. The Irish used for different ball carriers (Tate, Theo Riddick, Dayne Crist and Robert Hughes) in that second quarter.
- The Irish outgained the Boilermakers, 169-64, in the second quarter.
- Purdue averaged 7.2 yards per play (129 yards on 18 plays over the opening 15 minutes), but Notre Dame limited the Boilermakers to just 3.6 per play in the second quarter (64 yards on 18 plays).
- Notre Dame registered six rushes for at least 10 yards in first half. In fact, each of the six carries for 10+ yards came in the second quarter. The Irish had 14 such carries over their first three games combined. Notre Dame finished the night with six 10+ yard rushes (which tied the season-high total against Michigan).

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- Notre Dame has never registered a longer drive (72 yards) to win a game on the road with less than 25 seconds to go in the contest in school history.
- With his touchdown pass with just 24.8 seconds remaining, Clausen move past Rick Mirer (1989-92) into sole possession of third place on the Irish all-time passing touchdowns list.
- Went 147 consecutive pass attempts without an interception before Purdue picked him off with 18.1 seconds to go before halftime.
- The 147 passes without an interception was second-longest streak by an Irish quarterback in school history. Former All-American Brady Quinn registered a streak of 226 passes without an interception during the 2006 season.
- Moved past Steve Beuerlein (1983-86) into third place on the Irish all-time pass completions list.

Golden Tate, Jr., WR

- Made his first career appearance in the backfield as a running back and raced 15 yards on Notre Dame touchdown drive to open the second quarter.
- Tate scampered 14 yards with 4:43 remaining before halftime to give the Irish a 17-7 lead.
- The touchdown run was his first of the season and second of his career.
- Tate bested his previous career-highs for carries (two at Washington in 2008) and rushing yards (24 at Michigan State in 2008) in the second quarter alone. He totaled 50 yards on six carries in the quarter.

Theo Riddick, Fr., RB

- Registered a career-long 24-yard rush on Notre Dame's second touchdown drive of the second quarter.

Robert Hughes, Jr., RB

- Capped off a 73-yard scoring drive with a two-yard touchdown rush with 10:43 to go before halftime to give the Irish a 10-7 lead. Hughes had four carries for 37 yards on the scoring drive. In fact, he had just 20 yards on seven carries entering tonight's game.
- The touchdown was Hughes' first of the season and ninth of his career.

Dayne Crist, So., QB

- Opened the second quarter at quarterback for the Irish and promptly rushed for 16 yards on his first career rush.
- Despite attempting just one pass, Crist led the Irish to a pair of touchdown drives in the second quarter to help give Notre Dame a 17-7 halftime lead.

Nick Tausch, Fr., PK

- Connected on a 34-yard field goal with 2:23 remaining in the first quarter to cut the Irish deficit to 7-3.

Jonas Gray, So., RB

- Registered his first career start replacing the injured Armando Allen.
- Entered tonight's contest with only two career receptions for 12 yards, but hauled in a then career-long 19-yard reception on Notre Dame's initial drive of the game and added a 23-yard reception on the second drive of the evening for the Irish.

Bobby Burger, Sr., TE/FB

- Registered his first career catch for nine yards and gained a first down for the Irish on a critical third and six play late in the third quarter.