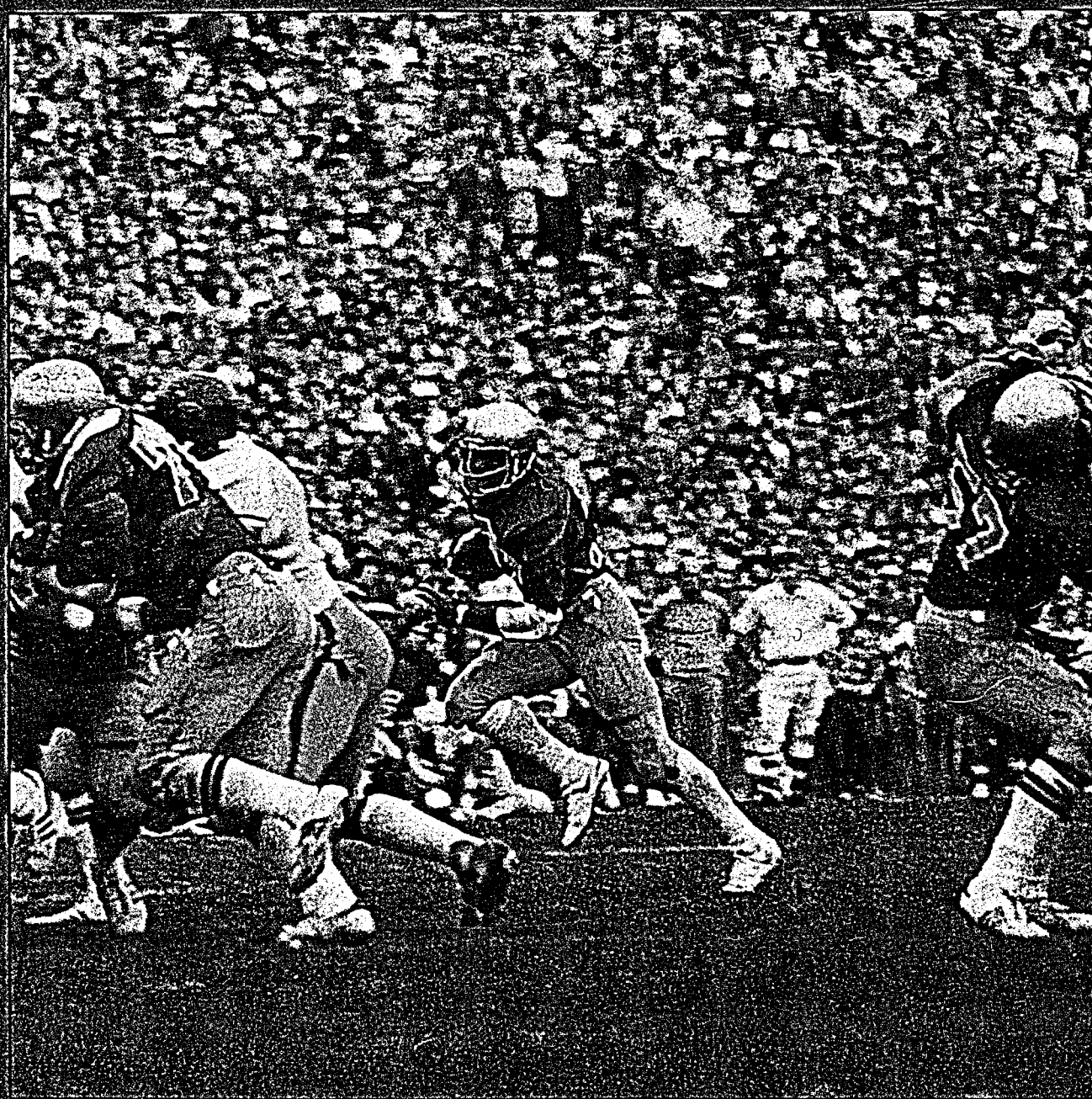


SCHOLASTIC

February 8, 1980



NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL REVIEW 1979

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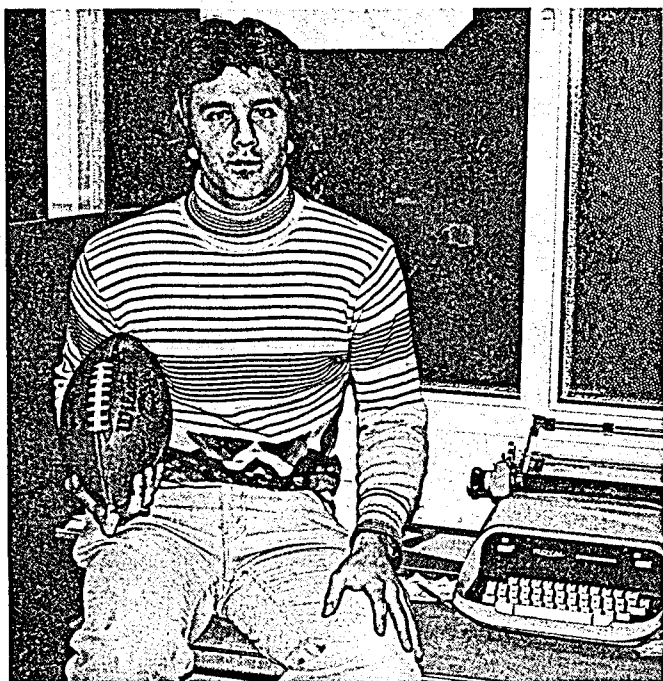
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The First Word

by Tom Westphal

I must confess that I've never been the biggest Notre Dame football fan. Never would I be accused (is that the right word?) of being a rah-rah that went crazy during the games and chattered incessantly about every individual play in postgame celebration. In fact, I think I perhaps followed Irish football more when I was a youngster in the suburbs of Peoria.

When I entered Notre Dame four years ago, I was surrounded, as most newcomers are, by the fabled Notre Dame mystique. But although that mystique favorably affected some parts of my life, it never carried over to that most revered of ND traditions—the "football weekend."

Sure, I went to a pep rally or two (God, those places were HOT!) and partied hearty the day of the game. But I never really sat in those stands in a spirited frenzy like some have. I cite a few reasons for that:

First of all, I consider myself sort of a "football purist." I enjoy going to a game simply for the pleasure of watching a good game. For me, viewing the execution of a perfect trap block is far preferable to the exultation after a touchdown.

Secondly, I have an inherent quality that drives me to cheer for the *underdog*. Notre Dame does not carry that label into too many ball games. I guess it all goes back to my desire to see a close, hard-fought, down-to-the-wire contest.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, is the common experience at this school where the student lives so close to the enchanting and exciting nature of Notre Dame football, that he becomes immune to the electricity generated by it. He, in essence, loses the forest while standing among the trees. I think this is evidenced clearly in many students' attitudes now (see Greg Solman's feature) and substantiated by the alumni's never-ending pilgrimages back to Du Lac for the "football weekend."

With these thoughts jelling in my mind, and still a Notre Dame fan (believe it or not!) I assumed the position of *Scholastic* Sports Editor, realizing that the *Football Review* would be my major undertaking. This responsibility sparked my interest in the coming season which appeared both interesting and difficult.

The Irish began the season in Ann Arbor and I was very pleased to witness, in my first "away" game, one of the most exciting ND wins of all time, a 12-10 thriller over Michigan. A damned good start for my *Review*, too, I thought.

Mark Herrmann and Purdue topped the Irish, but a big win over Michigan State kept the season's hopes alive. The NCAA's most difficult schedule abated a bit as Georgia Tech and Air Force bit the dust but USC loomed large.

Boy, what a game! Forty-four points in thirteen second-half minutes. A disappointing outcome but a great offensive spectacle.

A high point for the season occurred in a dramatic 18-17 Rusty Lisch-led comeback win over South Carolina. The shutout over Navy prefaced a couple of lackluster performances in losses to Tennessee and Clemson that cost Notre Dame any major bowl invitations. Victory in the finale over Miami in the Mirage Bowl lifted Irish spirits.

Students and alumni were disgruntled with the 7-4 season but there were explanations (*not* excuses). A rash of preseason injuries was critical as highly regarded players, including Dave Waymer, Dave Mitchell and Mark Czaja, were sidelined. Freshman play was admirable but inexperience hurts when facing the hardest schedule in the country.

One must look on the bright side before making any premature condemnations. Vagas Ferguson emerged as one of the premier runners in Notre Dame history. The senior gridders proved to be one of the outstanding classes as they captured a National Championship in 1977, won two classic Cotton Bowls over Texas and Houston, and finished with a combined 36-11 record over four years.

So there is no need for wailing and gnashing of teeth. Enough of that occurred in the preparation of this *Review*. No, actually it was a very worthwhile experience, from both a literary and an athletic standpoint.

I think that the finished product is of exceptional quality—an accurate reflection of the work and effort put in by the writers and staffers involved. Enjoy the game-by-game stories and the special features which separate the *Football Review* from other droll sports publications.

Admittedly, it was not the finest Notre Dame football season on record. But the *Review* puts it all in perspective. As you look back over the years, I hope that this *Review* will provoke fond memories of the last season in a triumphal decade of Irish football. □

Wherefore Art Thou, Fan?

by Greg Solman

A train laden with saddened football players rumbles slowly to a halt at South Bend Station. It's 1927; Notre Dame has just lost to Army, 18-0, and the beaten team, led by the seldom-beaten Knute W. Rockne, expects at best a few well-wishers to be awaiting their less than triumphal return. . . .

But no . . . Hark! In the air! Is it . . . no, it can't be . . . it is! It's the marching band playing the "greatest of all fight songs, the Notre Dame Victory March." Why, there're throngs of well-wishers . . . why, almost the whole student body showed up to cheer a *losing* team. The "Rock" and team are touched . . . inspired tears flow, and fans and players embrace, as they gape awestruck at the mere suggestion of that magnificently glittering gilded Gothic edifice known as the Golden Dome, gleaming in God's radiant sun like frothy firmament in rory-cum-tory chichi; like kaleidoscopically coruscating candescence. . . .

Well, let's not get carried away, lest we make a "schlocky" scene from "Knute Rockne: All American" even "schlockier" (and if an admitted Notre Dame rah-rah notes its schlock-like quality, can you imagine what the rest of the country thinks of that movie?). However, there is a method behind this madness: we fans have come a long way, baby . . . and where we are now—to quote the authority—ain't so great.

What I mean to say is that the football fan may be dying at Notre Dame. Not that he will ever stop showing up at the games, or at least sell his ticket for cash and watch it on TV, but I mean in a deeper sense. The football fan, as he was in the beginning, is not now, and never shall be again, game without end, may be dying.

"It's true," remarks sports columnist and football pundit Frank LaGrotta. "Even in the four years that we as seniors have been here, you can see how the fan support of the team has steadily deteriorated."

Al McGuire, were he here, would put it more succinctly. "It's Taps City."

Has winning become important? It's everything. That is, unless it has nothing to do with our ranking which leads the students to their Holy of Holies, the coveted Holy Grail, the *National Championship*. Nirvana itself. Heaven on earth. Pie in the sky.

It's lucky that the NCAA plays "see no evil" to all that goes on here. . . . I have a feeling that if there were officially no postseason play due to a violation, there would officially be no fan support to speak of. As it is now, no student since 1971 has failed to see a National Championship (though rumor has it that the Class of '82 will break the streak) and it just may be that we're getting a little spoiled around here.

Is that too harsh? Telling a Notre Dame crowd this is somewhat akin to Jimmy Carter telling America that there's a "crisis of confidence." As true as it is, people would much rather listen to the Republicans who tell them that it's all Carter's fault, not theirs.

But, for what they're worth, here are my observations on the state of fandom at Notre Dame today:

(1.) *He is unchristian.* About the only biblical act students perform in the stands now is weep, wail, gnash their teeth and rend their garments. He (using the neuter to denote *both* sexes) also uses naughty words, and, on occasion, "boos" his own players (witness Dick Boushka) when they don't rise to his sometimes unreal expectations of him. "Hey, nice try guys," is a rarely heard maxim that has not, in recent years, woken up the echoes.

(2.) *He is ex post facto:* The modern Notre Dame fan is happy to cheer loudly—*after* a drive has started, a point scored or when the defense has stopped a big play. But in the last four years, there has been a noticeable decline in our cheering at all other times. Any one of the cheerleaders will confirm that (they've been doing some heavy "scowling with dismay" at the "too cool to cheer" crowd who have not been cooperating lately). Sometimes the silence is so deafening it's embarrassing.

(3.) *He really doesn't appreciate football as a game.* This fickle animal was probably born before our time, but still, it is multiplying in great numbers of late. A win is a good game . . . and a loss is a bad game. Automatically. No questions asked. But Notre Dame has lost many *good* football games over the last four years. Few fans seem to appreciate that in other places with much worse football, students are making a lot more noise than we (i.e., in the South) and that we at Notre Dame are treated to fairly consistent quality on the field. Want to find out how lucky you are? Go back East for the annual Tufts-Amherst "battle" (annually one of the biggest on their schedule) . . . shades of the old high school days.

There may be reasons for this attitude. Some students are frustrated not because the team is losing *per se*, but because under Dan Devine, they don't feel that the team is living up to its potential. Others claim that rising female enrollment has hurt. Still others have proclaimed "increasing academic pressure" (which is becoming a buzzword for a plethora of woes) the demon of the fans' demise.

In this case, the causes are not as important as the effect. A truly good football fan should be able to rise above the aforementioned problems, and treat football as it should be treated. Not as the most important thing in the world, worthy of our anguish and swearing, but as healthy entertainment, as a very uplifting release from our day-to-day drudgery of schoolwork. We would appreciate the quality of football that we regularly are treated to here, and know that as much as we all like to win, the football team itself, and Coach Devine, want to win even more.

Only then will we be able to convert "taps" to "reveille."

The Male Man Delivers

by Frank LaGrotta

Notre Dame at Michigan. . .

It was supposed to be a big game; one the fans, television people and ticket scalpers would remember for a long time. And it was.

Officials expected a crowd well in excess of the 101,000 people that the stadium officially seats. And it was.

Sportswriters familiar with both teams predicted an easy Wolverine win. . .

But it wasn't.

In fact, it was quite the contrary, for on this opening day of Notre Dame's 91st football season, the Irish emerged with a 12-10 win that delighted their fans, confused their critics and plastered an ear-to-ear grin on the face of head coach Dan Devine.

"This is the biggest thrill of my coaching career," exclaimed an emotionally drained Devine in the winners locker room. "The coaches kept their cool, the players kept their cool and not one person on the team gave up.

"I'm very proud of every one of them."

And he had good reason to be—especially the ones on defense. After a weak first half where they allowed Michigan 212 yards and 12 first downs, the Irish defenders buckled down and held their opponents to only 94 yards and four first downs in the last two quarters.

Unfortunately, the offensive column didn't look any better on Notre Dame's side of the book. On the day, the Irish could only muster 179 total yards and four Chuck Male field goals. The senior placekicker from Cincinnati, OH, converted kicks of 40, 44, 22 and 39 yards to account for all of Notre Dame's points and his performance established a record for the most field goals made in a single game. Afterwards, Devine awarded Male the game ball for his efforts.

"Chuck really came through for us today," the coach smiled. "He's always done a great job because he's a great competitor with tremendous talent. Today's performance just illustrated that fact."

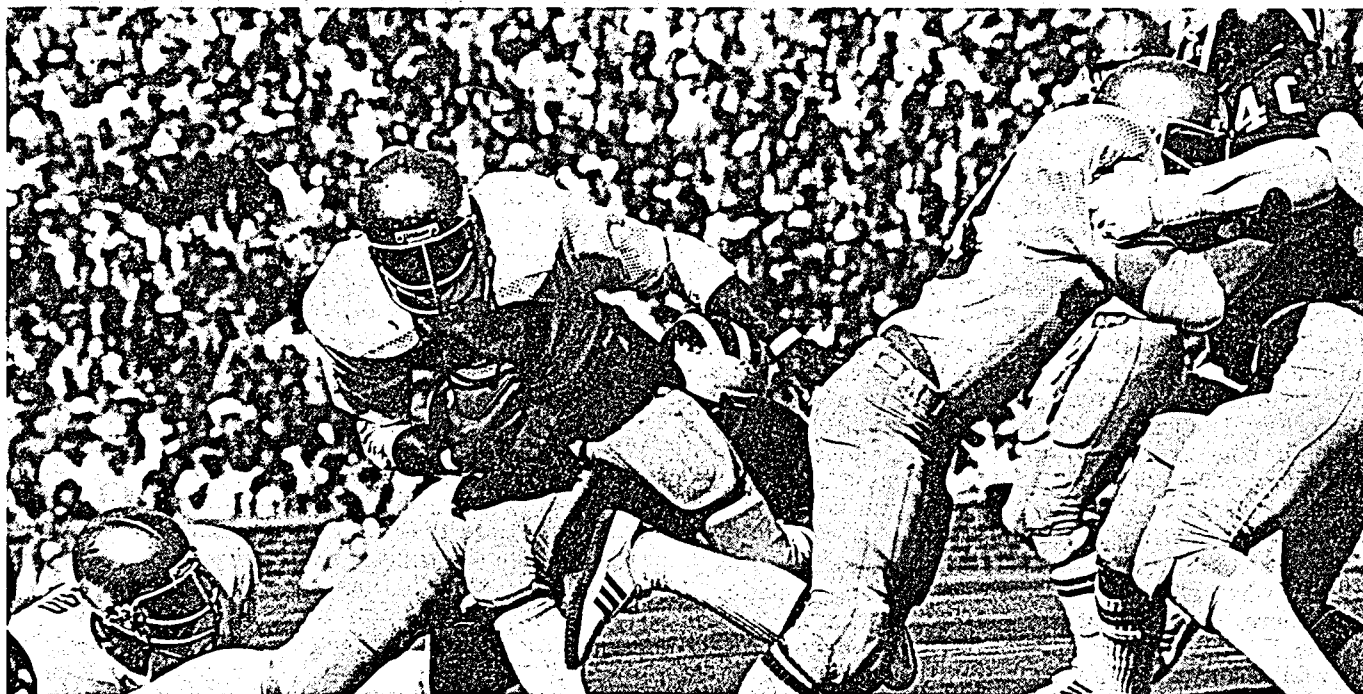
But Male was not a one-man show.

Number 32, halfback Vagas Ferguson was the one most responsible for getting the ball in Male's range, carrying 35 times for 118 yards. After the game, he leaned back against the wall and talked about the game.

"We just wanted it more than they did," a tired Ferguson pointed out. "Michigan has a real good football team and an excellent defense. You just have to give our team credit for playing a great game."

But while Male and Ferguson played "Dynamic Duo" for the Irish offense, the Notre Dame defense gave a clinic on teamwork. After allowing Michigan 10 first-half points, Dave Waymer, Scott Zettek and Co. shut them out in the second stanza—much the same way Notre Dame had been shut out in the second half the previous year after holding the halftime advantage.

Within that sophomore-dominated defensive crew, the most encouraging feature was the play of the line. Along with Zettek, who hadn't played since the Michigan game



of a year ago because of knee injuries, Mark Czaja also returned after a two-year absence due to a wrist injury, to answer many of the pregame questions about the strength of the Irish front four. They combined with ends John Hankerd and Joe Gramke and tackles Kevin Griffith, Don Kidd and Pat Kramer to keep the Wolverines out of Notre Dame territory on all but four occasions in the second half.

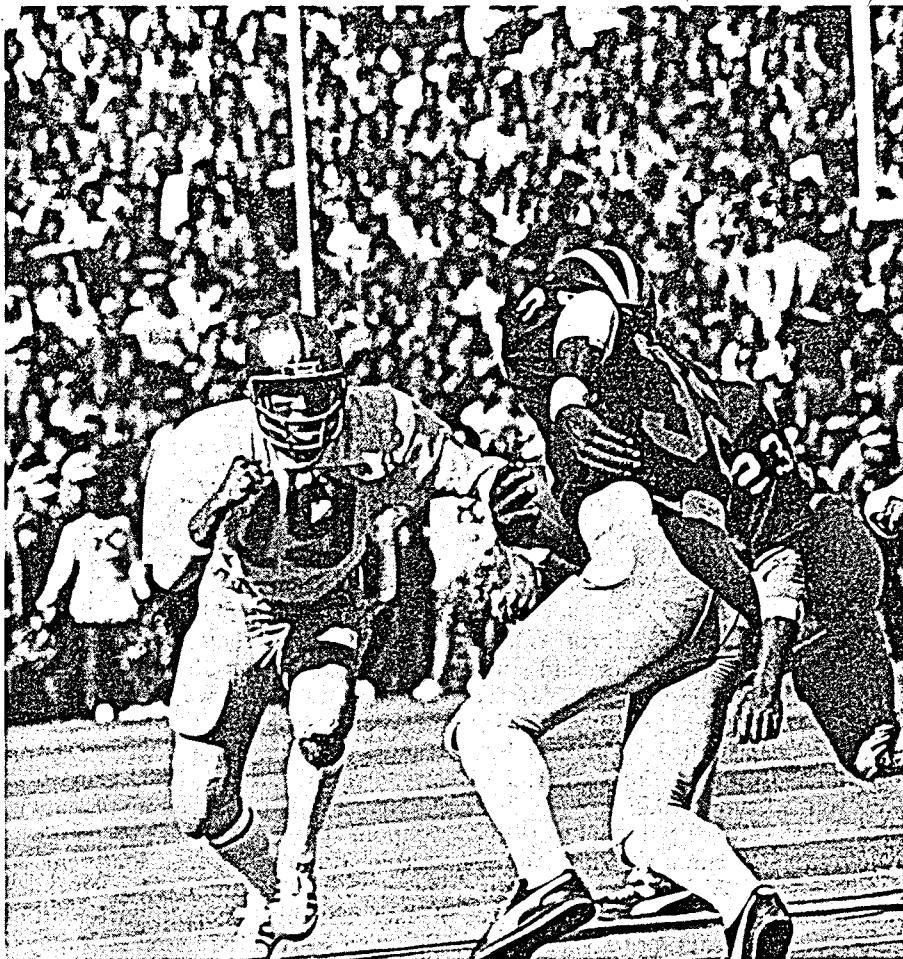
If there was a standout on this young defensive unit, it was sophomore middle linebacker Bob Crable. Racking up 10 solo tackles and two assists, it was Crable who got in the way of Bryan Virgil's 42-yard field goal attempt with only six seconds left in the game. If good, it would have given the Wolves a 13-12 win but it was not to be, thanks to Crable's perfectly timed high jump.

"When they snapped the ball, I just jumped over the center and tried to get as high as I could," Crable said later. "I felt the ball hit right on my left hip."

The start was nothing like the finish as coach Bo Schembechler's squad jumped out to a 3-0 lead on a 30-yard field goal that capped an opening 10-play, 84-yard drive. Male answered with a 40-yard three-pointer after Anthony Carter fumbled a Dick Boushka punt.

But it didn't take long for the Wolverines to break the deadlock as quarterback B. J. Dickey engineered an 80-yard drive that ended in a one-yard Stanley Edwards burst around left end for the touchdown. The conversion was perfect and Michigan led, 10-3.

Notre Dame closed the gap to four



on a 39-yard field goal with 4:48 to go in the second quarter and the half ended 10-6 in favor of Michigan.

Whatever Devine told his team at halftime must have hit home as the Irish came out like gangbusters in the third quarter, forcing Michigan to punt and then driving 65 yards for another Chuck Male field goal. Four and one half minutes later, Male did it again, this time from 39 yards out, and the Irish were in front to stay.

But while there was no more scoring, there was a lot more football—hard-nosed defensive football—the kind Notre Dame and Michigan are known for. Michigan's Ali Haji-Sheikh attempted a 50-yard field goal with 11:14 remaining but the kick hooked wide. The game then became a punter's duel until, with a little

less than five minutes remaining, Irish quarterback Mike Courey, replacing injured starter, Rusty Lisch, threw the ball right into the waiting arms of All-Big Ten cornerback, Mike Jolly. Schembechler replaced Dickey, his starting signalcaller with senior John Wangler who passed on six of eight plays en route to leading Michigan on a 48-yard drive that ended with the blocked field goal.

It was an important win for Notre Dame who entered the season ranked ninth in the nation. Important for all the obvious reasons but also because it gave the Irish squad the needed confidence to face what the NCAA officially rated the toughest schedule in the land. And they would need all they could get to play the tough Purdue Boilermakers at West Lafayette the next week.

Notre Dame	3	3	6	0—12
Michigan	3	7	0	0—10

Scoring:

UM — Virgil, 30-yard field goal
 ND — Male, 40-yard field goal
 UM — Edwards, 1-yard run (Virgil kick)
 ND — Male, 44-yard field goal
 ND — Male, 22-yard field goal
 ND — Male, 39-yard field goal

Herrmann's Boilers Stew Irish

by Michael Ortman

It was a game full of little surprises.

Purdue boasted one of the finest passing games in the country, and Notre Dame was without its number-one quarterback, Rusty Lisch, injured a week earlier. Nonetheless, the Irish outpassed the Boilermakers by over 40 yards.

Surprise.

Irish placekicker Chuck Male lined up for a first-quarter field goal attempt, but holder Greg Knafelc, also the fourth-string quarterback, took the snap, rolled right and hit tight end Dean Masztak with a 17-yard touchdown strike.

Surprise.

Boilermaker running backs John Macon and Wally Jones both racked up more running yards (86 and 85 yards, respectively) than Irish star Vagas Ferguson, who finished with 79 yards on 25 carries, stifled by an inspired Purdue defense.

Surprise.

One big thing wasn't so surprising. The final score: Purdue 28 and Notre Dame 22. Although the Irish were ranked fifth in the nation and the Boilers 17th, host Purdue was a one-and-one-half-point favorite.

It might have been an entirely different story had the injury-riddled Irish been able to field a reasonably healthy lineup. "We have 19 players on full scholarship out for the year (with injuries)," asserted Irish coach Dan Devine. "That's not an excuse. We just have to play over them."

That total of 19 did not include the absence of Lisch, out with a sprained ankle suffered against Michigan, or cornerback Dave Waymer who missed the entire second half with a knee injury. "With the injuries," said Devine, "we just can't play the football that we'd like to."

The Irish limped into Ross-Ade Stadium with hopes of extending their winning streak against Big Ten foes to four straight. The visitors got on the board first as Devine pulled some razzle-dazzle out of the play book with the fake field goal,

as Knafelc connected with Masztak, the first touchdown pass of the sophomore's college career.

But Purdue came roaring back on the next series to tie the score on a 15-yard pass from All-Big Ten quarterback Mark Herrmann to junior tight end Dave Young. The score climaxed a perfect 12-play, 78-yard drive on which the Boilers could do little wrong, picking up six, seven, eight yards almost at will.

The first quarter was not yet over, but Purdue had already made one thing quite clear. The Boiler offense intended to run the ball, using its potent passing attack as a secondary weapon.

"We weren't prepared for them to run that much," admitted Irish linebacker Bobby Leopold after the game. Of Purdue's 75 offensive plays of the afternoon, 55 were on the ground, netting 169 yards.

"Not to take anything away from Herrmann," said Devine, "but they beat us with their running game. They were certainly more physical than we were."

A pair of second-quarter field goals ran Male's streak to six straight three-pointers and gave the Irish a misleading 13-7 halftime lead. Notre Dame had controlled the Purdue scoring helped largely by a Dave Waymer interception at the Irish nine, the play on which Waymer suffered the crippling knee injury that would sideline the senior captain for the next three games.

Devine once again reached into his bag of tricks with just over two minutes left in the first half and pulled out a pass play which helped set up Male's 32-yarder. Ferguson took the handoff and then gave the ball to flanker Pete Holohan on the reverse who proceeded to pass to freshman speedster Tony Hunter at the Purdue 31-yard line for a 34-yard gain.

Although the gadget plays were effective, Purdue clearly dominated the line of scrimmage throughout most of the game. "You don't win big football games by fooling people," Devine admitted later. "Re-

verse passes and fake field goals aren't what win football games. You need to play strong defense and run well, overpower 'em. Obviously, we didn't."

The Boilermakers took the kickoff to open the second half to their 22 but were frustrated by Irish defensive end John Hankerd who dumped Herrmann for a 13-yard loss on a third-and-five situation. The ensuing punt, however, would be Purdue's last.

Notre Dame built its lead to 20-7 on the next possession, moving 62 yards on just eight plays, highlighted by a fine quarterbacking display by junior Tim Koegel. The Cincinnati, Ohio, native completed both of his pass attempts covering 33 yards including a four-yard scoring strike to tight end Nick Vehr.

The scoring drive marked the only time that an Irish quarterback was able to settle into a groove and move the club. With Lisch sidelined, Devine had opted to juggle Koegel and Mike Courey throughout the game. Neither Koegel, a drop back passer, nor Courey, a roll-out quarterback, knew which would be in the game or when. More often than not, the strategy backfired. Koegel finished with just six completions, good for 81 yards, in 18 attempts plus a costly interception. Courey hit on three of his four attempts for 67 yards.

"I didn't like to substitute as we did today," admitted Devine. "We have to settle down and go with one guy next week."

Following the Notre Dame touchdown, Male boomed the kickoff out of the end zone, and the Boilers took over at their own 20. Herrmann then directed a textbook drive, marching his team 80 yards on 14 plays. Another in a great line of Purdue quarterbacks, including Len Dawson, Bob Griese, Mike Phipps, and Gary Danielson, Herrmann looked more like Roger Staubach, pulling the trigger of Purdue's rare but effective shotgun formation.

On one key third-and-seven situation, Herrmann lined up five yards behind his center, took the snap and

hit Bart Burrell, good for 11 yards to keep the drive going. During the 5:32 trek, the Boilermakers were four-of-four on third-down conversions including a third-and-one scoring blast by tailback Jones.

The tide was clearly turning in the favor of the home team. A crowd of 70,567, the largest ever to see a football game in the state of Indiana, roared its approval of the score and continued to inspire the defense which performed heroically down the stretch.

The Irish took over at their own 27, but offensively, nothing would work. "It was going to be a play-action pass," said Koegel of the first play, "and we had a man (Ty Dickerson) downfield about 25 or 30 yards. He was open." Koegel also was open, and tackle Calvin Clark and nose guard Ken Loushin smothered him for a nine-yard loss.

On third-and-twenty, Koegel aimed for Hunter at the Irish 35-yard line, but sophomore free safety Marcus McKinnie carved himself a big slice of stardom, picking off the pass and returning it to the Irish eight.

At that point there was no stopping them. Three Jones runs were all the Boilers needed to take a 21-20 lead, the score coming from two yards out, Jones' second in less than three minutes.

Purdue started the fourth quarter by silencing the Notre Dame offense without a first down. The Irish picked up only four first downs in the second half compared to 11 for the Boilermakers.

Herrmann and company then embarked on another long drive, this one covering 63 yards on just ten plays with Herrmann connecting on all four of his pass attempts for 41 yards, the final one being a six-yard touchdown pass to Burrell who had beaten Dick Boushka in the end zone.

Waymer's absence did not go unnoticed by anyone. "When Waymer went out," said Herrmann, "we started throwing at his replacement (Boushka) and were successful."

"Waymer's injury hurt us," admitted Devine, "but you can't blame the loss on the backup people."

Yet with Waymer out, Herrmann threw considerably more than in the first half. During the two, long, second-half scoring drives, Herrmann was eight-of-eleven for 103 yards. He finished the game 14-of-20



for 158 yards.

Courey trotted onto the field to try to get the Irish rolling and started off in grand fashion. Yet after a 43-yard bomb to Dickerson down the right sideline, Courey was pulled in favor of Koegel. The new quarterback was then sacked on first down, threw incomplete to Hunter on second, and was sacked again on third down.

Freshman Dave Duerson replaced Boushka in the Notre Dame secondary and offered a glimmer of hope to the Irish faithful. On a key third-down play, the rookie dumped Jones behind the line, forcing Purdue to punt.

But sophomore punter Joe Linville gobbled up a bad snap from center, and calmly fell on the ball, taking the safety rather than a possible touchdown.

When asked about key plays in the game, Purdue coach Jim Young singled out Linville's alert play over McKinnie's interception. "There were many key plays, as there usually are in a game like this," he said, "but the big play in my estimation, was Linville taking the safety instead of getting a kick blocked or

trying to run it out of the end zone."

Now trailing by six, the Irish had one last opportunity to pull it out but were stopped cold at the Purdue 44. With just 3:13 remaining and a fourth-and-eight situation staring him in the face, Devine elected to punt, hoping his defense could stop the Boilers quickly.

"We thought about going for it," said Devine, "but we weren't having much success at moving the ball. Yes, we thought about it. We thought about a lot of things. . . ."

Two first downs later, Herrmann fell on the ball to seal Purdue's first win at home over Notre Dame since 1969.

"The whole team just put it together in the second half," said Purdue's Tom Kingsbury. The junior defensive end led the Boilers with 14 tackles, eight unassisted. "The offense gave us the lift we needed, then our emotions took over."

"Anytime you beat Notre Dame," said Young, "you know you've beaten the best."

Notre Dame's coach wasn't quite as enthusiastic. "I'm not surprised at anything anymore."

Notre Dame	7	6	7	2—22
Purdue	7	0	14	7—28

Scoring:

ND — Masztak, 17-yard pass from Knafelc (Male kick)
 PU — Young, 15-yard pass from Herrmann (Seibel kick)
 ND — Male, 40-yard field goal
 ND — Male, 32-yard field goal
 ND — Vehr, 4-yard pass from Koegel (Male kick)
 PU — Jones, 1-yard run (Seibel kick)
 PU — Jones, 2-yard run (Seibel kick)
 PU — Burrell, 6-yard pass from Herrmann (Seibel kick)
 ND — Safety. High snap into endzone on punt attempt

INJURIES: THEY CAN HURT THE HEART, TOO

by Lou Pagley

The Saturday afternoon clash on the gridiron is something that collegiate football fans have enjoyed for many years. They cheer their heroes, root for the home team, and scream for the referee's head on a platter. But these confrontations witnessed by millions weekly are only a portion of what goes into the game of college football.

Long hours of practice and more hours of strategy meetings are an indispensable part of the game. The average college football player puts in 10 to 15 hours of practice each week, and during that time there occurs, on more than a few occasions, the most feared element in the game: that is, the injury.

In a sport of this nature, there is a definite possibility of an injury; it is somewhat an accepted part of the game, but nonetheless, difficult to take, especially for the immediate victim. An injury is more than a *physical* hurt; it can be a crushing blow to the psyche of the individual. The injured player is not only set back physically, but also must use the time in which he would ordinarily be gaining experience for recuperative training. Oftentimes, when the player returns to the lineup he is a step slower or a bit weaker than he was prior to the injury. This, too, hinders his progress. In some less frequent situations, the injury may leave the victim permanently damaged.

There is a handful of graduating seniors here at Notre Dame whose careers have been ended by injury. Four years ago, these young men were hopeful of a prosperous football career at the most renowned university in the country, *the* name in college football. Their names may not be as familiar as Vagas Ferguson, Tim Foley, or Dave Waymer, but they may well have been, if Lady Luck had been in their corner.

These men are now full-time students and have tried to put football aside, even though it had gotten to be a way of life. Pat Boggs, a Columbus, Ohio, product out of Upper Arlington High School, and Dave Mitchell, from St. Mary's High in Phoenix, Arizona, are two such men; and the list continues with names like Ron Merriweather (San Marcos, Texas), Chris Muhlenkamp (Ansonia, Ohio), Tom Vandenburg (Merrillville, Indiana), Jim Morse (Muskegon, Michigan), and K. C. Ryan (Birmingham, Michigan).

The realization that a dream has come to an end is a difficult thing for a young man to accept, and when the factor that ended it is beyond his control, it makes it even tougher.

Pat Boggs was one of several linebacking prospects "brought in" by the Notre Dame coaching staff in 1976. He won acclaim as one of the fine prep linebackers in the country, and certainly in the state of Ohio. The 6'2", 215-lb. Boggs did not, however, get the opportunity to prove himself due to an injured left knee sustained only a few days after the start of fall practice. Boggs would later discover that 1976 would not be the only year in which *injury* would affect him. He found it to be a haunting recurrence which would ultimately force him out of football for good.

Boggs remembers his first injury (torn ligaments on the inside of his left knee) as something he really couldn't believe: "I was completely unprepared. It all happened so fast. My first thought was that it was merely a sprain, mostly due to the fact that there wasn't much pain. But as the doctor examined it, I could tell it was more serious, and when he said, 'It's gone,' my heart dropped to my stomach.

"It was especially difficult for me because I had never been injured before in all my previous years of football, so adapting to a situation of this nature was trying."

Boggs was in a leg cast for six weeks while his knee healed, so this gave him the opportunity to think about his future at Notre Dame.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to play again, whether it was worth the pain and suffering of rehabilitation training. But I made my decision to return while attending a pep rally a few weeks after the injury occurred."

Boggs had the option of whether to continue playing or simply remaining at Notre Dame as a student. He would remain on football scholarship, but would not be an active member of the team. This idea did not sit too well with him and he was soon going through the rigorous training involved in recovering from an injury of that nature.

"My knee had healed better than 100%, and the doctor said that mine was one of the fastest recoveries he'd seen. That gave me a great deal of hope for the future."

In the spring of his freshman year, Boggs was back on the field, but soon after, lightning struck again. A broken hand was his undoing this time and it kept him out of the spring game, which he'd really hoped to play in.

"The broken hand made me more angry than depressed. It was the type of injury that I really could have played with, since it was more of a 'nagger' than an 'immobilizer.' It was a blow to me emotionally rather than physically. That made it hard to swallow."

After recovering and finally getting in the "swing of things" as a sophomore linebacker, Boggs was starting to feel good about his future as a Notre Dame gridder. Then, the roof fell in.

In the spring of 1978, Pat Boggs sustained torn ligaments in his right knee. This time it was the outside of the knee and much more serious.

"The pain was excruciating and I knew immediately that it would have to be cut (operated on). I was angry and upset, with the world and even with God. I felt that it was unfair and that I had been let down. I realized that my football career was probably over and again I was uncertain about whether I even *wanted* to play again."

After undergoing surgery, Boggs found himself in a cast again, this time for seven weeks. His knee was still not yet at full strength when fall practice rolled around, so he sat out and watched still another season go by.



Boggs' determination and perseverance once again forbade his "retirement" from the game which had recently been so cruel to him. This recuperation was tougher than the previous ones because of the seriousness of the injury as well as the emotional strain that this recurring "nightmare" had put on his brain.

Boggs' off-season work went for naught due to a technical mixup in the training room. Four days before he was to take the field for spring practice of his junior year he was informed that he *must* wear a brace on his knee for additional support. The brace could not be delivered for four weeks, and so, Pat Boggs was once again watching from the sidelines due to circumstances beyond his control.

After discussing with his coaches his plans to return in his senior campaign, Boggs worked diligently for what was perhaps his final shot. Upon his return to school at the beginning of the 1979 fall practice, Boggs was hit with the most discouraging and disheartening news of his football career.

"The day after I returned to fall practice, I was called into Coach Devine's office. In five short minutes, all my dreams were shattered and I realized that all the work I had done over the summer was in vain. Coach Devine said that since I was susceptible to further injury, he couldn't allow me to play. I feel, however, that anyone who puts on the pads is susceptible to injury; that's something you have to accept when you decide to play football. I was given the okay to play by my doctor back home, so I felt I deserved the opportunity, and I am somewhat bitter about the situation. My bitterness, however, stems from the *way* the situation was *handled*, not the situation itself. If I was told at the beginning of the summer that I wasn't going to be allowed to play, I wouldn't be nearly as bitter. But I felt that I was *led on*, and then dropped like I wasn't even a person; but like I was a *number* instead. I believe that there was no intention of letting me play because of the NCAA scholarship player limitation (only 95 scholarship players are permitted to be active members in any one season). I wasn't told man-to-man of the situation, and I was instead treated as an expendable item on a roster."

David Mitchell was a star fullback on the St. Mary's football squad in Phoenix, Arizona. But unlike Pat Boggs, he was no stranger to injury when he enrolled at Notre Dame in the fall of 1976. After gaining an incredible 1900 yards as a high school junior, Dave missed about half his senior year with a strained knee.

Mitchell entered Notre Dame healthy, however, and began demonstrating his running talents early as a Junior Varsity fullback. In the third JV game of his freshman year, however, Mitchell was stricken much the same way Pat Boggs had been a few short months earlier. He sustained torn ligaments on the inside of his left knee, and was in a cast for six weeks. Mitchell opted to forego spring practice that year in order to let his knee be at full strength for fall practice of 1977.

This proved to be a wise decision as Mitchell was more than ready to step in at fullback for the Irish. He saw his first substantial amount of action in the Purdue game, which Irish fans will remember as the turning point of what became a National Championship season. Mitchell not only contributed but scored the *winning* touchdown that day. He played regularly

that year although he was slowed by a dislocated shoulder suffered in the Georgia Tech game. While practicing at the Cotton Bowl prior to Notre Dame's 38-10 victory over Texas, Mitchell reinjured his already-tender shoulder and watched the Cotton Bowl Classic from the sidelines. In February of 1978, he underwent surgery to strengthen and solidify the injured joint. He underwent surgery later that year (in May) to remove the pin which was used in the process. Mitchell then began to think of his future as he missed spring ball of his sophomore year:

"I thought that if I got hurt again, my career would be in serious jeopardy, and I wondered how I could possibly withstand another surgery."

Mitchell was ready when fall practice began in 1978, and was to play quite a bit of ball after starting six games and scoring Notre Dame's first touchdown in the 49-19 rout of Southern Cal the year before. But 1978 was to be the season of the "nagging" injury for David Mitchell. He suffered a sprained left knee a few weeks before the Missouri game, which opened the 1978 season. Mitchell, therefore, saw limited action in the first half of the season, and when he sprained his ankle in the Tennessee game, he was again forced to watch the action as one of the "Walking Wounded."

"I began to feel that it was somewhat unfair, and I would ask God why this happened to me. I felt that I was a good person and perhaps deserved a better fate. But I really believe that it made me a *better* person. It certainly made me a more religious person, and made me realize that football was not the most important thing in the world."

Mitchell went into spring practice of his junior year as the starting fullback and remained #1 for the Blue-Gold game, which closed out spring practice. But the spring game would prove to be Dave Mitchell's last, at least as a Notre Dame football player. This time it was Mitchell's right knee in which he tore ligaments. He spent seven weeks with his leg in a cast, and the thought of playing again seemed like just a dream.

"As soon as it happened, I knew it wouldn't be ready right away, because it was pretty much the same feeling as I had when I injured the other one. It was then that I felt sure my career was over. But there was a flicker of hope; I guess there almost always is. I really believed that God puts pressure on those who He knows can handle it the best. This is the way I felt, and I had hope (little as it was) for the future."

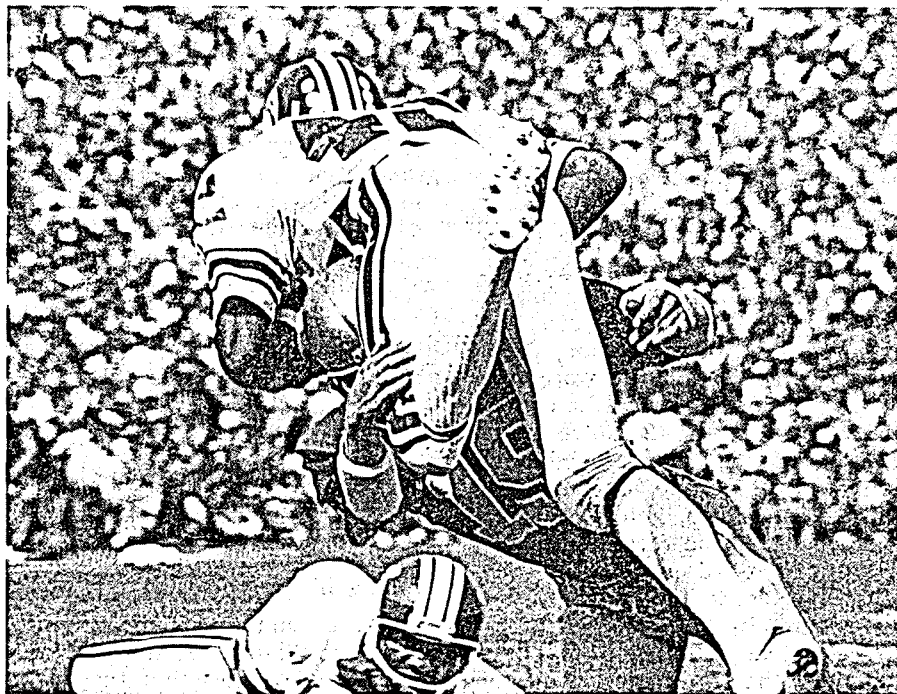
But it wasn't to be for Dave Mitchell. The knee did not heal fast enough, and he was forced to give up the game which he loved "because he could exert himself in the pursuit of a goal." After deciding that four operations were enough, Mitchell limited himself as a "coach" for the freshman running backs, and tried to put the idea of *playing* again out of his mind.

"I'm ready to face life now with my Notre Dame degree, and I don't regret coming here or playing football for a second. It has made me a better individual and helped me put things in perspective. I'll just go out and face the world; I'll face it with a few more hurts and bruises than a lot of people, but that's life."

Both Pat Boggs and Dave Mitchell were finally forced to succumb to the power greater than anyone. There was certainly no lack of effort or fortitude on their part, but still they are left with the scars that accompany a situation such as the one they lived through. It is a difficult thing to overcome, as they have discovered. Pat Boggs and Dave Mitchell know firsthand that football injuries can hurt the heart, too.

Michigan State Welcome Home

by Skip Desjardin



Coming home.

The whole Notre Dame football season seemed to rest on this game. Since classes had begun in August, everyone had been saying that the 1979 season could possibly be decided by the end of the third game. The Irish opened the season with three of the preseason's Top Twenty teams. As if the away games at Michigan and Purdue weren't enough, Notre Dame had to open its home season against the 1978 Big Ten Co-champions, the Michigan State Spartans. Only NCAA probation had kept them out of the 1979 Rose Bowl.

In August, the fans had the season figured out, or so they thought. Everyone had an opinion:

"If we win the first three, we're talking national championship."

"If we drop the first two, we can kiss the bowl games good-bye."

"All we need is a split in the first two away games, because after that we come home!"

Coming home.

The Irish had pulled a dramatic upset in Ann Arbor to insure the split on the road. Then they had met up with a red-hot Mark Herrmann and the Boilermakers. Things hadn't gone as well. But now they were

home. The last of the three-game series with the cream of the Big Ten crop had arrived. This was the game that would turn the tide one way or the other.

This MSU team was not one to be taken lightly. They came into this Saturday undefeated and ranked seventh in the nation. Sure, they had lost Ed Smith, one of the top passers in Big Ten history, to graduation; but Bert Vaughn was no shabby passer himself. His day looked like it would be an even brighter one after the Irish had lost co-captain Dave Waymer with an injury during the Purdue game, but freshman Dave Duerson was ready to step in to fill those shoes.

Duerson, along with freshman standouts John Sweeney and Tony Hunter, would all be starting their first home games. All three agreed that it was going to be the thrill of their athletic lives.

It was a beautiful day for a football game. The crowd was ready for its first game in ten months, the weather was near-perfect, the field conditions were near-perfect, and so, it turned out, were the Irish.

For the third week in a row, the Irish won the toss, and for the third week in a row, Vagas Ferguson went

to work immediately. Vagas sandwiched seven rushes around a 15-yard Rusty Lisch to Pete Holohan pass and the Irish were driving. The drive ended abruptly, however, when Ferguson fumbled the ball and MSU recovered on its own 25-yard line.

Vaughn attempted three straight pass plays and the Spartans were forced to punt. Ty Dickerson dropped back and took the kick for the first return of his career. When he was finally knocked out of bounds, Dickerson had himself a 51-yard return, and the Irish had the ball on the MSU five-yard line! Two Vagas Ferguson runs and a quarterback sneak left the ball on the one-foot line. All over the stadium, words like "Missouri," "last year," and "remember" were mumbled. Murmurs turned to cries of dismay a few minutes later, as Rusty Lisch failed to get in on a keeper. Nightmares of the 3-0 loss to the Missouri Tigers in the sweltering heat of a year ago returned to thousands of minds. Fumbles and failed "fourth-and-shorts" had stifled three drives that day. We couldn't possibly be in for a repeat. Could we?

Not hardly.

Again Michigan State was forced to punt from deep in its own territory, and again the Irish offense went to work. Moments later, the freshman, Hunter, caught the first of many collegiate touchdown passes and Notre Dame was on the scoreboard. The fans breathed a collective sigh of relief.

The Spartans had plenty of life left in them, as they showed on the next series. MSU had good field position after a 45-yard kick-off return by Hughes. A 27-yard run by Smith didn't hurt matters either. Before most people realized it, the Spartans had the ball on the Notre Dame 11-yard line, and they were knocking at the door.

Vaughn dropped back to pass on third and seven, but he threw the ball right into the hands of Irish defensive back Tom Gibbons. Gibbons grabbed the ball at the Notre Dame one-yard line and took off up field. Spartan wide receiver Eugene Byrd was the only man with a chance to catch him, which he did, but not until Gibbons had carried the ball 51 yards to the MSU 48-yard line. It proved to be a very costly play for the Spartans, as

quarterback Bert Vaughn was shaken up after a hit from ND lineman John Hankerd. Vaughn would not return for the rest of the game.

Once again, Vagas Ferguson went to work. He carried the ball seven times for 31 yards and, along with runs by Lisch and Barber, brought the ball to the Michigan State one-foot line. All through the 1978 season, the Irish seemed to have had problems getting the ball in from close. The Missouri and USC games attest to that. The trend certainly appeared to be continuing today. For the third time, Notre Dame could not score at the end of a big drive. This time it was a Ferguson drive that fell short on fourth down, and once again the Spartans took over deep in their own end. Stachowicz was forced to punt out of his end zone again, after MSU could manage to gain only three yards in three plays.

After an incomplete pass to Hunter, Notre Dame had the ball, second down and 10 yards to go at its own 41. Lisch threw a screen pass to Barber, and he raced to the MSU 23, a pick-up of 36. Two plays later, however, a 15-yard holding penalty took the wind out of the Irish sails, and they had to settle for a 49-yard field goal from Chuck Male. With just over seven minutes to go in the half, the Irish led, 10-0.

Once again, the Michigan State Spartans took over, and once again, an extremely tough Irish defense forced them to punt. This time, however, the snap was low, and Stachowicz could only manage to shank a six-yard punt! Notre Dame had the ball in good field position.

Three straight runs by Bernie Adell, one of them a 34-yarder, brought the ball to the Spartan 19. From there Chuck Male hit his second field goal of the day. That made the score 13-0 in favor of Notre Dame.

With only 2:38 to go in the half, it looked like the Irish would keep that 13-point lead going into the locker room. But the Spartans had been battling all day, and they continued to do so. Runs by Reeves and Smith, and a Clark pass to Middleton got MSU to the ND 36. With no time left on the clock, Morten Anderson came in and hit a 53-yard field goal. It was the longest ever kicked against Notre Dame, and tied a record as the longest field goal in the history of Notre Dame Stadium. So the Spartans had a big emotional lift at the end of the half.

But the field goal to end the half must also have fired up the Notre Dame defensive unit, because they came flying out to start the second half. With MSU in possession of the ball, third and three, on its own 48-yard line, John Hankerd busted through, forcing a fumble that the Spartans recovered. The bad news came for Spartan fans when Clark, who had replaced the injured Bert Vaughn in the first quarter, was unable to get up. He too would be lost for the afternoon.

After Stachowicz, who would later come in as the third MSU quarterback, punted, the Irish had the ball on its own 13-yard line. As he had been all afternoon, Vagas Ferguson was again the workhorse for the Irish. He carried the ball on eight of the next 12 Notre Dame plays, including gains of eight and 10 yards. He capped the drive off with a touchdown, going 24 yards, untouched, for the score. With 5:32 to go in the third quarter, the Irish, following Chuck Male's point-after, were on top by 17, 20-3.

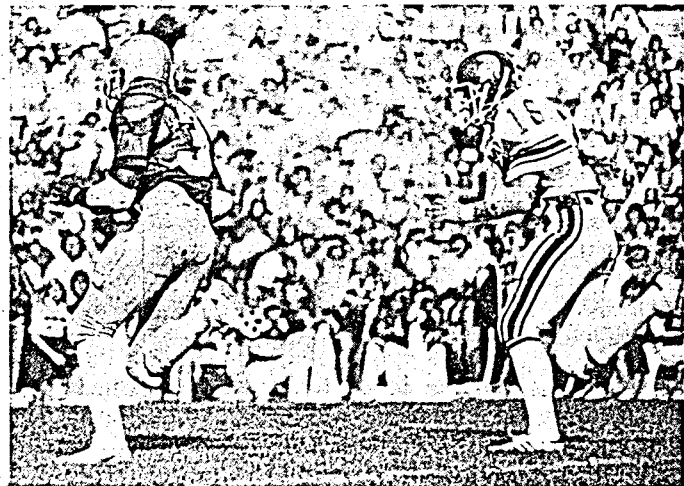
The defense continued to shine, stopping the Spartans again on three plays. A busy Stachowicz punted from his own 13, and the Irish were in great field position again. Barber ran for eight, then Adell and Ferguson combined to

pick up a yard on two plays. Notre Dame had the ball, third and inches, when Rusty Lisch pitched out to Vagas. The senior co-captain walked a tight rope down the sidelines for a beautiful 48-yard touchdown run. That put the score at 27-3 in favor of the Irish.

That's the way it would stay, as the Irish took a very impressive victory. They had come home in grand style. The team had showed some flashes of offensive brilliance, and an awesome defense. Although eight games remained, all the fans were relieved that these first three games were over. The "easy" part of the schedule was coming up. It's not that USC, Georgia Tech and Tennessee were pushovers, but these first three games seemed to be the key to a successful season. They had come away from the Big Ten matchups a very respectable two and one, and emotions, as well as expectations for the future, were running high.

On this sunny September Saturday, the Fightin' Irish of Notre Dame served notice that they were not to be counted out of the picture, for bowl games or for more.

Notre Dame had come home, and proved that this year's club, too, was for real.



Michigan State	0	3	0	0 — 3
Notre Dame	7	6	14	0 — 27

Scoring:

ND — Hunter, 14-yard pass from Lisch (Male kick)
 ND — Male, 49-yard field goal
 ND — Male, 36-yard field goal
 MSU — Andersen, 53-yard field goal
 ND — Ferguson, 24-yard run (Male kick)
 ND — Ferguson, 48-yard run (Male kick)

Gridiron

Reflections

by Anthony Walton

The campus was disappointed at the way the season turned out. Did you expect a better season at the beginning?

Ferguson—Any time you start out anything you're doing you want to do well at it. Especially as a senior I wanted to have a good season, both personally and teamwise. I've been playing with some of these guys for a long time and I wanted to go out a winner. We did in a sense.

Were you satisfied with your personal season?

As far as records and things, it was good. Now I'm looking back on it, of course, because during the season it didn't really mean that much to me. It's a team thing during the season, but it's nice to have things to look back on, and in the future I think it will be something nice.

Were you disappointed in the way the Heisman turned out?

Ferguson—Not really. Again, that's an individual award. During the season I don't really get involved with all that stuff, and now it doesn't really mean that much. Whatever happened, happened. I wasn't really hoping to win it; if I did, good, if I didn't, well, that's okay, too. The most important award to me was the MVP award from our team. That was much more of an honor than the Heisman because it was chosen by people I play with and people that know me personally.

What's in the future for you?

Ferguson—I think I have an option; I have a chance to play pro football if I want to, and I don't have to if I don't want to. Financially, it would be something good, as far as getting ahead, that's always good. I feel like I can always do something else. Right now I'm working with



Vagas Ferguson

computers, and that's what I really want to do. If I get drafted, I'll go that way. If not, I have something else I can do.

Is your attitude toward the pros shaped by what happened to Jerome Heavens?

Ferguson—Pretty much, you know it shows you that nothing is guaranteed. He went to a team that could use a fullback of his caliber, plus a backfield coach who coached him for two years was there, so you think, hey, he'll make it, our old coach will take care of him. But he didn't. It didn't come through. So it tells me that nothing is guaranteed.

If you had it to do over again, would you come here?

Ferguson—As far as what I've accomplished here, on the field and in the classroom, there's nothing that could match that. I've won on the field and academically. I've won the national championship and I'm graduating, so that's the most important thing. Especially that I'm going to graduate. That's something that no one can ever take away from me. They can always take football away from me, but that degree and the knowledge that I have now, they can never take that away from me. That's the most important thing. That's why I came here.

If you don't make pro ball, are your football days over? You won't coach or anything?

Ferguson—Right now I don't think that I would go into coaching. If pro ball doesn't work out, I think that's it.

Is there anything else that you would like to say?

Ferguson—Yes. I've enjoyed myself here.



Dave Waymer

I know the team didn't have as good a season as you had anticipated, but I was wondering, what were your goals?

Waymer—Well, every year, because Notre Dame is not in a conference or anything and we can't play for a conference championship, we have to play for the national championship every year. That's a goal we set every year here, and this year was no different. We set our goals very early, like last spring, and things just didn't fall in the right place. We had a lot of injuries, people not being able to play and it really told during the year.

Was the season something of a disappointment, personally? I mean considering your injury and having to miss part of the season.

Waymer—Well, I got through the season being able to walk off the field and that's something I wanted to do. I was pretty disappointed that I missed three games after getting hurt in the Purdue game but it's just one of those things. It was the first time that I ever had to miss a football game, you know sitting on the sidelines was strange to me. I had a string of interceptions going, until the knee thing, but it worked out and there's nothing wrong now and I'm thankful to God for that.

What's in the future for you, do you hope to turn pro?

Waymer—Well, I'm going to play pro ball for a while, you know, to financially get on my feet and that's a good step that could help me and I'm also doing interviews through the placement bureau and on my own. I'm really looking forward to getting out and onto my next step of life.

What would you say was the biggest thrill that you had at Notre Dame?

Waymer—I would say winning the national championship. That was one of the goals I set over the course of my career. I always wanted that. It was a dream come true for a lot of people and it's nice to be able to say that you achieved a goal like that that you set out to do. I think that's one I'll never forget.



Tim Foley

I'm sure you expected to do better this year as a team and I'm sure that this season was something of a disappointment to you. I was wondering if you had any reflections on that.

Foley—Well, any time a Notre Dame team goes 7-4 there is a feeling of disappointment on campus. However, for the injuries we had and the schedule we had I think we did a fine job. A lot of young people matured. We didn't get the big play as we had in previous years but at a lot of schools a 7-4 season would be a great accomplishment. But, since in my four years here the previous three had been such glorious years there was a feeling of disappointment.

How do you feel about your personal accomplishments?

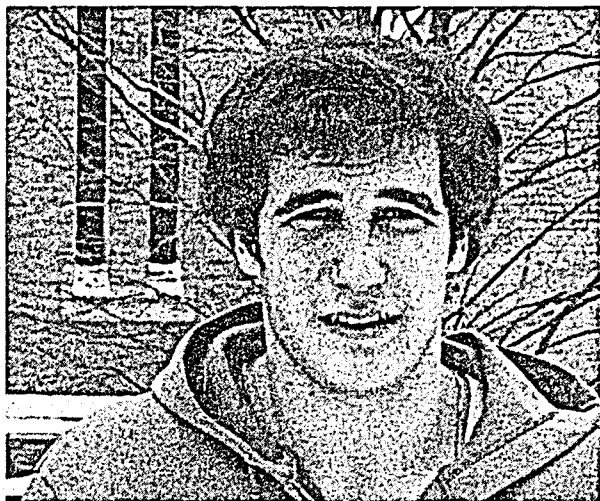
Foley—Everyone's goal, teamwise, going into the season is to be national champs. That we accomplished my sophomore year here. Personally, I thought I played well this year, and our team was gifted with a great runner like Vagas Ferguson which makes blocking easy. Playing for a school like Notre Dame, which means that you're in the national picture quite a bit, really helps as far as national publicity and All-American exposure.

What was your biggest thrill at Notre Dame?

Foley—I would say two thrills. The first was coming out in the green jerseys and beating Southern Cal here at home and that same year beating Texas for the national championship.

If you had your four years to do over again would you come back here?

Foley—Oh, definitely. I have no regrets coming here. I have met some great people, not only on the football team, for example, all my roommates are nonfootball players, I'm graduating on time, I'll have a degree, I've won a national championship, three bowl victories. Personally, things have worked out very well for me. It's just a class institution and it's an experience I wish every young man coming out of high school could enjoy.



Rusty Lisch

Two years ago, Joe Montana replaced you. Do you think that you vindicated yourself?

Lisch—I don't look at it as a matter of vindication or anything. It was simply a matter of the best person who showed through, and that was Joe Montana. He came in and did a real good job. I certainly had to wait and learn, but in the process of watching and learning you grow a little bit the whole way around. I think it did help for when I actually did get to play.

Were you satisfied with your personal season?

Lisch—Well, certainly I had a lot of fun, and I enjoyed playing with the teammates that we had, they're a great bunch of guys. I'm not disappointed about anything. I believe that you do it all for the glory of God and if you do that and you do it to the fullest, there's nothing more you can ask for. There were a lot of different developments, but overall I think that it was a lot of fun.

Do you think that your religious beliefs have sustained you through the difficulties of your career?

Lisch—I believe so, and I think that these difficulties strengthen your religious convictions and vice versa. I have a belief that if it was my own personal wants and ambitions that I probably wouldn't have made it, I probably wouldn't have stayed here. Now I realize that it was the will of God. You have to make the best of the situation presented and it's not always going to turn out happy. Sometimes it may seem that something is wrong, but it's not if you look at it correctly.

What does the future hold for you?

Lisch—As far as pros, I haven't even determined yet whether I'm going to be drafted, but if I'm drafted I think I will try out. Also I'm looking for an apprenticeship in architecture. I hope to do that six months and play football the other six months. But I plan on continuing architecture so that eventually it will be there.



Bob Crable

Do you have any reflections on the season, now that it's over?

Crable—I am disappointed with our record. I think that we should be able to do a lot better next year. As for reflections, I think the 7-4 record tells most of the story. We'll be out there next year giving it everything we've got.

How does it feel to be an underclass captain at Notre Dame?

Crable—It's a great honor; I'm proud to be a captain next year. I hope I can do as well this year as I did last year and try to inspire everyone a little bit.

Do you feel that you had a successful season personally?

Crable—Personally, I was somewhat satisfied. I wasn't totally satisfied. A lot of my personal goals are based around the team. If the team has a good year you feel like you had a lot better year, no matter what kind of a year you had. When you lose a few games it just doesn't feel as good.

What do you look for next year, as far as the team goes?

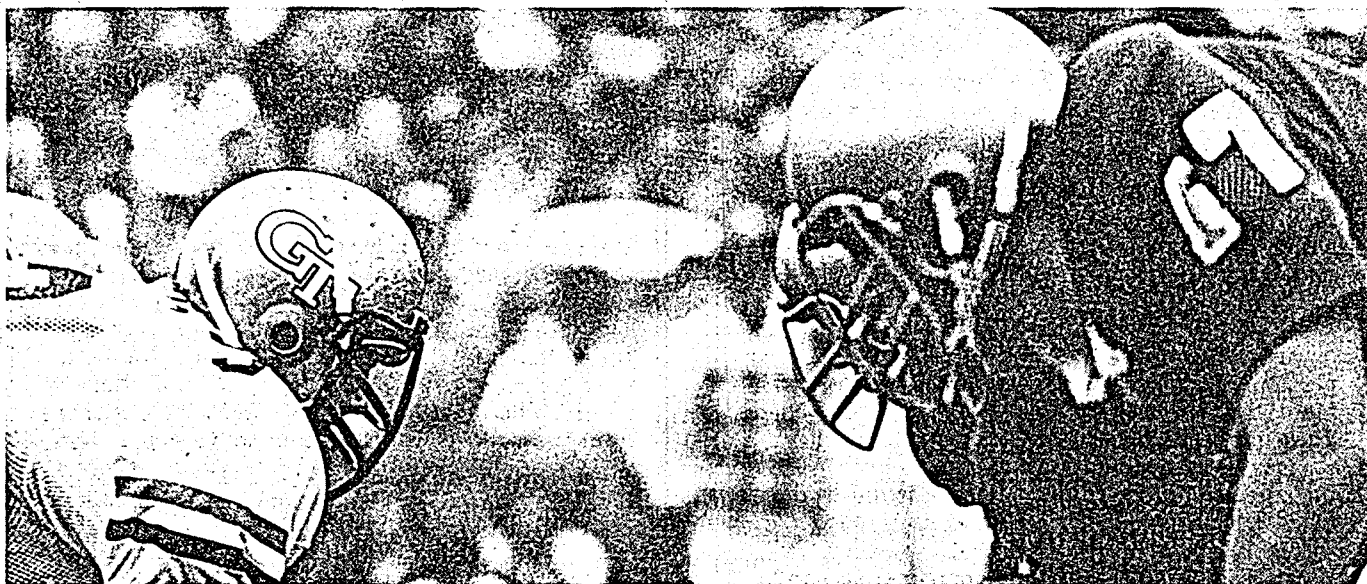
Crable—I look for a lot more enthusiasm. If we can really get inspired for a few games, if we can start at the beginning and hold it, we're going to have a good year. I'm really, really looking forward to next year.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Crable—The only thing that I would like to add is that I've talked to most of the players on the team and we're real excited about next year. I hope the student body is behind us. I hope they can come through for the Michigan game and I hope they can be up for the small games as much as they are for the bigger games because we are really looking forward to it.

Vagas Rambles Over Tech

by Ken Valdiserri



Playing in a steady downpour of rain for most of the contest, the Fighting Irish, led by the star running of senior tailback Vagas Ferguson and the play of freshman cornerback Dave Duerson held off a tough Georgia Tech football team 21-13. The rain-splashed victory bettered the Irish record to 3-1.

Tech, which battled the Irish to a 14-13 deficit after three quarters, finally succumbed after a controversial fumble ruling and the determined dashes of Vagas Ferguson. Ferguson, who carried for a record-breaking 39 times, gained 177 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns. "Hey, if I don't see someone coming in for me, I'm not coming out. If I have to carry 39 times to help us win, I'll do it," said Ferguson after the game. Ferguson's last and deciding touchdown jaunt came in the fourth quarter after a pass from Tech quarterback Mike Kelley to flanker Leon Chadwick was dropped and ruled a fumbled lateral. "I couldn't see the play from the field, but my people in the press box said it was batted by a lineman," explained Tech coach Pepper Rodgers. After Notre Dame's linebacker Bob Crable jumped on the loose ball, Notre Dame took possession on the Georgia Tech 22-yard line. From

there it took two Ferguson rushes to score the insurance touchdown. On the first rush, Ferguson slashed for five yards to the 17-yard line and then took a Rusty Lisch handoff and found daylight down the right sideline for his second touchdown of the day. There was 12:17 left when Chuck Male kicked the final point.

It was the final game for Ferguson against the Yellow Jackets and their crafty coach Pepper Rodgers. In his three years against Tech, Vagas carried the ball a total of 80 times amassing 548 yards and scoring five touchdowns. "If Ferguson's not an All-American," added the Georgia Tech coach, "then I don't know who is. He's great! He operates well in any weather." But Vagas' performance was even more impressive than his career high 255 yards in last year's 38-21 victory in Atlanta. Because this time, the Irish needed every yard. After the Irish took the 31-13 lead, Georgia Tech mounted three threatening drives that were ultimately stalled. As the downpour continued, Tech's punter Gary Lanier put the Irish in poor field position with three punts in succession that were downed inside the Irish five-yard line. Nevertheless, the Irish offensive line, managed to control the line of scrim-

mage for most of the afternoon, led the surefooted Ferguson out of jeopardy. Finally, with 1:01 left in the game, Vagas slammed out from the five-yard line with a first down and the Irish were able to run out the clock. "Vagas' performance today just reaffirmed how valuable he is to us," said Coach Devine. "Whenever a player can run on a wet field the way he did, he deserves a lot of credit."

But it was not just the heroics of Ferguson and the rest of the Irish offense that won the game. In fact the offense scored only when it had great field position. The Irish defense, playing without the services of senior co-captain Dave Waymer and safety Tom Gibbons, set up all three Notre Dame scores. The young defense, playing with five sophomores and a freshman, came up with some key plays that gave the Irish offense great field position. In the first period freshman cornerback Dave Duerson intercepted a Mike Kelley pass and returned it 33 yards to the Tech eight-yard line and set up Ferguson's first touchdown. After the Irish took possession, Vagas slashed for three, then two and finally outside the left end for the score. And when Chuck Male kicked the extra point, the game was only

6:04 old, and at the time, it looked like the Yellow Jackets were in for a long afternoon.

But Tech then shocked the Irish on their first possession when passer Mike Kelley picked up a bobbled snap and lofted a short pass to flanker Leon Chadwick who sped 80 yards down the sideline for the tying touchdown. "I saw the quarterback fumble the snap and I came up to cover in case he decided to run," Duerson explained. "The flanker just got behind us and caught the ball." After Tech got the ball back, Kelley handed off to freshman Ronny Cone who fumbled at the Tech 17-yard line after being hit by Notre Dame's defensive tackle Scott Zetek. The ball bounded along the sideline to the 28-yard line where Duerson, the freshman from Muncie, Indiana, recovered to set up Notre Dame's second score of the afternoon. "Dave showed me a lot today," said the head coach of the Irish. "Considering he's only six months out of high school, I'd have to say he did a fantastic job out there today under the conditions that were less than ideal. He displayed heads-up thinking to come up with those two turnovers and, besides, it's never easy to replace someone like Dave Waymer." After the Irish took possession, Ferguson again carried the load. Vagas slammed for five, then 12 and seven yards to the Tech four-yard line. And then Notre Dame fullback Ty Barber zipped it across and Male made it 14-7. But Tech fought back. Early in the second period, after Dick Boushka punted to the Tech 7, Kelley marched his team downfield hitting his flanker, Chadwick, with 22- and eight-yard passes that advanced the Yellow Jackets to the Irish 23-yard line. On fourth down, Tech sent in placekicker Johnny Smith who booted a 41-yard field goal to narrow the Irish lead to 14-10, 6:51 before halftime. As the half came to a close the Irish mounted a scoring threat as Lisch hit freshman split end Tony Hunter for 18- and 24-yard passes. Six seconds before halftime, field goal kicker Chuck Male, who had been perfect on his first eight attempts, was sent in to attempt a 57-yarder. The kick was a little short and to the left as the half ended with the Irish holding on to a slim 14-10 lead. "I thought I could make it," Male said after the game. "If I didn't, I would never have gone out on the field. In fact, I was hoping Coach Devine would let me try it."

After the halftime rains had completely drenched the field and the

59,075 spectators, Jim Stone took the second half kickoff and returned it 48 yards to the Georgia 45-yard line. But the Irish weren't able to take advantage of good field position as Lisch dropped the wet ball on a snap from center John Scully. Tech linebacker Bill Haley recovered at the Tech 17-yard line. From there Tech drove to the Irish six-yard line with the aid of a 24-yard pass interference call and a face mask penalty against the Irish. On fourth down, Pepper Rodgers sent in placekicker Smith who connected on a 22-yard field goal to cut the Irish lead to 14-13.

For a while, it looked as if the rain, wet ball and offensive inefficiency of both teams were going to conspire to prevent scoring. But then came the fumbled lateral re-

covered by linebacker Crable which set up Notre Dame's clinching touchdown. In addition to Crable's crucial fumble recovery, he led the defense in tackles, with 13 stops as well as two passes broken up. "I don't think we were as intense as we were against Michigan State but I can tell you we were ready to play a good football team," Crable said. "Georgia Tech is strong and quick and they came right at us. Give credit to our secondary for doing a great job despite plenty of injuries."

For the Irish it was a tough, touch-and-go victory against a long-time opponent, and one assured by the brilliance of Ferguson's running and the tough Irish defense led by the play of freshman cornerback Dave Duerson.

Georgia Tech	7	3	3	0-13
Notre Dame	14	0	0	7-21

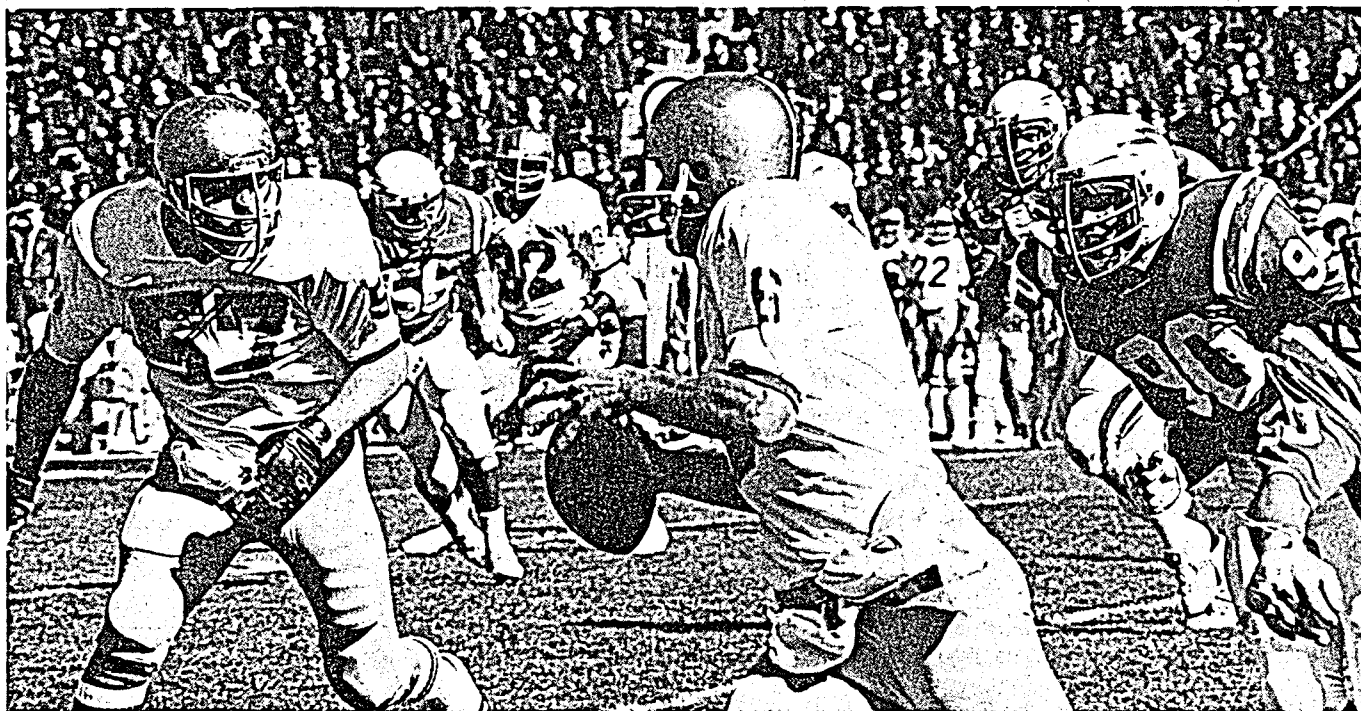
Scoring:

ND — Ferguson, 3-yard run (Male kick)
 GT — Chadwick, 80-yard pass from Kelley (Smith kick)
 ND — Barber, 3-yard run (Male kick)
 GT — Smith, 41-yard field goal
 GT — Smith, 22-yard field goal
 ND — Ferguson, 17-yard run (Male kick)



Soaring Above the Rockies

by Paul Stauder



Lisch takes to the air against Air Force

Notre Dame's Fighting Irish traveled to Colorado Springs with hopes of coordinating their sporadic offense against the one team that could be considered a "breather" on an otherwise hectic schedule, the Falcons of the United States Air Force Academy. The Irish had obviously had their problems against Georgia Tech the previous week, winning 21-13 in the rain at South Bend; but instead of sputtering as it had against the Yellow Jackets the week before, the Irish offense exploded in the first half of the Air Force game.

Notre Dame scored on its first three possessions of the game, and Air Force was unable to come back against an injury-riddled Irish defense. After Air Force took the opening kickoff but failed to sustain a drive past midfield, Ty Barber and Vagas Ferguson combined to move the Irish from their own 22 to the Falcon 27. Barber started the drive with a 23-yard burst off left guard, and Ferguson carried the ball four times for 22 yards before quarterback Rusty Lisch hit Pete Holohan

at the Air Force five for a 22-yard gain. On first and goal from the five, Ferguson slanted off left tackle for the touchdown and with Chuck Male's conversion, Notre Dame led 7-0.

On the second play following Notre Dame's kickoff, Cadet quarterback Dave Ziebart had his pass into the right flat picked off by Irish linebacker Bobby Leopold, and the senior from Port Arthur, Texas, returned the ball to the Air Force nine. A clipping penalty on the runback moved the ball back to the 32, however, and after the drive stalled, Male booted a 43-yard field goal to make it Notre Dame—10, Air Force—0 with 6:34 to go in the quarter.

Irish defender Scott Zetek was injured on Leopold's runback, and Air Force began to move the ball on the ground with him out of the lineup. Cadet Mike Fortson carried for a first down on the Notre Dame 40, but Ziebart misfired on three straight passes and the drive ended when Jim Sturch's 57-yard field-goal attempt into the wind fell far short of its mark.

Notre Dame then embarked on a 61-yard, ten-play drive to put the Cadets in a hole for the remainder of the afternoon. Ferguson took a draw play handoff at his own 42 and toted into Air Force territory to the 45. Bernie Adell came into the game and carried to the 42 before Lisch hit freshman Tony Hunter in the right flat. Hunter leaped high to gather in the aerial, then moved to the Falcon 28 for a 14-yard gain. Lisch went to the air again two plays later and rifled a pass to tight end Nick Vehr crossing near the goal line. Vehr was tackled on the Falcon three after a gain of 25. A pair of Ferguson runs sandwiched a procedure penalty against the Irish, and the quarter ended with Notre Dame facing a third and goal on the one. On the first play of the second quarter, Lisch snuck in for the score and Male hit the conversion to up Notre Dame's lead to 17-0.

Air Force finally untracked its offense against Notre Dame defense that was missing three defensive backs, John Krimm, Tom Gibbons, and Dave Waymer, starting line-

backer Mike Whittington, and Zetek with his knee sprain sustained in the first period. After an exchange of punts (a 56-yarder by Cadet Scott Schafer and a 33-yarder by Notre Dame's Dick Boushka), the Falcons moved to the Irish 22. A face-mask penalty furthered the Air Force drive to the 11, and Fortson carried to the one to make it first and goal, Air Force. Two plays later, George James got in to make it 17-7 Irish after Sturch's conversion.

Air Force coach Ken Hatfield felt that this touchdown was the first step in bringing the Cadets back into the game, but that it would not be enough by itself. He said after the game that, "When it got to be 17-7 . . . we felt like we needed to do something right then to get ourselves back into it."

It was the Irish, instead of the Cadets, who were next to "do something." On its next series, Notre Dame moved the ball 80 yards in just eight plays to erase the Falcon touchdown. The key play in the drive occurred on a second and six from the Irish 24 when Lisch hit Holohan in the right flat. The junior wide-out got behind the secondary and raced 59 yards to the Falcon 18. A pass to Vehr moved the ball to the five, but Air Force stiffened and Notre Dame had to go for the score on fourth and goal from the two. Lisch flipped to Vehr, who made a nifty diving catch on the goal line and fell in for the six-pointer. Male's conversion made it 24-7 Notre Dame with 4:08 to go in the half.

An Air Force turnover on the ensuing kickoff helped Notre Dame pour it on. Fortson fielded Male's kickoff and returned it to his own 23-yard line before coughing up the ball. Notre Dame's Dan Stone pounced on the fumble. On the next play, Ferguson darted off left tackle, cut outside, and glided untouched into the end zone. With Male's conversion, Notre Dame went in at half-time with a commanding 31-7 lead. The Irish controlled the ball for over 17 minutes of the half, with Lisch engineering scoring drives of 77, 32, 61, 80, and 23 yards.

At the beginning of the second half, it seemed as if the Irish offense would continue to roll up the score. Lisch hit Hunter on the first play from scrimmage in the second half, and the Cincinnati, Ohio, native outran everybody en route to an apparent 80-yard touchdown. An offensive interference call on Nick Vehr brought the play back, how-

ever, and Air Force had a temporary reprieve.

The Falcons moved the ball better on the Irish defense in the second half, but people like freshman line-backer Mark Zavagnin kept the Cadets from pay dirt until late in the third quarter. In fact, Zavagnin led the Irish defense in stops for the entire afternoon with nine. Rod Bone filled in admirably at cornerback in his first career-starting assignment as well.

Air Force was able to move 71 yards to its second touchdown, largely due to the leadership of Ziebart, and his passing game. Ziebart, who broke the total-offense record at the Academy in this game, hit his tight end Scott Schafer for a 29-yard gain from his own 29 to the Notre Dame 42, then hit Bob Buehler at the 30. After an incomplete pass, the crafty Ziebart scrambled out of the pocket to the 10, then handed to Fortson who carried down to the one. Ron Merrixx was hit for a loss by Bone but, after a timeout, Ziebart hit Schafer in the end zone for the touchdown. The try for a two-point conversion failed, and the score stood at Notre Dame 31, Air Force 13.

The last score of the day proved to be the most electrifying of the year for Irish fans. On third and eight from his own 25, Lisch hit Hunter on the sideline, and what followed was a virtual carbon copy of the first play of the half. Hunter again raced the Falcon secondary the length of the field for the goal line, and again he won. This time there were no flags in sight, and the touchdown stood. Male hit the conversion to finish off the scoring for the afternoon. Notre Dame walked off with an impressive 38-13 victory.

After the game, Lisch, who finished 10 of 14 for 227 yards and two touchdowns, gave credit to his coaches and teammates for the awesome offensive display. "All I do is run the plays," the senior signal caller stressed. "We come into the

game with great game plans every week and every player on the team is well prepared. We always know what we can and can't do."

Devine was well pleased with Lisch and his entire offense's performance: "We played very well offensively, and a large part of the credit should go to Rusty. Every week he gets better and he has already more than justified the confidence we have in him." Devine also elected to give Vagas Ferguson a much-needed rest in the second half. Vagas had been averaging better than 31 carries per game, and with Southern Cal coming in next week, Devine's reasoning was "obvious," or was it? "I gave him a rest because I didn't want to run up the score. Vagas could have had 300 yards had he played the whole game," the coach revealed in the locker room after the game. Still, Ferguson finished with 85 yards in 15 carries, including two touchdowns, in less than half a day's work.

Air Force's Hatfield summed up the afternoon: "They did some things early that got things going their way right off the bat. By half-time, we had done the complete opposite of what our game plan said. Notre Dame did a super job of taking advantage of some mismatches out there. Tony Hunter is a good example of someone who simply has more God-given ability than the people we had trying to stop him. We knew that we couldn't line up and knock 'em out of the park," Hatfield confided. "We needed some help from them in the form of mistakes and turnovers, and that just never happened."

More than anything else, the Irish victory served as a tune-up for the Trojans of Southern Cal. Tricaptain and self-appointed team spokesman Dave Waymer who had sat out Notre Dame's past three games, including this one, explained, "Whether I'm ready (to play) or not, we'll be ready."

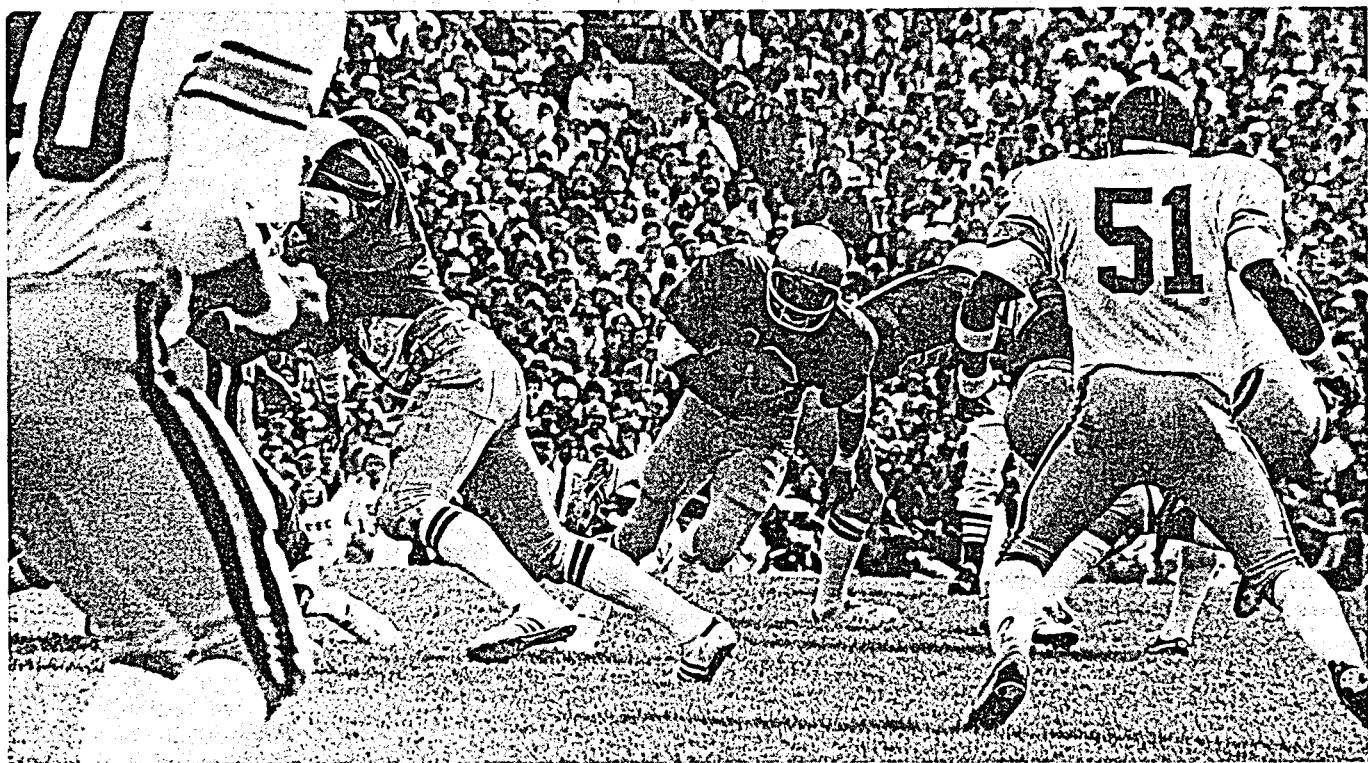
Notre Dame	10	21	0	7—38
Air Force	0	7	6	0—13

Scoring:

ND — Ferguson, 5-yard run (Male kick)
 ND — Male, 43-yard field goal
 ND — Lisch, 1-yard run (Male kick)
 AF — James, 1-yard run (Sturch kick)
 ND — Vehr, 2-yard pass from Lisch (Male kick)
 ND — Ferguson, 23-yard run (Male kick)
 AF — Schafer, 2-yard pass from Ziebart (run failed)
 ND — Hunter, 75-yard pass from Lisch (Male kick)

Sweet Revenge

by Tom Westphal



Ty Barber hits the gap.

Before the season even began, Irish enthusiasts had been looking forward to this game. No, the team wouldn't allow that, nor the coaches, but the students sure did. USC, ranked #1 in preseason polls, rumored to be able to handle itself quite capably in the NFL, was scheduled to invade Notre Dame Stadium on October 20 and they were itching to revenge 1977's famous "green-jersey" 49-19 Irish romp.

But a couple of fairly unexpected events preceded the fall battle in South Bend, Indiana. The Fighting Irish trimmed Michigan in its opener 12-10 in a real nail-biter and crushed the Spartans of Michigan State in its home opener 27-3, but could not escape the fierce Big Ten trio unscathed as Mark Herrmann led Purdue to a 28-22 victory sandwiched between the Irish wins. So the Irish were 4-1 on the season and still respectable in the polls.

Taking a little more lustre off the oncoming clash was a pitiful second half by Southern Cal the week before against Stanford, resulting in a 21-21 tie. The Trojans dropped to fifth in the ratings, but were still undefeated and breathing fire as they prepared to meet the Irish.

What occurred that Saturday was one of the most exciting, wide-open games ever witnessed at du Lac. The Southern California Trojans rolled up 591 total yards, 6 touchdowns and a convincing 42-23 win over the Fighting Irish. "They are the best offensive team I've ever seen," commented an awed Dan Devine in a subdued Irish locker room after the game.

Paul McDonald and Charles White were the major heroes of the day as the lefty quarterback threw for a career-high 311 yards on 21-32 pinpoint passing that left many Irish rooters breathless. White, the

talented tailback, danced in, around and through the bewildered Notre Dame defenders for 261 yards on a record-breaking 44 carries. "White takes the pressure off me," noted McDonald in a postgame interview. "The defense *must* stop him first."

Notre Dame's performance was nothing to scoff at either: 535 total yards fairly evenly divided between the pass and the rush. Vagas Ferguson rushed for 185 hard-earned yards on 825 carries. Rusty Lisch completed 14-32 passes for 286 yards, most of which occurred in a frantic fourth quarter comeback attempt. "Ferguson is one of the best I've played against," remarked USC nose guard Ty Sperling. "I never hit him the whole day!"

USC won the toss of the coin to begin the game and curiously elected to defend the south goal. The Irish began their first possession at their own 12-yard line and proceeded up-

field, aided initially by a 17-yard Lisch-Tony Hunter aerial that gave them reasonable field position. A Trojan penalty on an ensuing Notre Dame punt left the Irish on the 44 yard line, and after Lisch's exciting 8-yard scramble, they were poised to strike upon their first entrance into Trojan territory. But misfortune greeted the Irish early as safety Dennis Smith intercepted a deflected pass and carried it to his own 37.

Achieving only one first down on its initial possession, USC punted to the Irish 13 where center John Scully called his team to huddle.

On the second play from scrimmage, Vagas Ferguson burst through a tremendous hole off left tackle Rob Martinovich and scampered 79 yards down the left sideline, becoming Notre Dame's all-time leading rusher on the play. He was hauled down on the USC 9. Then, in one of the major Irish miscues of the day, they failed to capitalize on this golden opportunity. On fourth and one, Ferguson was hit while attempting a Garo Yepremian-like desperation pass.

USC promptly embarked on a 13-play, 99-yard scoring drive staking itself to a 7-0 lead. Charles White unveiled his tremendous talent by rushing for 42 yards on the drive. Paul McDonald hit wide receiver Dan Garcia for the 12-yard scoring pass.

Hunter brought Irish fans to life with a spectacular 32-yard reception on the next play from scrimmage. But tackle Dennis Edwards (who, along with linebacker Dennis Johnson, was on Lisch's tail all afternoon) came up with a key sack at the USC 47 to end the Irish hopes.

The Trojans could not get in gear and were forced to punt from their own 24. Lisch connected with tight end Dean Masztak for a clutch 27-yard gain to put Notre Dame into scoring position at the Trojan 25. Ferguson teased the USC defense on runs of 14 and 7 yards and Jim Stone carried to the one. Capping an 8-play 56-yard drive, Ferguson dove into the end zone over right guard Tim Huffman and Chuck Male tied the score at 7.

Spearheaded by crazed middle linebacker Bob Crable, the Irish defense stopped White, McDonald & Co. for the remainder of the first half. But Notre Dame could not get untracked offensively, either, and the first 30 minutes ended in a tenuous 7-7 tie.

A certain tension hung in the air during the halftime show. Just how long could Notre Dame hold this high-powered Trojan offense in check? Something had to explode. After seven minutes of the third period, it did.

Notre Dame wasted a superior 37-yard punt return by Ty Dickerson and punted the ball to the USC 20. For the next 20 minutes of football, it was all offense. White for 13. White for 18. McDonald to wide receiver Raymond Butler for 11 and 9 yards. A 26-yard toss to Garcia set up White's 3-yard touchdown run and USC led 14-7.

A crucial turnover on its next possession forced the Irish into catch-up ball for the rest of the day. Lisch performed another of his masterful scrambles to the ND 47 and Ferguson followed with a 13-yard spurt behind right tackle Tim Foley. But the Irish signal caller consequently fumbled and USC was on the march again.

Dan Garcia beat cornerback Dave Duerson on a deep route for a 33-yard gain and three plays later snagged a 20-yard McDonald aerial, taking USC to the ND 4. White bolted up the middle for the final yard and Southern Cal led 21-7.

But the Irish were not about to roll over and die. Lisch found Pete Holohan on a 31-yard bomb and Ty Barber on an 11-yard flare. Scooting down the sidelines, Ferguson used a crushing block by John Sweeney to lead him on a 21-yard scoring burst and the Irish were back in the game, trailing only 21-14 as the third period ended.

The seesaw battle continued as Southern Cal drove 78 yards in 7 plays (and only 1 minute 41 seconds!) with the lefty McDonald firing his second TD pass, this time to speedy Kevin Williams. The same combination had struck earlier for a big 41 yard gain.

Down 28-14, Rusty Lisch would simply not give up. He nailed Hunter for 22 yards over the middle and two plays later found the same target on a 44-yard deflected pass, and Notre Dame was knocking on the door. Stone scored from the 2 and Chuck Male missed his first extra point in 29 tries. USC 28, ND 20.

The ball in the Trojans' court again, they were not to be outdone. Williams slipped behind the Irish secondary and gathered in a 46-yard McDonald bomb down to the ND 2 in one of the key plays of the contest. White slipped into the end zone



Things got worse for the Irish.

and the Californians had maintained their two-touchdown advantage.

Stone dazzled the already awed crowd with a 39-yard kickoff return to the USC 49. Lisch followed with a 22-yard completion to Dickerson but two incompletions later, the Irish had to settle for a field goal—a 42-yarder by Male that made the score 35-23.

At this point, the offenses decided that they had had enough and defense dominated the remainder of the game. Jeff Fisher intercepted a Lisch pass to seal things for Southern Cal; Notre Dame could not produce any more points. Heisman candidate White put the icing on the cake for the visitors with his fourth touchdown—a one-yard plunge in the final minute.

"The key to the game," commented an exuberant yet drained USC Coach John Robinson, "was our ability to mix the pass and the run. Last week we depended too much on our running game. This week we were able to mix it up and we gained nearly 600 yards."

Quarterback McDonald echoed his mentor's remarks: "We needed a balance between the pass and the run. Our offensive line was the key today. They played a great game and opened holes so we could take it to them."

The Trojans were gracious in victory, however, and praised the game Irish ball club. "I've got to credit Notre Dame," said Robinson. "Each time we scored, it seemed like it would take about eight seconds and they would score. You get a team like Notre Dame down and it seems to stimulate them."

Over in the Irish locker room the mood was a bit more serene, but heads were held high. "We played a good, hard football game," noted the workhorse Ferguson. "We have nothing to be ashamed of."

"We needed to play a perfect game with a lot of emotion," insisted Coach Devine. "We played with emotion but we had a few breakdowns."

It was clear to the fans filing out of the stadium that they had seen one of the most impressive offensive shows in a long, long time. Southern Cal, with this victory raising its record to 6-0-1, had a determined purpose going into the contest. "The last time we played here," said White, "we were humiliated. We had to prove that we could play in Notre Dame Stadium." There was little doubt in anyone's mind that they had accomplished their goal.



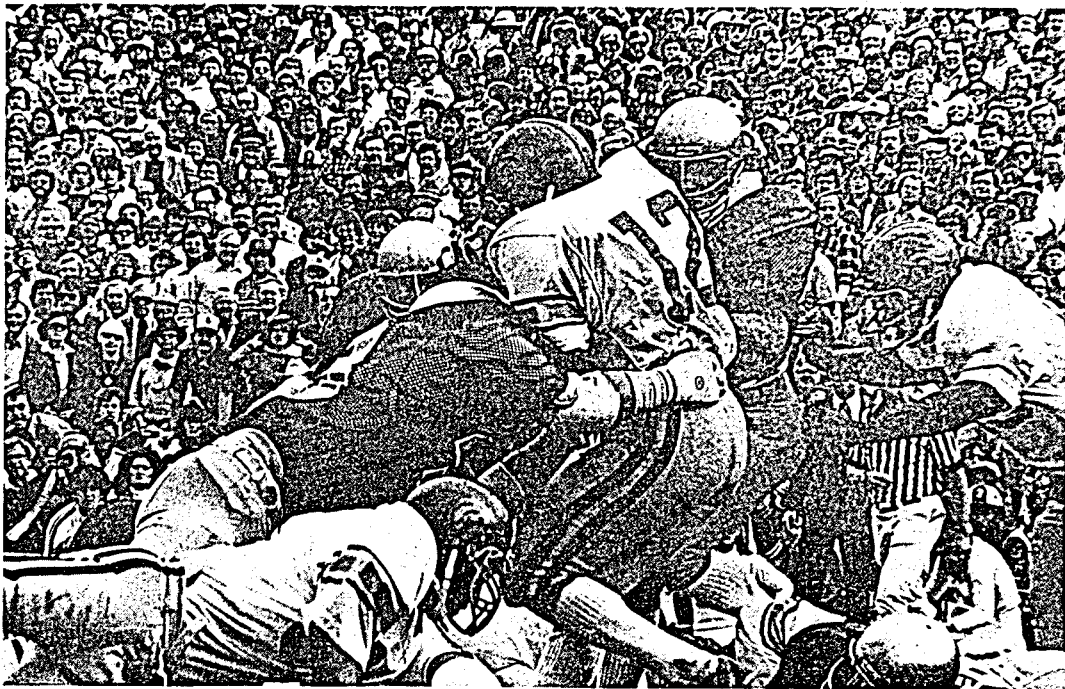
Lisch fires out of own endzone

Southern California	0	7	14	21—42
Notre Dame	0	7	7	9—23

Scoring:

USC — Garcia, 12-yard pass from McDonald (Hipp kick)
 ND — Ferguson, 1-yard run (Male kick)
 USC — White, 3-yard run (Hipp kick)
 USC — White, 1-yard run (Hipp kick)
 ND — Ferguson, 21-yard run (Male kick)
 USC — Williams, 12-yard pass from McDonald (Hipp kick)
 ND — Stone, 2-yard run (kick failed)
 USC — White, 1-yard run (Hipp kick)
 ND — Male, 42-yard field goal
 USC — White, 1-yard run (Hipp kick)

football and . . .



Ken McAlpine



Tom Everman



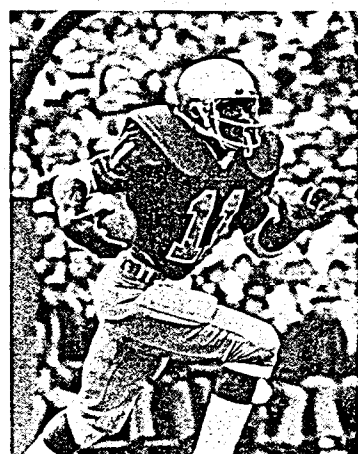
Pete Romzick



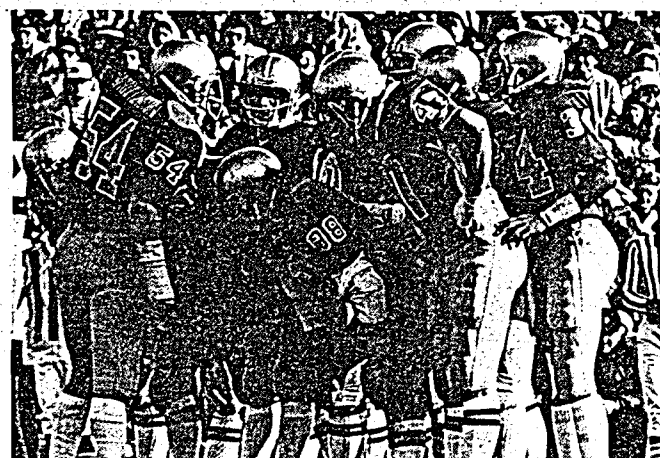
Rosie Lawrence



Bobby Leopold



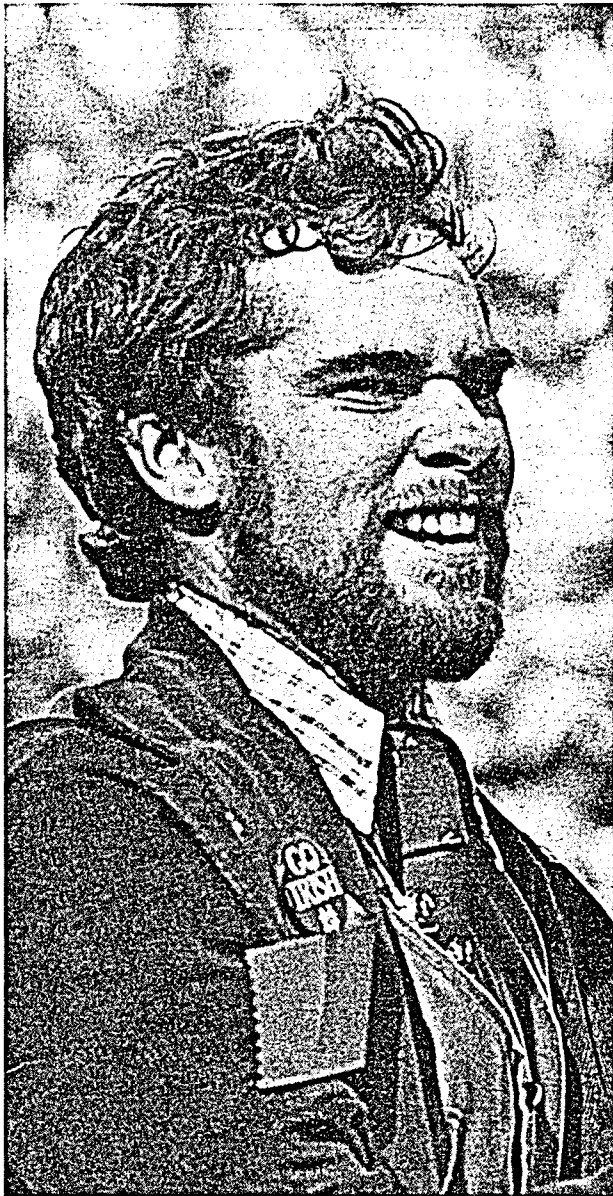
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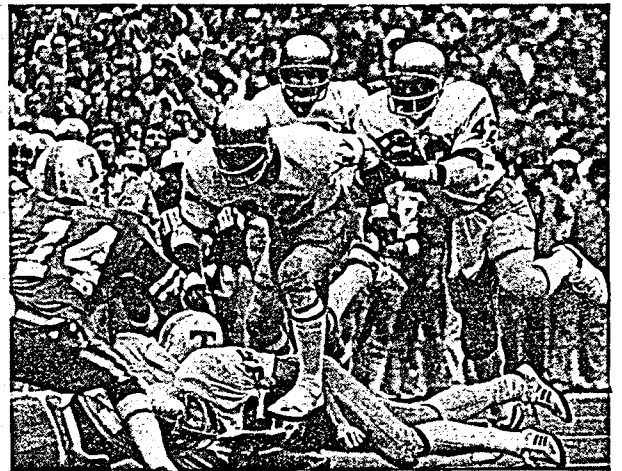
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Pete Romzick



Mark Guyoles



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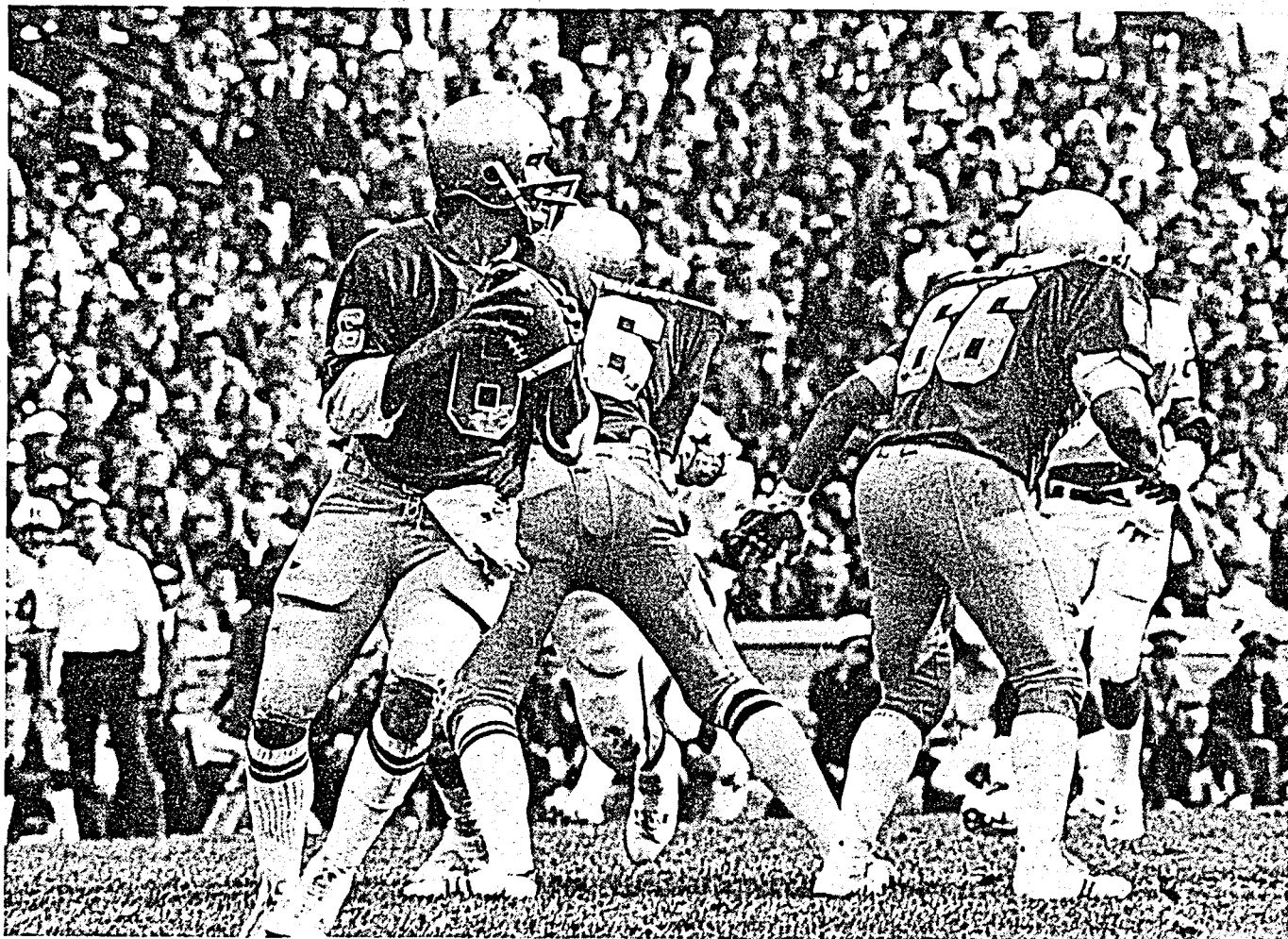
Bobby Leopold



Mike Rietz

Yet Another Miracle Finish

by Craig Chval



On an overcast Saturday afternoon in late October, Rusty Lisch served notice that Notre Dame's sometimes overzealous football fans would have to find another scapegoat for the team's disappointing 1979 season.

Actually, Lisch had been proving his point all season—leading a gritty, if not pretty, upset victory over Michigan in the season opener; sitting on the sidelines with an ankle sprain the following week while Purdue beat the Irish and their musical quarterbacks; and then passing for 286 yards in a futile attempt to derail Southern Cal's Trojans.

But the fifth-year senior had to borrow a page from the man who beat him out of his job two autumns earlier to finally prove that he was worthy of the title he carried—that

of Notre Dame's starting quarterback.

Lisch had to perform a miracle: a heart-stopping comeback à la Joe Montana. And he did, passing for 336 yards to lead Notre Dame to an 18-17 victory over South Carolina in the game's final minute.

As they did for the better part of the second half of the season, the Irish played uninspired football. Despite 11 first downs and 248 yards of total offense, Notre Dame led only 3-0 at the half.

The defense, though, had played respectably enough, limiting the Gamecocks to just one first-half pass completion and 124 yards of total offense.

Still, Notre Dame's unemotional performance and the slim halftime lead had most of the 59,075 people in the stands thinking that the in-

evitable was just that.

It happens every year, that Notre Dame is caught off guard, and this seemed as good a time as any. The Irish were coming off a tough loss to USC the previous week, and had been on midsemester break, practicing all week on a deserted campus.

And sure enough, it happened.

On South Carolina's first three possessions of the second half, the Gamecocks scored 17 points, stunning both the Irish players and the Notre Dame Stadium crowd.

Coach Jim Carlen's team made it look easy, scoring on a 62-yard pass from Garry Harper to Zion McKinney, and a 49-yard run by Spencer Clark to take a 14-3 lead. Eddie Leopard added a 39-yard field goal to put Notre Dame down by 14 points.

When Vagas Ferguson sprinted 26 yards for a touchdown with 17 seconds remaining in the third quarter, though, it appeared as though the Irish once again had things in hand. The 73-yard scoring drive brought the Irish back to within a touchdown, 17-10, entering the final 15 minutes.

But Chuck Male missed a 34-yard chip shot on Notre Dame's initial fourth-quarter possession, and the Gamecocks reasserted control.

Although unable to pad its lead, South Carolina held the ball for almost nine and one-half of the next 11 minutes, finally punting the ball to Notre Dame on the Irish 20 with just 1:36 to play.

In the next 54 seconds, Rusty Lisch accomplished what he couldn't do in four and one-half years—in the eyes of even the most cynical fan—Rusty Lisch became a Notre Dame quarterback.

He took a team that had done its

damnedest to lose, and he wouldn't let it. He took an offense that was its own worst enemy, and forced it eighty yards into the South Carolina end zone to make the score 17-16. And then he threw for three more yards for the two-point conversion that gave Notre Dame its 18-17 victory.

Lisch passed to junior flanker Pete Holohan; he passed to junior split end Ty Dickerson and to senior tailback Vagas Ferguson. He even passed to himself, grabbing a deflected pass in midair and advancing the ball three yards.

And finally, he passed to sophomore tight end Dean Masztak on a semi-audible, a third-and-seven improvisation good for 14 yards and six points.

"Rusty told Dean to hook at the goal line and we sent both of our tailbacks out to control the linebackers," explained Irish head coach Dan Devine. "That helped Dean get

open."

According to Masztak, Lisch modified the play on his own. "Rusty called the play in the huddle, but then gave me different instructions. He told me to hook up in the end zone and the ball would be there."

Lisch was good as his word, and the ball was indeed there. But the 80-yard drive wouldn't have meant a thing without the two-point conversion.

"I've never gone for a tie in my life and I never will," said Devine after the game. "I didn't come to Notre Dame to tie."

So it was up to Lisch and company to keep Devine from losing, and they did. Lisch found Holohan near the left sideline, and the 6-4 junior from Liverpool, N.Y., juggled the ball momentarily before latching onto it just inbounds.

It was, as many observed, one of Notre Dame's great comebacks, but it was an even greater comeback for Rusty Lisch.

South Carolina	0	0	17	0—17
Notre Dame	3	0	7	8—18

Scoring:

ND — Male, 40-yard field goal

SC — McKinney, 62-yard pass from Harper (Leopard kick)

SC — Clark, 49-yard run (Leopard kick)

SC — Leopard, 33-yard field goal

ND — Ferguson, 26-yard run (Male kick)

ND — Masztak, 14-yard pass from Lisch (Holohan pass from Lisch)



Defense Employs Naval Blockade

by Mark Perry



Notre Dame celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of its football stadium on Nov. 3, and the Irish did their part by defeating Navy, 14-0. But the Middle defense made sure that the task was not an easy one.

"Navy has a fine defensive team," remarked Irish coach Dan Devine. "Every year they have one of the top-ranked defensive teams in the nation, and this team was surely a good defensive unit."

"They had a lot of guys hurt, but they were still quick up front," added offensive tackle Tim Foley. "Navy is a well-coached team. Their linemen are well-coordinated and they use good pass rushing techniques. They don't have tremendous size, but they use their linebackers very well to compensate."

Vagas Ferguson, continuing his assault on the Notre Dame record books, was the key factor in the game, gaining 155 yards on 34 carries and scoring the final Irish touchdown. With those totals the senior tailback became the first Notre Dame player to rush for over 1,000 yards in two seasons. It was also the 11th 100-yard game of his career, a new Irish record.

"They were tough yards, every one of them," Ferguson admitted. "Navy's defense was big, tough and quick. I've got to give credit to the offensive line for opening the holes against such a tough defense."

Ferguson went into the game with a sore shoulder, but the close score gave Devine little opportunity to rest his running star.

"I don't know if it's good for Vagas to rest," Devine noted. "Most I-formation tailbacks seem to play better late in the game. I'm proud of Vagas, and if I had rested him it would have been a mistake."

"Winning always feels good, but I'll be sore tomorrow," Ferguson confessed. "The shoulder wasn't a big factor. Whatever it takes to win the game, I want to do it. You just gotta say to yourself 'It hurts' and then go out there and do your job."

It seemed like the Irish would have ample opportunity to rest Ferguson after their early play, as they marched to a touchdown on their very first possession. Quarterback Rusty Lisch capped a 16-play, 73-yard drive with a one-yard plunge for the touchdown.

And when linebacker Bob Crable blocked a Navy punt after their first possession, it looked like Notre Dame might be heading towards a rout. But the Irish drive stalled at the Navy six, and Chuck Male missed a 23-yard field goal attempt.

For the rest of the first half the Navy defense took control, as the Irish could not get any closer than the Middies' 26, where an interception by Mike Kronzer halted the drive.

In the meantime Navy found a spark for its injury-riddled offense. When tailback Duane Flowers went out with an injury in the second quarter, Middle coach George Welsh turned to his fourth-stringer, Eddie Meyers. (Navy's top two tailbacks were injured earlier in the season.)

The 5-9 sophomore responded by gaining 53 yards on seven carries in the first half, although Navy could not get into scoring position.

Then after Notre Dame's punt early in the first half, Meyers helped put Navy in position to score the tying touchdown. The Middies drove down to the Irish 12. But Irish safety Tom Gibbons made a saving tackle on an attempted draw by Meyers, and a 26-yard field goal attempt by Dave Guin fell wide to the right.

"Is that their tailback's name?" remarked Crable when asked about Myers. "That kid ran hard. He was an excellent back, and it took two or three guys to bring him down.

"If that was their fourth-string guy, I sure don't want to see their top three."

"He's got a lot of ability," Welsh said. "He's strong and he may be our fastest back."

Although Meyers rejuvenated the sagging Navy offense, it was his turnover that helped to seal the game for the Irish. Sweeping around his right end, Meyers was hit by Notre Dame defensive tackle John Hankerd, and his subsequent fumble was recovered by Gibbons at the Navy 30-yard line.

From there Ferguson carried the ball six straight times, scoring the final Irish touchdown of the day on a three-yard run.

Notre Dame had another opportunity to score late in the game, as junior tailback Jim Stone helped the

Irish drive down to the Navy 6 with 30 yards on five carries. But flanker Pete Holohan was called for pass interference in the end zone trying to break up a Navy interception attempt, and the Middies were awarded possession on the touch-back.

"Navy probably has more quality depth and experience than any team we have played this year, including Southern Cal," Devine praised. "While we had to replace (cornerback) John Krimm with a freshman when he was injured, Navy was able to substitute with more experienced players and upperclassmen.

"They have done an excellent job of recruiting. I've never seen a program develop over the past five or six years more than Navy has. They now have been able to recruit players who are just as big and physical as the players we recruit.

"I'm never satisfied when we make errors," Devine said in evaluation of Notre Dame's performance. "We had some players that played well and some that made mistakes. And when you make mistakes, you're going to struggle and have problems."

Lisch thought that this was a major problem with the Notre Dame offense, which had trouble solving the tough Navy defense all day. "It was a combination of mistakes and other factors," Lisch noted. "It's

really nothing new. You saw it last week (against South Carolina) in the first half. I guess it's just a matter of concentration."

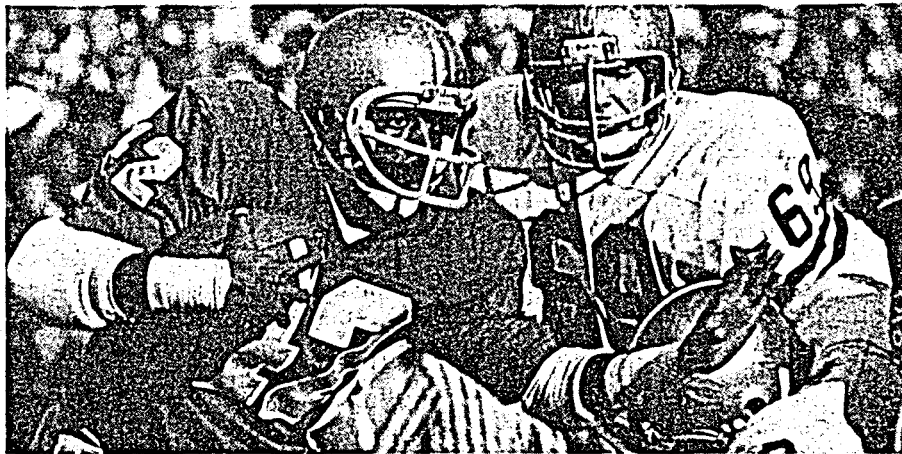
Despite the Irish mistakes, the Middies were still impressed with the play of Notre Dame.

"Notre Dame did nothing that surprised us," said coach Welsh. "However they are better defensively than I had thought. I can't understand how USC came in here and had over 500 yards of offense and scored 42 points."

Meyers, who ended up with 99 yards on 17 carries in his first game as a regular, was the biggest surprise of the day. "The line was making some holes today, and I just found them," he said. "Notre Dame's defense showed us what we expected. Our line blocked well, and we played a better ball game than we did last weekend against Pitt. I don't think Pitt was as good as Notre Dame."

Still the Middies were thinking about what might have been. "Notre Dame's offensive line was big, and we gave up a lot of yards, but that was only because they had a couple of big breaks," noted Navy linebacker Ted Dumbauld. "Without those breaks it might have been a different game.

"Our only problem was putting points on the board. We get close, but we can't convert."



Navy	0	0	0	0—0
Notre Dame	7	0	0	7—14

Scoring:

ND — Lisch, 1-yard run (Male kick)

ND — Ferguson, 3-yard run (Male kick)

Words From The Wise

by Tom Westphal

As America turns the corner on a new decade so does a major part of the American way of life that has remained a significant force for many decades—college football. And when the mere subject of college football is mentioned, the words Notre Dame are inevitably two of the first uttered. What can we expect of Notre Dame football in the future? What kind of trends have been forming on the national collegiate football scene? There were no better people to ask these and other related questions than Fr. Edmund P. Joyce, Executive Vice President and Chairman, Faculty Board in Control of Athletics and Edward W. (Moose) Krause, Athletic Director. Both men have served in their respective posts for over 25 years and are certainly well qualified to evaluate Notre Dame, its football program and the future of collegiate football.

For as long as most people can remember, Notre Dame has had an outstanding reputation as a football power. But has this lofty athletic image detracted at all from the academic focus of the University? Fr. Joyce responded: "We have been very proud of our football record over the years because we've managed to do this without cheating, without cutting corners. We have without any question of a doubt the very best record of any university in the country to football players being bona fide students—99.9% of them graduate. Football has not detracted in any way from Notre Dame or from its position as a university."

Mr. Krause continued: "We've eliminated the so-called 'football factory' image. At no time did Notre Dame concentrate on football to the point where it was harmful to the boys who participated." Reiterating Fr. Joyce's point, he stated: "Over 99% of our student athletes graduate in a four-year period. No other university in the country can make that statement. The

fact that our academic requirements are higher than most schools does not eliminate the fact that there are outstanding young men around this country who are capable of carrying on our academic work and participate in the major program that we have."

"This of course hurts to be given the designation of a football factory because we know we simply are not that," asserted Fr. Joyce. Football is kept within the proper bounds at this University. It's just fortuitous in the sense that we have this tradition and that we've been able to have a pretty good record year in and year out.

"The people that refer to us as a 'football factory' are generally unknowledgeable. I believe that among our peers and throughout other universities that I deal with—they all recognize that Notre Dame is a fine university and many of them are jealous that we can combine being that and having a good football team.

"The scandal of intercollegiate football is that most schools don't have a good graduation record. I'd like to say to those other schools—you can do it properly and Notre Dame is an example of it. If you want to find out how to run a football program properly then come take a look—it can be done. You don't have to cheat the students. We're a shining light to be held up for the others."

But a successful football program, although integrated within the framework of an academic institution, is not without its own benefits. Mr. Krause commented: "Winning seasons help to develop the alumni, subway alumni and fans who take pride in the type of records Notre Dame has. We can find good athletes, good students who graduate from the University and then have them support the University in every way they possibly can. That is why we have a good recruiting program—the former athletes are the biggest salesmen we have."



Fr. Joyce, Executive Vice President

"Having good football records," offered Fr. Joyce, "contributes to a spirit of cohesion on the part of the students, the alumni and the campus. *It's a game, though.* Unless it's fun for those who are playing it, then we shouldn't be doing it."

Students and alumni assume Notre Dame will always have winning football records. What would happen if the team went into a tailspin for a few years? "We've gone through many years of losing before—in the 50's and 60's," stated the Executive Vice President. "But we never changed our policies—not a single one of them. We don't fire a coach, for example, just because we think he lost one too many games."

Shifting to a focus on collegiate football in general, the topic of an "elite" class of teams was discussed. "I do not see it as a serious problem," remarked Fr. Joyce. "A more serious problem is if the number of schools that aspire to be in the top rung just have to quit for lack of financing. That would be very unfortunate and could happen. Notre Dame will stay in the top ten because of our tradition and the kind of kids we attract. I hope that we have enough teams so we have national competition in football and it isn't restricted to 30 teams."

Mr. Krause responded, "One thing that has helped college football is the limits placed on scholarships. We can have good football anyplace in the country. It's levelled off—the domination of a few big colleges who used to recruit promiscuously."

The two sports moguls expressed contrasting viewpoints on the recent plethora of college bowl games: "Bowl games have been good for college football," said Mr. Krause. "Kids want to play in bowl games against formidable opponents. It's a thrill to be on national television."

Fr. Joyce chose the more predictable answer: "I'm baffled about the attractiveness of so many bowls. I don't understand the rationale, for it's actually going to *cost* some of these teams to go to minor bowls!"

What about college football in the eighties? Any problems in sight? "It's very difficult to predict the future of intercollegiate football," commented Fr. Joyce. "One thing that has made great inroads on the college game since WWII is the popularity of the professional game. Intelligent use of television has developed fans. They have outdone the colleges to the extent that those colleges that exist side-by-side with pro teams have been practically put out of business."

"There have been some comebacks in pro areas—SMU, for instance. Maybe college football will survive. To me the college game seems to be more exciting than the pro game but I'm a little bit prejudiced!"

Are there any serious obstacles in Notre Dame's football future? "Possibly the greatest threat to Notre Dame and intercollegiate football is Title IX," stated Fr. Joyce. "We're probably going to the Supreme Court. If we lose there, football is destroyed in the private colleges. They'll put Notre Dame out of business. It's just impossible to understand the rationale behind it. I've been dealing with it for five years now and I'm absolutely stymied!"

"Title IX will affect all schools," commented the Athletic Director. "Eighty percent of all schools are in financial trouble with their athletic programs because they can't make enough money in football and basketball to carry on their programs. Fortunately at Notre Dame we can do that."



"Moose"

Because of the recent public discussion and media hype over the head football coaching position here, it is important to know what attributes the Administration looks for in a head coach and how well they are being fulfilled: "Some people think that we always look at the winning side of it," explained Mr. Krause. "That's not the whole case. Our coach has to have the ability to motivate players. We don't expect National Champs every year although our coaches aim for that. We want to look good winning and losing. Our coach must have leadership qualities to develop the boys to be competitive. We like to be able to say when these kids graduate that the coach helped to make them a better person both on and off the field."

"Our number-one requirement is a man of utmost integrity and honesty that would never be tempted to cut corners," insisted Fr. Joyce. "We like a man who is proficient, who knows what he is doing. He must do the very best he can."

"Coach Devine has filled the role admirably. He has had a splendid record for these five years: Top ten three times. One National Championship. Three bowl victories. His recruiting has been outstanding. Since his first contract has expired we now have a gentleman's agreement. He will certainly be here next year and for the indefinite future."

Mr. Krause summarized the Administration's feelings on Notre Dame football: "We have developed an image in the collegiate world as *the* football team. Japan said having Notre Dame over there was the greatest thing that ever happened to their athletic program. To such football powers as USC and Michigan State, Notre Dame, they insist, is *always* their biggest game. Because we are in this position, we have to be extremely careful to keep Notre Dame on a high level. I believe we *have* kept Notre Dame at that level."

Tennessee

Drowned in a Sea of Orange

by Paul Mullaney

It all seemed so simple. Notre Dame, ranked 13th nationally after winning six of its first eight games, only had to beat a 4-3 Tennessee team to virtually assure itself a major bowl bid.

In fact, representatives from the Sugar Bowl seemed to be exceptionally interested in the Irish. After beating Tennessee, the Irish would just have to win at home against Clemson, and New Year's in New Orleans could have possibly been a reality.

But any dreams of postseason play quickly turned into nightmares on November 10, when Notre Dame was humiliated, 40-18, before a host of bowl scouts and an orange and white sea of 86,489 fanatics at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville.

"Tennessee won because they executed the fundamentals better than we did," understated Irish coach Dan Devine. "When a team does that, it should be complimented."

Also to be complimented was second-string Volunteer fullback Hubert Simpson. All Simpson could manage was 117 rushing yards and four touchdowns, a Tennessee record.

Tennessee, as a team, rushed for 352 yards, running straight up the middle against a specially planned 3-4 defense that was supposed to shut down the outside rushing game.

"We've had a tough time stopping people going up the middle on us all year long," admitted Devine. "This isn't the first time we've been hurt this way."

Nevertheless, it had to be the most painful time for the Irish. The missed tackles far outnumbered the successful. Tennessee's ability to open holes far outnumbered Notre Dame's ability to plug them up. And Tennessee's speed was a little too much for Notre Dame's injury-riddled point-prevention squad.

But when the tables were turned, and the Irish controlled the pigskin, the offense was no longer dominant. Notre Dame halfback Vagas Ferguson, at that time the nation's fourth-leading rusher, could only muster 89 yards in 22 carries—one yard per carry less than his average of five.

While Irish quarterback Rusty Lisch did manage to throw for an impressive total of 248 yards, it was Tennessee's ability to shut down Notre Dame's ground game in crucial situations that made the difference. Excluding Ferguson, the visitors could accumulate only 29 yards via the turf.

"I can't remember us ever playing so emotionally on defense," smiled Volunteer linebacker and defensive stalwart Craig Puki. "In fact, this is the most emotional game I've ever been a part of. This could be the biggest thing that ever happened to Tennessee football."

At the game's very outset, nothing looked that big for Johnny Major's team — except maybe the Notre Dame offense. On the game's first play from scrimmage, Lisch hooked up with split end Tony Hunter for 35 yards. Three first downs later, the Irish took an early command when Ferguson took the pitch right for a one-yard score. But, as far as Irish fans were concerned, that was the end. Chuck Male's extra-point attempt was no good, and so was the remainder of the day.

Tennessee scored on the subsequent possession, taking a 7-6 lead into the second quarter. And what was about to happen was nothing less than a clinic on how to destroy your football opponent.

Tennessee went on a 23-point scoring blitz in the second stanza. Simpson ran for touchdowns of 24, one and one yards to lead the Vols into the locker room with a 30-12 bulge.

The Irish, on the other hand, were shell-shocked at the intermission.

But any adjustments that might have been made during the half were left behind on the chalkboard.

Tennessee picked right up where it left off at the first half's conclusion. The Vols scored on both of their first two possessions in the third quarter. The Irish trailed 40-12 before 10 second-half minutes had elapsed.

Tennessee was simply overwhelming: 5.1 yards per carry; each of the three Vol quarterbacks had good runs, Jimmy Streater for 51 yards, Dave Rudder for 18 and Jeff Olszewski for 17; the unstoppable dive play, with Simpson gaining 24, then James Berry for 25; 69 running plays in total.

And, to top it off, UT punter John Warren didn't unload his first punt until only 9:19 remained in the game.

Tennessee did, on the other hand, benefit from a good number of Irish miscues. A 27-yard screen pass from Lisch to Ty Barber was called back because of holding. Bernie Adell misplayed a kickoff return, stepping out of bounds at the Notre Dame one-yard line. That set up a busted play which resulted in Lisch being trapped for a safety. Adell later muffed a kickoff out of bounds at his own seven. And the list goes on.

"We cannot make any excuses about this game," said Devine. "We played a team that played better football than we did today. It's tough for all of us to face up to that."

Especially when you lose two fumbles, throw three interceptions,

(continued on page 47)

Notre Dame	6	6	0	6-18
Tennessee	7	23	10	0-40

Scoring:

- ND — Ferguson, 1-yard run (kick failed)
- UT — Streater, 5-yard run (Duncan kick)
- UT — Simpson, 24-yard run (Duncan kick)
- UT — Simpson, 1-yard run (Duncan kick)
- UT — Safety. Lisch tackled in endzone
- UT — Simpson, 1-yard run (Duncan kick)
- ND — Ferguson, 2-yard run (pass failed)
- UT — Duncan, 35-yard field goal
- UT — Simpson, 8-yard run (Duncan kick)
- ND — Ferguson, 10-yard run (pass failed)

Smiling Coach Boulac

by Frank LaGrotta

If they ever do a Broadway musical about the life of Brian Boulac, they just might be tempted to call it *The Most Happy Fella*.

Except that one's been used already, hasn't it?

OK, then how about *The Most Happy Fella—Part II*, because nothing better describes this Notre Dame assistant football coach and the way he feels about his family, his profession and the place he happens to work.

"I consider myself extremely lucky because I've got a great family, I'm doing what I want to do and I'm doing it where I want to do it," smiles Boulac, who's about as much a "Notre Dame man" as anyone could possibly be. After earning monograms as a player at Notre Dame from 1960-62, Boulac returned to his alma mater in 1964 to pursue his master's degree while serving as a graduate assistant coach under head man Ara Parseghian. He remained in South Bend until 1968 doing doctoral work and coaching football. A two-year stint with the Army Medical Service Corps followed and he returned to Notre Dame in 1970 as a full-time assistant—a position he's held ever since.

"This is the best school in the country," he tells you with a look that doesn't encourage any argument. "People who come out of here are class people. They are successful and the greatest compliment they can pay to Notre Dame is that they always give the place credit for their success. They always come back here, too; whether it be for a sporting event or a reunion and a place that breeds that kind of loyalty must be something special."

All of which sounds like a double-barrel recruiting pitch. But that isn't surprising because Boulac, besides serving as offensive line coach and head coach Dan Devine's administrative assistant, also handles the responsibility of "recruiting coordinator."

"Because Notre Dame is such a national institution, all the assistant coaches take a region of the country in which they concentrate their recruiting efforts," Boulac explains. "My job as coordinator is to follow up on prospects and make sure the right coaches are being notified about prospects in their areas. I also structure the weekend recruiting visits and just handle the day-to-day duties that accompany major college athletic recruitment."

And that's just one of his jobs. Boulac, a man of many titles, also works with fellow assistant Bill Meyers with the offensive line. He handles the exterior linemen (tackles and tight ends) while Meyers works with the guards and centers.

"That breakdown just helps clarify things," points out Boulac, explaining that both he and Meyers are actively involved with all phases of the offensive line. During a game, Meyers is in the press box in constant

contact with Boulac who is stationed on the field.

But there's more. When he's not worried about recruiting and trap blocking, Boulac occupies his time as administrative assistant to the head man. It's a job he inherited during the summer of 1979 and one that requires plenty of "busywork."

"I help Coach Devine with correspondence and office chores in order to free him to spend more time thinking about football," Boulac explains. "It does take some of the load off his shoulders and I like to think it is helpful to him."

Boulac who wears two national championship rings (one from 1973 and one from 1977) is in a good position to evaluate the changes in Notre Dame football over the last few years. He admits there are differences but quickly points out that they are of a positive nature.

"Both Coach Devine and Coach Parseghian have been very successful here," Boulac starts, "but they've achieved their success in different ways. That's because we're talking about two different individuals with two different approaches to the game."

"Certainly my role has changed since Coach Devine arrived here but that's probably because I have more experience now. If I had to cite a major difference between the two men it would be in the area of recruiting. While Coach Parseghian never went out on the road after his first few years here, Coach Devine takes an active part in the recruiting activities and does make a point of travelling around to meet families of prospective recruits. Both practices were successful for the individual so there is really no way to say which one is more effective."

But recruiting is an area in which Boulac has more than a passing interest. In fact, he is one of the few
(continued on page 47)



Stalled by Tiger Paws

by Bill Ryan

Unseasonable sixty-degree temperatures and warm sunshine made an uncommon, but welcome November for just the second meeting of the Irish and the Clemson Tigers. As the afternoon wore on, the throng of Clemson faithful, colorfully displaying their loyalty with orange hats, orange blazers, and even orange tiger paws imprinted on their cheeks, would not be disappointed for making the long journey from South Carolina.

Faced with the possible, dubious distinction of becoming the losingest Notre Dame team in sixteen years, the Irish received no relief from this year's unrelenting schedule in facing the 14th-ranked Tigers. And after playing an inspired first half of football, Notre Dame got careless and inevitably fell to Clemson's stifling defense and the brilliant scrambling of quarterback Billy Lott, 16-10.

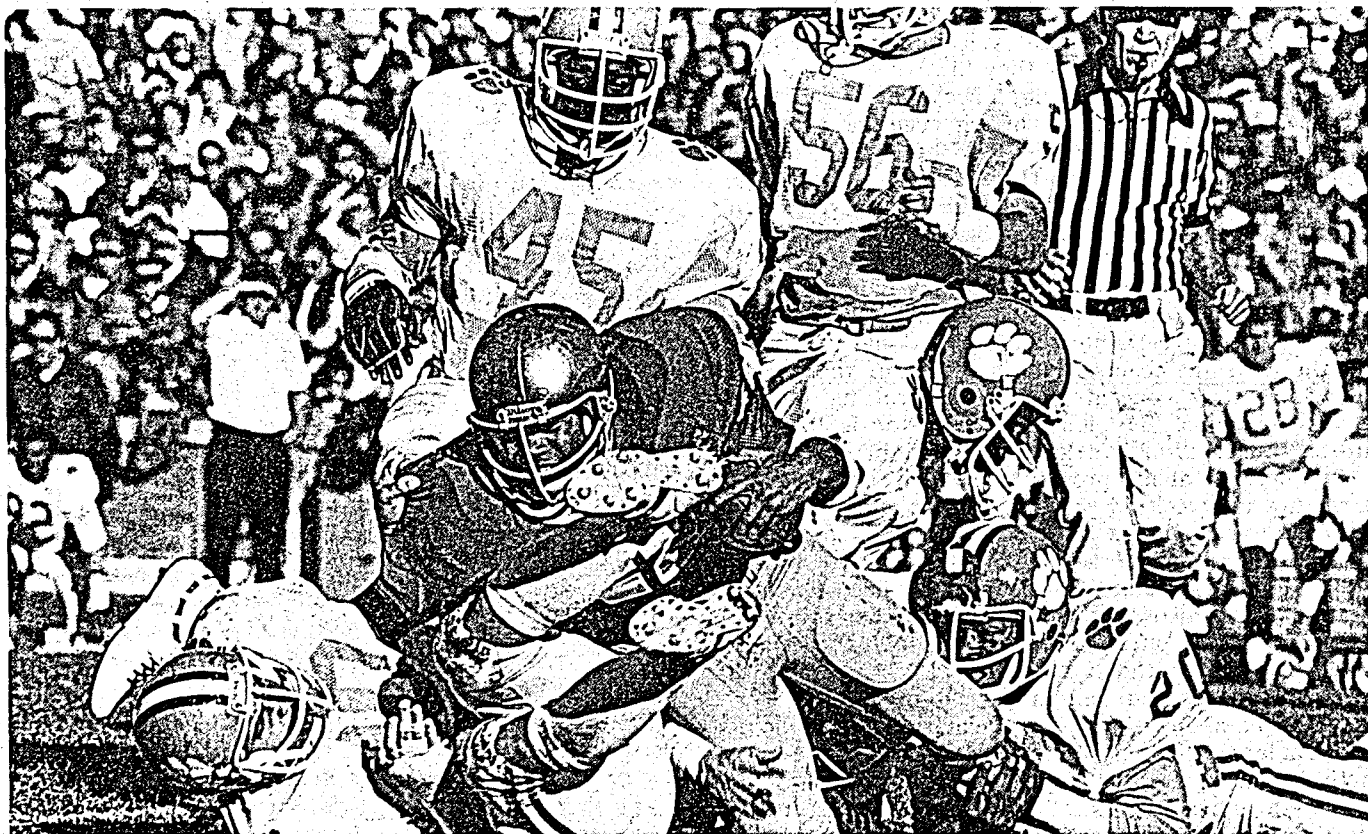
Looking to bounce back from last week's humiliation at Tennessee, the Irish amassed 387 total yards, outdistancing the victors by some 107, yet were hurt by a host of mistakes, including three fumbles and two crucial fourth quarter interceptions.

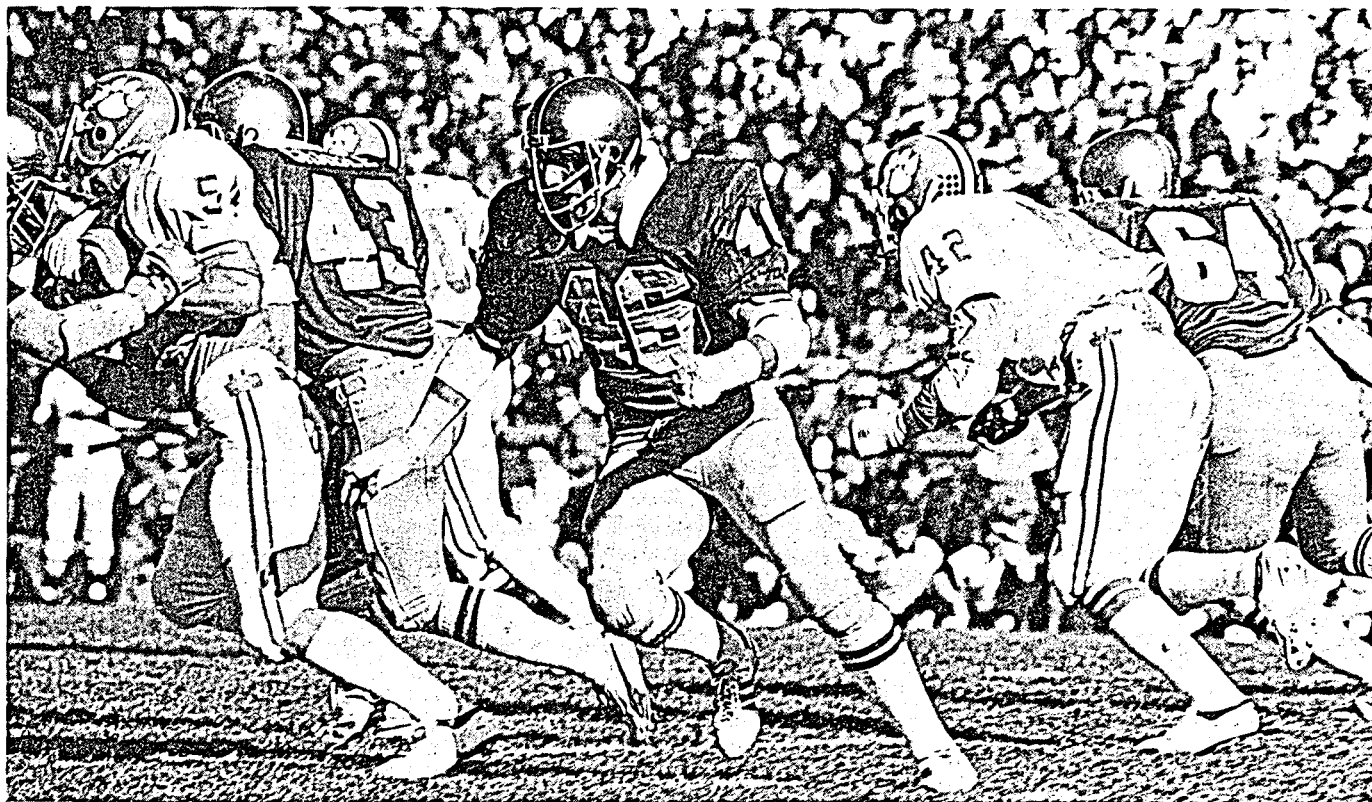
In the opening stanza, after exchanging punts, Notre Dame committed their first error when after making a fine grab of a Rusty Lisch pass, Pete Holohan, carrying the ball precariously in one hand while dodging Clemson defenders, dropped the ball after the play had gained 20 yards to the Clemson 40. After Clemson recovered, the ailing, but still quick Lester Brown, who has rushed for over 2000 yards during his career at Clemson, could not get outside against the Irish. "Notre Dame's defense really surprised me. I felt I could get outside and make things happen, but I never had anywhere to go," Brown later stated. After losing two yards in three plays, Clemson was forced to punt, and Notre Dame assumed control at their own 20. On the merits of Vagas Ferguson's running and a 16 yard Lisch aerial to a leaping Tony Hunter, the Irish marched to the Clemson 24, where Chuck Male put Notre Dame on the scoreboard first with a 42-yard field goal, his twelfth of the year, tying the school's single season record set by Dave Reeve.

Male blew an opportunity to break that record when he missed a 46-

yard try just minutes later, but strong defensive play on the part of Steve Cichy and the ever-present Bob Crable stymied the Clemson ground game, and after a booming, 49-yard punt by one of the nation's best, David Sims, Notre Dame launched a drive from their own 20. After 13 plays, the Irish found themselves in a 4th and one situation at the Clemson four, carried there by the sliding and gliding of Ferguson, and the hard running of first-time starter Phil Carter. The Tacoma, Washington freshman must have appeared much bigger than 5'11", 185 lbs. to Clemson would-be tacklers on runs of fifteen and eight yards. Lisch's keeper gave N.D. a first down inside the Clemson two, where it took Ferguson two plays to bang into the end zone, while Male's subsequent conversion gave Notre Dame a 10-0 lead.

During the week much was made of the All-American match-up between Notre Dame's Tim Foley, and the hulking, 6'5", 250 pound defensive tackle, Jim Stuckey, of Clemson. With Notre Dame doing much of its running over Foley's broad back, it was clear who was winning





that publicized battle. After the game a battered Stuckey praised Foley saying, "Foley is the best I've played against all year long. I think I had only one or two tackles."

Following the score, Clemson drove the ball to the Irish 24, but a fierce blitz on third and nine by Mark Zavagnin dropped Lott back to the 38 and out of scoring range. The Irish took over with under two minutes left in the half, and Lisch put the ball deep in Clemson territory with a 38-yard sideline bomb to Tony Hunter. Ferguson broke through for 15 yards to the 11, but a holding call and two incompletions brought Chuck Male jogging to the field. It had been a long time for Chuck since his early season heroics, the Michigan game, and the cover of *The Sporting News*, and he demonstrated this by kicking this 33 yard attempt wide right. The half soon ended and the Irish carried a 10-0 advantage, that could very well have been more, into the locker room.

After last week's disaster at Knoxville, Coach Devine seemed to have his charges back on track. Though they held only a ten point lead, their 295 first half yards were the most any team had punched out against the heralded Clemson defense this year in an entire game, while Ferguson's touchdown was the first, first-half rushing touchdown allowed by the Tigers. On defense, the Irish halted the superb Clemson running attack. And after stopping the Tigers on their initial possession of the second half, Notre Dame appeared headed for its seventh win in this, the home finale. However, the ensuing punt was grossly mishandled by Ty Dickerson, whose fumble was recovered by Clemson at the N.D. 20. Dickerson, who showed questionable judgment earlier when he chased a first quarter Sims boot back inside his own ten, rather than let it bounce into the end zone, appeared less than enthusiastic about the game, and was noticeably absent for the rest of

the afternoon. Clemson moved to the four before stalling and calling on Nigerian-born Obed Ariri, who doubles as a star on Clemson's soccer team, to kick a 23 yard field goal.

Following a ten yard run by Ferguson on Notre Dame's first second half play, the highly acclaimed Clemson defense began living up to its well-deserved reputation by shutting the Irish down on three consecutive runs. This tough unit came into the game boasting a miserly 7.7 points per game allowed average (second in the nation) and had relinquished, amazingly, only six touchdowns all season. Though defensive stalwart Stuckey was still being manhandled by Foley, linebacker Bubba Brown and safetyman Willie Underwood more than picked up the slack. The defense would become even more relentless as the second half wore on. And as the defense tightened, on offense, Billy Lott and others chewed up yardage and the clock, while Notre Dame would have

Clemson	0	0	13	3—16
Notre Dame	3	7	0	0—10

Scoring:

ND — Male, 42-yard field goal
 ND — Ferguson, 2-yard run (Male kick)
 CL — Ariri, 20-yard field goal
 CL — Ariri, 41-yard field goal
 CL — Lott, 26-yard run (Ariri kick)
 CL — Ariri, 37-yard field goal



the ball for only eight minutes the entire second half.

After a Mike Boushka punt, Clemson moved from their own 33 to the N.D. 25, mainly on the running of Lott with help from quick freshman, Chuck McSwain, to set up another Ariri field goal that made the score 10-6. Down just four points, and sensing a chance to take the lead, the Tigers got a little help from Vagas Ferguson who fumbled at the Notre Dame 20 following a vicious pop from Brown in the backfield. Four plays later, Lott danced down the middle of the field 26 yards to the Irish end zone, past Notre Dame defenders who must have thought Jimmy Streater had returned to haunt them. Lott's artful scramble gave Clemson a 13-10 lead they brought with them into fourth quarter play.

After another impotent N.D. series, Clemson took over on its own 38, from where they proceeded to march to the N.D. 17. The drive stopped when Scott Zettek sacked Lott on a crucial third and seven, and Clemson had to settle for Ariri's third field goal to increase their lead to six.

The drive took 15 plays, mostly short gains up the middle, but more importantly consumed seven and a half minutes of now crucial fourth quarter time. The N.D. students, inactive so far, now came to life with memories of the 1977 thrilling comeback against these same Tigers in South Carolina, and hopes that Rusty Lisch could somehow emulate Joe Montana's heroics of that game. Taking to the air, Lisch found Tony Hunter an attractive target on passes

of 20 and 23 yards, moving the Irish to the Clemson 25. Rusty was working on courageous, senior cornerback, Rex Varn, who has a medical report as long as Orlando Woolridge's right arm on file in Clemson's trainer's room, was proving to be no match for the fleet, angular Hunter, and on third and nine, Lisch, once again, looked Hunter's way.

Once again Hunter beat Varn and Lisch's pass got to Tony at the three-yard line. However, the usually sure-handed receiver deflected the ball into the open arms of strong safety Terry Kinard, who promptly returned the ball out to the 25. From here, Lott chewed up over two more minutes in pushing the Clemson offense to two first downs before Sims' punt turned the ball over to the Irish on their own 16 with 2:34 left on the clock. Needing a big play to trigger what they hoped would be the game-winning touchdown march, Notre Dame turned to its "ace in the hole," the end around pass. The play took what seemed like years to develop, and by the time Pete Holohan finally unloaded his pass Kinard caught up with Hunter and again intercepted, this time returning the ball 40 yards to the Notre Dame 19, apparently securing a Clemson victory.

Notre Dame was given one last breath of life when Clemson fumbled two plays later at the 16. But a 14-yard sack and two incomplete passes gave the ball to the Tigers who simply and wisely ran out the clock for the win.

This loss, N.D.'s fourth of the season, rendered them 6-4 on the season and was significant in that it represented the most losses by a

Notre Dame team since 1963 when they were 2-7, and featured a complete collapse, through mistakes, of the Notre Dame attack in the second half. However, there were a few bright lights shining through the dark cloud of defeat. The pleasantly surprising running of Phil Carter (44 yards, all in the first half) and the continued brilliant play of the ever-improving Tony Hunter (four receptions for 97 yards) and the ubiquitous Bob Crable (26 tackles) gave Irish rooters good reason to look forward to upcoming seasons. Rusty Lisch had another 200-plus yards passing day, his fifth in six games, while Vagas Ferguson had yet another 100-yard day, rushing for 106 to be exact, and no doubt set another Notre Dame rushing mark.

Though the Irish blunders certainly contributed, the real credit for the win lies in the tremendous, second-half turnaround by the frugal Clemson defense and the A.C.C.-leading Clemson running attack, led primarily by the quick and wily Billy Lott. Lott on the day rushed for 106 yards, all but 20 in the second half, and scored the clincher on his 26-yard scamper. Lott, certainly the offensive key for the Tigers, offered this insight as to what magic words Coach Danny Ford may have uttered in the locker room to cause the drastic improvement. "At halftime coach told us that this was a chance of a lifetime for us. It was a chance to beat a team with a great tradition. When I'm 40 or 50 years old, I'm going to remember this game." A game Notre Dame and its many supporters would sooner forget.

Muddy Mirage Massacre

by John Heisler

"What does the Mirage Bowl game against Miami mean to Notre Dame?"

That was the question facing Irish coach Dan Devine as he entertained a barrage of Japanese journalists following Notre Dame's first practice in Tokyo.

"This game means everything to us," Devine emphasized. "This is our last game of the season and a loss here would leave a bad taste in our mouths all winter long. We don't plan to let that happen."

Vagas Ferguson, Dave Waymer and Tim Foley—the Irish tri-captains flanking their head coach—nodded in agreement. And, indeed, it was those three who did as much as anyone to make certain Notre Dame closed out its '79 football campaign on a positive note.

The Irish concluded a fascinating week in Tokyo by thrashing Miami 40-15 despite a persistent rain that made a quagmire of the field halfway through the first period. An enthusiastic crowd of 62,574 ignored the wet conditions in Olympic Memorial Stadium—and they couldn't have seen a more fitting finale for Ferguson, Waymer and Foley.

All Ferguson did in his 42nd and final appearance in a Notre Dame uniform was ramble through the Hurricane defense 35 times for 177 yards and three touchdowns. On an afternoon in which the Irish disdained the forward pass in view of the mud and poor footing, they depended almost exclusively on the elusive senior halfback. As has become the custom, he came through in magnificent fashion.

Foley, who joined Vagas on the All-America roster for '79, led the charge of the Notre Dame offensive line as it time and again carved out openings for Ferguson.

And Waymer, who saw his post-season honor hopes shattered by an early-season knee injury, made his last game quite possibly his best. He accounted for the two touchdowns that Ferguson didn't score by returning interceptions three and 37 yards.

Whether the Irish romp came about simply because of a sense of pride on Notre Dame's part mattered little. Devine's charges dominated the Mirage Bowl III affair in just the manner he had hoped for to help diminish the leftover thoughts from the losses the two previous weeks. In fact, with the arduous transcontinental flights and the Japanese culture thrown in, the week went down as one of the more eventful in Irish football annals.

The football game actually was never much of one. Ferguson, Waymer and a helpful official's flag saw to that in the first five minutes of the contest.

Devine started junior Mike Courey at quarterback after Rusty Lisch had been bothered in practice all

week by both knee and shoulder soreness. And the option-oriented signalcaller skirted the ends for 11- and-17-yards gains on the game's first two plays. The Notre Dame drive bogged down, literally, at the Miami 42, but a roughing-the-kicker penalty on a Dick Boushka punt handed the Irish new life.

With a first down at the Miami 27, Vagas got the call five straight times, the last one for two yards and a score.

On Miami's second play from scrimmage, this one from its own eight, freshman quarterback Jim Kelly aimed a sideline pass for flanker Jim Joiner. Waymer had other ideas, though, and he picked off the throw at the three and easily scored. Just like that it was 14-0.



"I recognized the quick screen from the films we had seen," Waymer noted. "I saw Joiner take a step off the line of scrimmage and I automatically looked for the ball. But I didn't know if the quarterback would throw because I thought he saw me."

Miami coach Howard Schnellenberger admitted the Hurricanes dug an awfully large hole for themselves.

"The penalty on fourth down gave them new life, and our throwing that interception put a different light on the remainder of the game. But even without the mistakes, Notre Dame was a superior team."

The Hurricanes cut the margin to one touchdown with a 66-yard march that ended in a Gary Breckner one-yard scoring plunge early in the second quarter. But the loss of Kelly to a knee injury midway through that drive spelled trouble for Miami the rest of the way.

While the Irish were content to stay on the ground, substitute quarterback Mike Rodrigue kept Miami in the air the rest of the way. He finished with 15 completions in 37 attempts, but the 122 yards simply weren't enough to put Miami in scoring position often enough.

Meanwhile, the Irish continued to make the big plays.

A 46-yard punt return by freshman Dave Duerson left the Irish on Miami's 22. And even though a fourth-down race for the flag by Lisch ended up on the one, the Hurricanes were in trouble. They got only as far as their four, where Bob Crable blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety.

The Irish then drove 40 yards with the ensuing kick, enabling Chuck Male to connect on a 35-yard field goal attempt. That gave him 13 for the season, a Notre Dame record.

Another spectacular Duerson punt return, this one of 43 yards, set the Irish up on Miami's 18. From there it took Ferguson but two carries to find the end zone, the final run an 11-yarder. Male's kick made it 26-7 and effectively clinched the verdict.

Notre Dame went 75 yards (44 of them Ferguson's) for yet another score early in the last quarter. Waymer added the final tally by intercepting the same sort of dangerous sideline throw he had taken advantage of early in the game. This one made it 40-7 after the senior cornerback took the football 37 yards in the other direction.

Miami did manage a final score with four seconds to go in the game, but only after the officials had strangely added a minute to the scoreboard clock after the game apparently had ended. But it

mattered little to Notre Dame after the Irish had run up 250 total yards, actually one less than Miami's final total.

"We didn't make many mistakes," said Miami fullback Chris Hobbs, "but the ones we made were costly. They made a big difference in the momentum in the game."

Ferguson's 13th career 100-yard effort left him with 1,437 yards in 1979 and 3,472 in his career at Notre Dame. His three touchdowns against Miami gave him 17 for the year, yet another Irish mark.

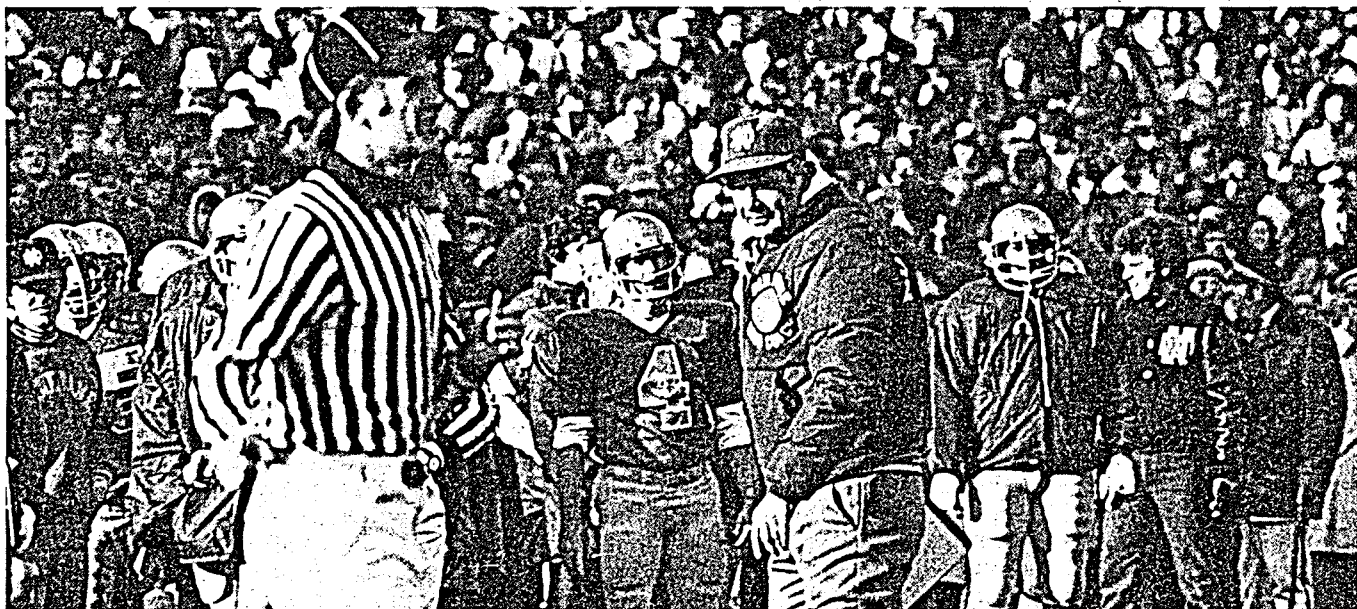
"I thought it was fitting that Vagas and Dave and Tim played as well as they did in their last game," Devine noted later. "I'm sure they had hoped to finish with a little better record than we did, but they did a great job as our captains this year. You can't ask any more than that."

And the Japanese fans couldn't have asked for a more rewarding Notre Dame finish as the Irish bid sayonara to the '79 campaign.

Notre Dame	14	5	7	14-40
Miami	0	7	0	8-15

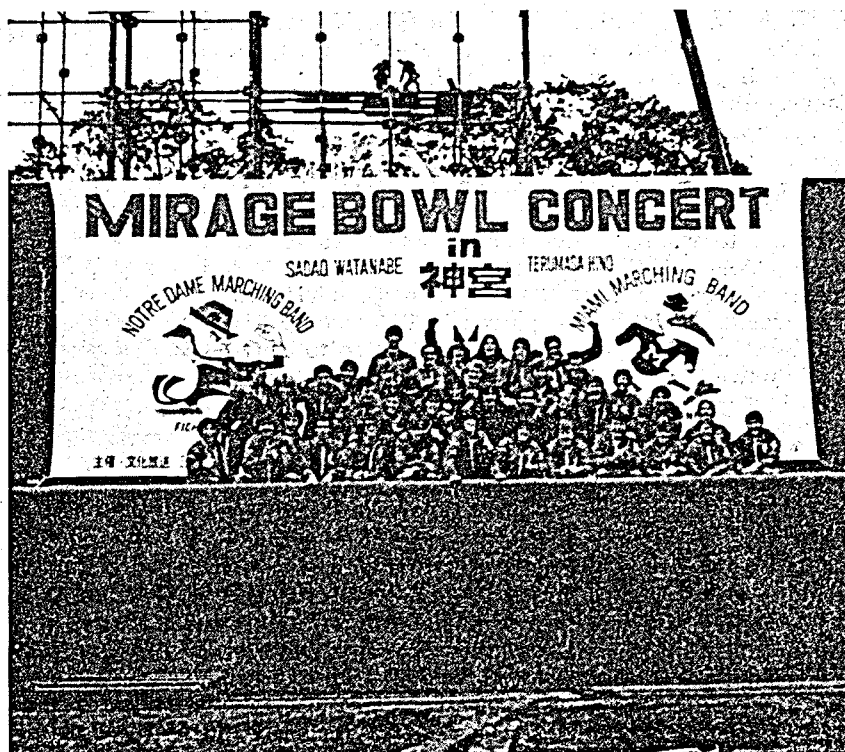
Scoring:

ND — Ferguson, 2-yard run (Male kick)
 ND — Waymer, 3-yard interception return (Male kick)
 M — Breckner, 1-yard run (Miller kick)
 ND — Safety. Punt blocked out of endzone
 ND — Male, 35-yard field goal
 ND — Ferguson, 11-yard run (Male kick)
 ND — Ferguson, 1-yard run (Male kick)
 ND — Waymer, 37-yard interception return (Male kick)
 M — Breckner, 1-yard run (Rodrigue run)



Band Jams in Japan

by Greg Papiernik



On Monday, November 19, 1979, two hundred members of the Notre Dame Marching Band boarded five buses to begin their trip to Tokyo, Japan, as representatives of the University of Notre Dame at the Mirage Bowl. This trip to Japan was the culmination of several months of preparation and hard work by the band's three directors, Mr. Robert O'Brien, Mr. James Phillips and Fr. George Wiskirchen as well as the band's two hundred members. What was once a dream in the early part of the year had now become a reality as both the band and the football team were about to embark on a trip that would always be remembered by its participants.

In the early months of last year, a rumor spread around the Notre Dame campus that the football team was going to schedule an away game with the University of Miami in Tokyo to help promote football in Japan as well as to promote Mitsubishi Motors' new car, the Mirage. The game became known as the Mirage Bowl. In order to give the Japanese people a better picture of football, both schools' bands were invited to accompany their football teams and march in two parades, to participate in a "battle of the bands" and to perform three separate shows at the football game. A difficult task remained for the Notre Dame Band as preparations for the trip were made throughout the summer by the band directors and staff. Not only did the band have to prepare for the regular marching season, but special themes had to be selected and music had to be arranged for the trip to Tokyo. Many extra hours of preparation and practice were put into this trip to make it a success.

The fall semester passed by quickly as the magic hour finally arrived for the Notre Dame Band. Early in the morning on Monday, November 19, several hours before the sun would rise, two hundred band members boarded the buses which would start them on their journey to Japan by transporting them to O'Hare International Airport for a flight to Los Angeles.

The trip to Chicago was brief as many people fell asleep only to wake up at the International Terminal of O'Hare Airport. Luggage was checked in, and the

band flew to Los Angeles on a commercial flight. In Los Angeles, band members caught a second wind as many people scurried around the airport either exchanging dollars for yen or declaring items at Customs or by relaxing at the airport bar planning their future activities. After a five-hour layover, the entire band departed from Los Angeles for the final leg of their trip to Japan.

The flight to Tokyo was long and boring and many people tried to find ways to amuse themselves. One such way was by playing with the chopsticks which the band members used to eat their meals. Many people struggled to manipulate these two wooden sticks to pick up peas and noodles in an attempt to feed themselves. Band members crowded the aisles, enthusiastically discussing their plans for the next few days. After leaving South Bend at 5 a.m., Monday, the Notre Dame Band arrived in Tokyo International Airport at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Three hours later, the band was greeted by their Japanese hosts at the Miyako Hotel in Tokyo.

The Miyako Hotel was a new building surrounded by many tiny houses and shops with a garden just outside the hotel. The only vehicles on the streets when the band arrived were taxicabs. The cabs drove along the left side of the streets which was quite different than what one is used to in the United States. Quickly the band members rushed into their rooms, unpacked and were then treated to a steak dinner in a spacious banquet room in the hotel. Salad and soup were served with the meal as the waiters were careful to make sure that everybody was satisfied with his meal. Arrangements were made for the next practice which would start at 8 a.m. the next morning. Since it was late, many band members decided to call it a night and rest up for their busy schedule. However, several members of the group, unaffected by their lack of sleep, decided to explore the area surrounding the hotel.

These travelers began their adventure by walking down several winding streets in search of anything that would catch their eyes. It did not take long for

them to find a building that they could recognize without any difficulty. They discovered a Japanese Coffee Shop or bar equipped with electronic games. Eagerly, they entered the Coffee Shop and were greeted by the owner who was surprised to see the Americans. The language barrier was quickly overcome as the band members ordered a "bee-ru" or beer and proceeded to play the electronic games. The other patrons became interested in their visitors and tried to speak to the band members. Fortunately, one man could translate Japanese and asked the American visitors if they would entertain the patrons with a song. Well, it did not take long for the band members to respond as they were given a microphone, a songbook, and some background music for the Beatles' song, "Yesterday." They sang the song and were warmly applauded for their effort. Next, the Japanese patrons sang a Japanese folk song and after several more exchanges, the evening was ended with a rendition of the Notre Dame Fight Song.

The next day, Wednesday, began with a buffet-style breakfast consisting of several types of eggs, several kinds of meat and an assortment of rolls and bread quite different from the standard cafeteria breakfast. The band boarded the buses only to be distracted by little children on their way to school in their uniforms. The children were by no means shy and gladly posed for the flashing cameras. The buses finally left for the practice field with the musicians hanging outside the windows greeting the Japanese people who were on their way to work. The streets were crowded with tiny cars—quite a different sight from the empty streets of the night before. The streets were filled with many miniature garbage trucks which reminded one of Matchbox cars. A steady mist filled the air—this would be the prevailing weather condition for the majority of the band's stay in Tokyo. Many little shops lined the streets offering various commodities such as raw fish, squid, groceries and clothing.

Practice took place at a small park with a mud field adjacent to where the football team was practicing. Later during the week, the weather conditions became so bad that both the Miami and Notre Dame bands were forced to practice on a field that reminded one of a rice paddy because there were several inches of water and muddy ground which caused many people to sink and slip. The highlight of the practice sessions occurred when several band members, modelling their souvenir Japanese baseball shirts, posed with a Japanese Little League team for fifty people equipped with cameras. They disrupted a baseball practice, but nobody seemed to mind this brief intrusion.

While in Tokyo, the band performed several concerts for Mitsubishi Motors who had sponsored the Mirage Bowl. These performances included an appearance on the Japanese equivalent of the Johnny Carson Show. This television appearance featured the Irish Guard and the Notre Dame Cheerleaders. The Japanese were amazed to see such big men with kilts dance, and the Irish Guard became instant celebrities.

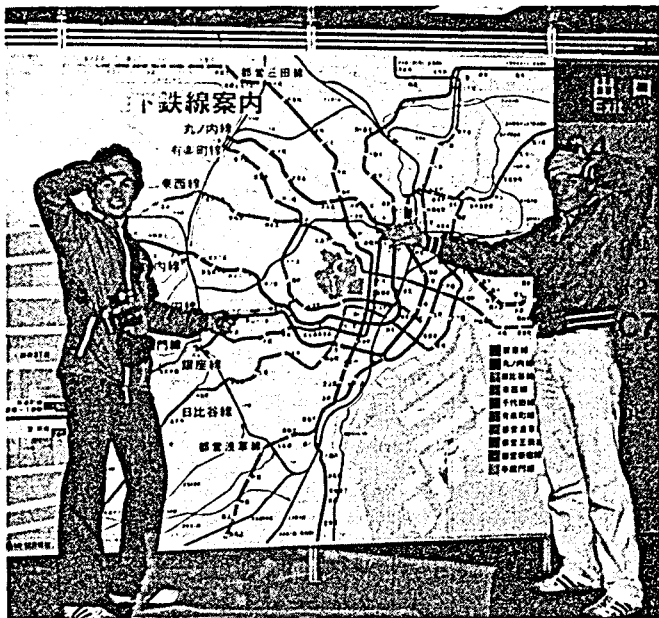
The Notre Dame Band and the Miami Band marched in two parades which were about five miles in length. The bands played a variety of school songs along with other American tunes as they marched through the Japanese business districts. A constant rain did not dampen the crowd's enthusiasm for their American guests. The parades were held in two business districts called Ginza and Harajuku as cars drove alongside the marching bands. Not many people lined the



streets as in the United States, but thousands of Japanese spectators hung out their windows applauding the Notre Dame and Miami bands' performances. Later, we found out that these were the first parades ever to take place in Japan.

On the day before the football game, the Notre Dame and Miami bands participated in a "battle of the bands." Both bands, in front of a filled baseball stadium which was part of the Tokyo Olympic Complex, accompanied a popular saxophone player named Sadao Watanabe. His music, which is popular in Japan, soon became the favorite of many band members. Many people purchased Watanabe albums containing such songs as "Ngoma Party" and "California Shower" which had been performed at the concert. The concert was a tremendous success as both bands demonstrated their marching skills to the Japanese spectators by performing halftime shows. The program concluded with a "battle of the bands" as the Japanese cheered every song. They tossed souvenirs out to the students in appreciation for their efforts.

When the Notre Dame Band was not performing, the visitors travelled around Tokyo exploring its narrow streets for small shops and restaurants. Many band members could be seen dashing for cabs which would take them to the Meguro train station where they would get on a train and go to one of Tokyo's many business districts. The popular districts frequented by the group included the Ginza, Harajuku and Shinjuku districts. These districts featured a variety of Japanese and American shops where a person could buy a kimono, a watch, a china set, a happi coat or many other types of souvenirs. Bargains could be found everywhere if you would just walk down a side alley. If you found something you liked, you could bargain with the store owner for a lower price. If one walked around long enough, he could even find a small Japanese restaurant serving such delicacies



as squid or raw fish. Many times, people found it safer to just point out what they wanted to eat and not ask what it was.

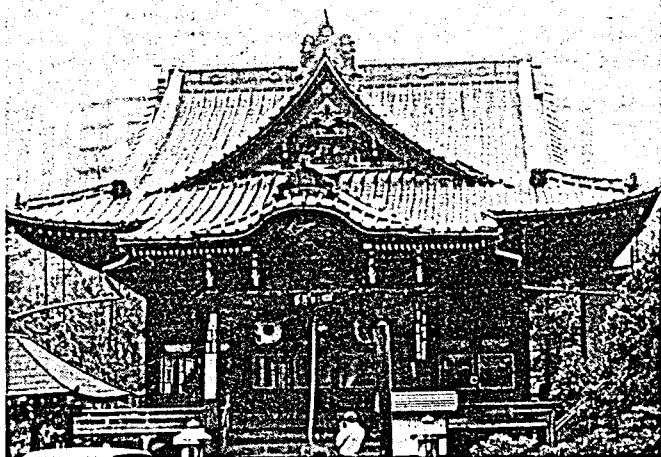
Most shops closed at 9 p.m., so many of the band members went back to the hotel to check out the coffee shops. However, with the advice of our Japanese hosts, some adventurers decided to stay in the district and visit a suitable bar or disco. One did not have to go far to find one of these establishments and a popular disco discovered by the Irish Guard was Studio One. Here, one would pay \$8 for entrance into the disco and get all the drinks and food he desired for the entire night. The music played was not all hard-core disco as the dance floor was crowded with a mixture of Japanese and American youths. Everybody had a great time as they danced the night away though Japanese girls were initially reluctant to dance with the American men. If disco did not appeal there was always a nearby bar which offered some type of enjoyable entertainment. Generally, a cab could be procured for a ride back to the hotel—occasionally, however, the cab driver dropped you off at the wrong hotel.

There were two major parties hosted by the Mirage Bowl Committee in the Miyaka Hotel. The first was a welcome party on Thanksgiving Day and the other was a Sayonara party which followed the football game. The parties honored both Notre Dame and Miami as there were two large ice statues of football players symbolic of the upcoming game. These two statues were surrounded by tables of Japanese food which included raw fish, squid and shrimp. It was the type of party only seen in the movies as a live band played in the next room. People from Notre Dame and Miami demonstrated their abilities on the dance floor for this event was more than just a football game. Usually, these parties ended early, so many people just continued the party in their hotel rooms. These gatherings attracted people from both Notre Dame and Miami as well as some Japanese guests. Highlights of the parties

were card tricks and songs as many band members fondly nicknamed the party a Ngoma party in honor of the saxophonist, Sadao Watanabe.

Finally, the advertised event arrived as the bands entered the Olympic Memorial Stadium to perform for the Mirage Bowl. As usual, it was raining and the field was muddy, but nobody seemed to mind the weather conditions. The Notre Dame Band performed pregame, halftime and postgame shows which intermixed Japanese and American music. After each show, both bands combined to spell out Mirage and played the Mirage Bowl Theme. Half of the Japanese football fans waved green pompoms for Notre Dame while the other half waved orange pompoms for Miami. The Japanese crowd mimicked the band by swaying their pompoms back and forth even though they did not seem to understand what was happening in the football game. Notre Dame emerged victorious in the game, 40-15.

When the game was over the football team took a victory lap around the stadium as the Japanese cheered loudly for both teams. The saddest part of the trip came as the band had to leave the field. The people cheered and hurled tiny souvenirs onto the field. It was difficult to say good-bye after such a short visit in which the band had enjoyed the hospitality of its Japanese hosts and had become attached to the Japanese people. Outside the stadium, the band members passed out small souvenirs and even signed some autographs for the Japanese people. We were celebrities with the football team as all involved wished that they could stay a little longer. For such a short time, many people had encountered things they would never experience again in their lives. Sadly, the next day, the Notre Dame Band and football team left Tokyo for the Notre Dame campus. We could be proud of what we had done in Japan, and we will treasure these experiences that we had with the Japanese people. Many stories will go untold about this trip, and it would probably take a book to fully describe the Notre Dame Band's trip to Tokyo to perform in the Mirage Bowl.



1979 Final Notre Dame Football Statistics

RESULTS . . . Won 7, Lost 4

at Michigan	W	12-10	105,111 (C)
at Purdue	L	22-28	70,567 (C)
MICHIGAN STATE	W	27-3	59,075 (C)
GEORGIA TECH	W	21-13	59,075 (C)
at Air Force	W	38-13	34,881
SOUTHERN CAL	L	23-42	59,075 (C)
SOUTH CAROLINA	W	18-17	59,075 (C)
NAVY	W	14-0	59,075 (C)
at Tennessee	L	18-40	86,489 (C)
CLEMSON	L	10-16	59,075 (C)
Miami at Tokyo	W	40-15	62,574

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	OPP
Total Offense Yards	4183	3381
Total Plays	775	783
Yards per Play	5.4	4.3
Yards per Game	380.3	307.4
Rushing Yards	2025	1985
Attempts	516	542
Yards per Rush	3.9	3.7
Yards per Game	184.1	180.5

Passing Yards	2158	1396
Attempts	259	241
Completions	130	118
Had Intercepted	13	14
Comp. Percentage	.502	.490
Touchdown Passes	6	7
Yards per Attempt	8.3	5.8
Yards per Comp.	16.6	11.8
Yards per Game	196.2	126.9

Punting Yards	2016	2586
Number of Punts	56	70
Average Punt	36.0	36.9
Had Blocked	0	1

Punt Return Yards	319	134
Number of Returns	31	20
Average Return	10.3	6.7

Kickoff Return Yards	770	502
Number of Returns	38	26
Average Return	20.3	19.3

Interception Return Yards	209	151
Number of Interceptions	14	13
Average Return	14.9	11.6

Number of Penalties	54	31
Penalty Yards	607	244
Fumbles (Lost)	23 (13)	26 (11)
Yards Returned	0	0

Total First Downs	207	193
By Rushing	112	116
By Passing	89	68
By Penalty	6	9

Third Down Conversions	57/171	71/184
Percentage	.333	.386

Possession Time	326:53	333:07
Minutes per Game	29:43	30:17

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Notre Dame	74	61	48	60	— 243
Opponent	24	57	77	39	— 197

TEAM SCORING

	ND	OPP
Total Points	243	197
Average	22.1	17.9
Touchdowns	29	24
By Rushing	21	17
By Passing	6	7
By Returns	2	0
By Recovery	0	0
Field Goals (Made-Att.)	13/21	9/13
Safeties	2	1
PAT — Kick	24/26	22/22
PAT — Run	0/0	1/2
PAT — Pass	1/3	0/0

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

	G	TD	PAT	R-PA	S	FG	TP
Ferguson	11	17	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	102
Male	11	0	24-26	0-0	0	*13-20	63
Yehr	11	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	12
Hunter	10	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	12
Masztak	11	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	12
Lisch	10	2	0-0	0-2	0	0-0	12
Waymer	8	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	12
J. Stone	11	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	6
Barber	11	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	6
Team	11	0	0-0	0-0	2	0-0	4
Holohan	11	0	0-0	1-1	0	0-0	2
Unis	1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-1	0

ND	11	29	24-26	1-3	2	13-21	243
OPP	11	24	22-22	1-2	1	9-13	197

*40, 44, 22 and 39 yards vs. Michigan
40 and 32 yards vs. Purdue
49 and 36 yards vs. Michigan State
43 yards vs. Air Force
42 yards vs. Southern Cal
40 yards vs. South Carolina
42 yards vs. Clemson
35 yards vs. Miami

RUSHING

	G	TC	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Ferguson	11	301	1437	4.8	17	79
Barber	11	40	172	4.3	1	22
J. Stone	11	37	156	4.2	1	20
Carter	9	27	145	5.4	0	23
Adell	11	20	93	4.6	0	34
Sweeney	10	9	33	3.7	0	8
Courey	5	17	28	1.6	0	17
Dickerson	9	1	4	4.0	0	4
Koegel	11	6	-7	-1.2	0	5
Lisch	10	58	-36	-0.6	2	17

ND	11	516	2025	3.9	21	79
OPP	11	542	1985	3.7	17	51

PASSING

	G	No.	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Lisch	10	208	108	.519	10	1781	4
Koegel	11	32	13	.406	1	175	1
Courey	5	13	6	.462	1	104	0
Holohan	11	3	2	.667	1	81	0
Knafelc	2	1	1	1.000	0	17	1
J. Stone	11	1	0	0.000	0	0	0
Ferguson	11	1	0	0.000	0	0	0

ND	11	259	130	.502	13	2158	6
OPP	11	241	118	.490	14	1396	7

PASS RECEIVING

	G	PC	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Masztak	11	28	428	15.3	2	30
Hunter	10	27	690	25.6	2	75
Holohan	11	22	386	17.5	0	59
Dickerson	9	16	361	22.6	0	47
Ferguson	11	14	72	5.1	0	18
Barber	11	9	106	11.8	0	36
Yehr	11	6	56	9.3	2	25
Sweeney	10	2	12	6.0	0	10
Hart	10	1	27	27.0	0	27
M. Boushka	11	1	11	11.0	0	11
Carter	9	1	4	4.0	0	4
Lisch	10	1	3	3.0	0	3
J. Stone	11	1	3	3.0	0	3
Adell	11	1	-1	-1.0	0	0

ND	11	130	2158	16.6	6	75
OPP	11	118	1396	11.8	7	80

PUNTING

	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
D. Boushka	11	56	2016	36.0	54
ND	11	56	2016	36.0	54
OPP	11	70	2586	36.9	68

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Duerson	12	209	17.4	0	46
Dickerson	14	100	7.1	0	51
Gibbons	2	9	4.5	0	6
Waymer	1	1	1.0	0	1
Krimm	2	0	0.0	0	0
ND	31	319	10.3	0	51
OPP	20	134	6.7	0	18

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
J. Stone	19	493	25.9	0	48
Barber	7	158	22.6	0	31
Adell	6	83	13.8	0	24
Yehr	2	17	8.5	0	10
Belden	2	12	6.0	0	8
Waymer	1	7	7.0	0	7
Holohan	1	0	0.0	0	0
ND	38	770	20.3	0	48
OPP	26	502	19.3	0	46

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Waymer	4	77	19.2	2	37
Gibbons	3	74	24.7	0	51
Duerson	2	43	21.5	0	33
Leopold	1	16	16.0	0	16
Cichy	2	2	1.0	0	2
Whittington	1	0	0.0	0	0
Crabbe	1	-3	-3.0	0	-3
ND	14	209	14.9	2	51
OPP	13	151	11.6	0	40

DEFENSIVE STATS

	*TM	TL-Yds.	PBU	FR	BK
Crabbe	187	10-29	3	2	3
Whittington	108	4-11	3	0	0
Hankerd	73	14-90	1	3	0
Cichy	67	3-12	2	2	0
Leopold	66	3-9	5	0	0
Zetke	62	5-34	0	0	0
Gramke	52	5-22	0	0	0
Gibbons	48	0-0	3	1	0
Zavagnin	43	3-16	0	1	0
Waymer	41	2-4	6	0	0
Griffith	33	2-7	1	0	0
Krimm	26	2-2	3	0	0
Kramer	25	3-28	0	0	0
Duerson	24	1-1	2	1	0
Czaja	14	1-5	0	1	0
Kidd	14	2-16	0	0	0
Fasano	10	0-0	2	0	0
Lueken	7	3-12	0	0	0
DeSisto	7	0-0	2	0	0
Bone	7	2-3	1	0	0
Moynihan	7	1-4	0	0	0
Mishler	6	0-0	0	1	0
Clasby	5	0-0	0	0	0
D. Boushka	4	0-0	0	0	0
Thayer	3	0-0	0	0	0
Rudzinski	2	0-0	0	0	0
Rayam	2	1-1	0	0	0
Belden	1	0-0	0	1	0
Case	1	0-0	0	0	0
ND	945	67-306	34	13	3
OPP	955	47-203	32	13	0

*Includes solos and assists

The Enemy's Best

by Jeff Jeffers

One is tempted while selecting the 1979 all-opponent team to merely reprint the starting lineup for U.S.C. and let it go at that. But most of the underclassmen for the Trojans will most likely make it before they leave school, so you are able to spread out the picks.

A schedule that included six bowl teams makes it pretty easy to name outstanding players. But excluding some others is the hard part. Every Irish fan has his own personal favorite from the other side. Here are mine.

OFFENSE

QB—Paul McDonald of USC had everyone waiting for the southpaw curse to hit. A bit of wildness or an ill-timed interception would make him a bit more believable, but it never happened. Easily the best in '79.

RB—It would have been nice for Charles White to have received a casting call for "The White Shadow" or "Quincy" on Oct. 20 but no such luck. He'll be tough to clone, but John Robinson will find a way.

RB—You can look for George Rogers of South Carolina to follow in the footsteps of Ottis Anderson of Miami. He didn't get the ink of a White or Sims, but will be a super pro.

WR—Kevin Williams is listed at 5'8" and 155 lbs. That is not the height and weight for a USC football player, but Williams makes the deep route look easy. He's only a junior and will probably get smaller and faster in the summer.

WR—The other receiver opposite Williams is a little difficult to pick. It could be Dan Garcia of USC or Zion McKinney of South Carolina, but my honoree is Bart Burrell of Purdue. He is a precision receiver and has the best hands of anyone the Irish faced last year. He'll be back to team with Mark Herrmann one more time in 1980.

TIGHT END—I should have asked Steve Cichy for his evaluation. He is the one strong safety who faced more than his share of good, strong and fast tight ends. Doug Marsh of Michigan is the one that comes to mind first. Dave Young of Purdue caught more passes, but Marsh is the smoothest tight end to come along in a long while. A sure bet for the NFL.

TACKLE—George Schecterly of South Carolina transferred from Penn State. He probably got tired of facing Millen and Clark in practice. He was a major cog in the Gamecock running attack and at 6'3", 255 blasted some good-sized holes for Carolina backs.

TACKLE—The Chicago Catholic League is noted for good players and Purdue's Steve McKenzie is no exception. A two-year starter for the Boilers, McKenzie cleared the way for the running game that hurt the Irish more than Herrmann's passing.

GUARD—Brad Budde lost his running mate when Anthony Munoz was hurt in the first game. This may have made Budde mad. A consensus All-America selection, Budde was the best in the offensive trenches against N.D. in 1979.

GUARD—Dale Schwan of Purdue helped McKenzie anchor the best offensive line that the Boilers have had in many years. The improvement of Purdue's running game made them a multidimensional team and Schwan was a key member.

CENTER—Rick Bott of Navy had a fine game against the Irish. He possesses pro size and strength. He will probably be drafted in hopes that he will play professionally after his service commitment.

DEFENSE

DEF. END—Notre Dame's offensive linemen handled Keena Turner of Purdue pretty well, but Tom Kingsbury continually made the big play in the win at West Lafayette. He is one of those small and quick defensive ends who give the Irish fits.

DEF. TACKLE—Jim Stuckey of Clemson played head to head against Tim Foley. The battle was as close to a draw as either would want. If you can go even with Foley, you deserve a spot on the team.

DEF. TACKLE—Curtis Greer of Michigan helped keep the Wolverines close with Notre Dame while their offense fizzled. Greer made some All-America teams and should go high in the pro draft.

DEF. END—Navy played the Irish better than they had hoped. Injuries had sharply reduced the Middle roster, but players like Charlie Thornton kept it close. Thornton played all over the field on Nov. 3 and sparked a fine Navy defensive effort.

LINEBACKER—Notre Dame saw more than its share of excellent backers this past season. None was more prevalent than Dan Bass of Michigan State. It was easy to find the tackler for MSU, just look for number 49, that's Dan Bass.

LINEBACKER—Dennis Johnson of USC teamed with Riki Gray to form a tough twosome to run against. Johnson always seemed to have Vagas Ferguson just when it appeared that Vagas would break for a long gain.

LINEBACKER—It isn't too often that a fan shouts for a defensive player in an individual salute. "Kill Bubba Kill" is one of the few. But Tennessee fans let loose with yells of "Poo, Poo, Poo" to show their approval of Craig Puki. Puki made the hit on fourth down to deny Vagas a score on the last play of the first half.

DEF. BACK—Marcus McKinnie of Purdue did his best when it hurt Irish fans most. A key interception ended the hopes for two straight N.D. wins. Only a sophomore, McKinnie should anchor the Boiler secondary for two more years.

DEF. BACK—Roland James of Tennessee is one of the premier defensive backs in the country. One of his best games came against the Irish. He's equally adept at stopping the run and the pass.

DEF. BACK—The Clemson Tigers had one of the top team defenses in 1979. Terry Kinard had not figured to play much, but two interceptions against Notre Dame established Kinard as one of the top returners among defensive for the coming season.

DEF. BACK—One has to have a Trojan back here even though USC did not have one of their better defensive teams in 1979. A converted wide receiver, Jeff Fisher came up with a clutch interception to seal the fate of

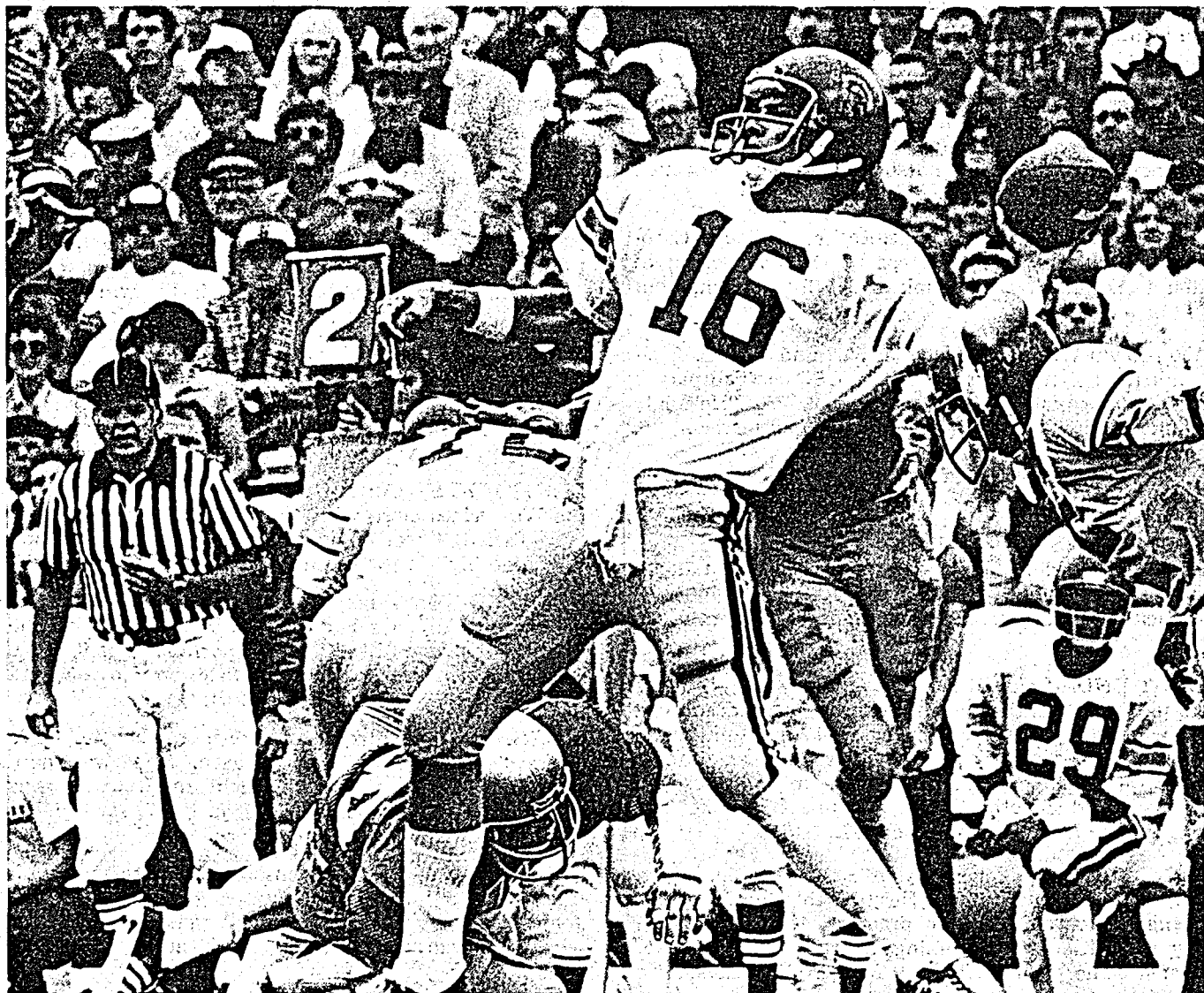
the Irish. Fisher has a good nose for the ball and should get better with more experience.

PUNTER—A bright spot in a disappointing season for Michigan State was the play of the special teams. Ray Stachowicz may be the first punter taken in the draft. He could have played a bigger part in the N.D.-MSU game if the outcome had not been decided early.

PLACEKICKER—Obed Ariri of Clemson plays both soccer and football during the fall. He fit in perfectly with the type of game plan the Tigers used. The defense held the opponent in their own end of the field, received the punt, let the offense get three first downs and bring on Obed. The best thing to come out of Nigeria since Dick Tiger.

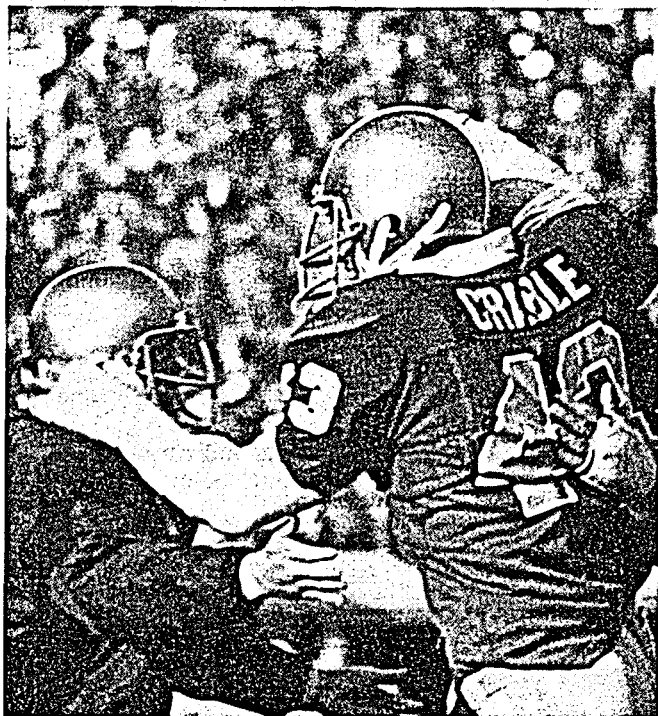
COACH—Clemson had only six starters coming back from 1978. Gone from the Carolina campus were NFL players Steve Fuller, Jerry Butler, Jeff Bostic, *et al.* Danny Ford came into the season having been a head coach for the grand total of one game. His team finished with an 8-3 mark and should be a force in the South for as long as Ford is around.

HONORABLE MENTION—Ryan Williams, def. tackle, Air Force; Kevin Motts, linebacker, Purdue; Alan Duncan, kicker, Tenn.; Billy Lott, quarterback, Clemson.



Entering a New Decade

by Shawn M. Collins



Where there's life, there's hope.

I have a "friend" back home who says his favorite college football team is "whoever plays Notre Dame this week." Like a famished dog licking his chops, my friend tore up last season's 7-4, Bowl-less Top Twenty-less Fighting Irish as being the signal to the end of everything from Dan Devine as head coach to Roman Catholicism as we now know it. His reasoning, exaggerations aside, was clear: the 1979 record was Notre Dame's worst since 1963's pre-Parseghian 2-7 team; we were summarily dismantled (40-18) by a mediocre-at-best Tennessee and embarrassed by the Clemson Tigers (16-10) in front of a Senior Day crowd; Southern Cal didn't even blink at the green jerseys this time around as they outlasted a weary Vagas & Co., 42-23. Uncharacteristically, the echoes never woke up for last season's injury-ravaged Irish.

Next year's season will be, depending on who you listen to, "challenging" (from the coaching staff) "interesting" (from the Dump-Deviners) or "potentially, another good laugh" (from my friend, the Protestant). Half of last year's starters return. Conspicuous by their absence, however, will be superback Vagas Ferguson, QB Rusty Lisch and offensive tackles Rob Martinovich and Tim Foley. Fortunately, the team is loaded at Vagas' old spot with the likes of senior-to-be Jim Stone and 1980 juniors Bernie Adell and Ty Barber. All three saw action last year. The QB position, on the other hand, boasts little experience. With the exception of last year's early-season display of "musical quarterbacks," 1980 senior hopefuls Tim Koegel, Mike Courey and Greg Knafelc got little chance under the gun. Pre-season writers and pollsters are likely to, again, focus attention on the Irish QB Derby. Fullback, meanwhile, has "Pete Buchanan" written all over it, that is, if Pete can overcome the broken ankle that cost him the 1979 season. John Sweeney and Joe Rudzinski will fill in otherwise. On the line, three holes will need to be filled as only Tim Huffman (guard) and tricaptain John Scully (center) are back; a lengthy list of Goliaths waits in the wings for the available spots, however. Finally, perhaps the thing that allows Coach Devine to sleep more peacefully during the night is the aerial spectacular that returning receivers Tony Hunter, Pete Holohan and Dean Masztak are capable of. None of this trio is shy of All-American status.

Defensively, the Irish will miss cornerback Dave Waymer and linebackers Bobby Leopold and Mike Whittington most of all. But fear not for the secondary. Due to an eerie blitz of injuries in 1979, plenty of players did some duty in the defensive backfield and this should prove to be a bright spot for 1980's squad. Rod Bone, Steve Cichy, Dave Duerson, John Krimm and tricaptain Tom Gibbons should more than fill the bill. Fear neither for the linebacking corps. Though two of three 1979 starters are gone, the presence of one-man wrecking crew Bob Crable already makes the N.D. linebacking unit one of the nation's finest. Brendan Moynihan and Tony Belden look good to join the tricaptain Crable at the vacated spots. Unlike the backfield and linebacking positions, though, the defensive line loses no one. John Hankerd, Joe Gramke, Scott Zettek, Don Kidd, Pat Kramer and hard-luck Mark Czaja form a lighter-than-usual but experienced front.

Our kicking game, at times erratic last season, returns only punter Dick Boushka while losing Chuck Male and Joe Unis. Steve Cichy may handle kick-off

responsibilities but extra points and field goals will belong to new faces, for sure.

On top of having to plug crucial holes on both sides of the line, 1980's Fighting Irish will back one of the country's most ferocious schedules, including perennial heavyweights Michigan, Purdue, Alabama and Southern Cal. Here's the order they'll come in and a little bit about each one. Try not to cringe:

Sept. 20—Michigan (Home). The Wolverines had a tough year of their own in 1979-'80, finishing 8-4 overall, 3rd in the Big 10 and 18th in the national rankings. They also sustained their annual postseason bowl game loss—this time at the hands of North Carolina State. Twelve-year head coach Bo Schembechler will try to avenge last year's 12-10 loss to the Irish with returning tailbacks Stan Edwards and Rich Woolfolk and quarterbacks John Wangler and B. J. Dickey. The Wolves' trump card is a rocket by the name of Anthony Carter who averaged 21.2 yards per catch as a freshman split end. Defensively, Michigan will feel the loss of All-American linebackers Ron Simpkins and Curtis Greer as well as three out of four starters in the secondary.

Sept. 27—Purdue (Home). As the Big 10's runner-up last year, the Boilermakers' hopes for national prominence wilted in a muggy Southern California match with U.C.L.A. But Purdue is a good bet to mend its ways in 1980-81 under the cool leadership of Heisman candidate Mark Herrmann. The tall, strong quarterback has waged war with N.C.A.A. passing marks ever since his celebrated freshman year in 1977-78. He is joined by his favorite target, tight end Dave Young, and by leading Boiler rusher, Ben McCall. The hype out of West Lafayette has Purdue challenging Ohio State for next year's Big 10 title. With 43 lettermen returning, this may not be far from the truth.

October 4—Michigan State (Away). The Spartans are still reeling from the evacuation of Athletic Director Joe Kearney and Head Coach Darryl Rogers to the land of the battered football player, Arizona State University. M.S.U. tied for 7th place in the Big 10, posting a 5-6 overall mark. They were still flying high, however, when they brought their act to South Bend early last season, only to leave with their tails between their legs, courtesy of a 27-3 whumping. To make matters worse, they have lost 19 seniors and will place a relatively inexperienced group in the hands of their new coach. There are but several bright spots. Leading ground-gainer Steve Smith returns along with running mate Derek Hughes and QB tandem Bryan Clark and Bert Vaughn. Middle guard Bernard Hay and defensive back Jim Burroughs anchor the graduation-riddled defense.

October 11—Miami (Home). Second-year Coach Howard Schnellenberger has bet his job on some young players and hopes to catch some of the payoff in 1980. Despite a 5-6 record in 1979, the Hurricanes boasted victories over Penn State and Florida. Virtually everyone returns, including 55 of 80 from last year's team who were only freshmen or sophomores. QB Tim Kelly leads Miami into battle while defensive tackles Lester Williams and Fred Marion will certainly do their damage. The 1980 game should be head and shoulders above last year's Rice Paddy Bowl where the Irish practically conducted a football clinic before enthusiastic Japanese fans.

October 18—Army (Home). After last year's 2-8-1 effort, Coach Lou Saban probably wishes he were back with the pampered, overpaid pro players rather than mired in one of the few time warps where the crewcut

is still in vogue. He loses nearly half his starters, welcoming back Brad (T.D.) Decker and Mike Fahnestock on the offense and few, if any, standouts on the defense. The last time these two teams met, Notre Dame won 24-0 in the Meadowlands. That was in 1977. In 1980, the Cadets can only hope to lose by that little.

October 25—Arizona (Away). With this jaunt, the Irish begin a four-game road trip that ends in Alabama on November 15. A successful season depends heavily on some fine play from Notre Dame Stadium. Arizona comes from the PAC-10 Conference, recently having fled the Western Athletic Conference. They made it to the 1979 Fiesta Bowl, 16-10 in their own backyard to Pittsburgh. Notre Dame and Arizona last played in 1941; the Irish prevailed 38-7.

November 1—Navy (The Meadowlands). The Midshipmen finished at 7-4 last year. Their closer-than-the-score-indicates, 14-0 loss to N.D. last year was made famous by Dan Devine's proclaiming them to be "deeper than anyone we faced all year, including Southern Cal." Oh, well. Devine's remarks aside, Navy will come at the Irish with a defense bolstered by returning standouts Charlie Thornton and John Merrill. A full deck of running backs is also around for another year for Coach George Welsh, but he will need to fill gaping holes in the offensive line and QB spot. With luck and a good showing against Notre Dame, the Midshippers will stake their claim for a postseason bowl bid.

November 8—Georgia Tech (Away). The Ramblin' Wreck landed Green Bay Packer assistant Bill Curry, as their new coach in place of Pepper Rodgers, who got his pink slip after last season's 4-6-1 finish. Mike Kelly will, once again, handle the QB job, having all of last year's wide receivers back for targets. Leading rusher Ronnie Cone's return won't hurt any, either. The offensive line and linebacking crew, however, were totaled by graduation and will no doubt be Coach Curry's first headache. On paper, Notre Dame should add a notch in the win column with this one, but our performance south of the Mason-Dixon line has often left something to be desired. Watch out for flying fish.

November 15—Alabama (at Birmingham). Enough said.

November 22—Air Force (Home). Completing its tour of the Armed Forces Academies, the Irish host a young Falcon club that staggered to a 2-9 mark in 1979. QB Dave Ziebart and running back Shelby Ball have vacated the premises as has defensive tackle Rich Williams. The Air Force will rely heavily on a defense led by linebackers Mike France and Mike Bloomfield. 1980 marks the Falcons' first year in the Western Athletic Conference, filling a spot left by the PAC 10-bound Arizona.

November 29—Southern Cal (Away). Gone are Charles White, Paul McDonald, Myron Lapka, Dennis Johnson, and gigantic Brad Budde and Anthony Munoz. For most teams, such a loss would be staggering. For the Trojans—who function as little less than a holding company for pro talent, however, the departure of White & Co. will merely mean a parade of future All-Americans from the Sunshine School. While the legendary tailback spot is wide open, 1979 backup QB Scott Tinsley from Oklahoma, appears to have a lock on McDonald's old roost. He will have receivers Kevin Williams and Malcolm Moore to team up with. Over the years, and particularly of late, N.D.-U.S.C. games have proved to be among the most classic, titanic battles in American football. It's probably safe to say that future games will provide more of the same.

(cont. from page 32)

and return two punts for minus-eight yards.

It was the day that Tennessee fans will never forget. The cry "How 'bout them Vols?" rang through the streets of Knoxville on November 10, and continue to echo until this day.

On the other hand, Notre Dame fans don't care to relive that disaster ever again. Neither do the Sugar Bowl officials.



(cont. from page 33)

coaches at any college in any sport that happily admits he enjoys the process.

"I really like recruiting—or, should I say recruiting for Notre Dame," smiles Boulac. "I believe for a coach to be a good recruiter he has to seriously believe in the product he's selling and I take the position that the product I'm selling to potential student-athletes is not just Notre Dame football, but Notre Dame. Sure the football has to be a primary consideration but we go after the kid who wants to be a good player and a competitive student as well. When we find that type of kid then our methods pay off."

So what's down the road for this coach-of-all-trades?

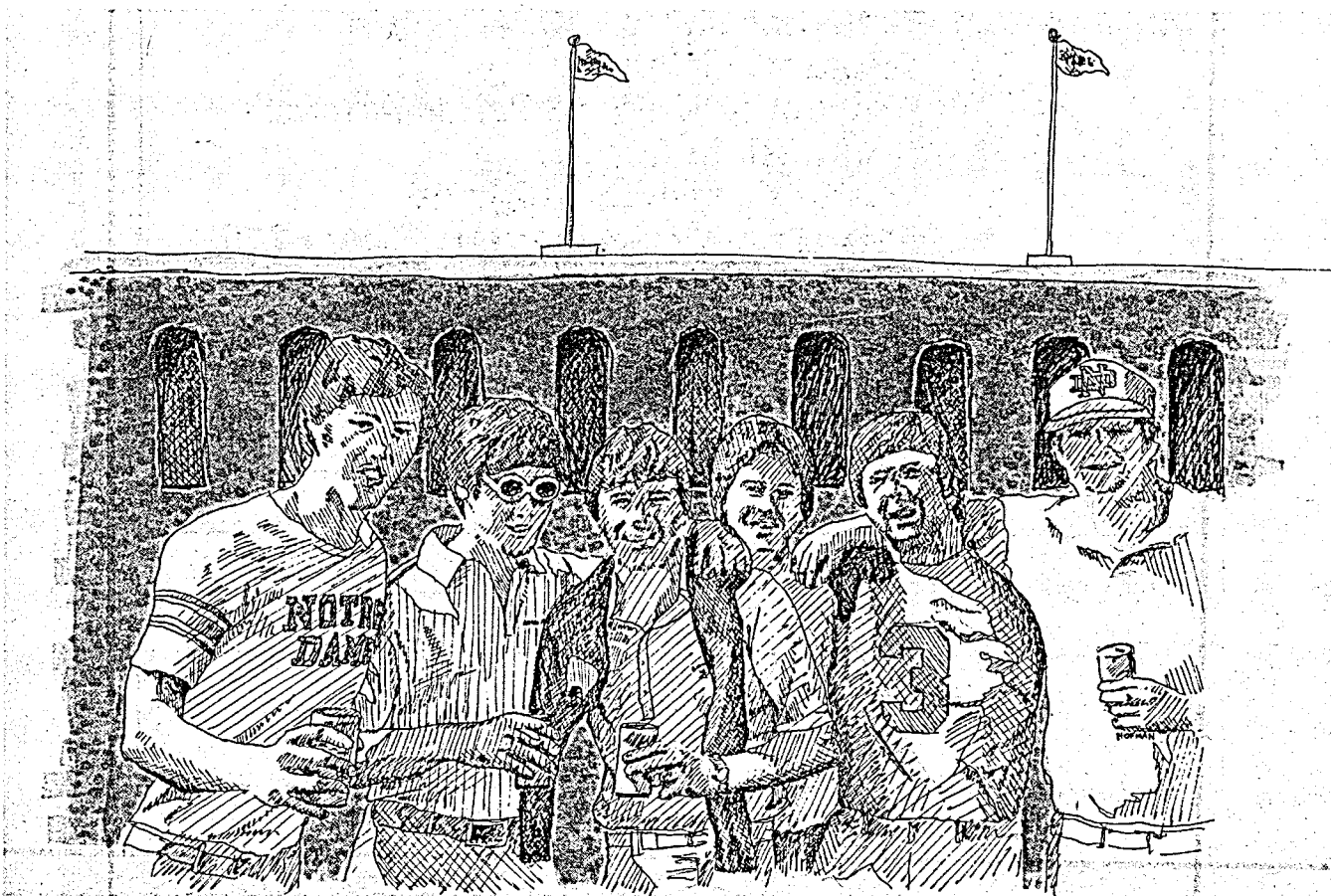
"Well, I'd like to be a head coach at some point," he admits. "I think that is a dream of every young assistant."

With 39 candles on his next birthday cake, Boulac goes one step further and admits that the job he'd most like to have someday is the head spot at (you guessed it) Notre Dame.

"Of course that's a dream of mine but I have to be realistic and see that to ever have a chance at it I'd have to leave Notre Dame for a while and make a reputation as a head man somewhere else," he says.

And while he doesn't jump for joy at the prospect of ever leaving Notre Dame, he admits that he's grateful for the time he's spent there. "A learning experience" he calls it, even for someone that's been out of school for almost 18 years.

"You might say I just love Notre Dame," he sighs. "And I hope, in some small way, my work here has been able to repay what this place has given me." □



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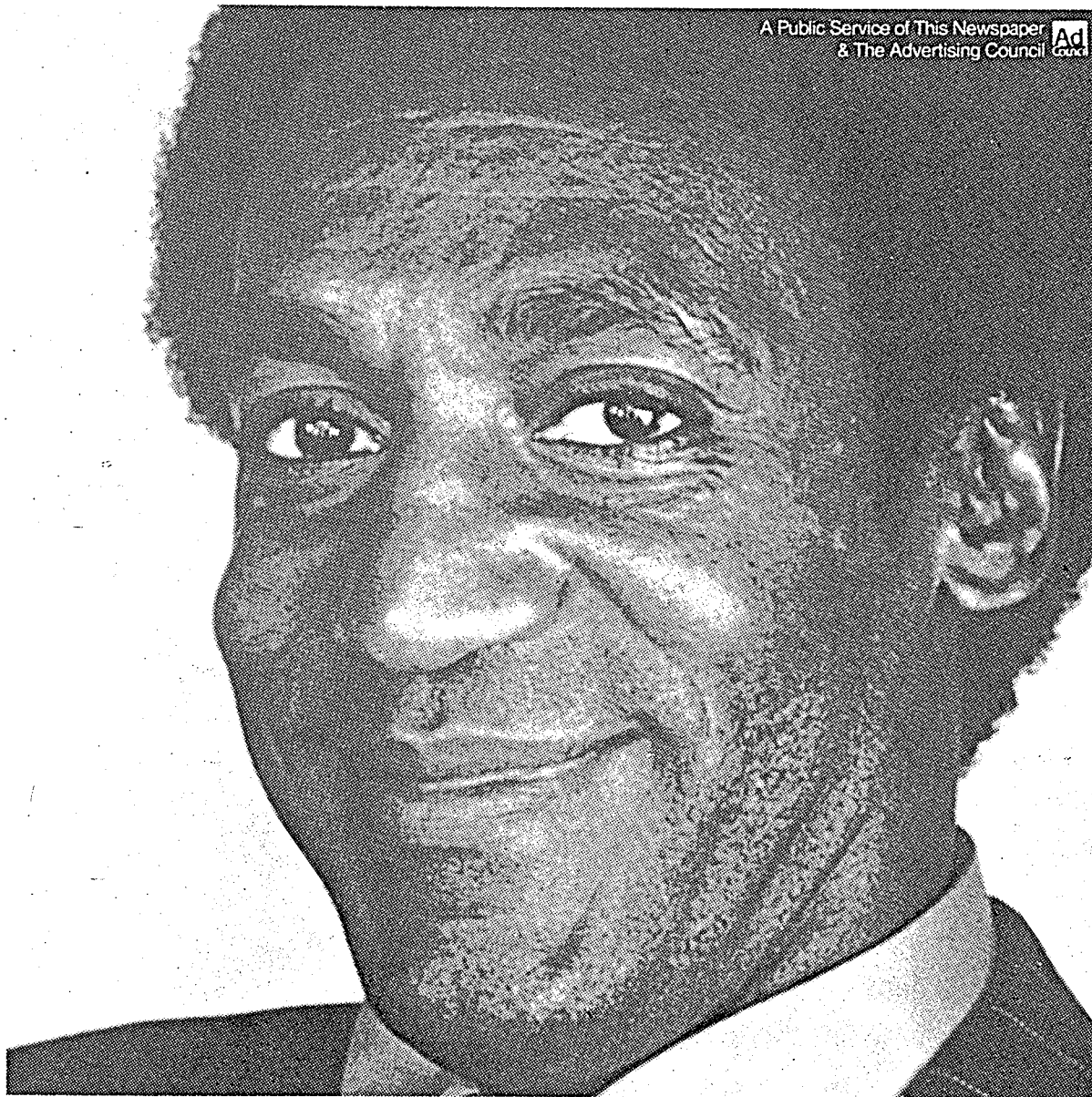
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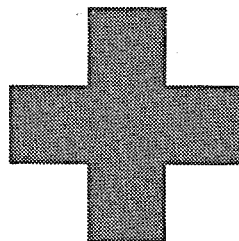
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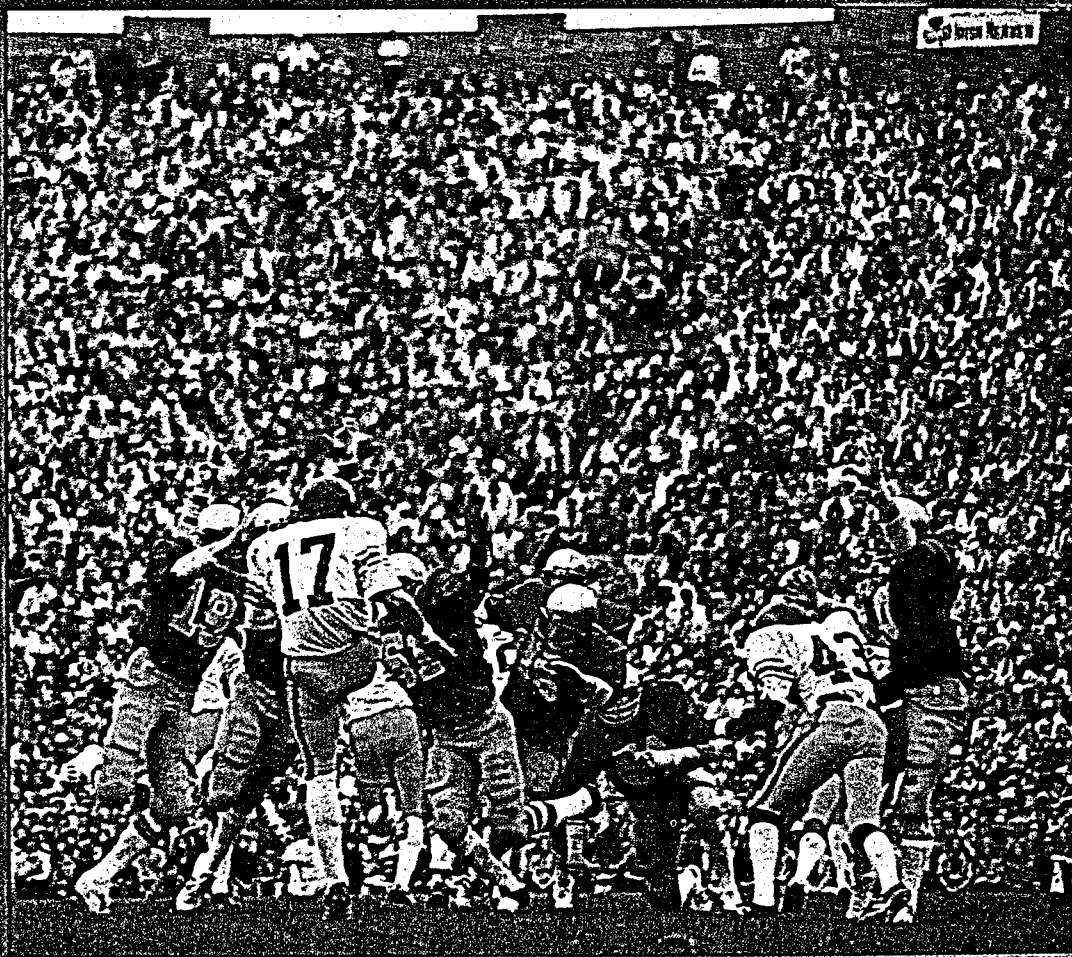
job. That's right, five percent
of the people give 100 percent
of the blood that's donated.

"If you're between 17 and
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can help change all that. And
your one blood donation can
help up to *five* people to live.

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