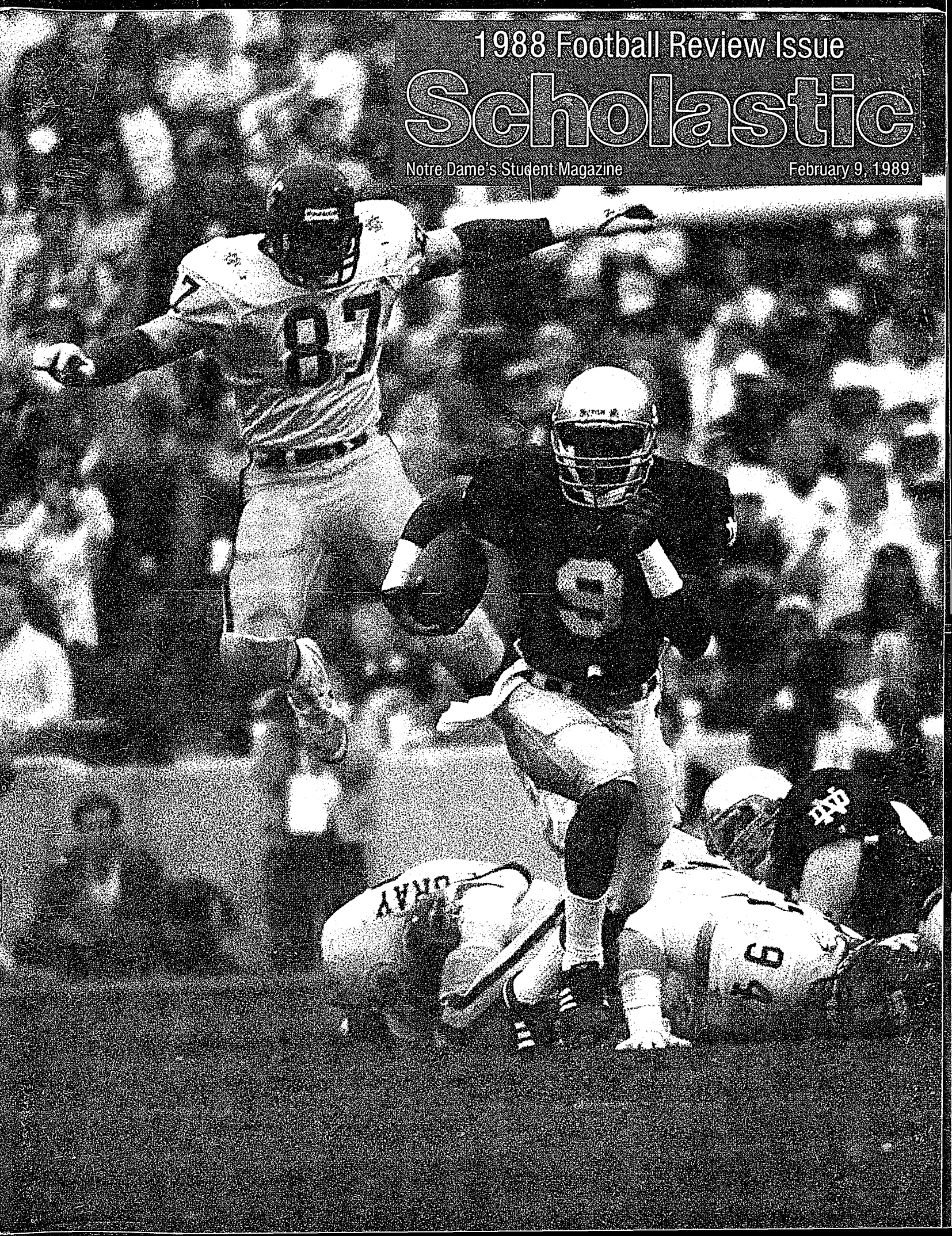


1988 Football Review Issue

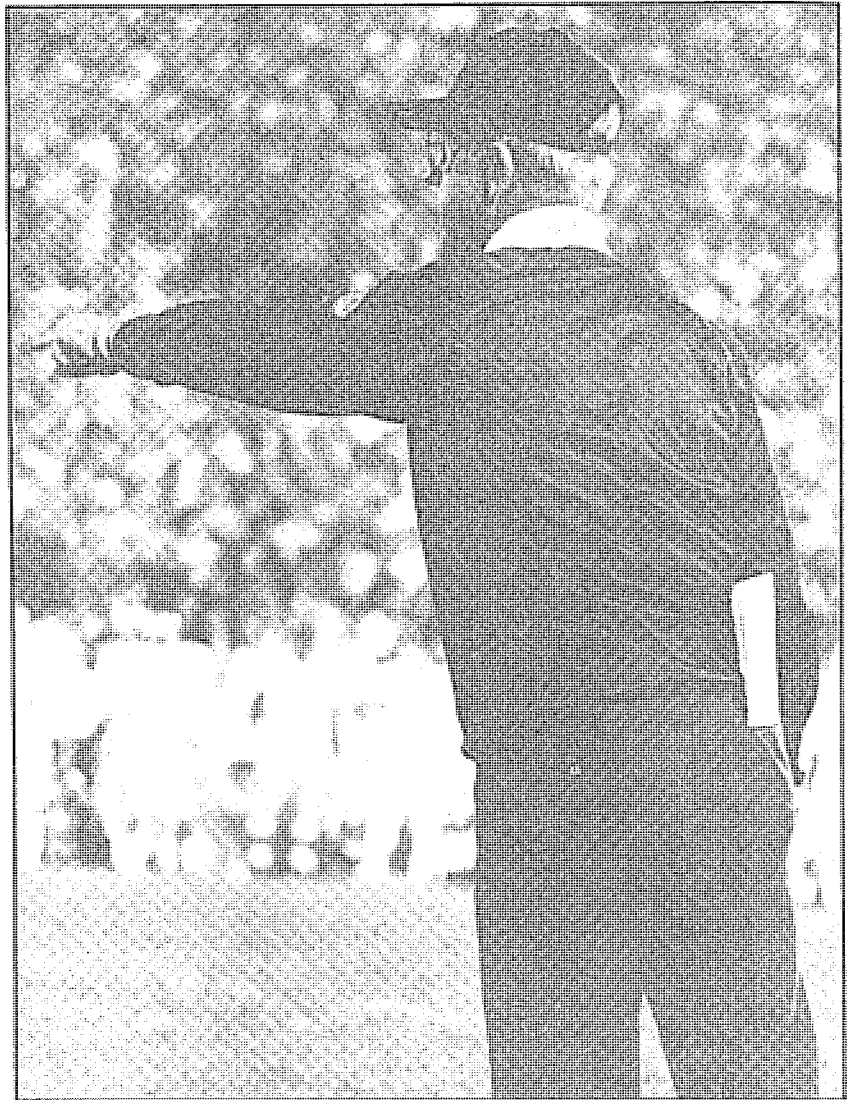
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Notre Dame's Student Magazine

February 9, 1989



Cover photo by Mari Okuda



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Notre Dame's Student Magazine 1988 Football Review

National Champions

2 Fiesta Bowl: West Virginia

By Kevin Boughal

For the first time since 1977, the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame lay claim to the national championship with a 34-21 win over third-ranked West Virginia.

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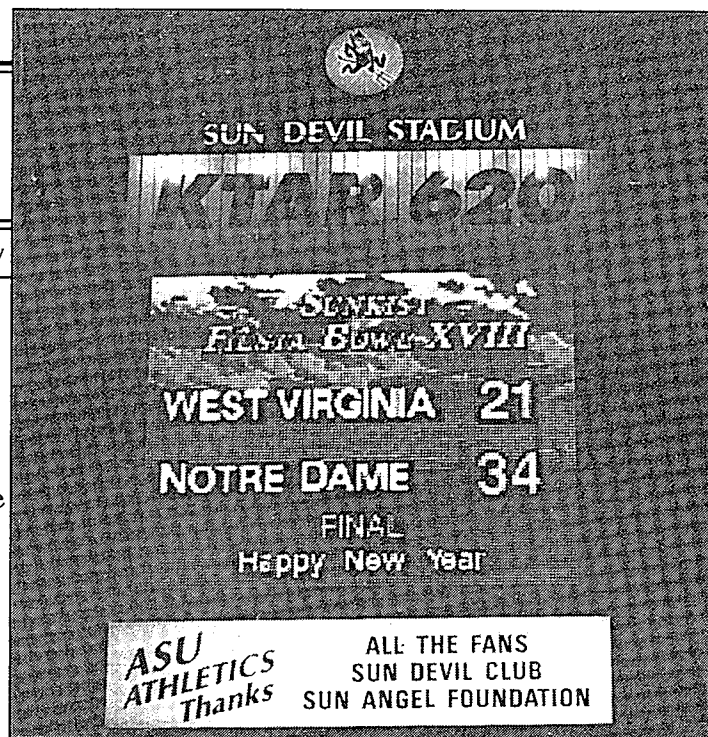
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Vol. 130, No. 12
1988 Football Review Issue

*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus
Vive Quasi Crasi Moriturus*

Founded 1867

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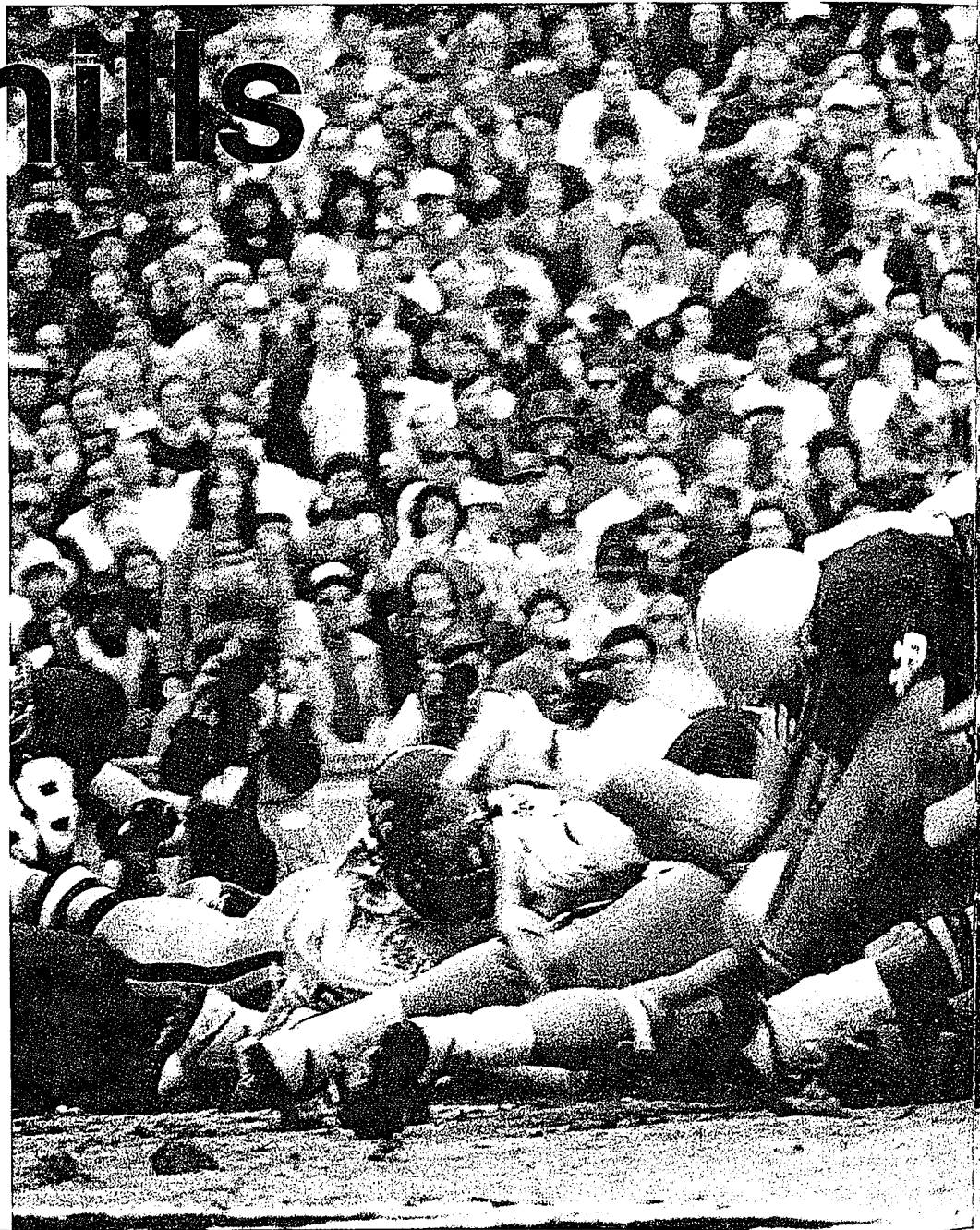
Mountaineers into Molehills

*The Irish defeated the
West Virginia
Mountaineers with a
Major defensive
effort and and a Heck
of a passing attack*

BY KEVIN BOUGHAL

TEMPE, Ariz. — This year's Notre Dame football team was haunted by images of the past. Last year, the Irish had been expected to walk all over the hapless Texas A&M Aggies in the 1988 Cotton Bowl and had been convincingly defeated 35-10. But the Fiesta Bowl was different. Unlike last year's team, the 1989 Irish team was mature and used to winning. They were not happy to simply be at a major bowl (no pun intended), they expected to win it. The Irish were in Tempe, AZ to get a job done and the star of the game would not be a towel and thief thereof.

Ironically, the Mountaineers had contracted the same disease that the Irish had the year before. The Mountaineers were just happy to be in a January bowl and they were



in awe that they were playing a traditional football power like Notre Dame for the National Championship.

Even though the Mountaineers were 11-0, they really had not played against any highly ranked teams. The Irish were as accustomed to playing in big, media-hyped games as they were to winning them during the 1988 season. At least three of the games the Irish played were labeled "the game of the decade" and one was touted as "the game of the century."

But where had this Irish team come from? Everybody could see greatness on the

distant horizon, but almost nobody saw it happening this year. The schedule was too tough. Only a few of the players were experienced at their positions. Hey, this team didn't even have a rap video.

Every critic in the country had reasons why the Irish could no longer be a football powerhouse. The coach played according to the rules established by the NCAA, and to top it off, the school was stupid enough to put academics over football. Some critics took that argument even further and proclaimed that Notre Dame was de-emphasizing football. So much for that argu-

ment.

Typical of big games like the Fiesta Bowl, the media took great delight in matching up the quarterbacks, Major Harris versus Tony Rice.

Throughout the season, Rice had been criticized because he did not throw the ball very often. If the choice was there to run or pass, he would run. Yet somehow, Rice had continued to win the games. The wins were a team effort, but the games were being won.

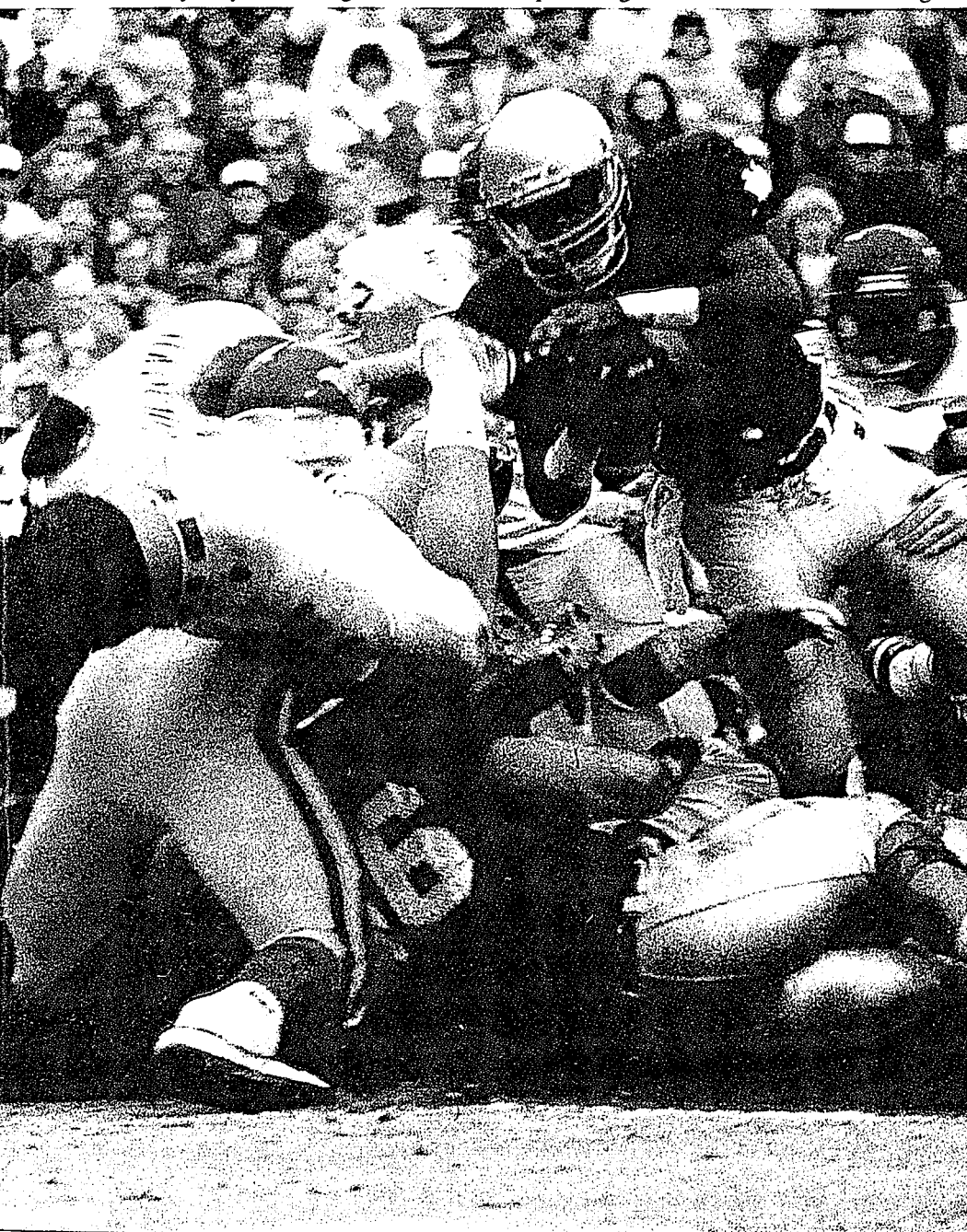
Rice had continued to improve his passing game throughout the entire season. Holtz had given him darts to throw in his room to practice getting the touch on the ball. But even with his improvement, many still questioned his ability to throw the football.

Improved or not, coming into the Fiesta Bowl, many critics still felt there was only one quarterback on the field, and Notre Dame didn't have him. Listening to the media hype that came out of Tempe, one would think that Major Harris could walk on water and then turn it into wine.

But in the end, the savior from West Virginia could not resurrect his offense. It was Tony Rice who walked away with a 34-21 win, the award for the offensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl, a national championship, and a shot at the Heisman next year. To top it all off, he had done it through the air, breaking his own passing record and finishing the day with eleven attempts, seven completions for 213 yards, one interception, and two touchdown passes.

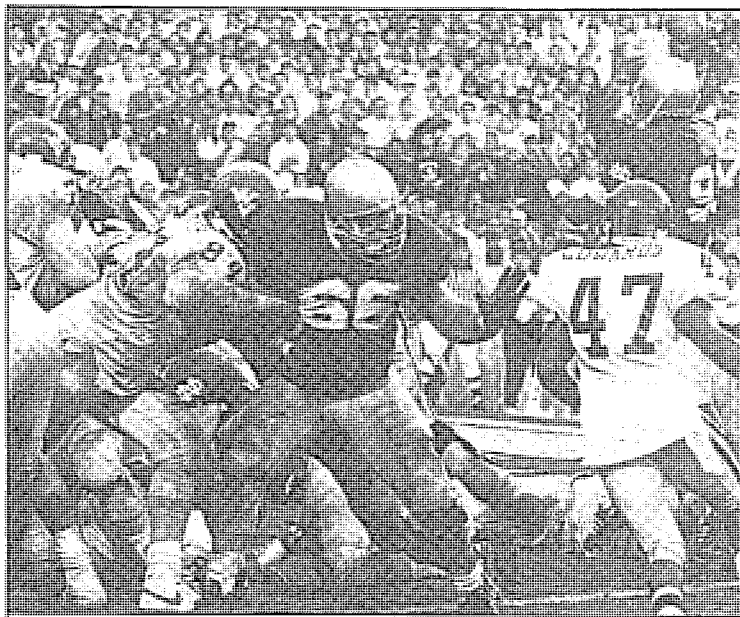
To be fair to Harris, he led the Mountaineers, at times singlehandedly, to their first crack ever at a national championship. His speed and agility, as well as his ability to make a broken play into a big play, made him feared by every opponent that West Virginia faced this year, including Notre Dame.

Despite his talent, Notre Dame's defense managed to sack Harris three times, intercept him once and hold him to only 166 yards passing. Notre Dame's defense also added Harris' name to their list of quarterbacks that they injured. During WVU's first posses-

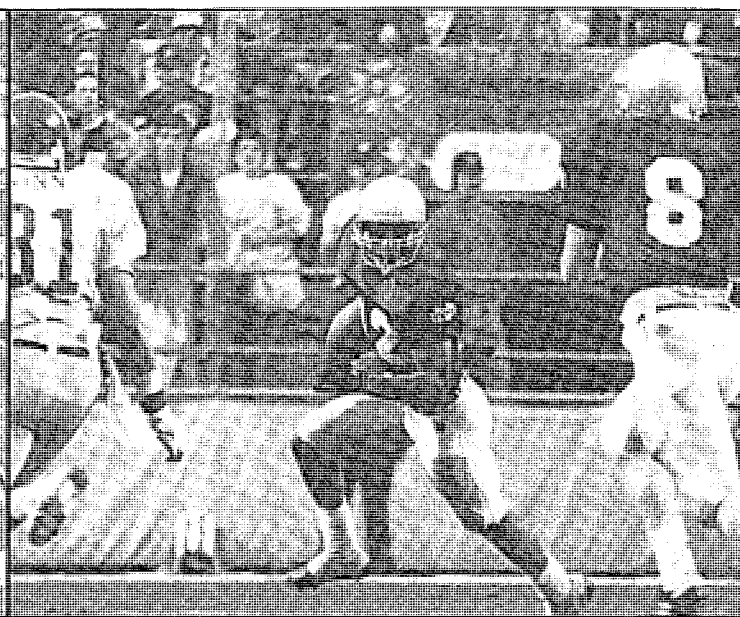


Tony Rice, recognized for his ability to run the ball, left, complimented his running game with a 213- yard passing game-a personal best.

Mari Okuda



Offensive tackle Andy Heck (66) was named an All-American.



Ricky Watters (12) had three punt returns for 28 yards.

sion, Harris took a hit from Irish linebacker Mike Stonebreaker and dislocated his left shoulder.

"Major bruised his shoulder on one of the first plays of the game," said West Virginia Head Coach Don Nehlen. "He was tentative after the injury and so we didn't run him like we usually do. Major never lost his confidence though. He's not that kind of guy."

Because of his injury, the West Virginia coaching staff was tentative about letting Harris run the option, and the injury proved costly to the Mountaineers in the end.

Meanwhile, it was Rice who ended up impressing everybody with his passing ability.

"For a guy who supposedly couldn't throw, he (Rice) looked like he could pass to me," said Nehlen about Rice's passing ability.

Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz was also impressed at the way that Rice passed during the game.

"Tony Rice threw the ball better than he has in the past," said Holtz. "I told everyone earlier this week that Tony was throwing the ball better."

Although Rice had a good day passing the

ball, he did not get the opportunity to show it in the first quarter. For the most part, Holtz played conservatively and kept the ball on the ground.

Notre Dame won the toss and elected to defer. West Virginia's first drive went four downs and then the Irish got the ball back.

On their first possession, Notre Dame could only drive 35 yards and get one first down so they had to settle for a Billy Hackett 45-yard field goal. The score was Notre Dame 3, WVU 0.

After another unsuccessful set of downs for the Mountaineers, Notre Dame got the ball back. It was during this possession that Rice completed his first pass of the game to freshman tight end Derek Brown for 23

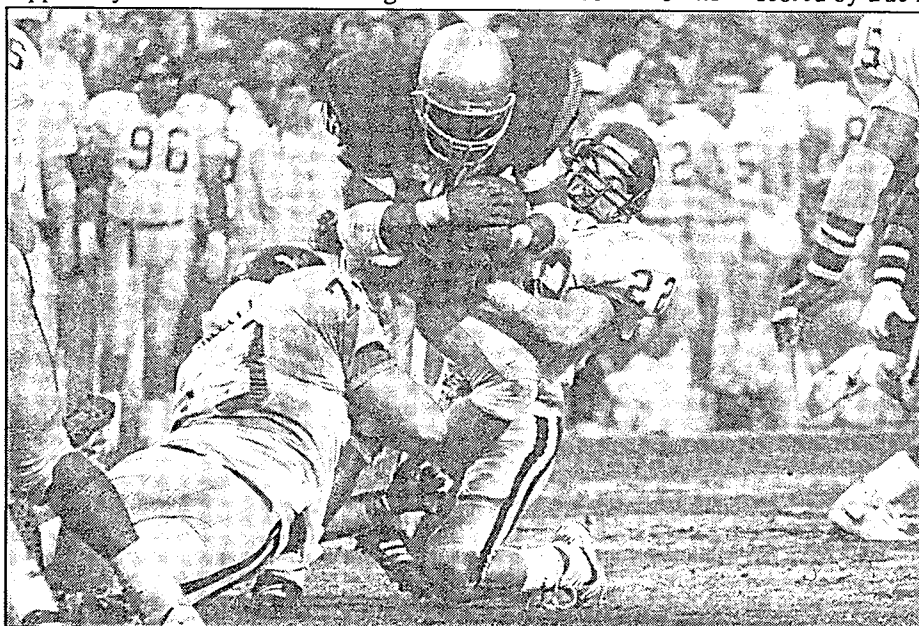
yards. Eight plays and three first downs later, junior fullback Anthony Johnson dove into the end zone for six. The extra point was botched, so the score at the end of the first quarter was Notre Dame 9, West Virginia 0. WVU finished the first quarter without gaining a single first down.

The second quarter was a good news-bad news quarter for the Mountaineers. The good news was they scored every time they touched the ball, which was twice. The bad news was that Notre Dame did too, and to make the bad news worse, the Irish scored two touchdowns to WVU's two field goals. As an added embarrassment to Coach Nehlen, both of the Irish touchdowns were scored by true freshmen.

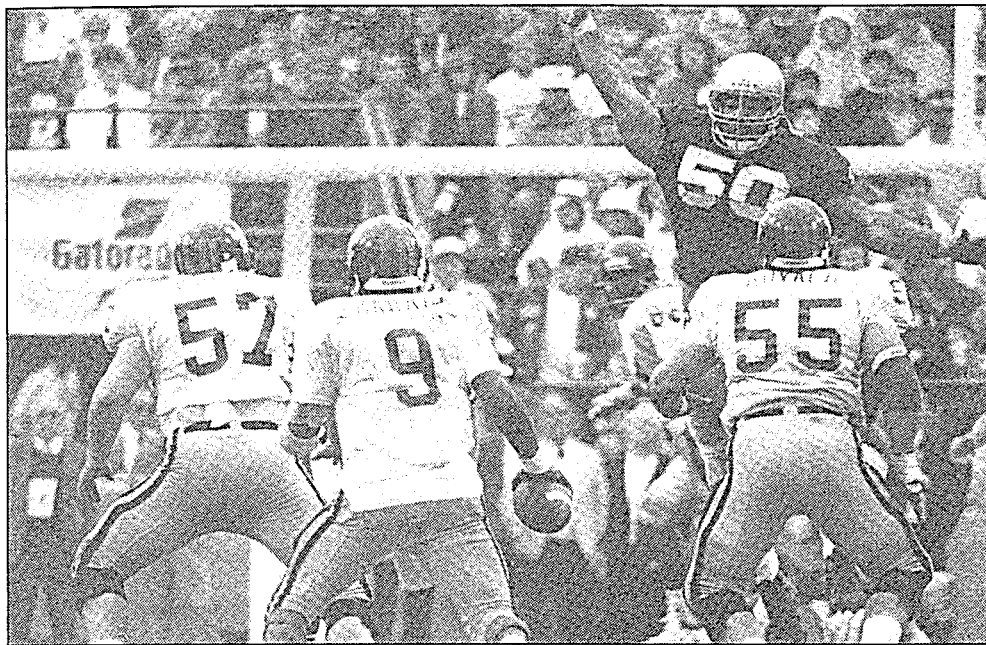
Freshman tailback Rodney Culver capped an eleven-play, 84-yard drive when he scampered five-yards for a touchdown.

Later in the quarter, Rice had his fourth completion of the game, this time to freshman speedster Raghib "Rocket" Ismail for 29 yards and a touchdown. The score at the half was weighted 23-6 in favor of Notre Dame.

This game was certainly not developing into the game that everybody had predicted. It seemed that the game was not being



Tri-captain Mark Green rushed for 61 yards and caught one pass good for 35.



Nose tackle Chris Zorich (50) was in Harris' face throughout the whole game.

decided by who had the better quarterback as expected, but instead, who had the better defense. To put it simply, Notre Dame was showing the Mountaineers why some had labeled their defense the best in the country. Holtz had stated time and time again that the key to winning is having a good defense, good team speed and a team effort and he was proving his hypothesis.

One of the people that Holtz turned into a believer was Nehlen.

"Notre Dame has got big players. Notre Dame has got fast players. Notre Dame has got physical players," said Nehlen. "We weren't surprised about how good their defense was. They're ranked in the top five in the country defensively, but the tape doesn't show how fast they run. They've got great team speed. They run like deer."

Holtz built his defense around a core of fifth-year players. The defensive line was anchored by defensive end Frank Stams, one of the two defensive players picked to be a first team Associated Press All-American. Stams finished the year with 51 total tackles and seven sacks. He earned the defensive MVP of the Fiesta Bowl as he added Harris' head to his wall of Heisman Trophy candidates. Stams had been in the Miami backfield all day pestering Steve Walsh and he had assaulted USC signal caller Rodney Peete while visiting Los Angeles. He had continued to vent his rage against highly acclaimed opposing quarterbacks, sacking Harris twice for a total loss of 22 yards.

Inside linebacker Wes Pritchett, a fifth-year senior, also had a great year and his leadership was a big part of the Irish success. Pritchett finished the year as the team's leading tackler with 112 total tackles. His aggressive style of play helped keep pressure on Harris all afternoon. He made a total of five tackles in the Fiesta Bowl.

The other defensive player chosen to be an A.P. All-American (first team) was junior inside linebacker Michael Stonebreaker. Stonebreaker ended up as the team's second leading tackler with 104 total tackles. Although it was Stonebreaker, along with defensive end Jeff Alm, who laid the hit on Harris that dislocated the quarterback's shoulder, the All-American linebacker

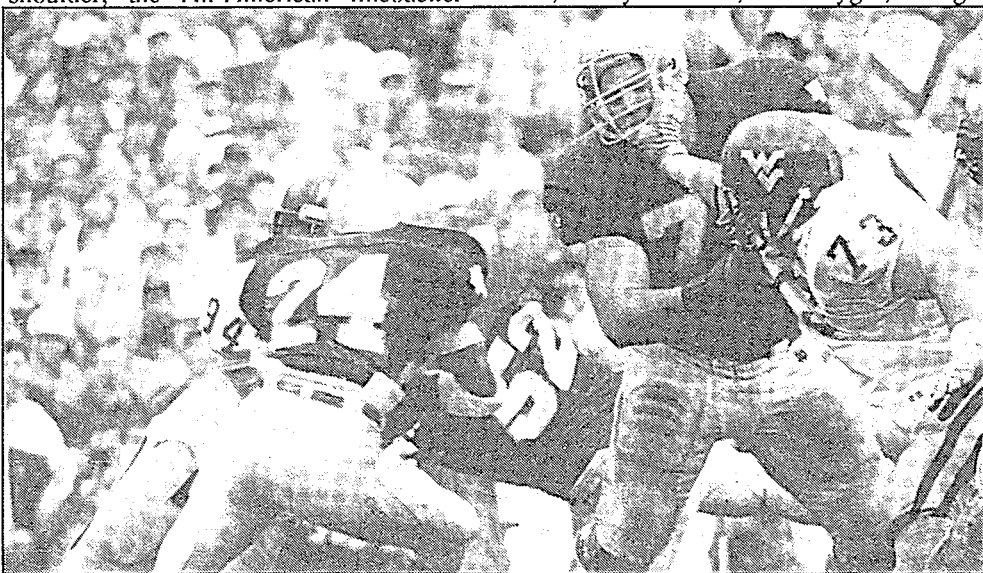
missed most of the game because of a virus.

Co-captain Ned Bolcar, a senior linebacker, did not see as much playing time as a Notre Dame captain usually does, but had an important role in the team's success. Bolcar managed to finish fourth in total tackles with 57, but only played half the time that Stonebreaker and Pritchett did. An A.P. All-American (second team) last year, Bolcar has another year of eligibility left because he sat out his freshman year. He has applied to play for a fifth year but the university will not make its final decision until later in the year. Against West Virginia, Bolcar was credited with two tackles.

One of the bigger defensive surprises was sophomore nose tackle Chris Zorich. Zorich finished third in total tackles with 70 and second in sacks with five. Although the sophomore did not play in a single game last year, he started this year and he has used his 6'1", 260-pound frame and 4.68 speed (in the 40-yard dash) to create a permanent spot for himself in the defensive line. He is also the strongest man on the team with a 410-pound bench press. Technically, Zorich still has three years of eligibility left if he decides to stay for a fifth year.

The rest of the defensive line, including sophomore defensive tackle George Williams, senior defensive end Darrell "Flash" Gordon, junior defensive tackle Jeff Alm and freshman sensation Arnold Ale at defensive end, all had outstanding seasons.

The defensive secondary had a very impressive year also. The speed of Pat Terrell, Corny Southall, Todd Lyght, George



Several Irish players complained that the Mountaineers were playing dirty, but the offensive line still gave provided protection for the runners and Rice.

Streeter and Stan Smagala kept many of the quarterbacks from being able to throw long. Junior Pat Terrell reminded Harris of this danger by intercepting him in the third quarter.

One of the reasons that Rice was so effective passing during the game was that he had some time to look for his receivers. The Irish offensive line, anchored by Notre Dame's third A.P. All-American (first team) Andy Heck, managed to keep the WVU defense, made up of mostly fifth-year seniors, from sacking Rice even once.

Considering that the Notre Dame offensive linemen had to learn their positions as the year went along, they had a fantastic year. All of the Irish offense and defensive linemen combined had only a little over four minutes of playing time at their positions before the year started. The Mountaineers were supposed to dominate the lines because West Virginia had all experienced fifth-year seniors on both the offensive and defensive fronts.

Even though they had a dismal first half, the Mountaineers expected to come out and fight back like the undefeated team they were. After all, during the 1988 season, WVU had never been losing a game starting the third quarter.

Nehlen told his team at the half that they still had a chance to win. Besides the injury to Harris, three starters had been forced to leave the game in the first quarter to injury. "I told the guys at halftime that we still had a chance to win and I told them at the end of the game that we have had a great year," said Nehlen. "We lost three starters to injury early in the game and that affected us."

Although Harris and the Mountaineers did pick up the pace in the second half, it was the classic example of too little, too late. Late in the third quarter, Harris marched 74-yards in seven plays for a touchdown. The touchdown made the score 26-13 Notre Dame. The drive marked the beginning of a series of uncharacteristic unsportsmanlike conduct penalties against the Irish. There were two on the TD drive and another three in a row at the end of the fourth quarter, one against Holtz for coming on the field to talk to his players.

Besides the fourth-quarter penalties, Rice ended a seven play, 80-yard drive by passing for one more touchdown to sophomore tight end Frank Jacobs in the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Another cosmetic Mountaineer touchdown with 1:14 left in the game put the final score at Notre Dame 34, West Virginia 21.

The Irish victory assured them of the national championship and for the first time all year, Holtz praised his team.

"They (the Notre Dame football team) beat the second, third, and fourth-ranked schools this year and finished the season with a 12-0 record," said Holtz. "What else can you ask for? They deserve the national championship for their continued hard work. I think I have underestimated this team. This is a good football team because nobody has proven otherwise. If it weren't for us, Southern California, Miami and West Virginia would still be undefeated."

Coach Nehlen felt the good national exposure that West Virginia got out of the bowl would be beneficial to the football program despite the loss.

"I'll tell you, though, we had a great year and lots of high school players saw us play today," said Nehlen. "They can tell that we need players more than Notre Dame does. Notre Dame is an excellent football team, they have great team speed and I'm sure glad we don't play them next year."

Now that the question, "Can the Irish regain their glory?" is answered, a new question is being heard by football fans around the country.

"Can the Irish repeat?"

Scoring Summary

<i>Quarter</i>	1	2	3	4	Final
West Virginia	0	6	7	8	21
Notre Dame	9	14	3	8	34

1st Quarter: ND: Hackett 45-yd. fieldgoal

ND: Johnson 1-yd. run (kick faild)

2nd Quarter: ND: Culver 5-yd. run (Ho kick)

WVU: Baumann 29-yd. field goal

ND: Ismail 29-yd.reception (Ho kick)

WVU: Baumann 31-yd. field goal

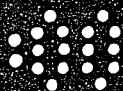
3rd Quarter: ND: Ho 32-yd. field goal

WVU: Bell 17-yd. reception (Baumann kick)

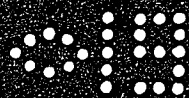
4th Quarter: ND: Jacobs 3-yd. reception (Rice on 2-point conversion)

WVU: Rembert 3-yd. run (Rembert reception for 2-point conversion)

NOTRE DAME



MICHIGAN



Kick- start

Walk-on Reggie Ho's foot provided the margin of victory in the 19-17 defeat of the Wolverines - the first step in the Irish drive for the national championship

JONPAUL POTTS

NOTRE DAME, In. —It was to be a game which could, conceivably, determine the course of the 1988 season. Would the Irish continue on the downward trend of the disappointing 1988 Cotton Bowl, or would they come out with nostrils flaring and make a statement to all college football that, yes indeed, the Irish were back? The September 10 season opener for both teams had it all - hype, lights, beautiful game-time weather and the tradition of 19 prior meetings to reflect upon.

Lou Holtz, Irish head coach, had be-

moaned his inexperienced offensive line all week to anyone who would listen while he lauded the Michigan team and prepared Notre Dame fans for the arrival of the giant behemoths masquerading as the Michigan line. The stage was set for the clash of the titans. But a small, unassuming pre-med major, senior Reggie Ho, stole the show with his golden right foot.

Michigan came onto the field ranked tenth in the pre-season Associated Press poll; the Sporting News had even rated them as the number-one team in the nation. Notre Dame came in ranked 13th in the AP poll, but thanks to opportunistic Irish special teams, a stingy defense, and a potent running attack, the Irish came out on top, 19-17.

There were many prime-time performers in this game. For the defense, senior defensive end Frank Stams was in the Michigan backfield all night, and junior inside linebacker Mike Stonebreaker was a force with 19 tackles.

On the special teams, sophomore flanker Ricky Watters ran back a punt of 81 yards, bringing back memories of a certain Heisman Trophy winner now playing for the National Football League's Los Angeles

Raiders, Tim Brown.

But of all the players on the field that night, the five-foot-five, 135-pound kicker Reggie Ho stood the tallest with his four field goals, the longest being a 26-yarder with 1:13 left in the game that provided the margin of victory.

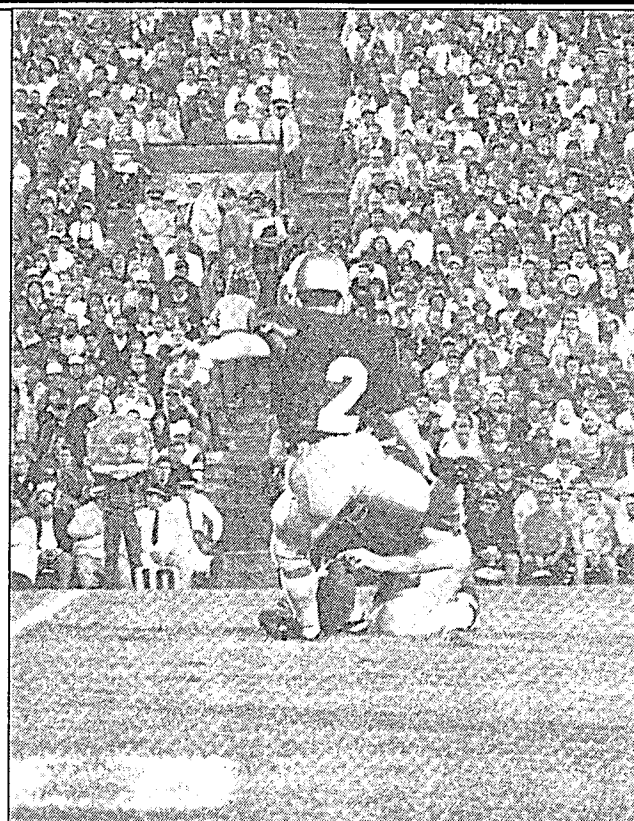
"Reggie kicked very well," said Coach Holtz after the game. "Last year, I talked with Ted Gradel (last year's kicker) and he told me, 'Reggie Ho practices the hardest.' The kid practices during the middle of the winter. I know he isn't from krypton, but he tried his hardest."

Through all the hype (including a feature story in *Sports Illustrated*), Ho kept an unassuming nature about him and he was quick to give credit to anybody but himself.

"I know Tim Grunhard (center) was a good snapper and Pete Graham was a good holder. All I do is kick the ball, just like in practice," said Ho. "I wasn't responsible for the win. The whole team was responsible."

Although Reggie did have a hand - or foot - in the victory, he did not do the job alone. Many of his teammates did an exceptional job.

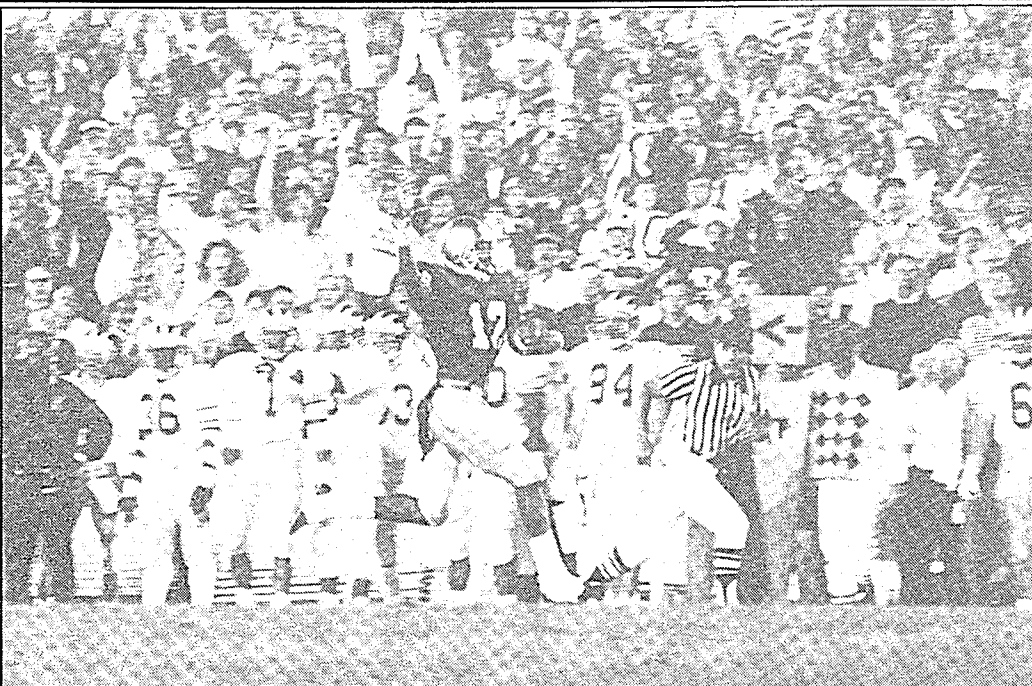
The game started slowly enough. Tri-



Mari Okuda

Ho's four field goals were an overnight success.

captain Mark Green carried the ball for a gain of four and then a pitch to the left to Green yielded a 14-yard gain and a first down. After two more Green runs and a Tony Rice incomple- tion, Jim Sexton punted for 48 yards into the Michigan end zone for a touch- back and the Wol- verines took over on their own 20- yard line. Michi- gan went three downs and the Wolverine punter, Mike



Ricky Watters, Heisman winner Tim Brown's heir apparent, ran back this punt 81 yards for a touchdown.

Joe Vitacco

Gillette came on to punt. Ho-hum you say? The fun was just about to begin.

Gillette unleashed a clean 53-yarder which was fielded at the Notre Dame 19- yard line by Watters. Watters burst up the middle, got a key block from freshman Raghil "Rocket" Ismail, and then jaunted down the left side-line untouched for an 81- yard touchdown. Before you could say "Look out Bo," Notre Dame was up 7-0.

Watters' punt return for a touchdown was the first since Tim Brown's against Air Force in 1987 and it was the longest since 1954 when Joe Heap returned a punt 94 yards against USC. It was the first of two punts that Watters would run back for touch- downs in 1988.

The teams traded possessions until Michigan got the ball back with 6:37 left in the first quarter. After a short run and a pen- alty, Michigan quarterback Michael Taylor was sacked for a three-yard loss by sopho- more nose tackle Chris Zorich and Stams - the first of Stams' two sacks of Taylor. After a punt and a nice 16-yard return by Watters, Notre Dame got the ball on their own 42- yard line with good field position.

On first down, Green was stopped for no gain. Then sophomore tail back Tony Brooks exploded through the line for 19 yards. Two plays later, quarterback Tony

Rice kept the ball on an option and and scampered 16 yards to the Michigan 22. Finally, on fourth-and-three from the Michigan 15, Ho kicked the first of his four field goals and the score stood at 10-0 in favor of Notre Dame at the end of the first quar- ter.

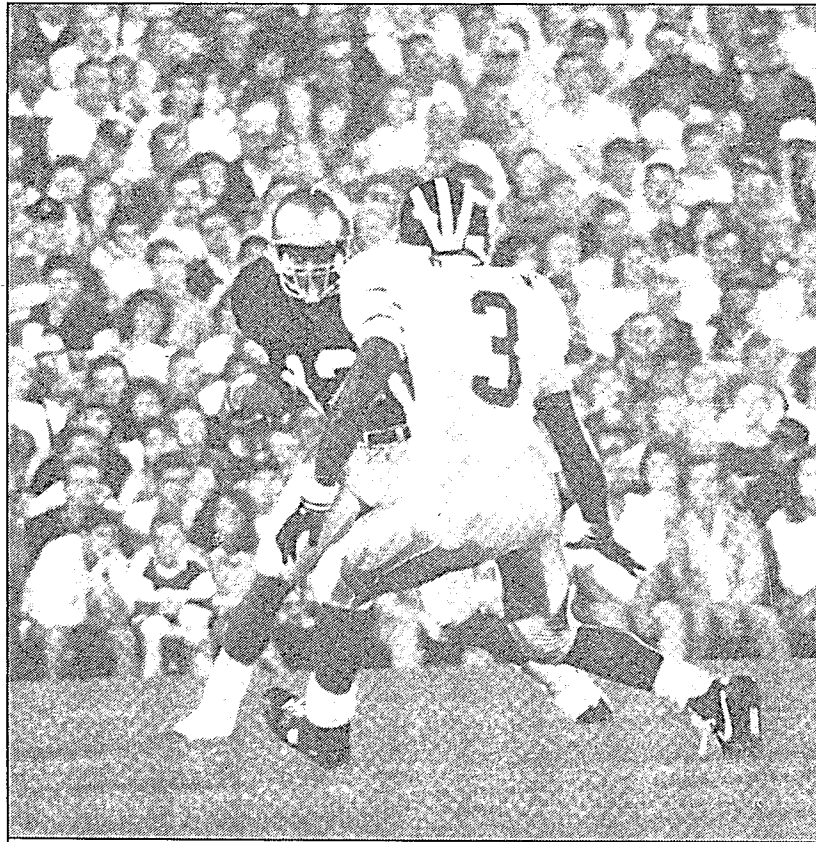
The halftime statistics re- vealed the trends that would hold for the game. The "young and inexperienced" of- fensive line of Notre Dame per- formed ad- mirably. In the first half, Notre Dame outrushed Michigan by

a whopping 141 to 54-yard spread with sophomore tail back Tony Brooks leading the way with 43 yards on five carries. The much-heralded of- fensive line of Michi- gan (which, by the way, averaged a monstrous 6'3" and 271 pounds) had been handled and Notre Dame had controlled the line of scrim- mage.

After the game, Coach Holtz praised his offensive line which he had be- moaned just 24 hours before.

"The offensive line did well in open- ing up the holes, but I was disappointed in our first-half passing game," said Holtz.

The passing game was indeed disap- pointing. Rice was zero for eight with an



Allan Lim

Watters' quick feet made him a threat from anywhere on the field.

"We played at Alabama, we played at Miami and it was twice as loud as that. Michigan was looking for some cheap yards. I kept telling the official that a lot of these people were Michigan fans."

-Tri-captain Ned Bolcar

interception and he showed none of the passing skills which he would display in later games. In fact, for the game he was three for 12, for 40 yards with one interception. It was the linemen, led by senior tri-captain Andy Heck, and the running backs who carried the offensive load in the first half.

In the third quarter, Michigan got the only score, but not without some controversy. After recovering a Watters fumble at the Notre Dame 14-yard line, a series of plays resulted in Coach Holtz running on the field to protest a call.

First, after several Michigan delays because of the tremendous crowd noise (Michigan was working in the end of the stadium where the Notre Dame students sat), Taylor threw an incomplete pass intended for Greg McMurtry in the end zone, but Notre Dame was called for pass interference and Michigan got a first and goal from the five-yard line.

"I didn't think the ball was catchable and I thought the flag was a little late," said Holtz. "Even though I have glasses and I wear bifocals, I thought that there was no way he could catch the ball unless he had a ticket in section 18."

Michigan gained one yard on the next play, and then the fun really started. Urged on by the Notre Dame defense, the student section erupted and was so loud, Michigan refused to snap the ball. After a few minutes of this, Notre Dame was called for a delay of game penalty and a loss of a time-out. Holtz was furious and went on the field.

"I simply wanted to voice my opinion to

"I didn't think the ball was catchable and I thought the flag was a little late. Even though I have glasses and I wear bifocals, I thought that there was no way he could catch the ball unless he had a ticket in section 18."

-Lou Holtz

the officials," said Holtz. "I think that was the only time I lost my poise. I'm proud of that."

Notre Dame got back the time-out when the penalty was rescinded, but the Irish were still displeased with the way the officials handled the whole situation.

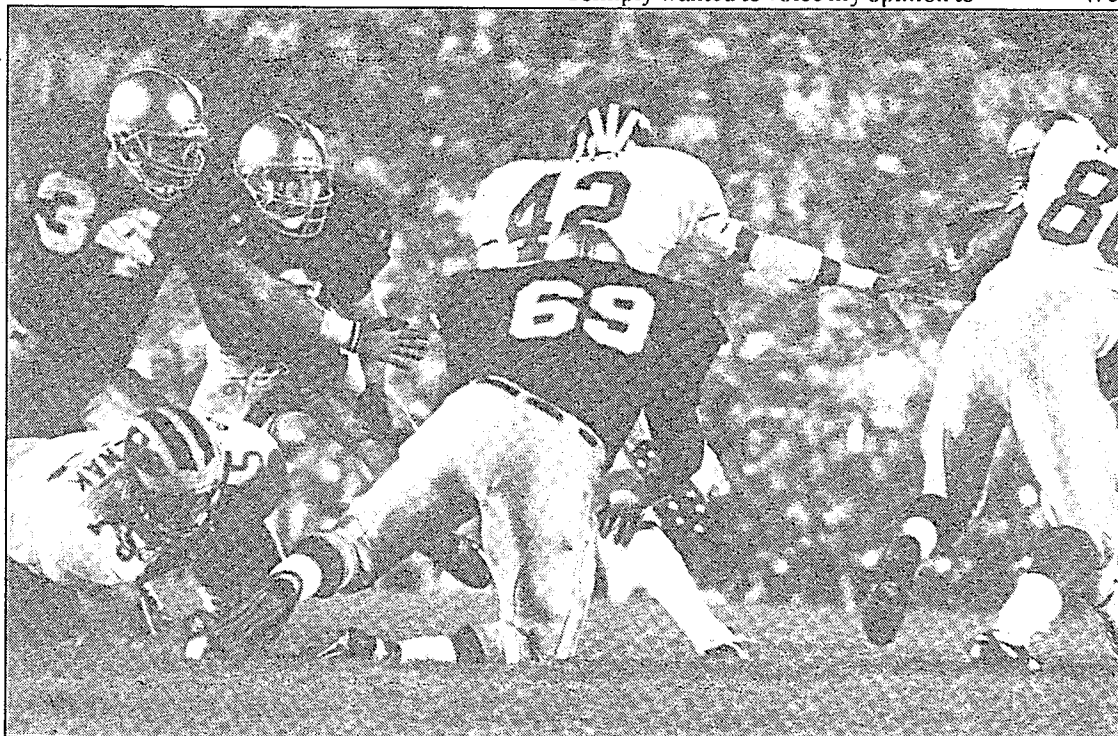
"We played at Alabama, we played at

Miami and it was twice as loud as that," said senior tri-captain and inside linebacker Ned Bolcar. "Michigan was looking for some cheap yards. I kept telling the official that a lot of these people were Michigan fans."

Michigan got the touchdown, however, on a naked bootleg left by Taylor. Gillette converted the extra point and it was 14-13 Michigan. That's the way it stood entering the fourth and final quarter.

During the fourth quarter, each team connected on a field goal and with 1:13 left in the game, Ho put through his fourth field goal making the score 19-17, Notre Dame.

But the drama was not over yet. Michigan managed to take the ensuing kickoff and drive down to the Notre Dame 31-yard line, where, with three seconds



Joe Vitacco

Sophomore defensive tackle George Williams (69) was one of several defensive players who started for the first time against Michigan.

left on the clock, Gillette lined up for a 48-yard field goal which would have won the game for Michigan.

"I just wanted to hit it like an extra point," said Gillette. "Everything felt good, but I probably kicked it a little short. It is a shame when you come back like that on the road and you lose it on a bleeping field goal."

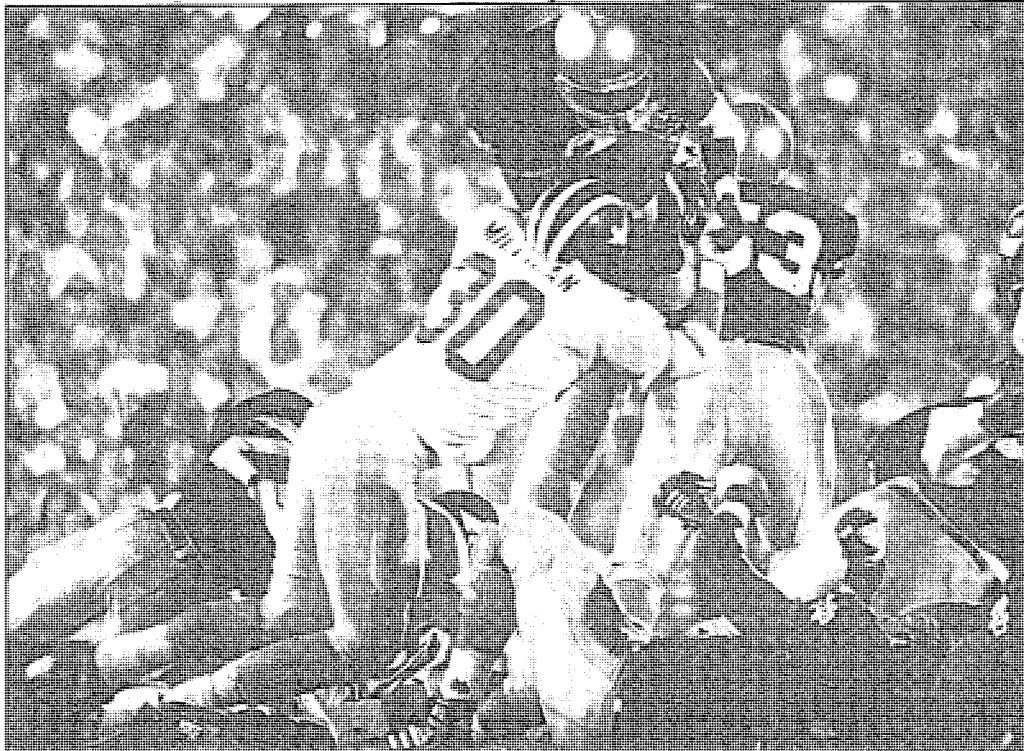
The kick went up and the Michigan band ran for the field. But when the ball came down short and wide right, the Notre Dame students exploded and the Irish were off and running on a season which would prove quite historic, indeed.

In the end, both coaches agreed that

Notre Dame had simply outplayed Michigan.

"We gave up a lot of yards," said Bo Schembechler, the Michigan head coach. "I

wasn't satisfied. Notre Dame played a fine game. We were not clean and crisp. We did not open good holes. In my judgment, they (Notre Dame) deserved to win."



Senior tailback Mark Green came into the Michigan game as the team's leading rusher.

The Irish had beaten a team which would go on to finish fifth in the final poll with a final record of 9-2-1, including a Rose Bowl victory over Notre Dame's archrival, the University of Southern California. But for five points, Schembechler's Wolverines may have been playing for the national championship on New Year's Day.

This victory vaulted Notre Dame to eighth in the polls. And so began the climb to number one.

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Michigan	0	7	7	3	17
Notre Dame	10	3	0	6	19

1st Quarter: ND: Watters 81-yd. punt return (Ho kick)
ND: Ho 31-yd. field goal

2nd Quarter: ND: Ho 38-yd. field goal
UM: Hoard 1-yd. run (Gillette kick)

3rd Quarter: UM: Taylor 1-yd. run (Gillette kick)

4th Quarter: ND: Ho 26-yd. field goal
UM: Gillette 49-yd. field goal
ND: Ho 26-yd. field goal

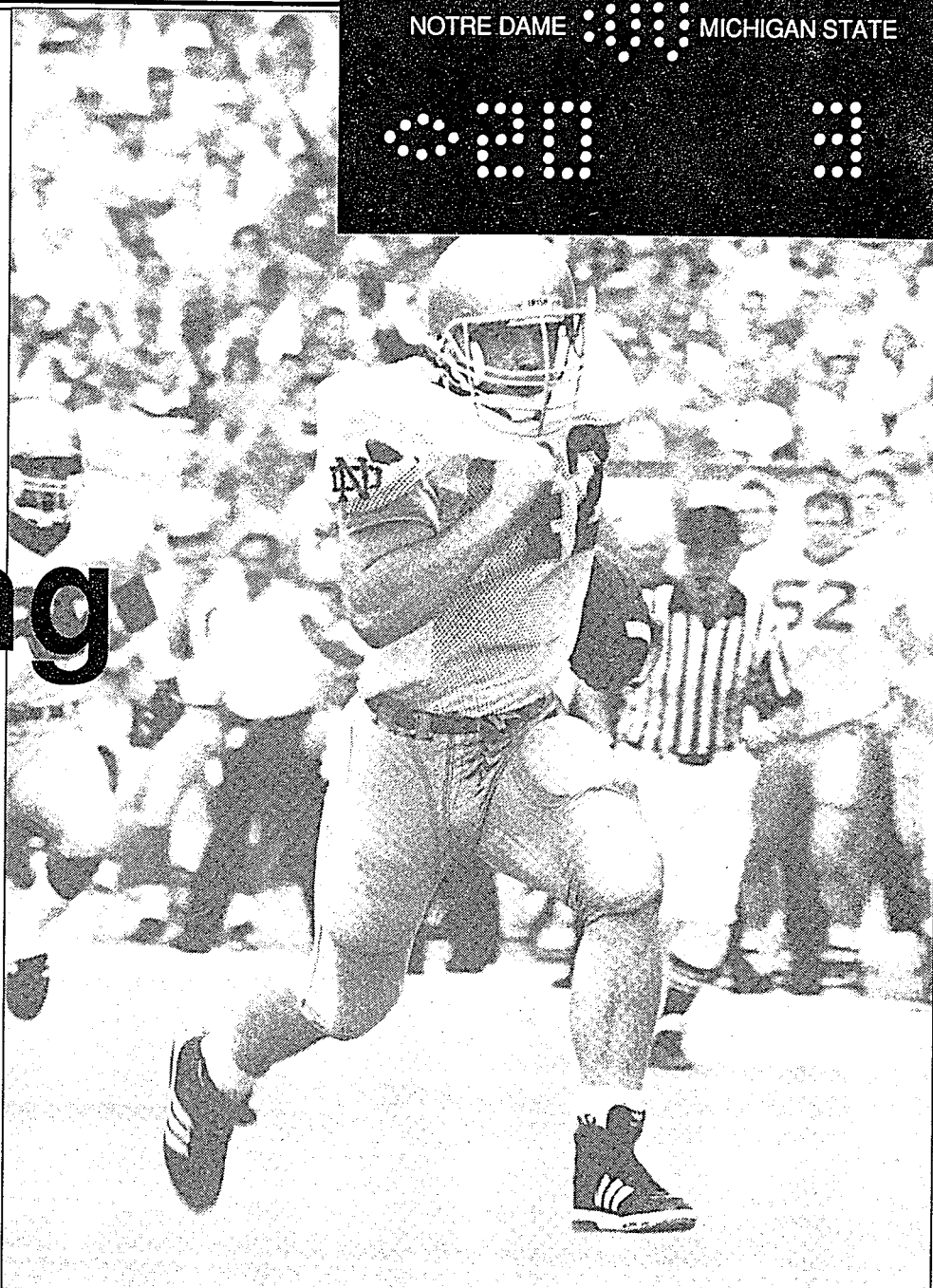
D-Day in East Lansing

The Irish defense shut down the Spartan offense, limiting it to one field goal

BY KEVIN BOUGHAL

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Most football teams fear road trips because the familiarity of the crowd and the field is lost. The is doubly true when the opposing team plays on artificial turf and your team plays on natural grass. But for the '88 Irish, the artificial turf of Spartan Stadium would be an opportunity to show the world just how fast they could run. And before a sellout crowd of 77,472 the Irish did just that.

The Spartans had come off of a banner '87 season in which they had been the Big-10 champs boasting a 7-0-1 in-conference record, and to cap off the season, they had defeated the USC Trojans in the Rose Bowl by a score of 20-17. But the 1988 season was not developing as the Spartans would have liked. Despite a pre-season ranking of 15th in the polls, Michigan State had been upset 17-13 the week before by Rutgers. To make matters even worse, their All-American 315-pound offensive tackle, Tony Mandarich had been suspended by the NCAA for three



Stonebreaker's fourth-quarter interception put the Spartans away.

Joe Vitacco

games.

The Irish were coming off of a big win over the Michigan Wolverines. Although Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz had not won a game at Spartan Stadium in his three visits there (once while coaching the Irish in '86, once with North Carolina State in '74 and once with Minnesota in '85), the young Irish players had proven themselves the week before.

Typical of Holtz's pre-game statements, he was pessimistic about the game. Instead

of making Holtz feel secure about a victory, the loss to unknown Rutgers made him even more pessimistic.

"I felt coming into the season that playing on the road at Michigan State would be as tough as any game on our schedule," said Holtz. "I think it is safe to say that Rutgers' win (last) Saturday doesn't make our task any easier."

As it turned out, the task was not overly difficult; the Irish handily defeated MSU 20-3. It was not until the third quarter, however,

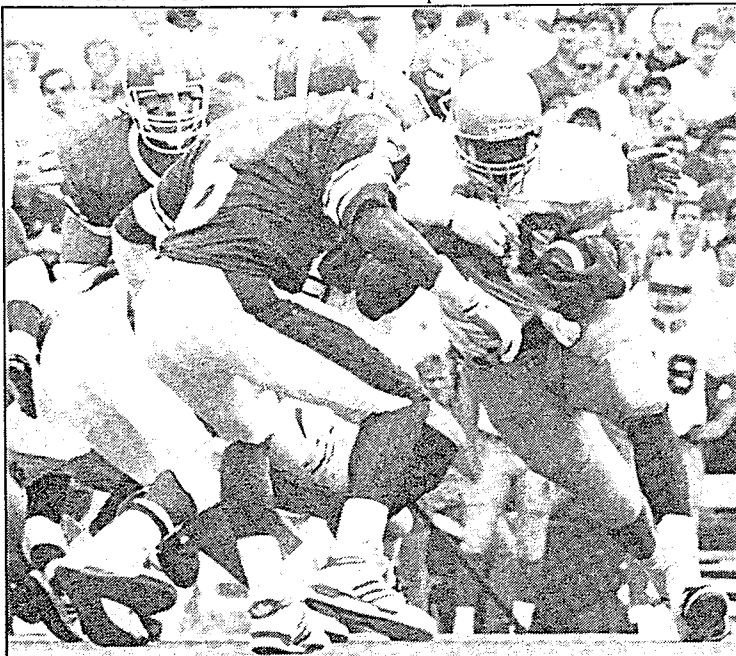
that the Irish came alive and put the game away.

At the end of the first half it seemed as if a field goal would decide the outcome of the game, as it had the week before.

The Spartans won the toss and elected to defer, so Notre Dame received the ball first. Irish quarterback Tony Rice, who had been criticized for not throwing the ball much, put himself back into the fire after his first pass

but he became the team's leading rusher and finished the season second only to Rice in rushing.

"We had to play Brooks at fullback even though he had never played there before," said Holtz. "We kind of told him what to do as we went along then we adjusted some things at halftime. We couldn't run the option without a fullback. We just hung in there."



On first-and-ten at the Notre Dame 43-yard line, MSU quarterback Bobby McAllister completed a five-yard pass to flanker Willie Bouyer. On second-and-five, tailback Blake Ezor scampered eight-yards and was finally taken down by Irish cornerback Todd Lyght.

With a first-and-ten at the ND 30, fullback James Moore took it up the gut for another five. On the next play, Ezor was

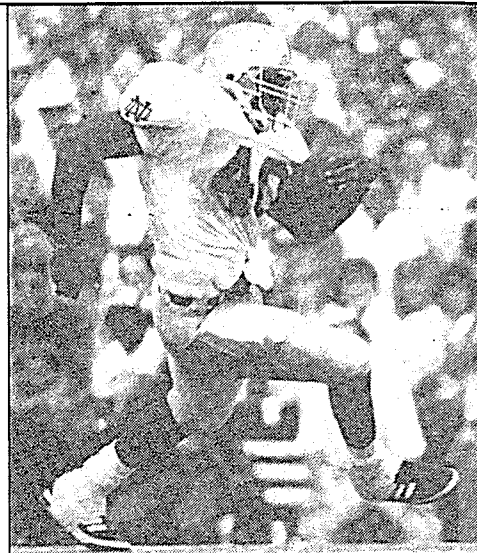
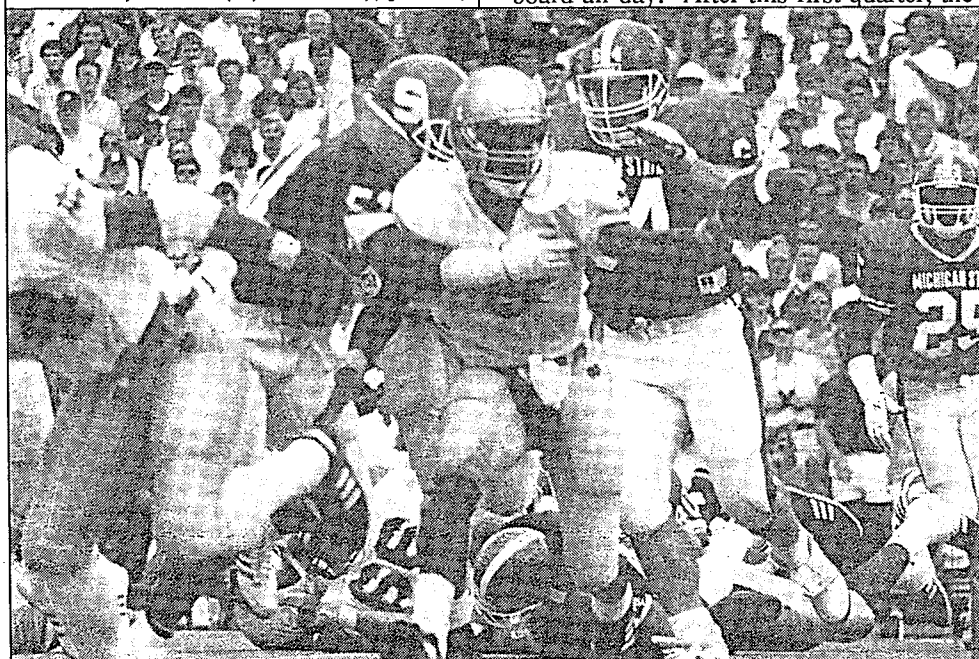
attempt was intercepted by Spartan line-backer Curt Larson. Larson caught the ball at midfield and ran it seven yards to the Notre Dame 43. The interception ended a drive that had lasted six plays and 12 yards.

It looked as though the Irish were in real trouble because the Michigan State offense was starting with excellent field position. To make the situation even worse, on this first drive, Notre Dame's only two fullbacks were taken out of the game with major injuries. Anthony Johnson injured his ankle and would be out for at least a week. Braxton Banks had injured his knee and was lost for at least five weeks, maybe the whole season. Without a fullback, Holtz could not run the option - the lifeline of this non-passing offense.

To replace them, he was forced to move Tony Brooks, who had never played fullback, to the starting fullback position. Brooks was not without an injury himself; he had found out in the beginning of the season that he had a hairline fracture of his foot. Despite this injury, he not only played,

Tailback Tony Brooks (40) switched positions and had 66 yards on 11 carries while Rice was held to a net of 54 by a swarming Spartan defense (below).

Photos by Joe Vitacco (left) and Chuck Ray (right, below)



caught behind the line of scrimmage by Irish defensive end Andre Jones for a loss of two. The Spartans were looking at a third-and-eleven after an illegal procedure call went against them, but McAllister saved them with a 13-yard keeper run.

Two plays later, the Spartans were facing a third-and-12 when Irish sophomore defensive tackle George Williams up-ended Ezor for a two-yard loss. MSU was looking at a fourth-and-14 from the ND 20, so the field-goal kicking unit was called out. John Langeloh's 39-yard attempt was good and the Spartans took the lead 3-0. It had taken them 4:26 to cover 21 yards in nine plays.

These three points would be the only score that Michigan State would get on the board all day. After this first quarter, the

Irish defense came alive and kept the Spartans away from the end zone.

The quarter ended with the score Michigan State 3, Notre Dame 0.

During the second quarter, Irish kicker Reggie Ho was put under the spotlight again. Ho had been the leprechaun with the foot of gold for the Irish the week before against Michigan when he had successfully kicked four field goals to help Notre Dame past the Wolverines; and it seemed that Holtz was going to be looking for him to produce a lot of points against MSU as well.

On the first possession of the second quarter, a Rice swing-pass to tri-captain tailback Mark Green had been good for a 38-yard gain. On the next play, Green took an option pass up the field another eleven yards. It looked like the Irish offense was finally on fire gaining almost 50 yards in just two plays.

But the MSU defense buckled down and on fourth-and-three, Ho was forced to attempt a 31-yard field goal. The kick was good and the score was Notre Dame 3, MSU 3. The Irish had gone 66 yards in nine plays and 4:53. After this kick, Notre Dame was ahead for the rest of the day.

Freshman receiver Raghib "Rocket" Ismail introduced himself to the MSU kicking team and set up the Irish for their next scoring drive in the process. Ismail, who had been clocked as fast as 4.23 in the 40, blocked a punt by MSU kicker Josh Butland and the Irish recovered the ball on the MSU seven-yard line. A goal line stand by the Michigan State defense anchored by 1987 Butkus Award finalist Percy Snow (the Butkus Award is given to the best linebacker in the country and is named after former Chicago Bear great, Dick Butkus), kept the Irish offense from getting a touchdown, but Ho kicked a 22-yard field goal and the score was Notre Dame 6, MSU 3.

Although neither team scored another

touchdown during the second quarter, both teams did exchange interceptions. With a little over a minute left in the quarter, Kent Graham, who had replaced Rice at quarterback for the Irish, attempted a pass to Ismail that was intercepted for no gain by MSU cornerback Ventson Donelson at the MSU 19-yard line.

Four plays later, on the last play of the half, Irish linebacker Mike Stonebreaker intercepted a McAllister pass. Stonebreaker ran for 42 yards and just as he was about to be hit by an MSU player, he flipped the ball off

to Irish safety George Streeter. As soon as Streeter touched the ball, he got pummeled by MSU's 290-pound offensive tackle, Kevin Robbins. It did appear from the stands that Stonebreaker, who was not touched, was laughing as he went into the tunnel. However, because of the size of Spartan Stadium, one can not be sure.

The fact that nobody was scoring showed the defensive struggle going on. Although neither team had been sparkling on offense, both the defenses were coming up with the big plays. Holtz was very pleased with the

way his defense played. "It was the defense that kept us in the game," said Holtz.

The halftime statistics showed that the score actually represented the way that the game was going. Both teams were very close in every statistic, except for passing yards. Notre Dame had 50 yards passing compared to MSU's 102 passing yards.

Even though the team managed to move the ball and score without passing, Holtz still was not satisfied in the least.

"Until we can get 215 yards passing a game, we won't be happy," said Holtz.

Holtz said that during the halftime, the coaches made some adjustments and the second half of the game showed them.

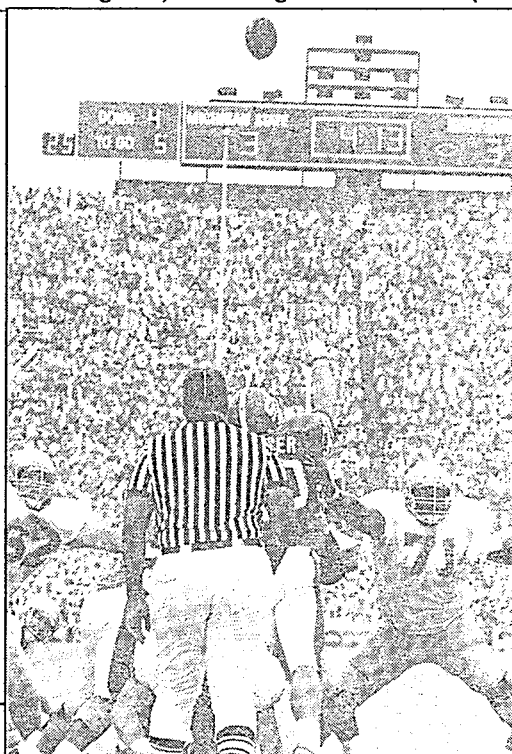
On Notre Dame's first possession of the second half, Brooks took the ball 37 yards before being brought down by Larson. Five plays later, Rice scored an eight-yard touchdown. In just six plays and two minutes, the Irish had gone 71 yards. Ho's extra point made the score Notre Dame 13, MSU 3, and the score stayed the same until the end of the third quarter.

The third quarter ended in the middle of a long Irish drive that had gone 15 plays from the Notre Dame ten-yard line, with Reggie Ho getting ready to kick a 22-yard field goal on fourth-and-goal. The first play in the



Reggie Ho kicked two field goals, including the tie-breaker (below).

Chuck Ray



Joe Vitacco

fourth quarter proved for the first time (but not the last), that every time Ho stepped on the field was not an automatic field goal. Pete Graham, the holder, could not control a bad snap and the Irish ended up with a 21-yard loss instead of three points.

However, midway through the quarter, Stonebreaker, who would later be named the Associated Press Midwest Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts against Michigan State, made his offensive debut by intercepting a McAllister pass and running it 39 yards for the last touchdown. Ho's extra point was good and the final score was Notre Dame 20, MSU 3.

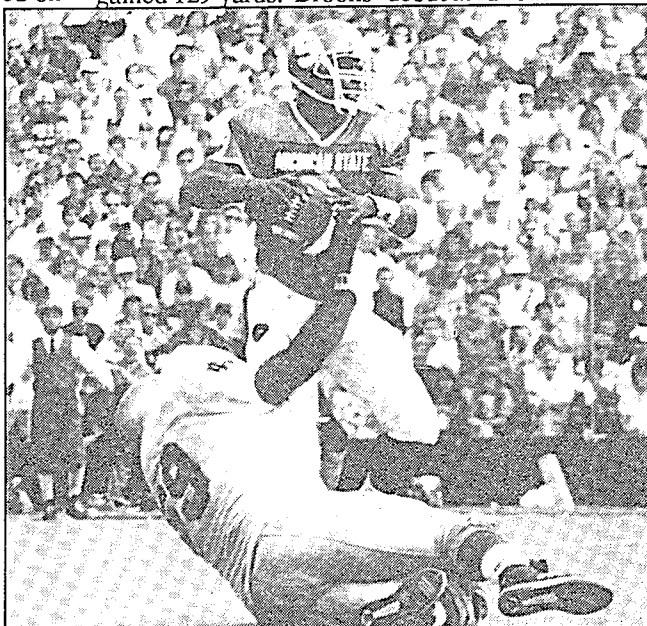
Stonebreaker finished the game as the team's leading tackler with 17 total to go with his two interceptions.

"I usually don't like to single out any player, but Stonebreaker played very well," said Holtz.

Another player who played very

well was Mark Green. On 21 attempts, Green gained 129 yards. Brooks' debut at fullback

also had been successful because on eleven carries, he had gained 66 yards.



Chuck Ray

Notre Dame's George Williams (69) was in Michigan State's backfield all day and sacked McAllister (with ball) once for a ten-yard loss.

Rice, who did not gain any yards passing in the second half, finished the day with nine attempts, two completions and one interception for a grand total of 50 yards. Needless to say, the receivers did not have a big day either. In Rice's defense, he did score the only offensive touchdown and even more importantly, he played the option to perfection - something which is not reflected in the passing stats.

After the game Holtz said the opposite of what he had said the weekend before.

"I knew we would play an excellent football game in Michigan," said Holtz. "We beat an awfully good football team."

But one of the Notre Dame players coming off the field after the game phrased the feelings of the team in three simple words.

"That's two baby."

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	0	6	7	7	20
Michigan State	3	0	0	0	3

1st Quarter: MS: Langeloh 39-yd. field goal

2nd Quarter: ND: Ho 31-yd. field goal

ND: Ho 22-yd. field goal

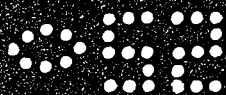
3rd Quarter: ND: Rice 8-yd. run (Ho kick)

4th Quarter: ND: Stonebreaker 39-yd. interception return (Ho kick)

NOTRE DAME



PURDUE



Runaway!

The Irish offense finally got in gear against Purdue in a 52-7 romp

BY JIM MAGGIO

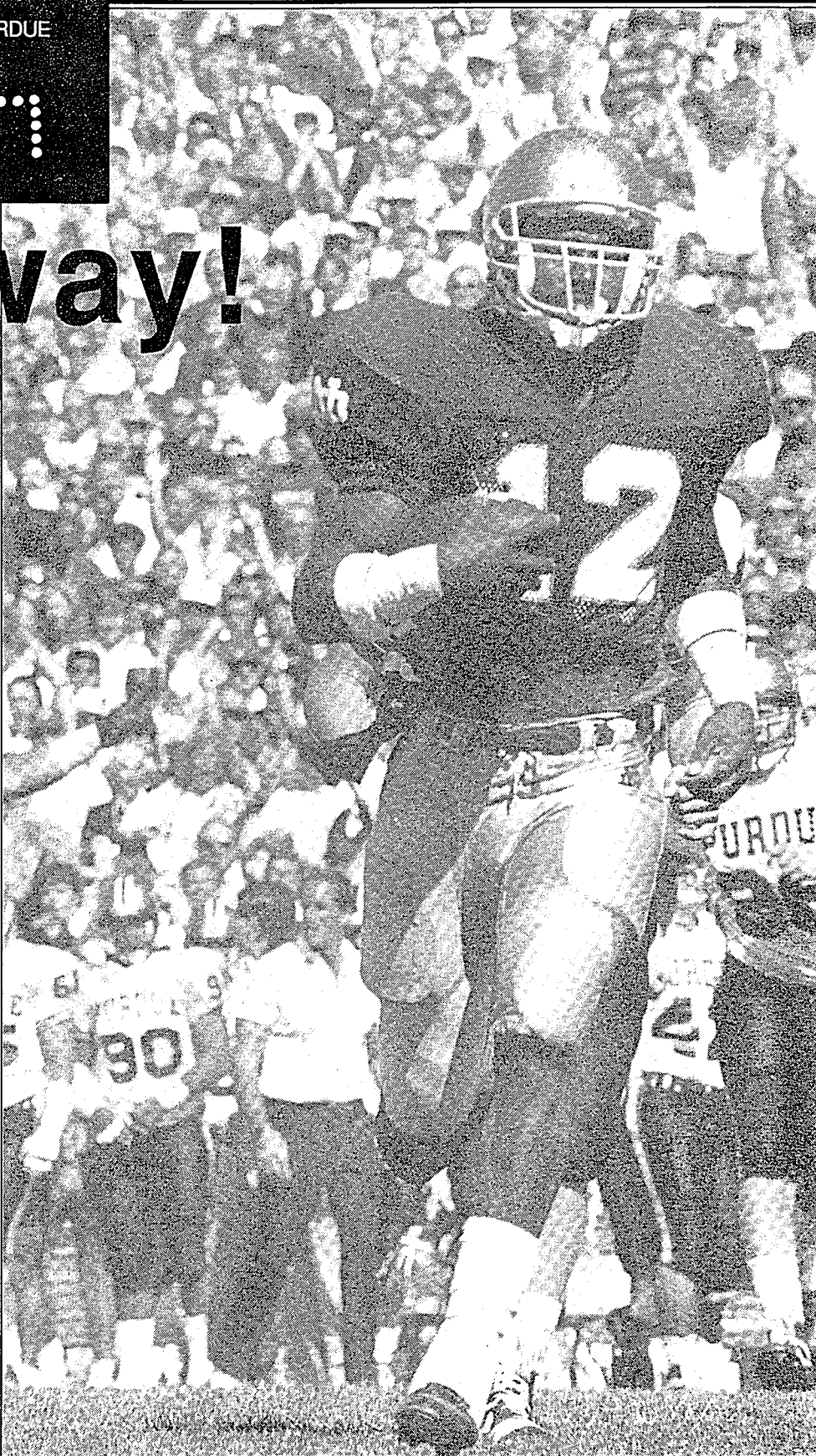
NOTRE DAME, In. — You might say that Notre Dame's encounter with the Purdue Boilermakers was a "coming out" of sorts. Forget that this was already their third game of the 1988 season. The Irish may have rolled to an early-season mark of 2-0, but after averaging only 45 passing yards and 18.5 points per game the Notre Dame offense had yet to be formally invited to the party.

With that fact stuck in their minds and under their skin, it took Tony Rice & Co. only thirty minutes to crash this gig with a vengeance. Notre Dame's RSVP came in the form of their most prolific half of scoring in twenty years, a 42-point barrage that paved the way to a 52-7 romp of an overmatched Boilermaker squad.

"Notre Dame dominated us today," lamented Purdue head coach Fred Akers. "They got rolling and pretty much did what they wanted to do."

Rice orchestrated Notre Dame's domination of the Boilermakers with the most productive half of his career to date. He accounted for 152 of the team's 355 total first-half yards, completing four of six passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 67 more yards and another score. Rice's abbreviated but effective passing performance was an especially encouraging sign for two reasons.

One was that he proved he could throw



Watters' 66-yard punt return in the second quarter ran the score to 35-0.

Greg Kohs

against one of the better pass defenses in college football. In fact, Purdue's pass defense ranked first in the nation coming into this game, allowing an average of only 59 passing yards per contest. The other was that the junior quarterback nearly doubled his season output in one half of action, having completed only five of 21 passes the previous two games.

"I thought Tony Rice threw the ball more today like he does in practice. Don't get me wrong, he isn't ready to play on Sunday yet."

- Lou Holtz

"The passing keeps improving every week and everyone is behind me, especially the fans," said Rice. "I have confidence I can throw the ball."

"I thought Tony Rice threw the ball more today like he does in practice," said Notre Dame head coach Lou Holtz. "Don't get me wrong, he isn't ready to play on Sunday yet."

Rice and the Irish offense were more than ready on this warm Saturday afternoon, though. Notre Dame staked their claim to this game in the first quarter, drawing first blood on their second possession of the game. Tailback Mark Green and fullback Tony Brooks helped move the Irish to midfield with a punishing ground attack, taking yardage in chunks of four or five at a time. Their efforts set up Rice's first pass completion, a ten-yard connection to Pat Eilers. Eilers returned the favor on the next play with an open-field block that enabled Rice to scamper 38 yards for the touchdown and a 7-0 Irish lead.

Notre Dame came right back on their next possession, driving 72 yards on nine plays for their second score. Brooks paced the drive with 45 of his game-high 110 rushing yards, capped by a 31-yard burst up the middle to the Purdue 22. Four plays later Rice hooked up with freshman tight end Derek Brown for

his first touchdown pass of the season and Brown's first career reception.

With the second quarter came the fireworks, and Rice wasted no time in showing off the new Rocket in his arsenal. After Ricky Watters returned a punt 12 yards to the Notre Dame 46, Rice went to the air one last time and hit freshman Raghbir "Rocket" Ismail on a play-action fake at the Purdue 13. Ismail never broke stride and outraced the Purdue secondary into the end zone for his first career touchdown and a 21-0 Irish advantage.

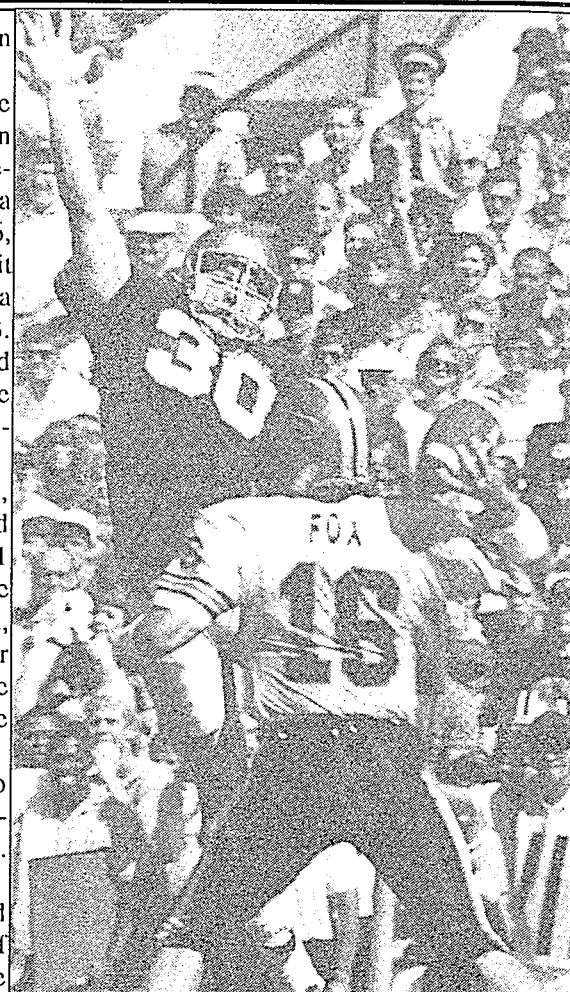
Six minutes after Ismail's catch, Brooks and Rice sparked an 80-yard scoring drive with runs of 30 and 21 yards, respectively. Green finished the drive with a seven-yard touchdown run, and with 6:44 remaining in the quarter there was no telling how many more points Notre Dame would tally before the halftime gun.

"The game got out of hand so quickly," said Holtz. "We were up 28-0 and had our second unit ready to go. Then we ran the punt back."

Barely half a minute had elapsed when Watters fielded his fifth punt of the half at the Notre Dame 34. He stepped back, circled left and absolutely dusted the Purdue defense, racing 66 yards down the left sideline for his second punt return touchdown of the season. Third-string quarterback Steve Belles then completed the thirty minute massacre five minutes later with a 34-yard scoring pass to Brooks. While the 42-point showing left Holtz not quite sure of what to think, it forced Akers and the Boilermakers to come to the quick realization that this day belonged solely to the Irish.

"Our offense has made Reggie Ho a national hero," said a miffed Holtz, in reference to the 5-foot-5, 135-pound kicker who had accounted for more than half of Notre Dame's scoring coming into this game. "I felt the only way we'd score 42 points in a half was if Digger didn't play a half-court game."

"Notre Dame could have picked the score after that start," said Akers. "Once they got rolling and things started going their way, they became awfully good."



Allan Linn

Substitute Fox had the same luck as other Purdue QBs against the Irish - none.

The Irish defense only added to the Boilermaker's woes. Strong safety George Streeter intercepted two Shawn McCarthy passes and led a secondary that recorded five on the day. "We had an opportunity to play against a passing attack and our secondary responded to the challenge," said Streeter. "We feel we have a great defense and we will challenge anyone to line up against us."

The challenge was too much for McCarthy. He gave way to freshman quarterback Brian Fox after turning in a less-than-stellar performance, completing only nine of 19 passes, throwing two interceptions and accumulating seven times more yardage punting the ball (372) than passing it (51).

"We wanted to catch them looking for the run and throw the pass and vice versa," explained McCarthy. "It was one of those days when it feels like you run into a brick wall and everything goes wrong. They were able to

take away the momentum we had built up all week in the first quarter."

The Boilermakers were never able to answer an Irish score with any kind of offensive threat. Only twice did Purdue move the ball into Notre Dame territory in the first half, and neither time did they get past the Irish 47-yard line. Notre Dame added further insult to injury when their third-team defense forced Purdue to turn the ball over on downs late in the fourth quarter, preventing them from scoring on four consecutive attempts inside the Irish five-yard line.

"All we could do was try to get something positive going," said Akers, trying to put his team's long afternoon in perspective. "We weren't trying to erase 42 points, but we were trying to build things. It was a long time before anything positive came about."

One of the few positives on the afternoon for Purdue came



Ismail caught his first TD pass against Purdue.

Greg Kohs

three quarters later than they really needed. Fox threw a ten-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Williams with 3:20 left in the final quarter, but by that time the Boilermakers were more than ready to catch the next bus back to West Lafayette.

Holtz labelled Notre Dame's seventh consecutive victory over a Big Ten conference opponent as "a good win." But as he has made a well-documented habit of doing since taking over the head coaching reins in 1986, Holtz refused to get carried away over an impressive showing.

"We have to keep this game in perspective," said Holtz. "Although we played well, Purdue was beat up and banged up coming into the game. Where are we right now? We're 3-0, which is exactly where we were a year ago."

Nevertheless, this was a game that Holtz and the Irish would not soon forget, a game that finally propelled Notre Dame's offense to the spotlight. The question left for Purdue to answer, though, was whether or not the Boilermakers would be able to erase the memory of such a sound thrashing.

"If you all try to," Akers deadpanned, "I will."

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Purdue	0	0	0	7	7
Notre Dame	14	28	3	7	52

1st Quarter: ND: Rice 38-yd. run (Ho kick)

ND: Rice 8-yd. pass to Brown (Ho kick)

2nd Quarter: ND: Rice 54-yd. pass to Ismail (Ho kick)

ND: Green 7-yd. run (Ho kick)

ND: Watters 66-yd. punt return (Ho kick)

ND: Belles 34-yd. pass to Brooks (Ho kick)

3rd Quarter: ND: Hackett 44-yd. field goal

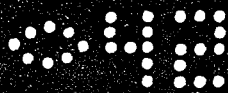
4th Quarter: ND: Culver 36-yd. run (Hackett kick)

PU: Fox 10-yd. pass to Williams (Sullivan kick)

NOTRE DAME



STANFORD



BULL'S EYE

Tony Rice practiced his passing by throwing darts, and Stanford got the point in a 42-14 rout

BY MARTY STRASEN

NOTRE DAME, In. — In the week leading up to Notre Dame's meeting with Stanford on the first night of October, Tony Rice learned that throwing a football is a lot like throwing darts in his dorm room. And in 60 minutes of one-sided football in Notre Dame Stadium, several skeptics of Rice's quarterbacking ability learned that the 6'1" junior can do a great deal more damage with a football than he can with a dart.

The Stanford Cardinal also learned about Rice's throwing ability (with a football, that is), watching him complete 11 of 14 passes for 129 yards and a touchdown to lead Notre Dame to a 42-14 rout. Rice tied a school record by completing 10 consecutive passes, including four in the previous week's 52-7 whitewashing of Purdue. In between the games against the Boilermakers and the Cardinal, Rice may have set a record for time spent by a quarterback throwing darts.

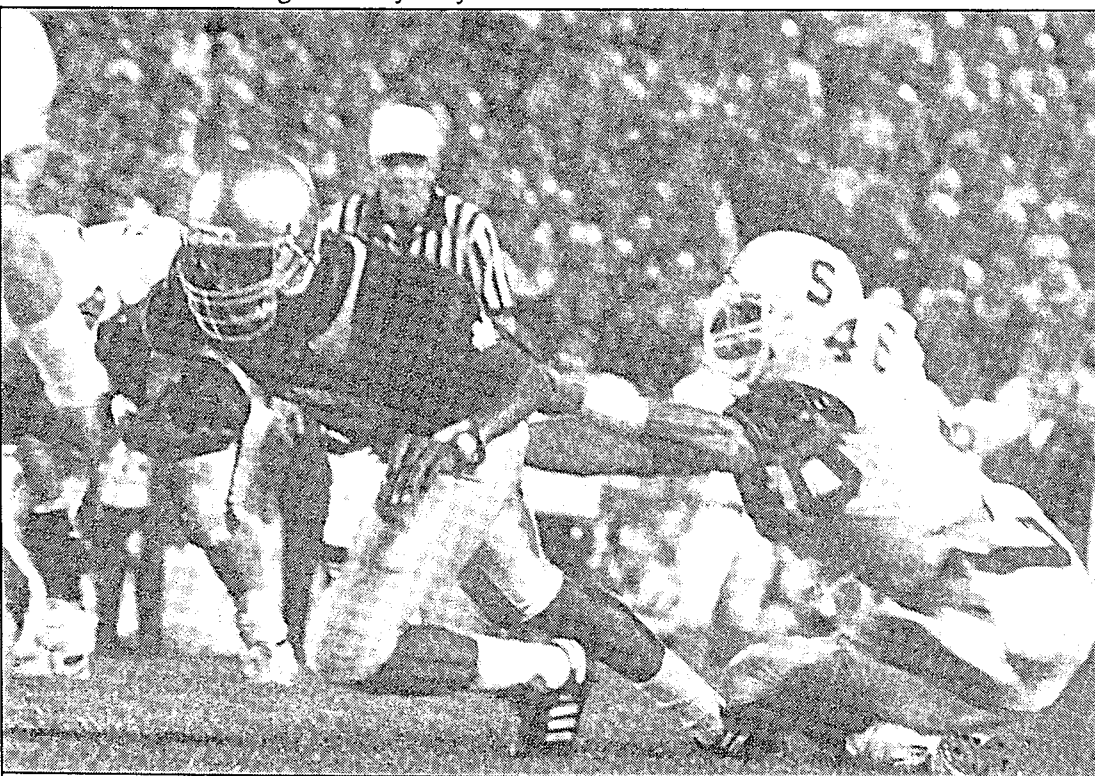
"Coach Holtz and I were talking, and he suggested I get some darts and just throw in my room," Rice said after the game. "It seemed like it just carried on. Every night I just threw darts, and in practice I could see I was improving a bit. I'm going to keep throwing them. I think the darts really helped out tonight."

So did the Irish defense, in one of its many stellar performances of the championship season. The game was billed as a showdown between Notre Dame's option attack and the Cardinal's heralded run-and-shoot offense. But the Stanford offense did not run well against a much larger Irish defense, and the aerial attack of quarterback Brian Johnson was shot down for most of the game as well. The Cardinal gained only 59 yards on the

ground, compared to 332 yards for the Irish. Most of Stanford's 215 passing yards were amassed when the game was well under Notre Dame's control.

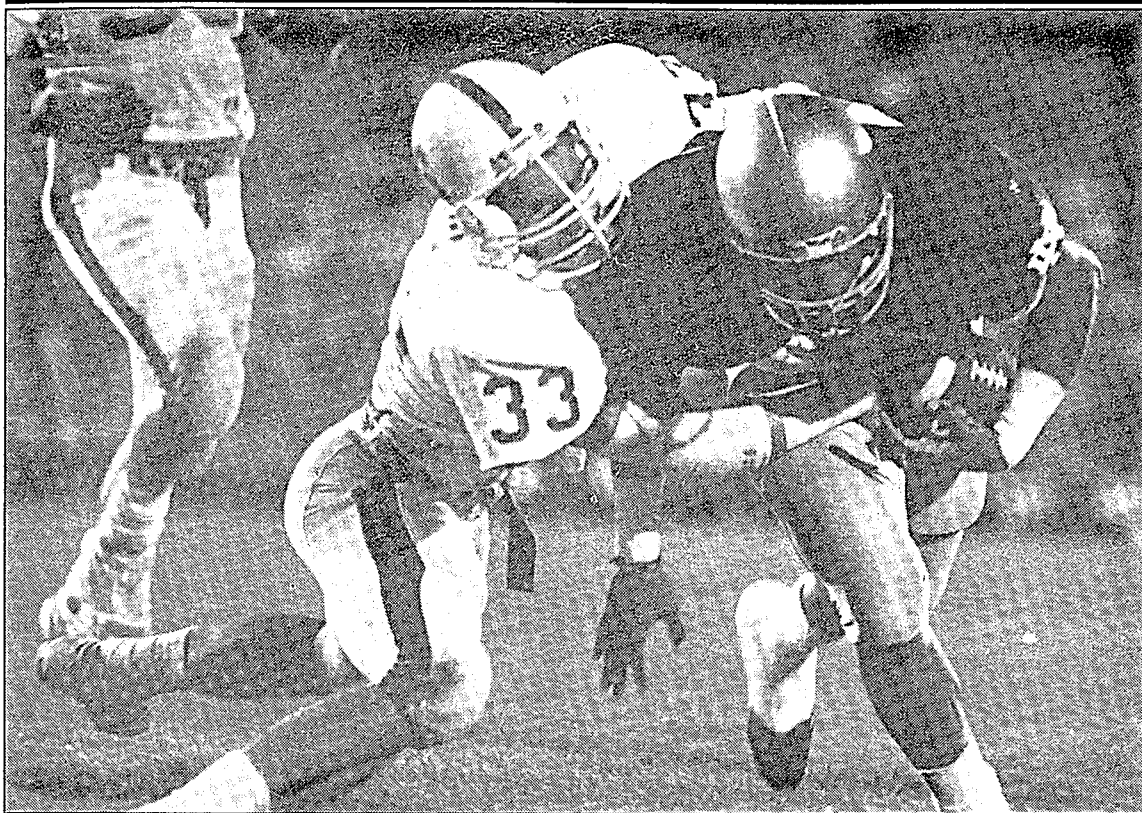
"We knew they were outstanding," Stanford coach Jack Elway said of the Irish. "They are very quick, very disciplined and they didn't make any mistakes. There's just not a whole lot you can do against that."

The Cardinal did not do much. In fact,



Mari Okuda

The Cardinal defense never grasped how to tackle Rice, who ran for two TDs and 107 yards.



Brooks ran past Cardinal safety Newton (33) to give Notre Dame a 21-0 lead.

Bill Leheny

Stanford did not manage a first down in the opening quarter as Notre Dame raced out to a commanding lead. After the Irish stopped the Cardinal on the game's opening drive, Rice finished off the first Irish possession by keeping the ball on the option and sprinting 30 yards for a touchdown and a quick 6-0 Notre Dame lead.

This was quite simply Rice's day. Aside from his record-setting passing display, the junior gained a career-high 107 yards on 14 rushes and accounted for three Irish touchdowns - two on the ground and one through the air.

"We didn't want to get into a passing contest with them, but we wanted to control the football," said Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz. "For the first time, Tony Rice ran the offense like he does in practice. I thought he executed well and had an excellent ball game."

If there was a turning point in this game, it came early in the second quarter.

Reggie Ho missed the extra point after Rice's first touchdown and missed a 21-yard field goal attempt later in the first quarter to allow the Cardinal to stay close. But Notre Dame moved the ball to the Stanford 1-yard

line as the opening period expired, and Holtz decided to go for the touchdown on a fourth-down play to open the second stanza. Stanford defensive tackle Lester Archambeau read Rice's keeper perfectly and stuffed him short of the goal line to prevent a touchdown and give the Cardinal the ball.

But on the very next play, Stanford lost both the ball and the momentum. Johnson lost the football when he was hit by Irish nose tackle Chris Zorich, and inside linebacker Ned Bolcar fell on it to give Notre Dame another chance from the 1-yard line. This time the Irish went over the Cardinal defense instead of trying to go through it, as senior tailback Mark Green vaulted over the top for the touchdown. Rice ran a keeper for the two-point conversion to make the score 14-0.

"When they stopped us at the goal line and got the ball back, and then fumbled on the very next play, that was big," Holtz said. "That got the team up. I'm not saying it turned the game around, because it didn't. I thought we controlled the football game."

It did not take long for the Irish to establish that much. Tony Brooks and Anthony Johnson carried the load on Notre Dame's subsequent drive, bulling ahead for steady

gains of eight and nine yards to move the Irish deep into Cardinal territory, where they spent most of the evening. Brooks did the honors this time, taking a pitch to the left side and flattening Stanford safety Mike Newton en route to a five-yard score that lifted Notre Dame to a 21-0 edge.

Anthony Johnson sat out the previous week against Purdue because of an ankle sprain he suffered in the second game of the season against Michigan State. The junior fullback was an integral part in what was becoming one of the most feared ground games in the nation, and he picked up 58 yards on 14 carries against the Cardinal. Brooks moved from tailback to fill Johnson's shoes at fullback the week before, gaining 110 yards against the Boilermakers.

He returned to tailback against Stanford and scampered for 59 yards on 12 carries with Johnson back in the lineup. It made

"Sometimes you have games where everything goes your way. And tonight was our night."

-Tony Rice

Notre Dame's task that much easier as it boosted its record to 4-0.

"It helped the offense to have him back," Brooks said. "It helps us do what we want to do, which is have two experienced backs fresh all the time, and just keep running our game."

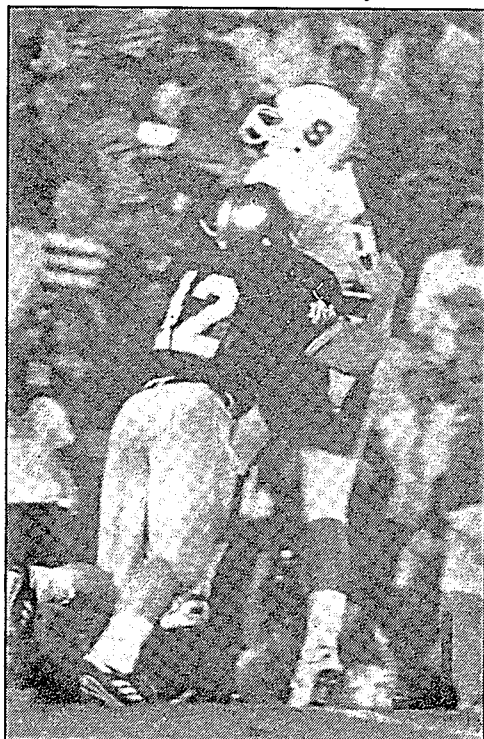
"It was fun to get back and play," Anthony Johnson added. "It's not fun sitting, and that is motivation to work hard and get back in the game."

"We knew they were outstanding. They are very quick, very disciplined and they didn't make any mistakes. There's just not a whole lot you can do against that."

-Jack Elway

It did not take Anthony Johnson long to become a factor against Stanford, which finally scored on Brian Johnson's keeper from a yard out to make the score 21-7 with 4:28 left in the half. The Irish marched 80 yards in eight plays on the next possession, which featured runs of 26 and 13 yards by Green before Anthony Johnson plowed into the end zone and gave the Irish a 28-7 halftime edge.

"For the most part, our line dominated up front," Johnson said. "We had the better line going both ways, and that's why we con-



Chuck Ray

Stonebreaker rushed the QB often.

trolled the whole game and were able to run and pass the way we did. That's why we are becoming a complete offense."

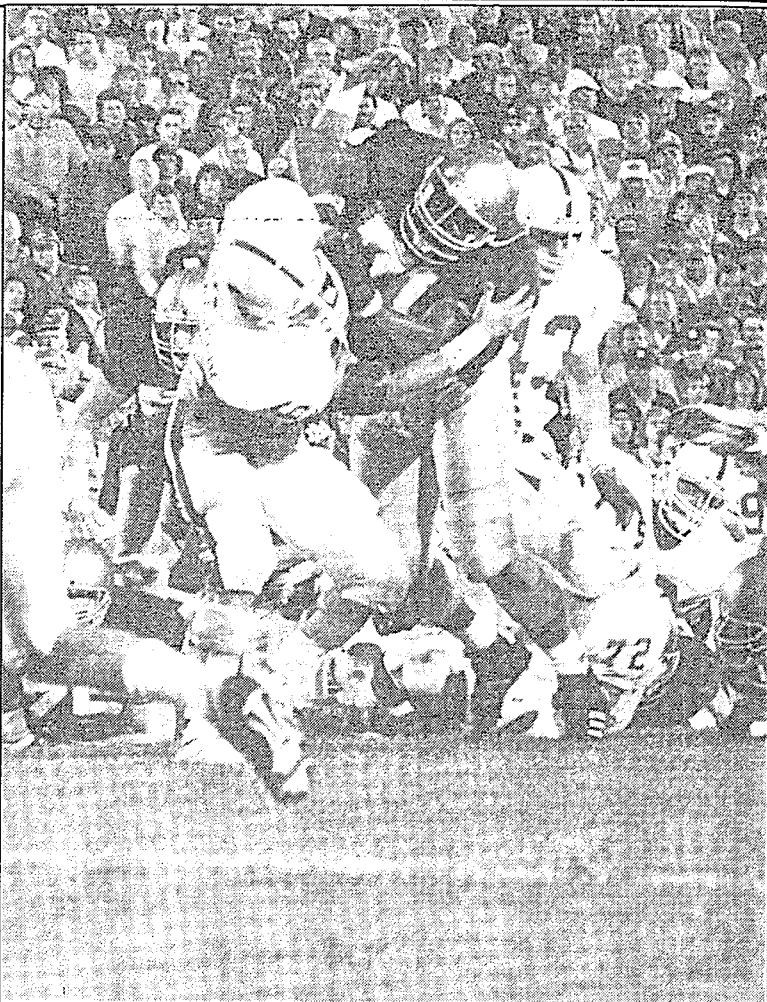
Just five yards separated Notre Dame's top three rushers through the first four games of the season. Green ran for 63 against the Cardinal and led the Irish with 284 yards, followed by Brooks with 283 and Rice with 279. Anthony Johnson described after the game why he felt the Irish had been so successful running the football over the first four weeks of the season.

"Number one, Coach (Jim)

Strong does a great job putting us all together and getting us all to do the right thing," he said. "Second, we all have a desire to play well, to get the job done. And third, we play together and know we are part of a team. We are oriented within the team to be able to do well as a team."

On the other hand, Stanford's biggest attraction turned out to be its famous band, which brought to life a Notre Dame crowd that is accustomed to seeing the more traditional formations during the halftime show. But while the halftime festivities provided a change of pace, the second half of the football game brought more of the same - Irish domination.

Notre Dame marched 73 yards on 10 plays on the first possession of the third quarter, boosting the lead to 35-7 when Rice dumped a pass to freshman tight end Derek Brown for a three-yard touchdown. The reception was Brown's second of the season -



Mari Okuda

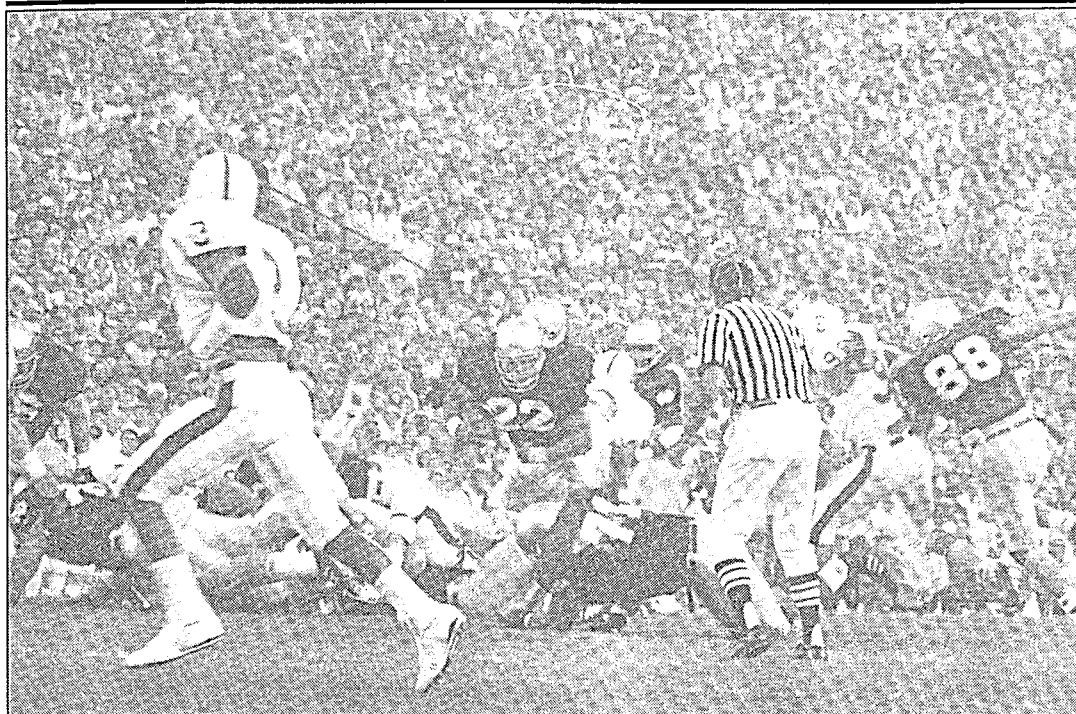
Brown and the offensive line pushed Stanford around all night.

both for touchdowns.

"Sometimes you have games where everything goes your way," Rice said. "And tonight was our night."

Elway conceded that much when he replaced his starting quarterback with sophomore Jason Palumbis on Stanford's opening possession in the second half. Palumbis marked his debut with a 73-yard touchdown drive that culminated on a fourth-down, 27-yard completion to Henry Green. Palumbis played the rest of the game, but the Notre Dame defense did not take long to disrupt his rhythm and did not allow a Stanford score the rest of the way. Senior cornerback D'Juan Francisco led the Irish with nine tackles while senior linebacker Wes Pritchett added eight.

"I thought Jason Palumbis did a good job throwing the ball and Jon Volpe did a good job running the ball," Elway said. "He (Palumbis) has done very well in spring



Mari Okuda

Johnson (with ball) returned from a two-game absence with 58 yards on 14 carries.

football and in the fall drills. I thought it would be a good opportunity to play. I foresaw that he was going to play before the game."

Palumbis was 16-of-23 for 158 yards and the touchdown, but said he was not pleased because of his inability to put points on the board after his first drive. But Brian Johnson

did no better in the first half, and Notre Dame's defense held the starter to a 7-of-18 passing day with 57 yards and an interception. On the ground, the Cardinal had only one man who netted positive yardage. Volpe picked up 67 yards on 17 rushes.

Rice finished the onslaught just like he started it, scoring on the option - this time from six yards out - to complete the scoring early in the fourth quarter before handing the game over to back-up Kent Graham and just about everyone on the Notre Dame sideline.

Rice had hit the bullseye in this game, and would continue to dispel questions about his passing ability over the course of the season. It was about this time when Rice and Holtz made a friendly wager on a game of darts, to be played at the end of the season. At season's end, however, Holtz said he was reconsidering.

"I don't know if I want to play that game anymore," Holtz said. Stanford can't blame him for backing out.

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Stanford	0	7	7	0	14
Notre Dame	6	22	7	7	42

1st Quarter: ND: Rice 30-yd. run (kick failed)

2nd Quarter: ND: Green 1-yd. run (Rice run for 2 pts.)

ND: Brooks 5-yd. run (Ho kick)

SU: Johnson 1-yd. run (Hopkins kick)

ND: Johnson 1-yd. run (Ho kick)

3rd Quarter: ND: Rice 3-yd. pass to Brown (Ho kick)

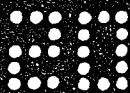
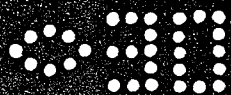
SU: Palumbis 27-yd. pass to Green (Hopkins kick)

4th Quarter: ND: Rice 6-yd. run (Ho kick)

NOTRE DAME



PITTSBURGH



Joe Vitacco

Rice and the Irish offense spent most of the day on the run, trying to stay on top of the pesky Panthers.

Tough Scrap in the Iron City

*Notre Dame needed some Pitt blunders - as well as some help from above
- to escape from Pittsburgh with a 30-20 win*

BY JIM MAGGIO

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — In the evening gloom of October 10, 1987, the rain in Pittsburgh felt cold. *Really* cold. Any of the Notre Dame contingent who walked into a drenched Pitt Stadium last year to endure miserable weather conditions and an equally-miserable 30-22 Irish defeat will attest to that. Knowing this, you can imagine the thoughts racing through those same minds late in the first half of this year's road matchup with the Panthers.

After relatively calm conditions predominated early on, the skies suddenly opened up as Pitt threatened to do the same to the score. Having moved the ball on a late drive 62 yards to the Notre Dame nine, quarterback Darnell Dickerson appeared ready to give his Panthers a 21-17 halftime lead. He kept the snap from center on first-and-goal from the nine, splashing his way unmolested toward the end zone for an apparent touchdown.

But just as Notre Dame got the feeling that this scenario seemed frightfully familiar, the wet conditions unexpectedly worked in their favor. As Dickerson approached the goal line, the football slipped out of his grasp and rolled into the end zone. After Dickerson's two failed attempts to retrieve it, Irish cornerback Stan Smagala dived on the ball to preserve the 17-14 lead and help Notre Dame hang on to rally for a 30-20 victory. Suddenly the rain no longer seemed so chilly.

Maybe Panther Head Coach Mike Gottfried should have taken that as a cue to call it a day, particularly a Notre Dame day. If he needed further convincing he should have taken an extra-

close look at the sky before the start of the second half. Between the raindrops he would have spotted a rainbow (you know, that thing that has a lucky leprechaun with a pot of gold at the end of it) descending on - you guessed it - Notre Dame's side of the stadium. The sight of those gold helmets at the end of the spectrum prompted one member of the Pitt press corps to shake his head and say, "I've heard all about the so-called Notre Dame mystique, but this is absolutely *ridiculous*."

Actually, things wouldn't really turn sour for the home team until late in the contest. Other than committing the fumble in the end zone, Dickerson had a field day with the Notre Dame secondary in the first half. His first four plays from scrimmage resulted in three pass completions of 13, 22 and 12 yards. Despite a fumble by tailback Curvin Richards at the Irish two-yard line, Dickerson came right back on Pitt's next possession and hit split end Reggie Williams on a 42-yard touchdown bomb to give the Panthers the early lead.

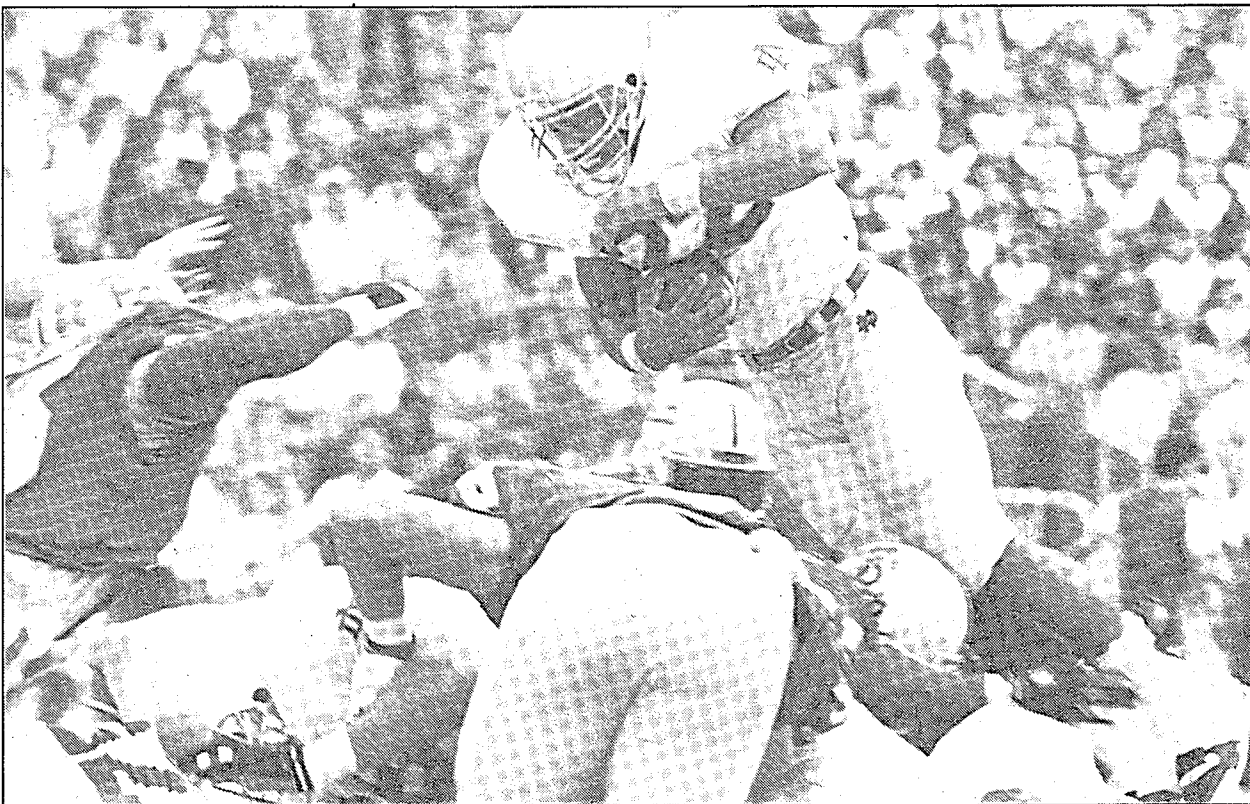
Notre Dame responded in kind, taking only a minute and a half to do so. On third-and-four from the Irish 46, sophomore tailback Tony Brooks took the handoff, found a

"I don't know how many plays they had the ball, but it seemed like Notre Dame had it most of the day. They did wear us down."

-Pitt coach Mike Gottfried

hole in the defense and raced 52 yards down the left sideline to the Pitt two. Quarterback Tony Rice took it in on the very next play to tie the score at seven.

The Irish opted for a drive of the 14-play, 86-yard variety on their next possession. Rice broke off consecutive runs of eleven and 15 yards, after which his third-down completion to Derek Brown for another eleven yards



Joe Vitacco

The fourth time's a charm: Anthony Johnson made good on fourth-and-one to put the Irish ahead 14-7.

kept the drive alive. Ricky Watters then reeled off a 14-yard gainer to move the ball down to the two, allowing fullback Anthony Johnson four tries at the end zone. After being stopped cold on his first three attempts he made good on his last, taking the handoff up the middle and into the end zone to give the Irish a 14-7 lead. The sustained drive, which took 4:38 off the clock, was typical of the grind-it-out style of play that eventually took its toll on the Panthers.

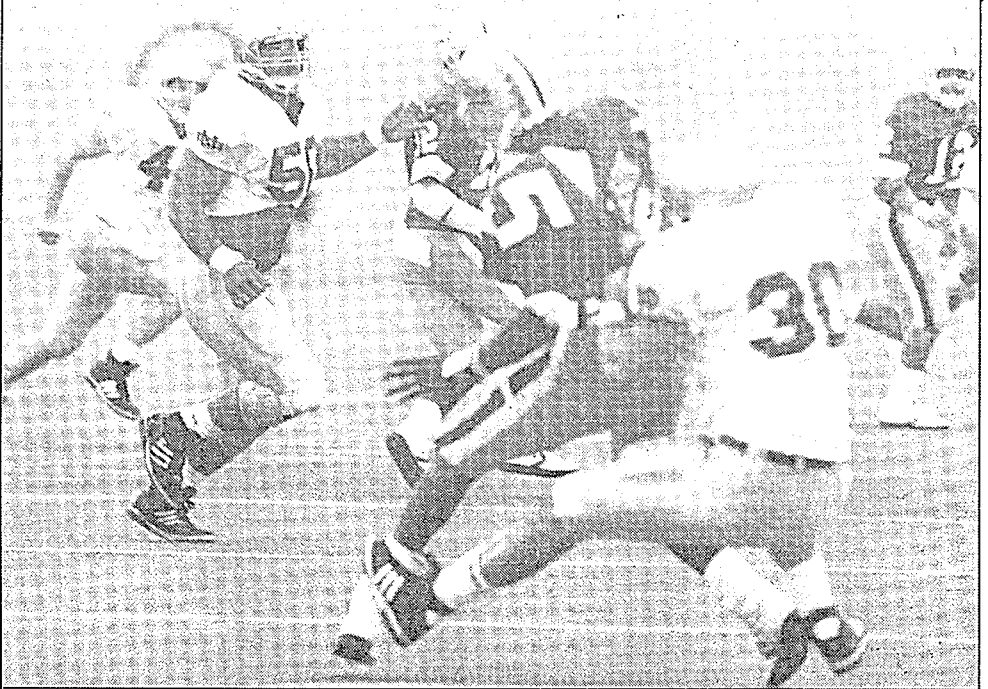
"I don't know how many plays they had the ball, but it seemed like Notre Dame had it most of the day," said Gottfried. "They did wear us down."

This was only the second quarter, though, and Pitt was hardly finished. A five-yard face mask penalty against Notre Dame wiped out a fourth-and-one situation for the Panthers at the Irish 44, giving them a much-needed first down. Dickerson showed his gratitude four plays later with his second touchdown pass of the day, a 33-yard toss to split end Henry Tuten to tie the game once again. The Pitt quarterback was giving the Irish defense fits at this point, avoiding the pass rush long enough to get the ball to the open man downfield.

"We couldn't get to Dickerson simply because we tried to keep him contained, and he is quite elusive," said Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz. "We tried to cover, pre-

"I think that (12 men on the field penalty) was a key error on our part. You can't have that. It was a mistake that should never happen."

-Mike Gottfried



Joe Vitacco

Other than on this play by defensive end Frank Stams, Dickerson gave the Notre Dame defense fits, avoiding the Irish pass rush for most of the game.

dominantly." Dickerson handled that coverage more than capably in the first half, tallying 180 of his 209 passing yards during the 30-minute stretch.

But Reggie Ho kicked a 37-yard field goal with 3:06 remaining in the half to give Notre Dame the lead once more, thanks in large part to Raghib "Rocket" Ismail's 40-yard kickoff return to the Irish 48. Dickerson's fumble would soon follow. Then came that rainbow.

You can pretty much figure out the rest.

Pitt had their opportunities in the second half. Following a fumble by Watters on the opening drive of the third quarter, Pitt moved the ball deep into Notre Dame territory on the strength of long gainers by Dickerson (16 yards) and Richards (14). But the Notre Dame defense tightened up and the Panthers had to settle for a Scott Kaplan 44-yard field goal.

Notre Dame answered that with a 14-play, 80-yard drive highlighted by the performance of fullback Braxton Banks. Banks' return for this game was somewhat of a surprise after having suffered a torn knee ligament against Michigan State only three weeks before. He showed no ill effects of that injury as he caught two Rice passes (one for 30 yards) to set up his 1-yard plunge for the touchdown.

"Braxton took over," said a grateful Rice

in reference to that drive. "You can't argue with that because (now) we've got two good fullbacks."

The Fighting Irish finally took control of the game midway through the fourth quarter, but not without a little help from a severe Pitt miscalculation. Following another Kaplan field goal that pulled the Panthers within three (23-20), Notre Dame's Jim Sexton stood back in punt formation on fourth-and-13. The Panthers tried to block his kick by lining up eleven men on the line of scrimmage. The only problem was that they sent Alonzo Hampton, their punt return specialist, onto the field as well. The ensuing 15-yard penalty for having too many men on the field gave Notre Dame a pivotal first down.

"I think that was a key error on our part," said Gottfried at the post-game press conference, still visibly unsettled by the blunder. "You can't have that. It was a mistake that should never happen."

Enter the Notre Dame running attack. Paced by Brooks (17 rushes for 105 yards), Mark Green (19 for 83), and Rice (11 for 69), the Irish racked up 310 yards on the ground for the game, and they used their second chance on this drive to make Pitt pay dearly for their error. Notre Dame responded by marching 53 yards on ten consecutive rushing plays, culminating with Green's eight-

yard scoring run to put the game out of reach.

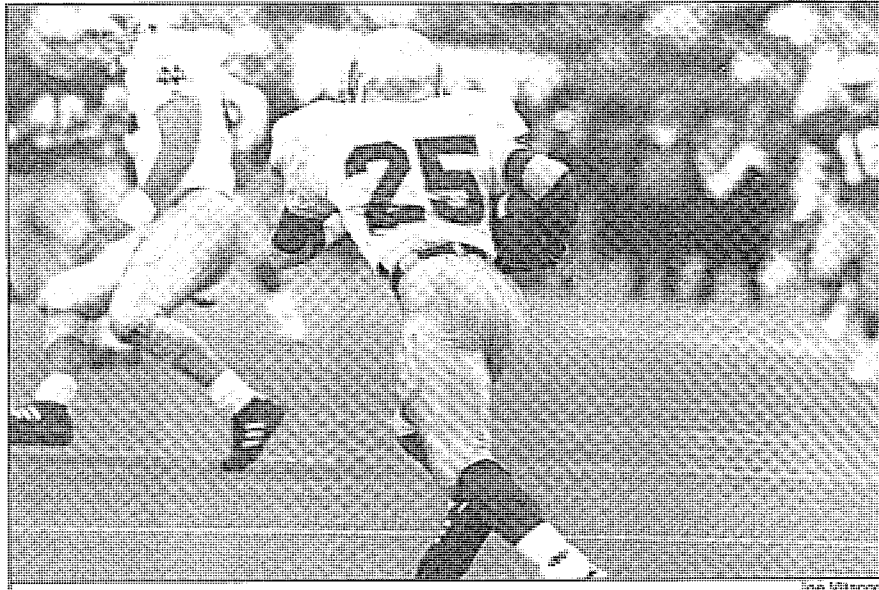
"It's like anything else," said Holtz regarding the penalty. "If you give somebody a chance and they're any good, they'll take advantage of it. We were fortunate in that respect."

"The feeling was relief because because we were going to get another chance," said offensive tackle Andy Heck. "I can't be more pleased with our running backs. They run harder than anybody in the country."

Despite their good fortune in the second half this Irish win did not come without a heavy price. Fullbacks Banks and Johnson re-aggravated knee and ankle injuries, respectively, that have hampered them all season long. As if that wasn't scary enough, starting guards Tim Grunhard and Tim Ryan went down with injuries that threatened to keep them out of the upcoming

week's action - this following a season-ending ankle injury to tackle Justin Hall earlier in the week.

"We're in severe trouble," said Holtz as he assessed the offensive line situation. "To lose those three people in one week is devastating." When asked how he might remedy the situation, Holtz suggested that "we may go to eight-man football."



Raghib "Rocket" Ismail's 40-yard kickoff return in the second quarter set up Reggie Ho's 37-yard field goal, giving the Irish a 17-14 lead.

As if Holtz did not have enough to worry about after this game, he had to dodge yet another barrage of questions regarding his team's chances the following week against the big, bad Miami Hurricanes. "I have not thought about Miami by any stretch of the imagination," said Holtz. "What I'm worried about is what we're going to do on the offensive line."

Amazingly, the hype surrounding Notre Dame's clash with the top-ranked Hurricanes seemed to overshadow a game against a team they had not beaten in six years. The magnitude of what would soon be billed as "The Game of the Century" left some people still wondering if Holtz was ever concerned about his team looking past the Panthers.

"No, I really wasn't," he replied.

Not even a little bit?

"I'll tell you this," Holtz assured. "I'm not worried about them looking past Miami, either."

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	14	3	6	7	30
Pitt	7	7	3	3	20

1st Quarter: PITT: Dickerson 42-yd. pass to R. Williams (Kaplan kick)

ND: Rice 2-yd. run (Ho kick)

ND: Johnson 1-yd. run (Ho kick)

2nd Quarter: PITT: Dickerson 33-yd. pass to Tuten (Kaplan kick)

ND: Ho 37-yd. field goal

3rd Quarter: PITT: Kaplan 44-yd. field goal

ND: Banks 1-yd. run (kick failed)

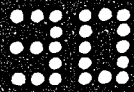
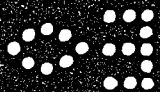
4th Quarter: PITT: Kaplan 34-yd. field goal

ND: Green 8-yd. run (Ho kick)

NOTRE DAME

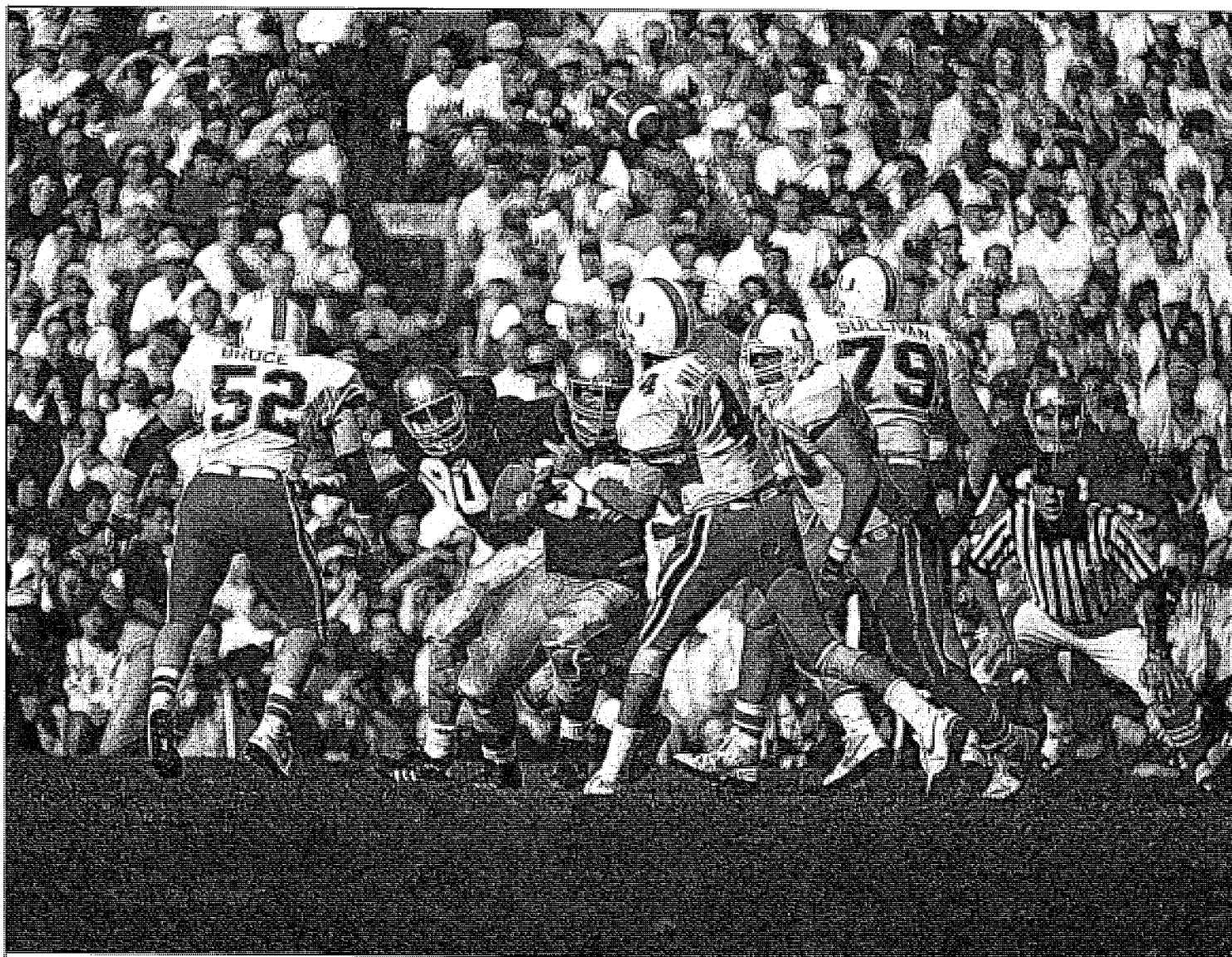


MIAMI



REVENGE

Notre Dame knocked off the defending national champs in a last-minute thriller, but the win meant more... much more



Walsh was masterful against the Irish, but tenacious pressure by the likes of Zorich forced seven Hurricane turnovers.

Greg Korte

BY TERRY LYNCH

NOTRE DAME, In. — Lou Holtz woke up early. Too early.

"I woke up at 4:45 and I was sorta like the guy who was drunk and he said to his wife, 'I did *what* last night? I said *what*?' I couldn't believe I said that," Holtz said. What Holtz was talking about was his uncharacteristically warlike pep rally prediction the night before, which went something like this:

"We're going to beat the living dog out of them."

The "them" he was referring to were none other than the top-ranked Miami Hurricanes, and the uncharacteristic thing about Holtz's prediction was that Holtz never says that his team will beat anybody before they play. *Anybody*. Not even freshman high school teams. Not even Rice.

But Miami? Miami also had Steve Walsh, the next emphatic answer to the question of, "Who will they get to replace the last all-world quarterback?" This team had Bill Hawkins and Rod Carter, only slightly less-than-man-eating defensive all-stars, and a host of pesky, speedy receivers who were sure to ravage a suspect Notre Dame defensive backfield. To top it all off, Miami had that harbinger of hairspray himself, that doctor of doom, he of the 20-game road winning streak, Head Coach Jimmy "58-7" Johnson.

Holtz had opened his mouth and inserted the great American shoe store. And as it stood, he had about nine hours before kickoff to think about it.

It wasn't as if thinking about the game was anything new for Holtz. The game was hyped ever since the Irish escaped from Pittsburgh with a not-so-convincing 30-20 win on the previous Saturday, and even though the Associated Press ranked Notre Dame fourth in the polls, CBS naturally billed the game as a battle between the top two teams in the nation. Astute observers of the game, however, noticed that this was the fourth "game of the century" that Miami had to play in the last three years - including the Hurricanes' 31-0 trashing of pre-season number one-ranked Florida State earlier in the season.

Student fervor ran so high that a hastily-assembled "Miami Week" was held on campus to diffuse the hype that caused some area



Chuck Ray

When Zorich fell on a Stams-induced Walsh fumble, the Irish defense celebrated.

supermarkets to report shortages of oranges. Student entrepreneurs took to the quads selling t-shirts door-to-door with slogans like, "Miami sUx," "Top 10 Reasons to Hate Miami" and last but not least, "Catholics vs. Convicts." Douglas Browne, a freshman in Keenan Hall, got through to Johnson in a student crank-call campaign that "beat the rush" by "hating Miami early." In short, the game had all the markings of a high-brow affair.

The omens were not good for Miami. That same weekend, the Irish baseball team beat perennial power Miami twice, 11-2 and 9-8, the latter a thrilling come-from-behind win. And once baseball was over with, both schools' football players made the pre-game warm-ups look like a hockey game when a fight broke out in the tunnel.

"Some of them (the Hurricanes) were in the end zone and didn't go out (into the tunnel)," Holtz said. "Our football players were excited and our football players made up their minds that they weren't going to be intimidated in any way. It was a bad scene."

"That had a big influence on the game," said free safety Pat Terrell. "They showed a total lack of respect which we don't appreciate."

Once the fighters had been separated, the two teams got around to playing football under ideal conditions - mid-70s temperatures and sunny skies. After Notre Dame kicked off to begin the game, the Irish de-

fense quickly set the tone of the game.

On the Hurricanes' fifth play from scrimmage, Irish defensive end Frank Stams side-swiped Walsh and knocked the ball loose, where it was recovered by nose tackle Chris Zorich. It was the first of what would total seven Miami turnovers.

But Notre Dame's first possession went nowhere, and once again it was Walsh versus the defense. This time, the Hurricanes moved out to midfield, but stalled when Stams once again hit Walsh attempting to pass on third down, and the Hurricanes punted.

Starting on their own 25, the Irish moved the ball out to midfield on a Tony Rice to Raghib "Rocket" Ismail pass as Rice was hammered by Miami's Bill Hawkins. It wasn't the last time the two would meet that afternoon.

"He's a nice guy," Rice said of Hawkins. "He hit me a couple times kind of hard and then he'd pick me back up again. He was just showing that he was really kind of nice. But other guys were kind of mean. I got back to the sideline one time and there was a big blob of spit on my head and I said, 'Where'd I get that from?' And they said one of the Miami guys spit it on me."

The Rice to Ismail hookup was the only pass of a 12-play, 75-yard scoring drive capped off by Rice's seven-yard scoring run on third-and-four. After Reggie Ho's extra point the score was 7-0, and Notre Dame

Stadium was bedlam. A CBS sideline report noted that the noise on the field was as loud as the runway at LaGuardia, and it seemed to get louder as the game went on.

Things looked worse for Miami when on the next possession Walsh, looking for runningback Cleveland Gary, threw the ball into the hands of safety D'Juan Francisco, who returned the ball to the Miami 35-yard line. But on the very next play, Rice bobbled the snap from center and Miami linebacker Bernard Clark recovered.

This time, Miami was through fooling around. Walsh took the Hurricanes down the field on the strength of two 20-yard passes, the first to Gary and the second to Andre Brown. On a first and goal from the eight yard line, Walsh passed to Brown, who stuck the ball over the goal line for the Hurricanes' first touchdown. Although replays showed that Brown appeared to have his knee on the ground before lunging with the ball and was out of bounds as he did so, the play stood: Notre Dame 7, Miami 7.

But the Irish came right back. After missing Ismail on the previous play, Rice threw a bomb to him on a third down-and-12 from the Notre Dame 18-yard line. Miami free safety Bubba McDowell missed as he went for the ball on the Miami 32, and for a second it looked as if Ismail was on his way to the end zone. But Ismail, off-balance from the catch, stumbled and fell on the 25. The Irish then ran to the 16, and on a fourth-and-one, sophomore fullback Braxton Banks took the ball to the 14.

"I felt a lot of points were needed to win this game," Holtz said of his decision. "Three points wasn't a whole lot. Like, I remember when a dime was really important." Three plays later, Rice passed to Banks over the middle, and Banks ran the ball five yards into the end zone.

Miami took the ensuing kickoff at the 23 and in three plays marched inside Notre Dame territory. On the fourth play, however, the Irish defense came up big. As Mike Stonebreaker blitzed, Walsh's pass was tipped at the line of scrimmage by - guess who? - Stams. Pat Terrell hauled it down at the Miami 40 and raced the rest of the way for a touchdown. Walsh, who gave chase on the play, came up with a bleeding chin.

"It was rough out there," said Zorich. "It was probably the most physical game I've



Watters and the Irish receiving corps didn't have much room, but they came up big when it

ever been in."

The score was 21-7, and Miami looked doomed.

But like a bad dream, the 'Canes kept coming back. Miami took the kickoff and tore their way to the Notre Dame 23, where it faced a fourth and four with 2:33 left in the half. Holtz called time, and the defense made plans to blitz. Miami, unfortunately, had plans of their own - a short pass to Conley coming out of the backfield. Conley took the pass on the 20 and outraced everybody to the end zone.

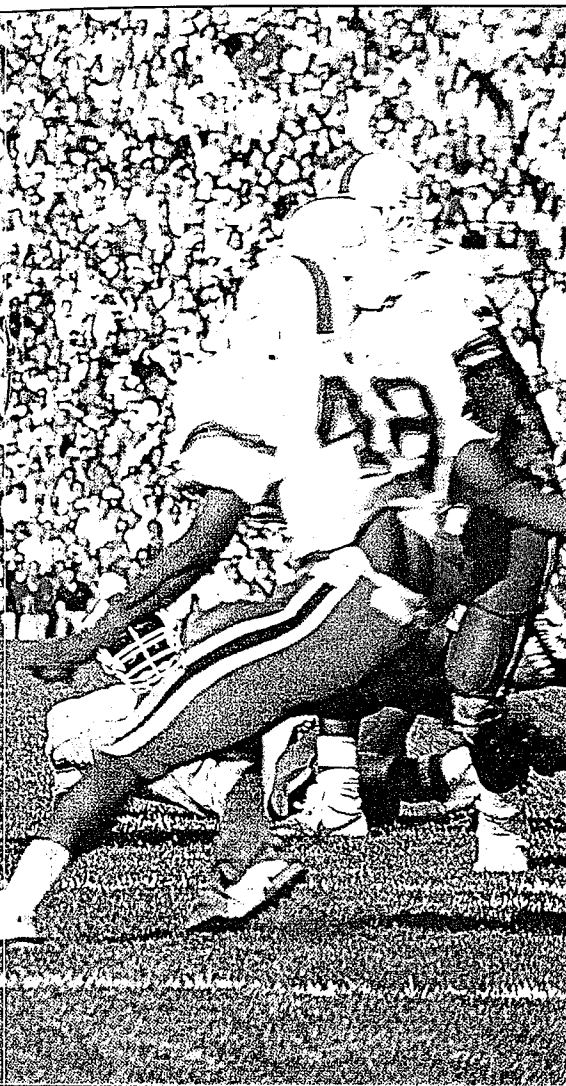
The Irish offense then picked a bad time to stall. As Johnson exhausted his timeouts, Notre Dame took only one minute off the clock in a four-down series. Jim Sexton's punt traveled only 25 yards, and the 'Canes had the ball with 1:09 left on their own 46.

Despite a near-interception by Todd Lyght, a batted-down pass by Jeff Alm and a broken-up pass by a vicious hit by Stone-

breaker on Miami tight end Rob Chudzinski, Walsh broke Notre Dame's back with a 22-yard strike to Brown that put Miami on the 15-yard line. On the next play Walsh threw to an inexplicably wide-open Cleveland Gary to even the score at 21 with :21 left in the half.

"We flinched, and you can't flinch," said Holtz. "But I just told them this: 'It's a 30-minute half. Forget that. We're going to play a 30-minute game. Wouldn't you like to have been tied at halftime last year or the year before that?'" Still, Walsh had thrown for 248 yards in the first half alone, a career high, and Miami led in time of possession by nearly three minutes. The Irish were playing with fire.

On the opening possession of the second half, Miami's Bubba McDowell intercepted a Rice pass on the 42, and out came the Hurricane offense. Walsh then handed off to Conley, who was stripped of the ball by Alm.



t counted.

Greg Kohs

Stams fell on the ball at the Miami 37, and the Irish offense took the field. But the Irish could only manage ten yards against an inspired Miami defense, and Billy Hackett's 43-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Derrick Golden.

Then the Irish came up with some inspired defense of their own. After Steve Belles stopped a Miami fake punt play, Notre Dame had the ball at the Miami 46. On the first play Rice dropped back to pass and found Watters, who went out of bounds at the two. Rice then pitched to Pat Eilers on the next play, and Eilers found his way into the end zone for the tie-breaking score.

Walsh directed Miami down to the Notre Dame 23-yard line, where on second and eight turnover number five happened. This time Walsh, who was attempting a short, quick pass, was intercepted by Alm at the line of scrimmage. The Irish then went 65 yards - all on the ground - before Reggie Ho kicked

a 27-yard field goal to increase the Irish lead to 31-21 with :30 left in the third quarter.

The 'Canes then blazed up the field, and in practically no time had a first and goal at the nine. Walsh found Brown on first down in the end zone, but a vicious combination by Todd Lyght and Stonebreaker broke up the play. After an unsuccessful run, Walsh looked for Brown, who had slipped in the end zone. Carlos Huerta came in on the next play and kicked a 23-yard field goal to close the gap to 31-24.

After the Irish dug out of some bad field position with a Rice pass to Derek Brown, a fumble in the backfield on a third-and-one play forced them to punt to the 'Canes, who took over on their own 46. Once again, Walsh directed his aerial show to the Notre Dame 11, where plays by Lyght and Stonebreaker broke up two potential TD passes.

Then came the controversy.

On fourth-and-seven from the 11-yard line, Walsh threw to Gary, who caught the ball on the five and headed toward the end zone. But Stonebreaker upended Gary at the goal line, and the ball squirted loose. Stone-

breaker fell on it, and the referee signalled Notre Dame's ball. Johnson was livid.

"We had first and goal at the one and the ball was turned the other way," said Johnson. "That's something I don't understand."

"I guess someone will give me an explanation later on what they said. The only explanation I got when the ball was on the one-yard line was that they said the ball didn't go far enough for the first down. The ball was in his hand and he went straight down. It wasn't a fumble." Officially, however, it was ruled a catch and a fumble, and the officials said after the game that both teams' captains were notified.

"I thought I broke the plane and scored a touchdown," said Gary. "The official said my knee hit the ground and therefore I thought the play was dead." Stams, however, who said that he saw the play, disagreed. "When he reached out (over the goal line), he lost the ball," he said.

But the Irish were only able to pound the ball out 18 yards before punting, and Miami set up once again at midfield. A 15-yard penalty combined with a pass to Chudzinski



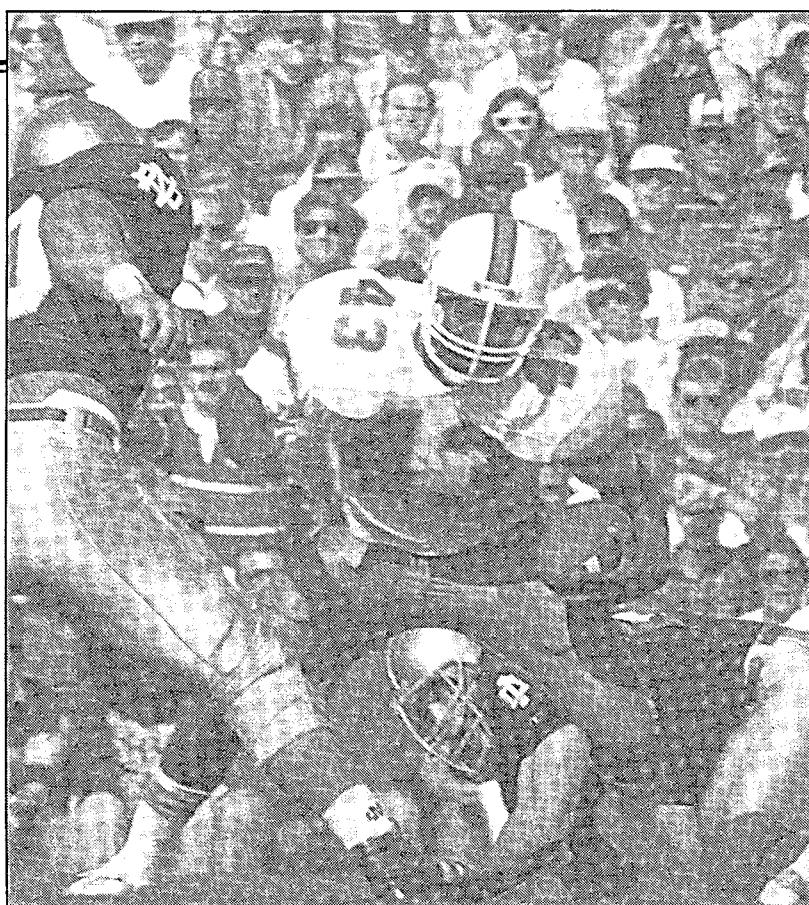
Terrell pulled down a tipped pass and raced 60 yards for a touchdown.

Joe Vitacco

put the ball on the 24. But on the very next play turnover number seven befell the 'Canes. This time Walsh was blindsided by (who else?) a blitzing Stams, and the ball came flying loose. Zorich fell on the ball on the 28, and with 3:37 left, the game was as good as in the bag. Almost.

On third down, after the Irish marched backwards to the 21, Rice returned Walsh's favor by fumbling away the ball himself - aided in no small way by a hit from Greg Mark, who recovered the fumble at the 14-yard line with 2:10 remaining. The Irish held Miami to three yards before a critical fourth and seven from the 11. Walsh again found Brown, who came down in the end zone with :45 left.

Miami went for two. "We always play the game to



Gary (43) and the Miami backfield had little room to run all day.

Joe Vitacco

win," said Johnson. "There was no question what we would do."

Walsh dropped back, looked, and threw to the right side, looking for Conley. But the pass was too high, and Terrell broke up the play by knocking the ball to the ground. "The play was the right call," said Walsh. "The halfback was open for a split second, but the ball didn't get there in time."

"I saw the angle he was taking and I just gave it all I had," said Terrell.

It was just barely enough for the Irish, but more than plenty for the seniors who had been humiliated twice before against Miami. "The game my freshman year (a 58-7 defeat) was the most embarrassing game I'd ever played in," said Stams. "To beat these guys was probably a goal ever since that game. It's always been a bitter pill to swallow, and it just stuck in my throat until this moment right now."

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Miami	0	21	0	9	30
Notre Dame	7	14	10	0	31

1st Quarter:	ND: Rice 7-yard run (Ho kick)
2nd Quarter:	UM: Walsh to Brown, 8-yard TD pass (Huerta kick)
	ND: Rice to Banks, 9-yard TD pass (Ho kick)
	ND: Terrell 60-yard interception return (Ho kick)
	UM: Walsh to Conley, 23-yard TD pass (Huerta kick)
	UM: Walsh to Gary, 15-yard TD pass (Huerta kick)
3rd Quarter:	ND: Eilers 2-yard run (Ho kick)
	ND: Ho 27-yard field goal
4th Quarter:	UM: Huerta 23-yard field goal
	UM: Walsh to Brown, 11-yard TD pass
	(Walsh to Conley 2-point conversion pass failed)

Running Watters

Air Force Head Coach Fisher DeBerry's worst nightmare came true as Ricky Watters flew past the Falcons

BY MAGGIE SIEGER

NOTRE DAME, In. — "He scared me to death. I had nightmares about him all week." You're excused if you think those words came from Lou Holtz. It's an easy mistake to make, after all. Holtz had nary a pleasant night's sleep all season if you believe his now-familiar rhetoric - fretting as he did about his team's chances against every opponent.

In truth, the nightmares belonged to Air Force Head Coach Fisher DeBerry, before and during Notre Dame's seventh victory of the 1988 season. Sophomore flanker Ricky Watters was the subject of DeBerry's bad dreams and on this rainy South Bend Saturday, he became a living nightmare for the Falcon defense. Watters caught two touchdown passes, in addition to two other receptions, for a total of 108 yards, ran back a punt 36 yards for another touchdown and piled up 178 all-purpose yards for the day.

"(Watters) is certainly one of the most talented players in the country," said DeBerry. "He's a tremendous player and I'm sure he's an outstanding young man and student."

Things looked even bleaker for the Falcons on the other side of the ball. DeBerry watched his high-flying wishbone offense - with a nation-leading average of 432 yards on the ground coming into the game - crash in Notre Dame Stadium. The Falcons, led by junior quarterback Dee Dowis, scraped together just 170 yards for the day, including only 39 in the second half.

And Lou Holtz? He responded emphatically to suggestions that Notre Dame was flat after the emotional victory against Miami the previous week, acknowledging the enthusiasm of his beleaguered team.

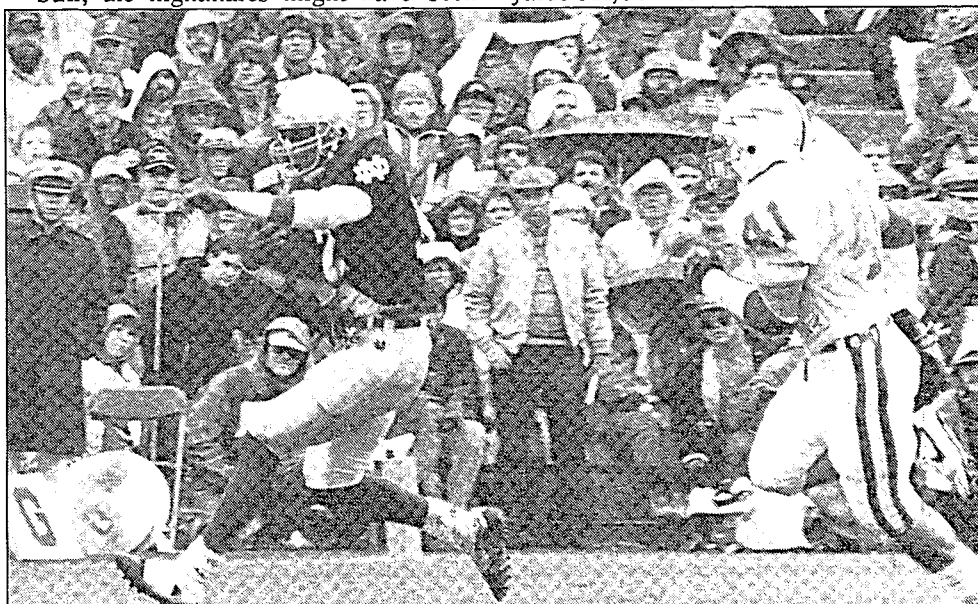
"I was more afraid of (Air Force)," he said. "I wasn't at all concerned about our players. We've played seven straight weeks and they have never been flat," said Holtz. "They came out every other day during (spring practice) and were never flat. There were no TV cameras, no fans, but they came out and got after each other. I thought, 'Boy, what are they going to be like (once the season started)?'"

Still, the nightmares might have been

Holtz's until halftime. "We fought for our lives in the first half," he said. After recovering a fumble at their own 18-yard line on the game's first series, the Irish offense stalled and Air Force got the ball back at their own 46. "It was like they were going on our count," said Irish quarterback Tony Rice. "They'd be moving on the snap so we had to mix it up a little bit." The Falcons pushed all the way to the Notre Dame five before the Irish defense held and Air Force settled for a Steve Yarbrough field goal and a 3-0 lead.

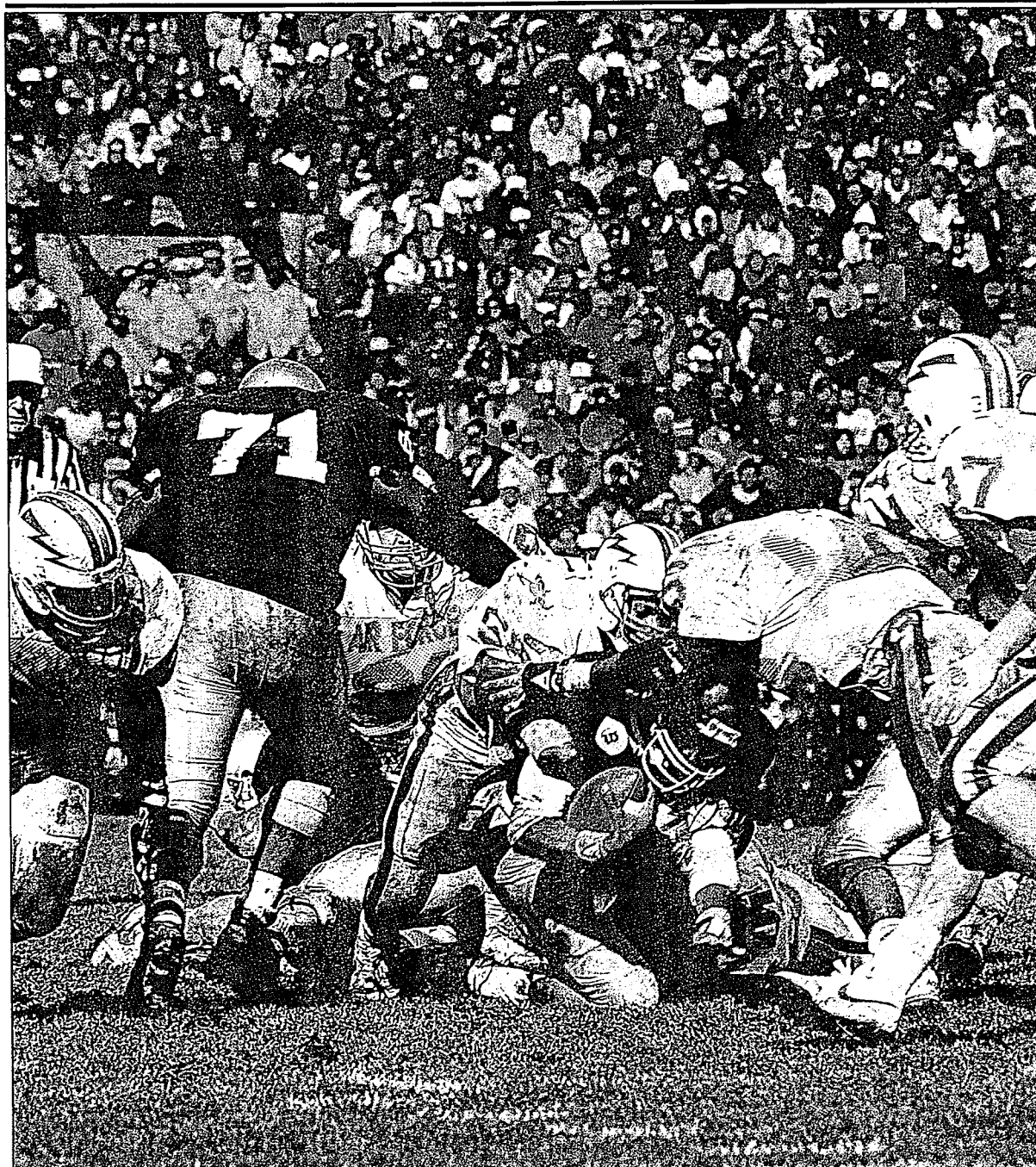
Notre Dame responded with a 71-yard march in 11 plays, with senior Mark Green scoring from the Falcon seven. But Dowis and the Air Force wishbone moved from their own 39 to the Notre Dame 20. Yarbrough's field goal brought the Falcons to within one point.

On the following drive Rice led the Irish 73 yards and scrambled into the end zone behind an Anthony Johnson block. Johnson followed up on the next series with a textbook example of hard-nosed football. From 12 yards out, Johnson took the handoff.



Allan Lim

Watters caught four passes for 108 yards and scored two TDs against Air Force.



An all-day drizzle turned the field at Notre Dame Stadium into an old-fashioned mudfest.

Greg Kohs

At the five-yard line he was caught by three Air Force defenders, apparently stopped dead in his tracks. Undaunted, Johnson kept his powerful legs churning, carrying the three Falcons with him. At the two, he broke free of them, waltzing into the end zone. Following a failed two-point conversion attempt, the score was Notre Dame 20, Air Force 6.

Air Force closed the gap and the half with a 26-yard, five-play drive following a 60-yard kickoff return by Anthony Roberson.

Fullback Andy Smith made it 20-12 with his three-yard run and Yarbrough kicked the point after with :44 in the half to bring the Falcons within seven at the halftime gun.

"When you give somebody an edge in the kicking game and when they're able to run the ball in a half, you're really struggling," Holtz said. "But our football team responded well. At the half we made some defensive adjustments. They weren't big adjustments, just taking what we worked on all week and

there's way too much on the line. We thought, 'Let's hammer it at them.'"

That's exactly what Notre Dame did, opening the second half with eight running plays. On first down at the Air Force 42, Rice tossed to tailback Tony Brooks. The 220-pound sophomore broke loose from a couple of tackles on his way down the left sideline for the touchdown. Notre Dame had officially, and impressively, established its control of the ballgame.

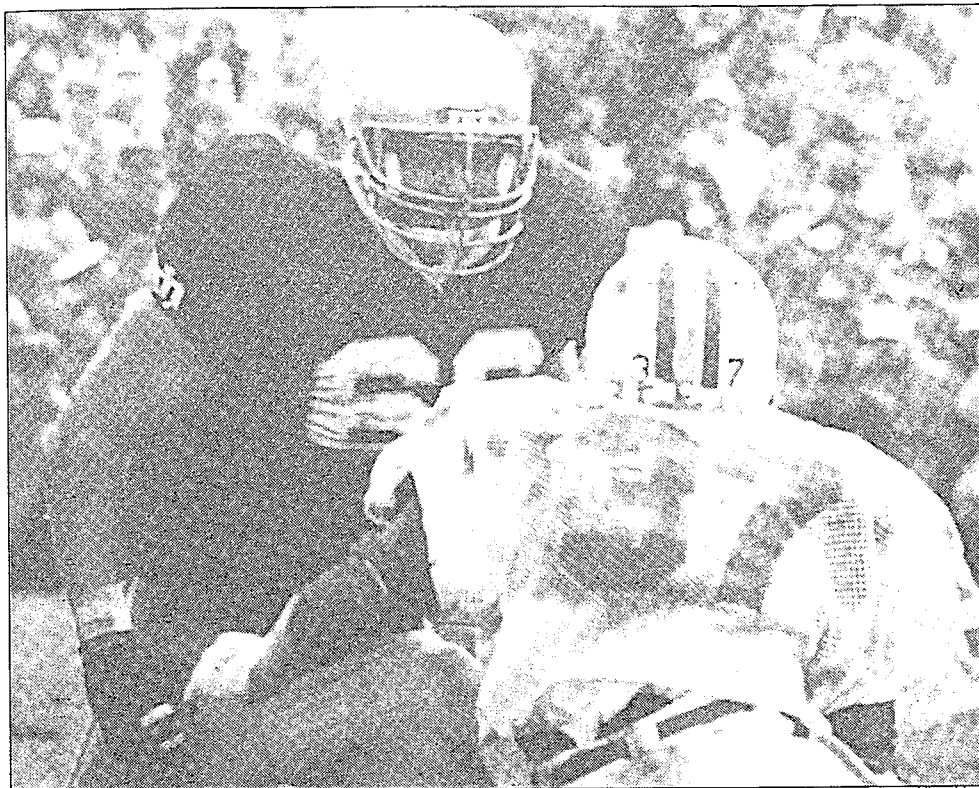
adding a few things out of storage, so to speak."

After Holtz had his say, the coaches left the locker-room to give the seniors a chance to speak to the team.

"We over-compensated a little too much in the first half," said linebacker Wes Pritchett. "We weren't taking care of our own responsibilities. Plus, we picked up the intensity and attacked more (in the second half). We were sitting and reading in the first half. (The seniors told the rest of the team), 'This is our house and let's crank it up. We worked too hard and came too far to go out there and get sloppy.'"

"We came into the game a little complacent," said senior defensive back George Streeter. "Even though we were up at the half, we were losing. They shouldn't have scored a point."

"I think we were more disappointed than concerned (with the first-half performance)," said sophomore cornerback Todd Lyght. "This is our house and nobody can take it away from us here. The seniors let us know



Allan Lim

Heck made sure that the Falcons stayed out of the Irish backfield...

"(The offensive line) wanted to keep pounding it and pounding it," said Rice, "(The Falcons) were smaller and our line was telling the coaches that we could go at them."

"We played hard, but at times, Notre Dame's size and strength took us over," said DeBerry. "It would be pretty hard to fit some of Notre Dame's guys into an F-16, and that's what we're recruiting. But, you have to give the credit to Notre Dame. We didn't

get the ball in the second half. The most improved part of the team is their defense. I certainly think it's their strength. It's hard to run the wishbone on first-and-15."

Later in the third quarter, Notre Dame put the game out of reach with Steve Belles' 50-yard pass to Ricky Watters from the tailback slot. Watters dragged cornerback Andrew Toth with him into the end zone for his first touchdown catch in a Notre Dame jersey.

"When I got that close, I wasn't going to

"We played hard, but at times Notre Dame's size and strength took us over. It would be pretty hard to fit some of Notre Dame's guys into an F-16, and that's what we're recruiting."

- Fisher DeBerry

be denied," said Watters. "I don't know when I'm going to get another chance."

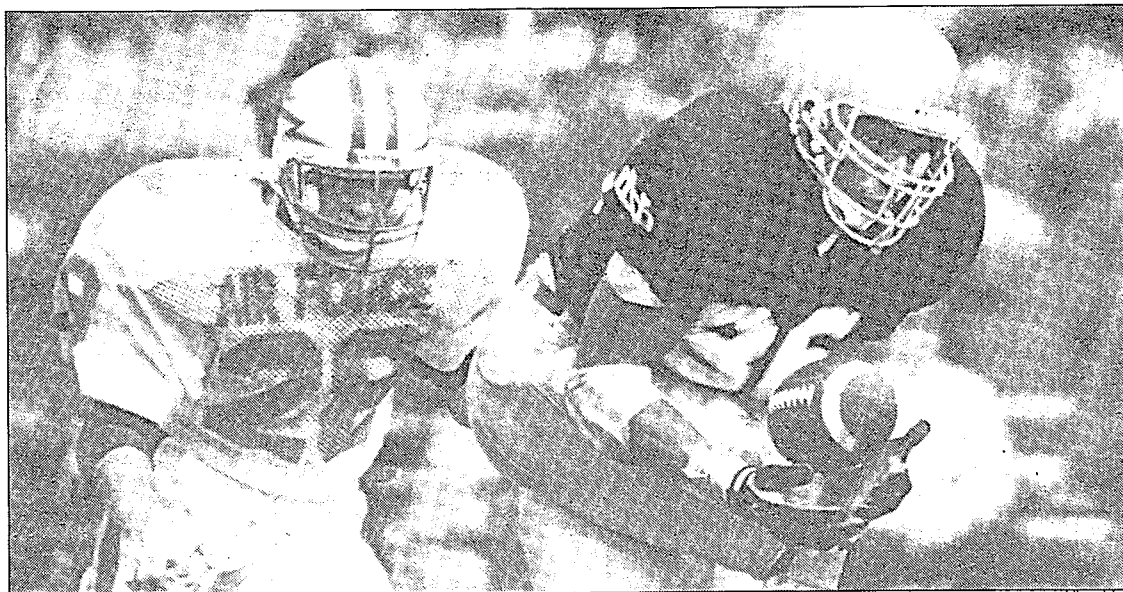
Belles, usually the number-three quarterback, had been trying his hand at the tailback spot recently. "I've been running at tailback a little the last couple of weeks in practice," he said. "It gives us a third part to the offense. If I can produce at tailback, it gives us two passing threats. I think Coach Holtz just wants to use his players' talents the best he can."

"He's (Belles) not back there just for the fun of it," said Holtz. "He's got good eyes; he can see the field. We've had that play in for a couple of weeks."

Watters' second touchdown catch for the Irish came midway through the fourth quarter on a 28-yard Tony Rice pass that rounded out the scoring for Notre Dame, putting the final tally at Notre Dame 41, Air Force 13. "I looked out and (Rice) had the ball right there," said Watters.

"Ricky had some great catches and returns," said Holtz. "But, he also had a fumble on the punt. That's two this season and that's enough for a lifetime."

Watters fumbled during the fourth quarter at the Irish 37. He didn't see the Air Force player



Allan Lim

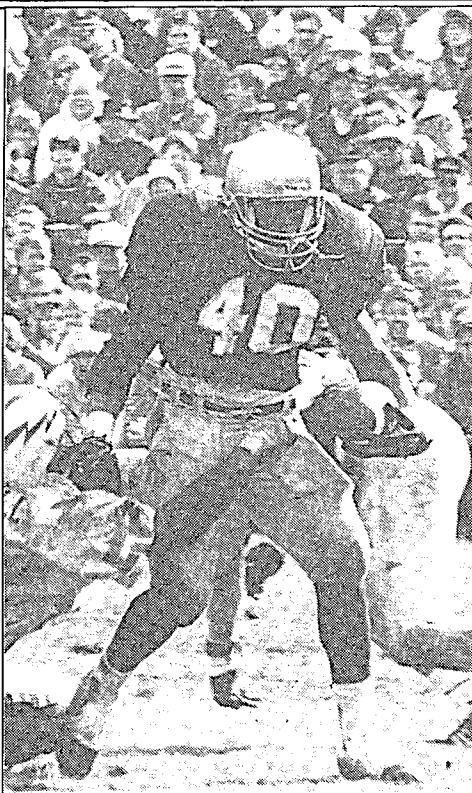
..so Rice could throw to the likes of Brown. The Irish line paved the way for 444 total yards.

until it was too late. "I hate that," he said. "The defense makes a nice stand and then I make that last mistake."

"(Air Force) is a fine football team," said Holtz. "I was scared about this game. And, in the first half, they came out and executed the way I thought they would. We were just too strong for them in the second half. It wasn't a case of wearing them down. They are a really well-conditioned team. But, I think we are, too. We were more aggressive. We ran at 70 percent. I was impressed with our football team in the second half."

DeBerry concurred. "We had to go back out there in the second half and make something happen," he said. "(Notre Dame) executed a little better than us. They did what they had to do. They did what the number two team in the country is supposed to do: They took charge of the game."

The Irish had a winning day in more ways than one. Rice's 36 yards on 11 carries set his season rushing total at 404, a school record for quarterbacks. And, senior tailback Mark Green's 58 yards raised his career stats to 1,762 - enough to move him into 14th place in the Irish record book.



Tony Brooks was tough to bring down, rushing for 85 yards and one TD.

Holtz decided to give the team a day off following the game - its first since August. "We play another wishbone team (Navy) next week," Holtz said. "All we do on Sunday is look at film. After being around here all week with the rest of the students away (on mid-semester break), I think they've looked at enough film of wishbone football."

"When he told us, everybody went crazy," said an excited Stan Smagala, the cornerback responsible for Albert Booker's fumble on the game's first series. "I was going to hammer (Booker), no matter what."

Smagala used the same play later to drill Anthony Roberson for a three yard loss on third-and-one at the Falcon 48. "It's technique, fundamentals and responsibility," he said.

Reflecting on the season so far, Holtz was pleased, for the most part, with his team. "One thing brings them together - Notre Dame," he said. "They play for Notre Dame and each other. We're going to keep going, keep trying to get better."

And maybe, at the end of the season, the Irish won't be merely dreaming of a national championship.

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Air Force	3	10	0	0	13
Notre Dame	7	13	14	7	41

1st Quarter: AF: Yarbrough 22-yd. field goal

ND: Green 7-yd. run (Ho kick)

2nd Quarter: AF: Yarbrough 37-yd. field goal

ND: Rice 4-yd. run (Ho kick)

ND: Johnson 12-yd. run (run failed)

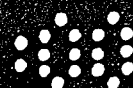
AF: Smith 3-yd. run (Yarbrough kick)

3rd Quarter: ND: Brooks 42-yd. run (Ho kick)

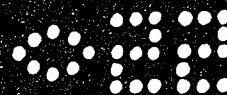
ND: Belles to Watters 50-yd. pass (Ho kick)

4th Quarter: ND: Rice to Watters 28-yd. pass (Ho kick)

NOTRE DAME



NAVY



DEFENSE

...allowed No. 2 Notre Dame to plod its way to a win over lowly Navy, while No. 1 UCLA lost to Washington State

BY BILL STEGMEIER

BALTIMORE, Md. -- Before Notre Dame's 22-7 victory over Navy on October 29, 1988, Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz was confident that his team would not suffer a letdown against the Mid-dies.

"I don't expect our team to be flat, this week or any week," said Holtz. "We scrim-maged hard for two hours every other day last spring and the intensity was tremendous. I told them, 'Man, if you're going to do it like that in the spring, you've got to do it when the television lights are on and the fans are in the stands.' That's why I'm never concerned about us not playing hard."

Despite Holtz's unusually high expectations for his team, the Irish play against Navy was characterized by mistakes. The Irish were penalized seven times for 90 yards, had two turnovers and were victimized by several dropped passes. Every time the Irish offense had a chance to put the game out of reach, they were guilty of a miscue.

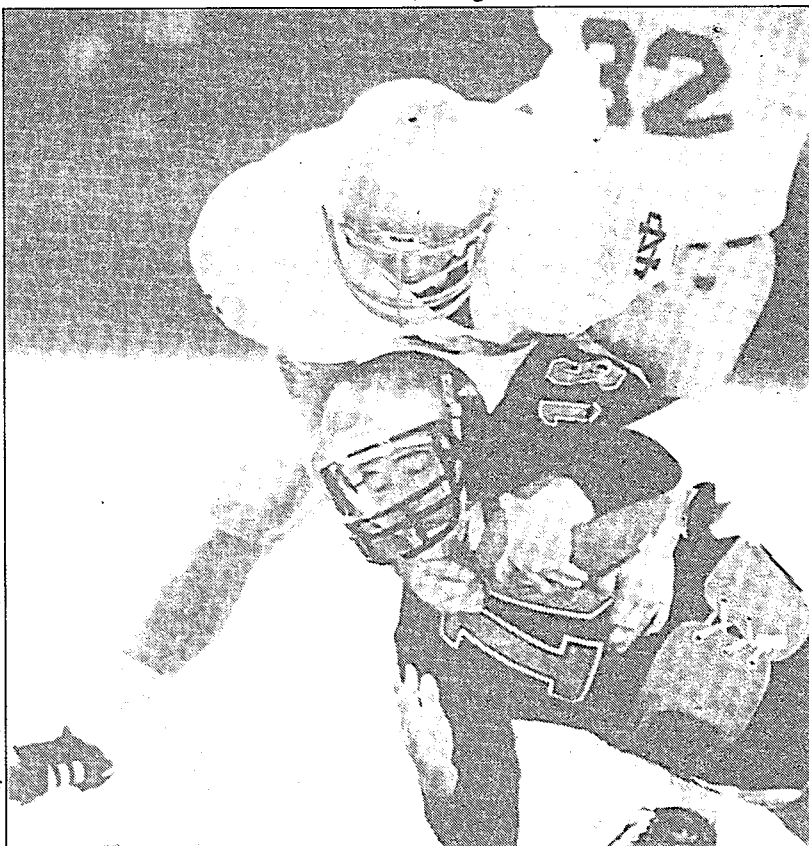
One series was typical of the offensive play the Irish turned in at Baltimore Memorial Stadium. With a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, the Irish started a drive at their own 22-yard line. Successful on the ground the entire day (all told, the Irish racked up 267 yards), the offense moved the ball into Navy territory, converting three successive third down conversions. But just when momentum was going Notre Dame's way, tailback

Tony Brooks fumbled a pitch from quarter-back Tony Rice and turned the ball back over to Navy bringing the Irish momentum to a halt. After that play, the Irish seldom used the option the rest of the game.

Holtz' conservative approach was indicative of his concern with the sloppy play of his team and its propensity to make mistakes. "Offensively, we just got whipped," Holtz said. "The offensive line was simply controlled by Navy's defensive line. That forced us to gamble, and we made some mistakes when we passed and pitched wide. We weren't very sharp on offense at all."

The sloppy play by the Irish was a result of a lack of execution on the playing field. In one

series during the first half, Brooks dropped a Rice pass over the middle on second down. On the next play, a wide-open Raghib "Rocket" Ismail went out of bounds to catch an errant Rice pass. That prompted Holtz to put in his second team on the next series of downs, though the first team later returned to



Stonebreaker helped to stop Navy's air attack, limiting the Middies to nine yards.

AP photo courtesy South Bend Tribune

the game.

Unfortunately for Notre Dame, mistakes continued to hamper the Irish offense into the second half. In the third quarter, with the Irish leading 22-7, Rice scampered 11 yards for an apparent first down. But a Notre Dame holding penalty nullified the gain and the Irish had to punt. In the meantime, Navy's hopes of a comeback stayed alive.

Although the Notre Dame offense was struggling, the Notre Dame defense was on the top of its game, much to the pleasure of Holtz. "Fortunately, our defense was ready to compete," Holtz said. The Middies were unable to capitalize on Irish missed opportunities, largely because of the Irish linebacker duo of junior Michael Stonebreaker and fifth-year senior Wes Pritchett. Together, the two linebackers accumulated 30 tackles against Navy, Stonebreaker with 18 tackles and Pritchett 12. All in all, the Irish defense held the Midshipmen to only 192 total yards. Navy quarterback Alton Grizzard was unable to generate any attack through the air, completing only one pass for nine yards.

But it was the Irish defense that secured the win in the fourth quarter. After recovering a Mark Green fumble at the Navy 35-yard line, the Middies started to move the ball on the tired Irish defense. Navy ran eight running plays out of nine, generated mostly by sophomore tailback Deric Sims. Faced with a fourth-and-two at the Irish 32-yard line, Navy Coach Elliot Uzelac had no choice but to go for the first down. Sims ran for what appeared to be a first down, rushing to inside the Irish 30-yard line, although the ball was controversially spotted outside the Irish 30. The chains were brought out, and the officials took over a minute to signal Notre Dame ball. Sims came up an inch short and Notre Dame took over on downs. The Irish victory was never in jeopardy after that point in the game.

"It's too bad that call had to take us out of the game," said Uzelac. "You never know what could have happened if we made it 22-14." Uzelac did know, however, what happened with the guys in the striped shirts. "The officiating stunk," he said.

But the Irish defensive unit made sure that such a scenario wouldn't happen. The only Navy touchdown that the stingy Notre Dame defense allowed came at the end of a 33-yard drive following a badly shanked 10-yard

punt by Notre Dame punter Jim Sexton. Navy's only score came in the same manner that Notre Dame scores many of its touchdowns - an option quarterback sweep. Grizzard kept the ball for a 22-yard touchdown run around right end, cutting the Irish lead to 22-7. On the day Grizzard accumulated more yards on the ground than in the air, rushing for 73 yards in 14 carries.

Notre Dame's offense also found its only success on the ground. Excluding the two fumbles by Brooks and Green, the Irish tailbacks had a solid performance against Navy.

One pleasant surprise for the Irish was the

"It's too bad that call had to take us out of the game. You never know what could have happened if we made it 22-14... The officiating stunk."

- Elliot Uzelac

running of freshman tailback Rodney Culver, who saw his first extensive action in a game with the first team. Culver rushed for 57 yards on six carries and scored Notre Dame's second touchdown of the game. His 22-yard touchdown run in the second quarter was nothing fancy—just a straight run up the middle. But when Culver broke into the secondary and, with pure determination, broke a tackle at the 10-yard line and get into the end zone, he turned some heads on the Irish sideline. The play culminated a 62-yard drive, consisting of seven running plays. Typical of the Irish luck this day, Reggie Ho missed the extra point and Notre Dame had a 13-0 lead.

"It was a good opportunity for me to come

in and help the offense," explained Culver. "We were sputtering at the time and I just hit the open hole and scored."

Despite his efforts, Culver was not his team's leading rusher against Navy. That distinction belonged to the fleet-footed Rice, who had 88 yards in 12 carries. Senior tailback Mark Green also had a solid performance, turning in 45 yards on eight carries.

"There were seams there," said Green. "You saw a couple of times we broke into the secondary untouched."

Senior offensive tackle Andy Heck agreed that the Irish ground game, which averaged 5.3 yards a carry for the game, had little trouble moving the ball. "We had a lot of success here and there running the ball," Heck said.

Indeed, there were times when the Irish running attack seemed unstoppable. At the outset of the third quarter, Notre Dame returned the kickoff to its own 33-yard line. For the second time in the game, the Irish ran the ball seven consecutive times before converting a score. The drive featured a 15-yard run up the middle by tailback Tony Brooks in which he broke four tackles before stumbling to the ground. Another key play in the drive was an 18-yard option run by Tony Rice, which took the ball down to the Navy one-yard line. Fullback Ryan Mihalko finished off the drive when he plunged into the end zone from a yard out.

But that was it for the Irish. Rice and the Irish passing attack were unable to generate any points the rest of the game, thanks to some solid play by the Midshipman defense. Once the Navy defense started keying on the run, the Irish passing attack could not respond to the challenge. On four successive series after the Mihalko score, it was three downs and out for the Irish offense.

But even after finally obtaining a first down on the fifth possession after the Mihalko score, Notre Dame turned the ball over two plays later on a Mark Green fumble. The end result of the Irish inadequacy on offense was a very displeased Lou Holtz after the game.

"I think Navy played above their ability and they really took it to us," said Holtz. "At the same time, I am very disappointed with the way we played, especially on offense."

With strong teams like old nemesis Penn



AP photo courtesy South Bend Tribune

Culver ran straight at Navy for 22 yards and a TD.

State and number three-ranked archrival USC ahead on Notre Dame's schedule, Holtz was obviously worried about the Irish not playing up to their potential.

"People are going to say, 'Well, you won

bling their way to a 22-7 win in Baltimore, previously number one-ranked UCLA blew a 27-6 second-half lead over Washington State and fell to the Cougars, 34-30. From then on, Notre Dame would have to meet the

the ball game,' and we certainly did, but the thing that does concern me is the fact that we didn't play up to our expectations," said Holtz.

By coincidence, the same week that Notre Dame failed for the first time to cover the spread in 1988, the Irish moved up to the top spot in the national polls. As the Irish were fumble

expectations of not only themselves and Lou Holtz, but also of the country.

But on October 29th, the talk was not about being number one, but about how to get back playing like a number one football team: forcing turnovers, mixing the run with the pass and capitalizing on turnovers. The only semblance of this kind of play from Notre Dame against Navy came in the opening minutes of the game.

The Irish forced Navy starting quarterback, Gary McIntosh, to fumble the ball and junior defensive lineman, Jeff Alm, recovered the ball at the Navy 27-yard line. Mixing the run and pass, Notre Dame converted on its opportunity for an early lead as Rice hit freshman tight end Derek Brown on a corner route for a 10-yard touchdown pass. However, this type of play from the Irish offense was a rare treat against Navy. And Coach Holtz knew it.

"We've got a lot of serious problems," explained Holtz. "Our kicking game is in trouble, we haven't been able to to run between tackle and tackle all year, and our backs are doing a lot of dancing around. We're not a very good football team right now."

That would soon change.

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	7	9	6	0	22
Navy	0	0	7	0	7

1st Quarter: ND: Rice to Brown 10-yd. pass (Ho kick)

2nd Quarter: ND: Culver 22-yd. run (kick failed)

ND: Ho 29-yd. field goal

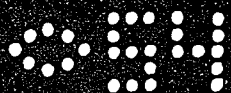
3rd Quarter: ND: Mihalko 1-yd. run (run failed)

NA: Grizzard 22-yd. run (Fundoukos kick)

NOTRE DAME



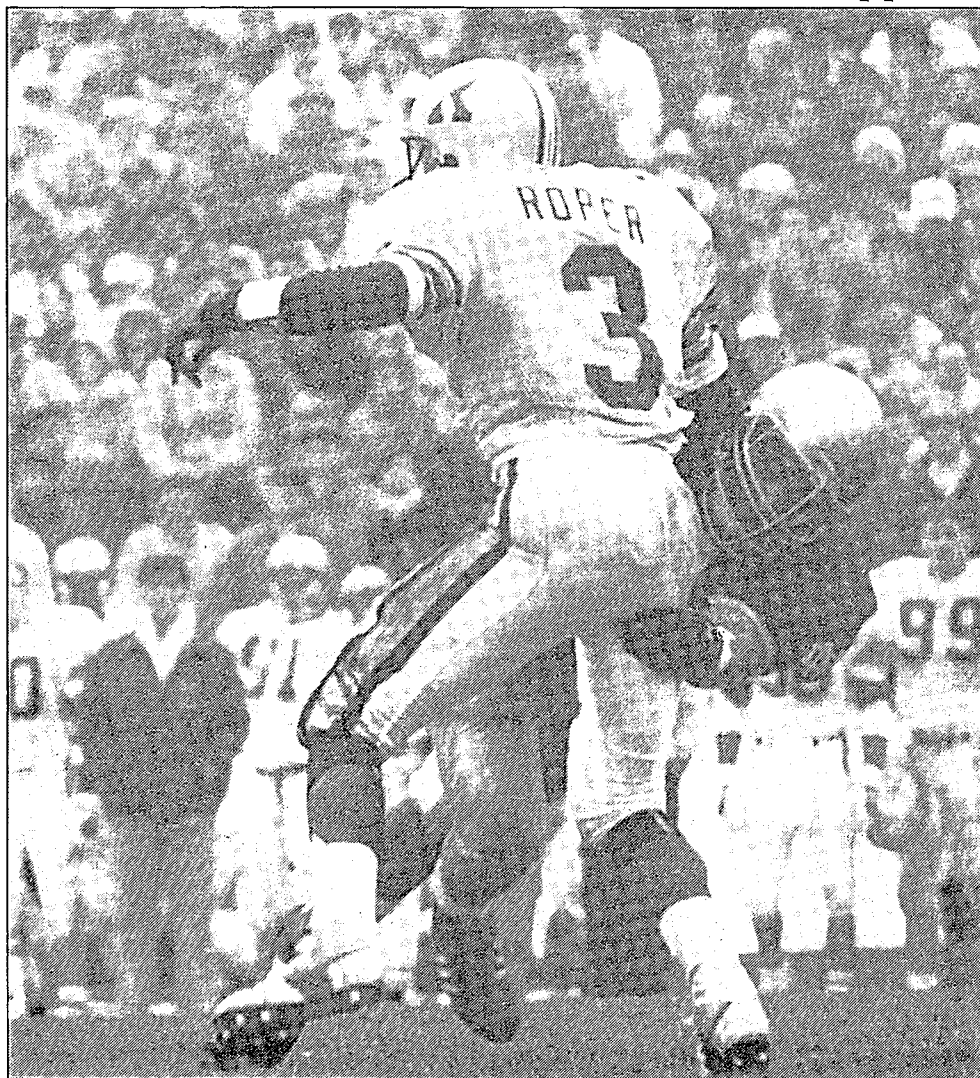
RICE



Streaking in Opposite Directions

Top-ranked Notre Dame ran its unbeaten season to 9-0 while SWC cellar-dweller Rice dropped to 0-8

BY MIKE FARNAN



Mari Okuda

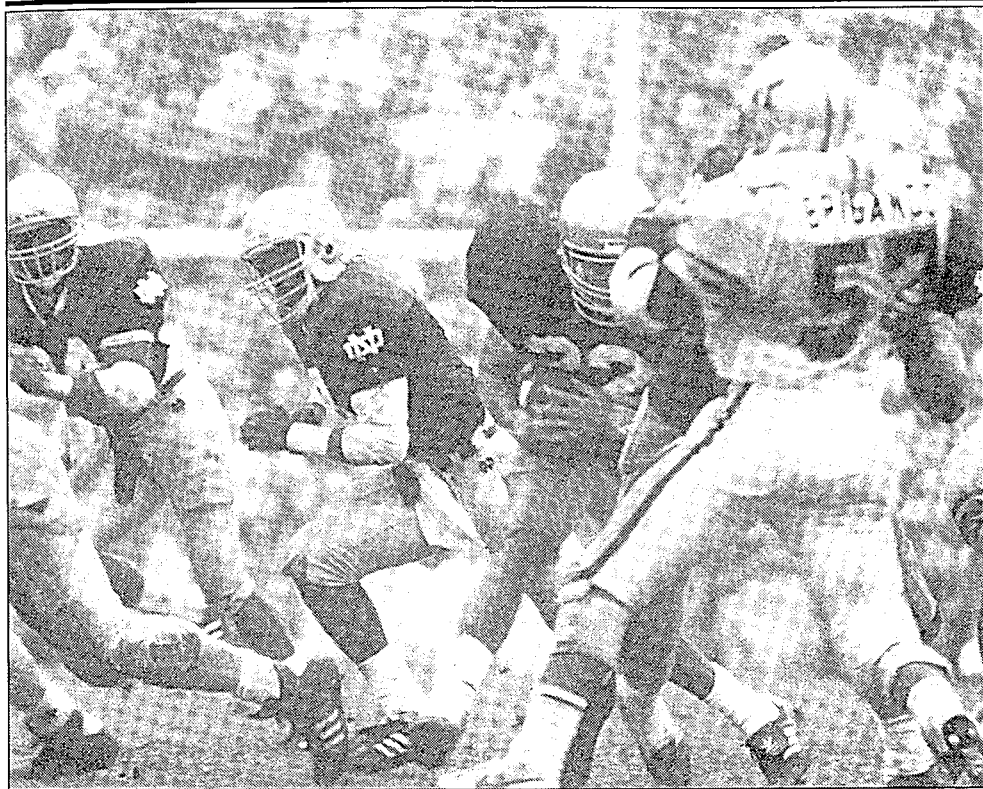
Rice quarterback Quentis Roper had another one of those days against the Irish.

NOTRE DAME, In. — Notre Dame's 54-11 win over the visiting Rice University Owls may be remembered for a number of reasons. Perhaps it will be remembered as a contest in which an already youthful Fighting Irish football squad offered a preview of future greatness as almost the entire roster saw action. It may be remembered as a textbook example of the benefits of ball-control offense versus relying too heavily on the big play. It may also be remembered as a game in which field position was consistently in the the home team's favor, or at least it seemed that way.

This lopsided Notre Dame victory, however, will probably best be remembered as not being very memorable. Either that, or for the memorable halftime performance put on by the Rice University marching band.

The Fighting Irish entered the game trying to move to 9-0 for the first time since 1973 when the Irish finished 11-0 and defeated Alabama 24-23 in the Sugar Bowl for the national championship. The win over Rice at Notre Dame Stadium brought the home game win streak to 11 games. For the Owls, however, the defeat marked their eighth consecutive loss in their third dismal season under Head Coach Jerry Berndt.

The Irish seemed especially interested in allaying any doubts following their lackluster



QB Tony Rice ran the option to perfection, netting 294 rushing yards.

Mari Okuda

ter triumph over Navy the previous week at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore. As critics berated the number one-ranked Notre Dame football squad, questioning whether their previous performances merited such high national billing, Head Coach Lou Holtz transformed this negative criticism into a positive influence. He pointed out that all the Irish had to do was prove that they were the best team in the stadium on game day.

"I don't care who else is better than us, just as long as it wasn't in this stadium today," said Holtz.

The team soon found out that outside criticism could be counted on about as much as Notre Dame's defense this season.

Well, there were a few defensive breakdowns this season, one of which occurred in the opening drive of the Rice game. Led by quarterback Quantis Roper, the Owls marched 70-yards to the Notre Dame six-yard line and kicked a field goal. Berndt later called it "something that was a thing of beauty," adding, "I thought we executed the offense very well at that time."

The Irish forfeited two consecutive off-sides penalties on the opening drive. Holtz was clearly disturbed by the number of Irish penalties - six for 59 yards, more than the 32

yards the Owls had rushing all day.

"We've gotten tired of penalties," Holtz said after the game. "You have to be held accountable."

It could be said that "beauty" is in the eye of the beholder.

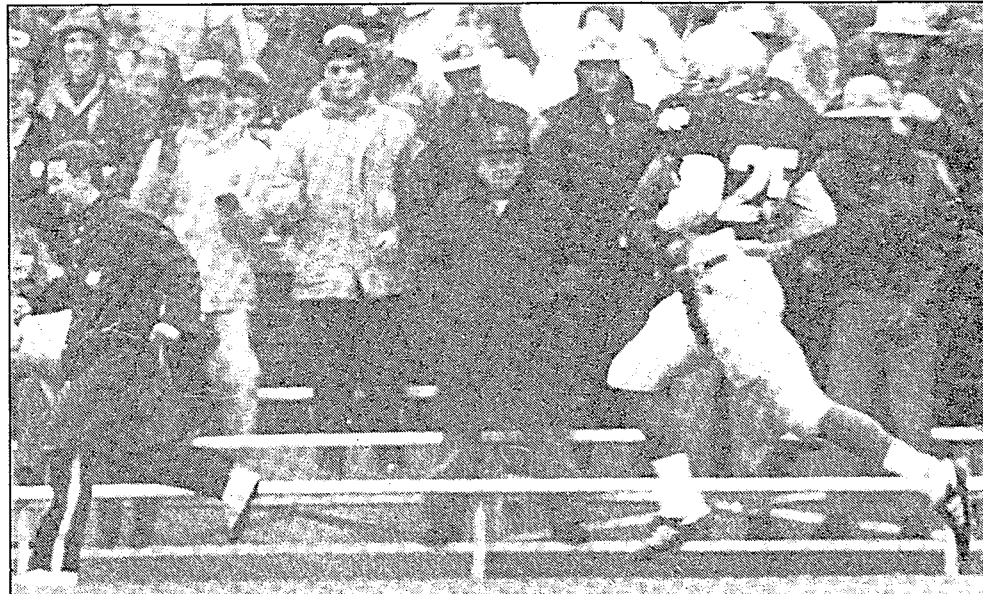
In addition, because of missed pass assignments in the defensive backfield, Roper picked apart the Irish defense, gaining 45

yards in the air on the initial drive. One might argue that Rice's success on that drive was due more to poor play by the Irish defense than any outstanding play by the Owls. Rice was afforded a couple of opportunities to put it into the end zone but kept shooting themselves in the foot and limping a little further down field. Notre Dame feigned death until the final stand when Rice was forced to settle for a field goal on fourth down. Mike Stonebreaker would probably have to concur with that assessment, saying after the game, "We came out a little sluggish, but from then on, we started to tighten up."

Tighten up is perhaps the understatement of the year; a year filled with understatements - although most of the understatements came from Coach Holtz when describing his team. Notre Dame had a season-high five quarterback sacks, led by sophomore Chris Zorich's two. "We only made one defensive change at halftime," said Zorich, "but we didn't even have to use it."

Perhaps the biggest story to come out of the Rice game concerned the two kickoff returns for touchdowns by freshman sensation Raghib "Rocket" Ismail, one for 87 yards in the first quarter and another for 83 yards in the fourth. Ismail was dubbed "Rocket" by his eighth grade track coach who felt the word fit the way he came out of the blocks, and his time of 4.28 seconds in the 40-yard dash was the fastest on the team.

The two returns mark only the second time in Notre Dame history that two kickoffs



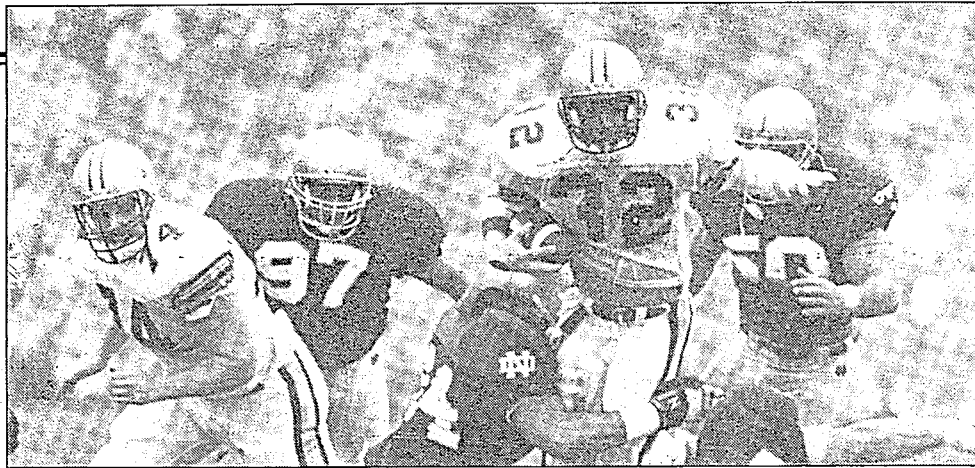
It was Ismail's day against Rice, as he returned two kickoffs for TDs.

Chuck Ray

were returned for scores. The last time such a feat was accomplished was in 1922 by Paul Castner against Kalamazoo. Tim Brown was the last Irish player to return a kickoff for a touchdown, and that was back in 1986 against Louisiana State University. With these runs, Ismail has certainly earned himself a place in Notre Dame lore. However, it is tough enough being haunted by the ghost of Irish past greats, and probably even tougher to live up to a ghost haunting you in the form of an amazingly successful inaugural season. It would not be surprising if he had attempted to displace credit to his teammates in order to keep the heat off. The Rocket will not be able to dodge the limelight for long, though, if he continues playing like he did against Rice.

After the game, Ismail, taking a lesson from his sometimes overly modest coach, conceded, "I have to give credit where credit is due, and none of it goes to me."

The Rocket, who claims to be motivated by great blocking, summed up his technique in few words. "The whole key to the returns was getting through the first line of blocking,



Williams (32) was never lonely when he carried the ball against the Irish.

Bill Leheny

and nobody got a clean shot at me."

Both Ismail returns were spurred by key blocks from Irish reserve quarterback Steve Belles. Realizing he would see little action behind starting quarterback Tony Rice, Belles asked the coaching staff early in the season if he could perhaps be allowed to contribute on special teams. It wasn't long before Belles was throwing his 6'4", 211-pound frame around on kickoffs, pummeling the opposition at every opportunity.

Starting fullback Anthony Johnson

scored the next two on runs of two and three yards, respectively. Following Johnson's second touchdown, reserve kicker Billy Hackett had the first of two extra point attempts blocked by Rice's Nigel Codrington. The second came in the fourth quarter and was returned 85 yards by Rice sophomore Bill Stone for two easy points. This marked the first time that a play like that had taken place in Division I-A since the new rule adding the possibility for the defense to score came into effect this season. After the game Billy Stone complimented Codrington for blocking the kick, adding, "I just picked up the ball and ran."

With 7:33 minutes left in the half, 6-7 junior defensive tackle Jeff Alm intercepted an errant Roper pass at the line of scrimmage. Alm later commented, "I didn't expect the ball, it kind of just fell into my hands." He went on to say that the defensive backs deserve the credit for their good coverage on the play, forcing the 5-9 Roper to throw short.

The Irish later converted the turnover into a touchdown on a one-yard plunge by Tony Brooks. Johnson then slammed over the left tackle for the two-point conversion.

Notre Dame exchanged field goals with Rice and the half-time score was 31-6.

In the second half, the demoralized Owls kicked off to the Irish. The two teams exchanged possessions and both were rather mediocre. If it weren't for the fact that the two were wearing different uniforms, you may not have been able to tell them apart.

It could be that Coach Holtz was slowing the tempo to avoid running up the score on the hapless Owls. It is very doubtful, however, that he personally asked punt returner Ricky Watters to drop the ball on Notre

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UPS Daily Pickup

Dame's 35-yard line on their next almost-possession.

Three plays later, Rice's Lorenzo Cyphers tried the middle and fumbled after being slammed by Frank Stams, causing the ball pop loose on Notre Dame's 28-yard line. Wes Pritchett pounced on the loose ball giving the Irish the possession. Roper felt Stams' hit pretty hard. In fact, afterwards he said, "He (Stams) is consistent and a good, hard hitter." He should know. Stams also had clobbered him for a ten-yard loss about midway through the first quarter.

Notre Dame then drove 70 yards in only six plays, culminating in a 19-yard burst up the middle by freshman Rodney Culver. It became clear by Rice University's poor display on that drive that they had indeed rolled over and died. The two teams exchanged punts as Coach Holtz began to use the bench, perhaps attempting to keep the score fairly reasonable.

The first play of the fourth quarter was a 45-yard field goal by Rice's Clint Parsons.

The Irish responded with "Rocket" Ismail's second TD kickoff return of the day. The Owls were forced to punt on their next pos-

"We only made one defensive change at halftime, but we didn't even have to use it."

- Irish nose tackle Chris Zorich

session. The Irish regained the ball and traveled 66-yards on 16 plays for a touchdown on what was maybe the most time-consuming drive of the day. The march

downfield lasted 7:23 and made the score 48-9. Senior reserve tailback Joe Jarosz would score yet another for the Irish. The PAT was blocked and returned by the Owls in what was a blatant example of "too little, too late."

The final tally was a whopping 54-11 victory for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. Although Holtz appeared genuinely surprised by the final score, he also seemed to be confident about the eventual outcome.

"We had an intense week (of practice) and it turned out to be a very positive week," said Holtz.

This was the first week Notre Dame had to defend its top-ranked national billing. Indeed, by the time the clock ticked off the final seconds, they showed themselves to be worthy of it. Coach Holtz, who would repeat all the way up to the Fiesta Bowl that he was not used to being on top, handled it like he was there many times before.

Holtz said after the game, "I would like to get to the point that everybody says, ho-hum, we're number one and no big deal." Fat chance.

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Rice	3	3	0	5	11
Notre Dame	14	17	7	16	54

1st Quarter: RU: Parsons 23-yd. field goal

ND: Ismail 87-yd. kickoff return

ND: Johnson 2-yd. run

2nd Quarter: ND: Johnson 3-yd. run (kick failed)

ND: Brooks 1-yd. run (Johnson run)

RU: Parsons 41-yd. field goal

ND: Hackett 42-yd. field goal

3rd Quarter: ND: Culver 19-yd. run (Hackett kick)

4th Quarter: RU: Parsons 45-yd. field goal

ND: Ismail 85-yd. kickoff return

ND: Hackett 28-yd. field goal

ND: Jarosz 6-yd. run (kick blocked)

RU: Stone return of blocked PAT for 2 points

NOTRE DAME



PENN STATE



Fiesta For Sure

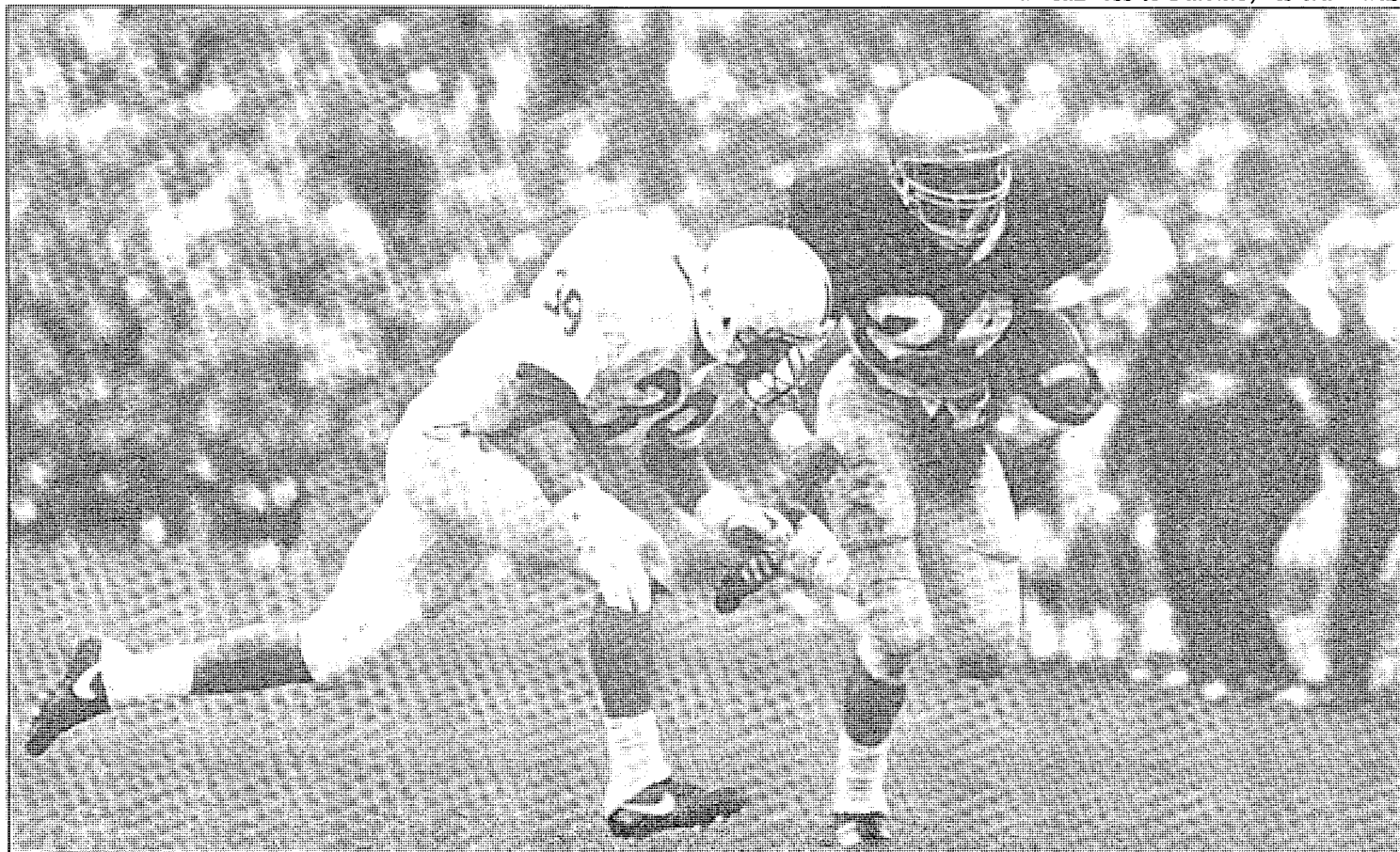
*The Irish got their bowl berth and Joe Paterno's
Nittany Lions wound up with their first losing
season since 1938*

BY KATHLEEN MCKERNAN

NOTRE DAME, In. — Penn State Head Coach Joe Paterno was hardly optimistic going into Notre Dame Stadium to play the 9-0 Fighting Irish. "I don't know if we can stay close to Notre Dame," he said with candor a little more believable than Notre Dame's Lou Holtz lamenting his team's chances against Rice. "Notre Dame is a very explosive team with plenty of potential."

Notre Dame showed just some of that potential in a 21-3 victory that was more remarkable for putting new numbers down in record books than for anything that was out-of-the-ordinary in the game itself. What the end result of this game meant for each program, though, was an entirely different story. Notre Dame ran its season record to 10-0 for the first time since their 1973 National Championship season, while 50 years of winning records came to an end for Penn State as the Nittany Lions finished a season under .500 for the first time since 1938.

In all fairness to Paterno, his team was



Mark Green and the offense ran wild, but a mistake-prone attack could manage only 3 TDs.

Bill Leberry

facing the Irish without two of its premier players. Star tailback Blair Thomas' knee problems had set him down for the season, while fullback John Green was out of action with a torn leg tendon. Not only had it already been a rough year for Penn State, but the team was unceremoniously "treated" to all the bowl selection hype and national championship speculation that surrounded the Fighting Irish coming into that weekend.

Dan Devine, six-year Irish coach who finished his career with a record of 53-16-1, got into some prognosticating himself. The November 16 Chicago Tribune asked "Can Irish win national title?" And Dan Devine came through with his fearless prediction: "Quite frankly I think they're going to do it. They have dedicated kids and sound coaching." But for all the pre-game guesses over where the Irish would be spending their New Year's Day, Holtz and the team were facing the more immediate problem of playing the Nittany Lions.

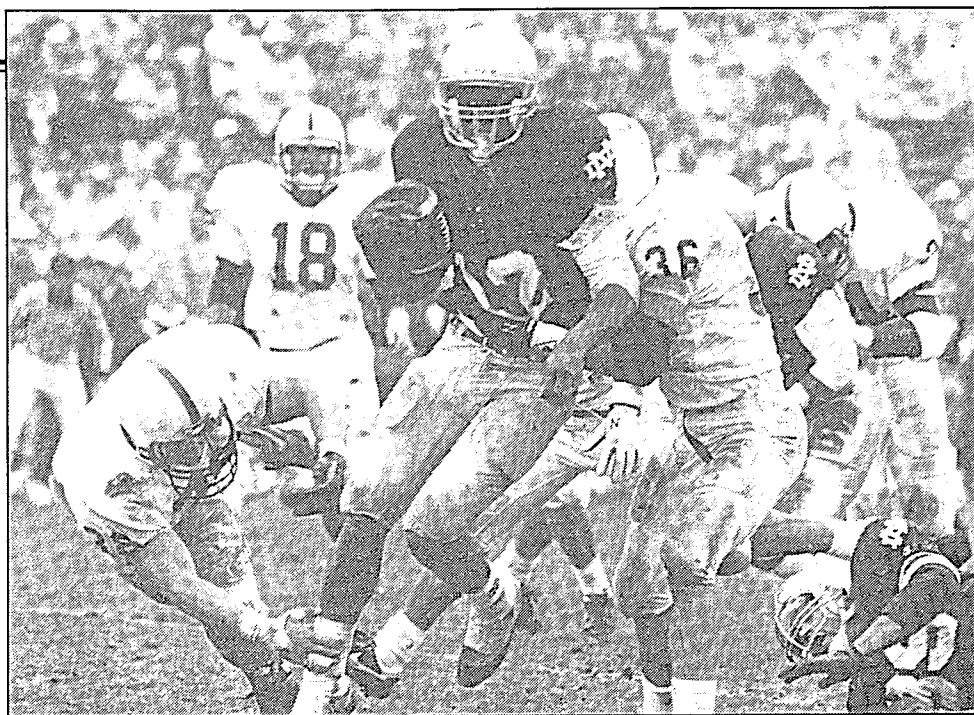
The Irish won the coin toss and elected to defer until the second half on this cold and rainy November day. The Nittany Lions took Notre Dame's opening kickoff and returned it to the Irish 45-yard line. After a four-minute drive and two first downs, Penn

"Other than penalties, turnovers and the kicking game, I thought we played outstanding."

-Lou Holtz

State lost possession and another first down when an illegal motion penalty on fourth and one nullified a two-yard gain by quarterback Lance Loneragan. Following Doug Helkowski's 38-yard punt, the Irish started from their own 13-yard line and quickly advanced to midfield on four runs, including a 16-yard carry by fullback Braxton Banks and a 12-yard run by scampering quarterback Tony Rice after breaking a tackle.

From there, the Irish advanced to the Penn State 17-yard line when Rice threw to flanker



Bill Leheny

Watters caught four passes for 71 yards, and broke a long reception for 27 yards.

Ricky Watters at the 30 and Watters raced 13 yards before safety Darren Perry brought him down. On third down, after Rice barely gained two yards on two carries, tailback Mark Green worked up the middle for seven yards. Tony Brooks gave the Irish a first-and-goal situation when he ran for six on fourth down. Penn State players later praised the Irish backs for such sure-footedness. "You must wrap up their running backs," said cornerback Eddie Johnson with a little awe, "because just hitting them isn't enough." With the ball on Penn State's two-yard line, Rice faked a handoff and pass before taking it into the end zone himself for the touchdown. Kicker Reggie Ho nailed the extra point to give Notre Dame the early 7-0 lead.

Barely four minutes into the second quarter, Notre Dame gained possession on their 40-yard line and needed only 1:40 to make the most of it. In those 100 seconds the Irish marched 60 yards for the touchdown and a 14-0 lead. Rice's 27-yard pass to a wide-open Watters was one of the highlights of that Irish scoring drive. After runs by Rice and Brooks produced another first down, Green ran the ball 22 yards for the score with the help of a block from split end Raghib "Rocket" Ismail. By now, Paterno had even more cause for concern.

"The one thing I did not want to happen today was for them to get up ahead of us," he

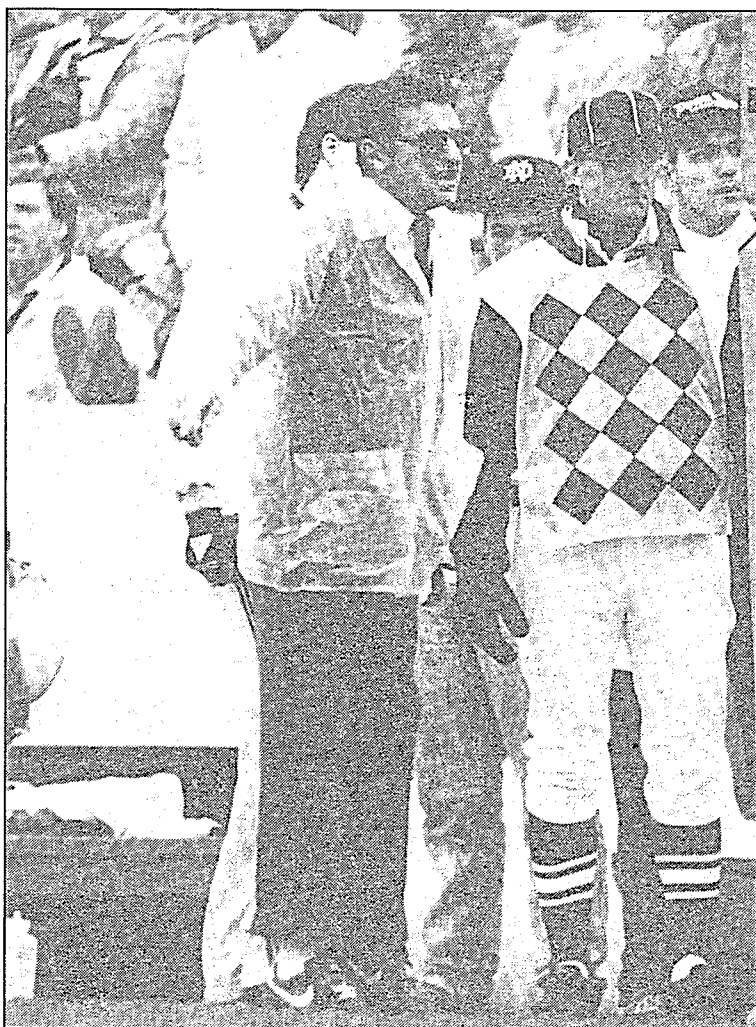
later said. "We just don't have the kind of offense that we can come from behind.

"I think that there were a couple of things early on that really hurt us, but it might have made a better football game (if those things didn't happen)," he said. "I'm not saying we would have beaten them, but we would have played the game that we were prepared to play, rather than the one we had to play."

The Nittany Lions' penalty on their first possession was definitely one of those things early on that altered the complexion of the game. Irish personnel adjustments were a factor as well, forcing Penn State into some unplanned changes of strategy.

Nittany Lion defensive back Brian Chizmar revealed some of his unit's initial intentions after the game. "We were prepared to stop (freshman tight end) Derek Brown," he said, "but when he didn't play (Brown was out with strep throat), we knew that they wouldn't throw to their tight end much. You must tackle their running backs. You can't just hit them because they will not go down."

Notre Dame's backfield proved that last point by racking up 301 of the team's 502 total yards in the game. Rice was once again the offensive star as he led the Irish ground attack with 91 yards on 15 carries and one touchdown, as well as completing 10 of 18 passes for 191 additional yards and another score.



Paterno saw his hopes for salvaging a season dashed early.

Chuck Ray

said Heck. "We knew we had to overpower them."

Holtz was also pleased with the Irish performance, but he saw some problems as well. "I'm happy for our football team," he said. "I give Penn State an awful lot of credit. They played hard and we played well. Other than penalties, turnovers and the kicking game, I thought we played outstanding."

The Irish lost 94 yards on eight penalties over the course of the game, including five in the first half alone. A facemask violation with no time left on the clock in the first half gave Penn State a chance to score its

defensive tackle Jeff Alm's interception in the first quarter. With the help of defensive end Arnold Ale, who tipped Loneragan's pass at the line of scrimmage, Alm recorded his team-leading third interception of the season.

"I have a tendency to drop back," said Alm in describing his success. "I really shouldn't do that, but I just look for the quarterback to throw the ball and then react to it." Alm's interception was one of the two recorded against Penn State quarterbacks Lance Loneragan and Tony Sacca, whose combined dismal passing performances resulted in only five of 24 completions for 74 yards.

Paterno praised the Irish defense for a little more than its pure athletic ability. "The

"Actually, the best defensive team on the field today was our offensive line. They won the game for us by keeping Penn State's offense and our defense off the field."

-Irish safety George Streeter

As many problems as the Notre Dame offense created for the Nittany Lion defense, the Irish defense posed even more for the Penn State offense, allowing them a paltry total of 179 yards for the game.

"Penn State pretty much did what we expected," said senior strong safety George Streeter. "We expected them to pass, but I thought they would test our rush defense instead of coming out passing like they did."

Streeter praised the secondary defense which he anchors, but he gave more credit for their success to some members of the offense. "Actually," he admitted, "the best defensive team on the field today was our offensive line. They won the game for us by keeping Penn State's offense and our defense off the field."

Offensive tackle Andy Heck said the line knew a solid performance was needed in order to control the flow of the game. "The game plan was to come out and just knock them off the ball with our offensive line,"

only three points, a 52-yard field goal by Eric Etze. Also in the second quarter, a ten-yard touchdown run by Brooks was called back on a holding penalty. Then, on the very next play, a Rice pass intended for Ismail was intercepted by Penn State's Sherrod Rainge, who returned it 22 yards to the Penn State 32-yard line.

As Holtz mentioned at the post-game press conference, Notre Dame also had problems with its kicking game. Four Irish punts averaged only 38.5 yards, and Ho missed a 35-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter.

Notre Dame got the final seven points scored in the game midway through the third quarter. On the first play of their second possession Rice threw a 47-yard bomb to the Rocket, who broke through a tackle and sprinted 20 more yards into the end zone. With 8:41 left in the third quarter, all scoring for both teams had ended.

Defensive highlights included junior

thing that makes good football teams like this Notre Dame team is you see some character," he said. "A kid like Frank Stams has come to the front. He's a fifth-year kid who has been waiting for his time. Until this year he was just another football player. People like him and (linebacker Mike) Stonebreaker play clean and they play tough."

Since Penn State had previously played and lost to newly-announced Fiesta Bowl opponent West Virginia, some players and coaches attempted to assess Notre Dame's chances against the Mountaineers.

Quarterback Loneragan said he couldn't really compare the two schools, but "about all I can say is that they both have excellent



Chuck Hay

Jeff Alm broke up one Lonergan (15) pass and intercepted another.

defenses."

Senior cornerback Eddie Johnson saw some changes in the Irish attitude over the years. "Notre Dame seems to have more confidence than they have had the last two seasons, and that really seems to help the team," he said. "Notre Dame is a bunch of fighters." When asked for a Notre Dame-

West Virginia comparison, Johnson felt that they "are both good teams. WVU has a lot of talent, and Notre Dame is a grind-it-out football team. It will be a good game that I am looking forward to seeing."

But before West Virginia, Notre Dame still had to face the second-ranked USC Trojans in Los Angeles, and that game occu-

ried more of the thoughts of the Irish. "We just played very well today," said linebacker Wes Pritchett. "Now we have to concentrate on USC."

The seniors, however, couldn't resist some jubilation over beating Penn State and finishing the home season undefeated for the second year in a row.

"I feel good, especially for the seniors and the things we've done," said Mark Green. "It means a lot to beat a team like Penn State and be undefeated to this point. We're looking forward to playing USC and proving we are the best team in the country."

Even Coach Holtz himself got a little philosophical over the season's progress and the dramatic buildup of attention focused on the team and, especially, himself.

"I'm no different than I've been all my life," Holtz explained. "I have great respect for these players and assistant coaches. It's a family. Everybody wants to drive the bus, but somebody's got to gas it and clean it and change a tire; that's all it is. Everybody has role to do including myself. This isn't the end of the journey. This isn't where we want it to end."

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Penn State	0	3	0	0	3
Notre Dame	7	7	7	0	21

1st Quarter: ND: Rice 2-yd. run (Ho kick)

2nd Quarter: ND: Green 22-yd. run (Ho kick)

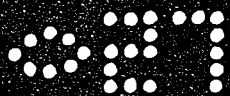
PS: Etze 52-yd. field goal

3rd Quarter: ND: Rice to Ismail 67-yd. pass (Ho kick)

NOTRE DAME



USC



Right on Time

Although Holtz suspended offensive stars Brooks and Watters for "repeated lateness," the defense was ready and waiting for USC's Rodney Peete

BY KEVIN BOUGHAL

LOS ANGELES, Ca. -- The USC-Notre Dame game this year looked to be the kind of game that made the rivalry between the two teams famous. Notre Dame had been ranked number one since the Navy game five weeks before. USC had been ranked number two in the country and the week before the Trojans had successfully defended their ranking by defeating their Pac-10 arch-rivals, UCLA. It was the last regular season game for both teams and the winner would most likely go on to be the national champion.

As if this game did not generate enough of its own excitement, Irish Head Coach Lou Holtz added a little fuel to the fire by sending two of the team's star players back to South Bend early on Saturday morning for "repeated lateness to team functions." Sophomore flanker Ricky Watters and sophomore tailback Tony Brooks were the two sent home.

Watters was crowned as the heir-apparent to 1987 Heisman winner Tim Brown and, going into the USC game, was the team's leading pass receiver as well as the fourth-best punt returner in the NCAA. Brooks was the team's leading rusher with 667 yards on 117 carries.

Holtz told reporters that the two were sent home because they had been late for the team dinners and team meetings. "The decision was agreed upon by everybody concerned," said Holtz.

This was not the first time Holtz had sent home star athletes on the day of a big game.

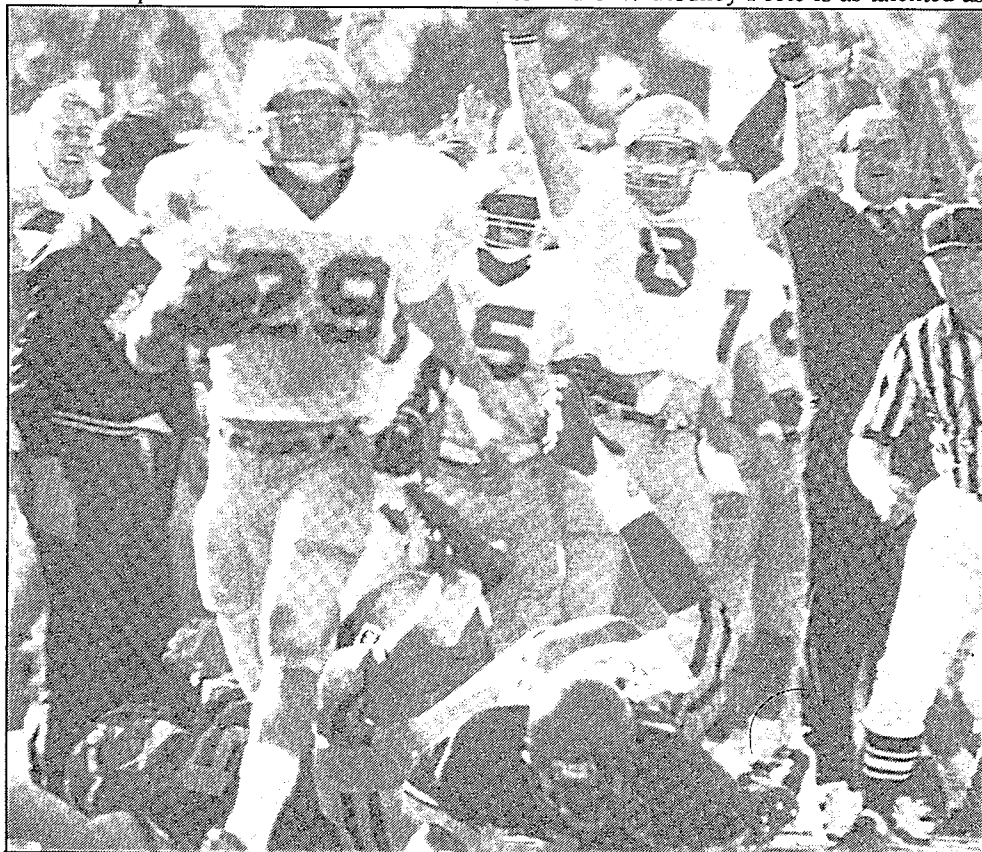
While coaching at the University of Arkansas, Holtz sent several of his star players home right before a major bowl for violating team rules and his team, which was expected to get beaten badly, still ended up winning the bowl.

Lou Holtz has stated over and over again that on his team, there is no room for people who do not like to work as a team.

This suspension came after Holtz had

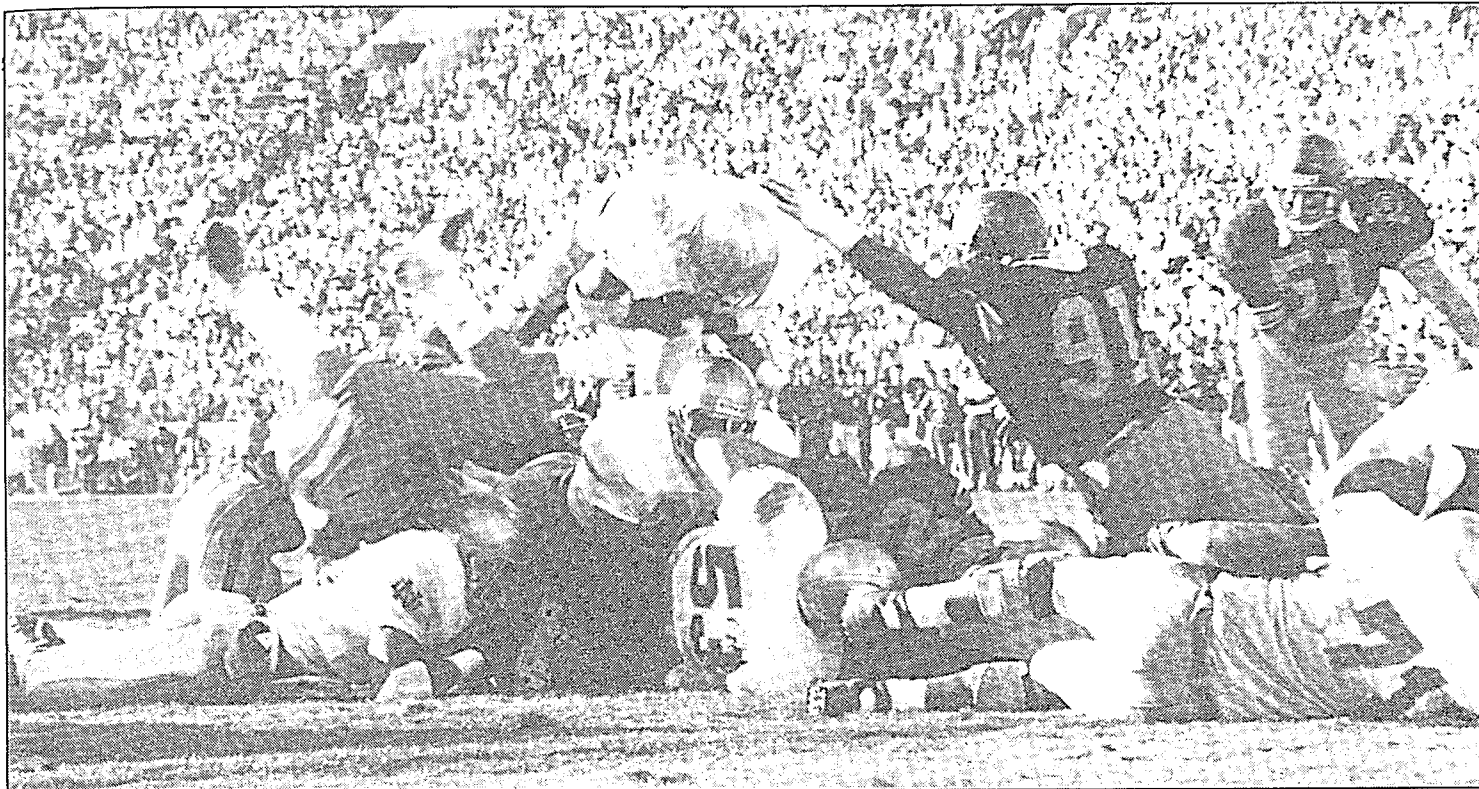
told the press that USC was possibly the best team in the country and that a victory would take a great effort. Although Holtz was usually overly pessimistic about Notre Dame's upcoming opponents, he was particularly negative about USC.

"USC may be the best football team in the country," said Holtz. "They don't appear to have a weakness, no matter how hard we try to find one. Rodney Peete is as talented as



Smagala's 2nd-quarter TD broke USC's back - and bruised Rodney Peete's shoulder.

Marl Okuda



Mark Green dove for two yards to give the Irish a 14-0 1st-quarter lead....

Mari Okuda

any player in the country...Their line is a typical USC line - big, strong, quick and dominating. The defense has been so dominant - especially against the run. They have a team that is fundamentally sound in every area."

As it turned out, Holtz was almost right. The Trojans only had one weakness - the big play.

Notre Dame won the toss and deferred to USC. The first play that the Irish had on offense was a sign of what was to come.

The series started with a first and ten on the Notre Dame two-yard line. Notre Dame quarterback Tony Rice faked a handoff to tailback Mark Green and launched a 55-yard pass to freshman speedster Raghib "Rocket" Ismail who would have had a touchdown but lost his balance. That was how the day of the

Irish big play started.

"Tony (Rice) made such a good fake, I thought he had handed it off too," said Holtz.

But on Notre Dame's second possession, Rice found the weakness of the Trojan defense. On third down and three, Rice faked a handoff and rolled to the left. He kept the ball on the option and sprinted 65 yards down the sideline for a touchdown. Reggie

Ho's kick made the score 7-0 in Notre Dame's favor. In 1:15 and three plays, the Irish had gone 72 yards. The run was not only the longest run of Rice' career, but it was also the longest run against the Trojans this year.

After this touchdown, Notre Dame was never behind.

On the second down of USC's next pos-



Mari Okuda

... and scored from a yard out in the 4th-quarter, much to the approval of Heck (66) and Brown (71).

Holtz said that the two were sent home because they had been late for the team dinners and team meetings: "The decision was agreed upon by everybody concerned."

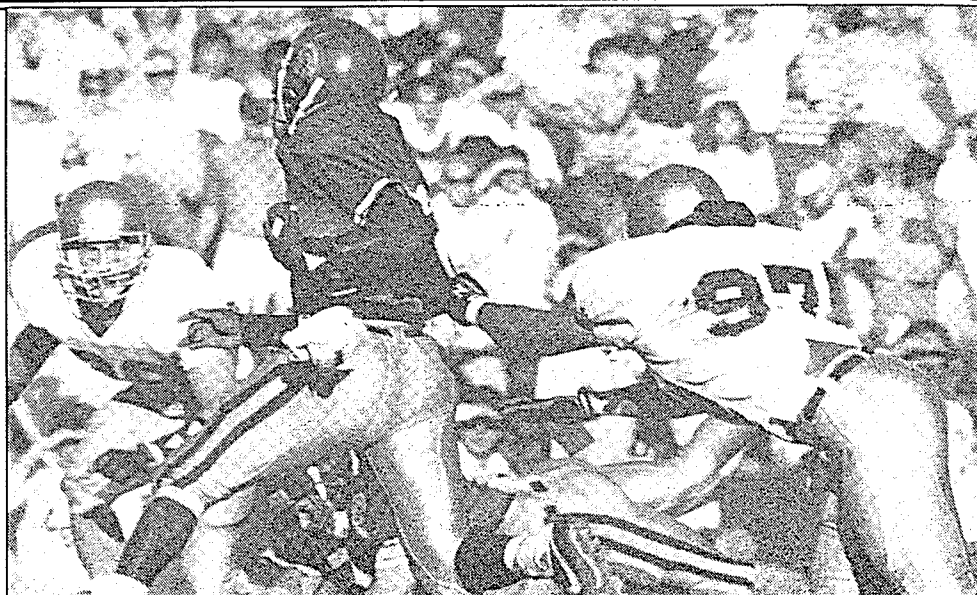
session, Peete fumbled the ball and Notre Dame defensive end Frank Stams recovered on the USC 19. Five plays later, Mark Green dove in for a touchdown from two yards out. Ho's extra point made the score Notre Dame 14, USC 0 and the first quarter was not even over yet.

USC finally got on the board with a little over two minutes left in the second quarter. Trojan tailback Scott Lockwood capped off a 66-yard drive with a one yard run for a touchdown making the score 14-7, Notre Dame.

For a minute it seemed as if USC was back in the game, but Irish cornerback Stan Smagala changed that quickly. With :52 left in the half, Peete dropped back and threw the ball into Smagala's waiting hands. Smagala then ran 64 yards for a touchdown. Ho missed the extra point and the score at the end of the first half was Notre Dame 20, USC 7.

"John Jackson (the USC flanker) fell down making his cut, but I'm not going to sit here and blame John," said Peete of the interception. "It was my interception and you can't afford to make mistakes."

To add injury to insult, Peete injured his shoulder on the play. After he threw the ball and it was intercepted, Peete started running toward Smagala in an attempt to cut him off from the end zone. Just as Peete started to run, Stams, in full stride, blindsided Peete



Peete could run, but he couldn't hide from the likes of Ale (97).

Mari Okuda

and smashed him to the ground. Although Peete suffered an injury to his left shoulder, the right-handed quarterback was able to keep playing.

This hit was symbolic of the hits that the Irish put on the Trojans all day.

Both offenses were relatively quiet for the whole day because the defenses played such strong games. For example, during the entire first half, the Notre Dame offense had mustered three first downs compared to USC's 14. But the fact remained that the Trojans could not get the ball into the end zone.

Although the Irish may not have scored their points in textbook style, they did get the points on the scoreboard.

"Our football team is prettier than me, but that's about it," said Holtz. "They just play together as a team."

When the teams came out of the tunnel for the second half, many people still felt that USC still had a chance of winning the game, but the offensive surge that the Trojans would have needed to win never materialized.

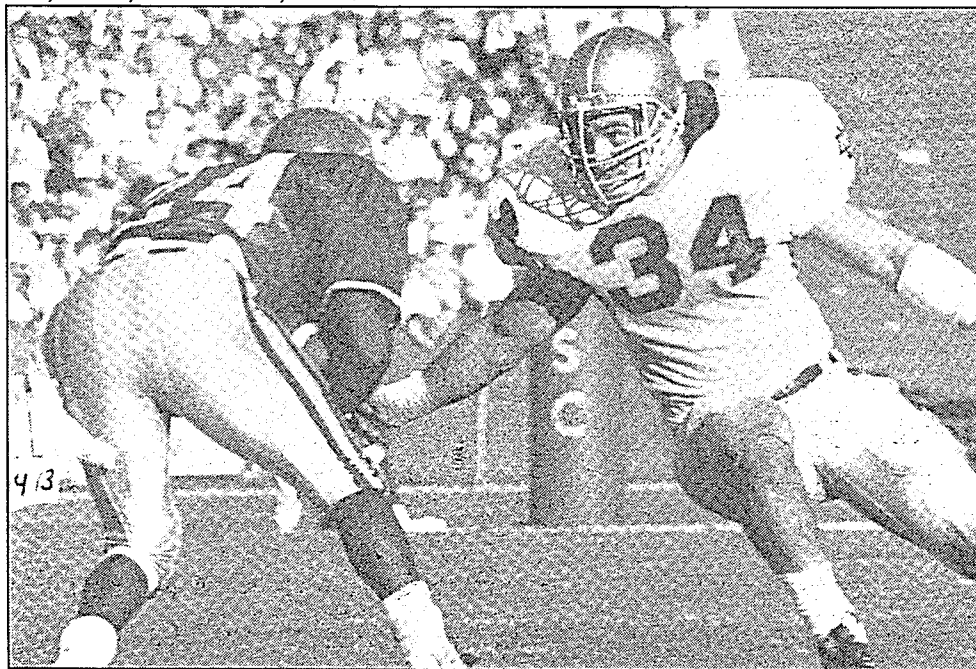
During the third quarter, the Trojans had one chance of getting a touchdown. After getting a first and goal on the Notre Dame four-yard line, USC was unable to get the ball into the end zone. On a fourth-and-goal at the nine-yard line, USC coach Larry Smith opted to go for the field goal. USC's field goal kicker, Quin Rodriguez, added three points with the 26-yard field goal. After that score the Trojans were silent offensively for the rest of the day.

The third quarter ended with the score ND 20, USC 10.

As it turned out, a touchdown would not have really helped the Trojans any how because the Irish still had some tricks up their sleeve.

With 11:55 left in the fourth quarter, the Irish put the icing on the cake with a Mark Green one-yard run for a TD. Ho's extra point made the score 27-10 and that was how the game ended.

Although the Trojans were continually



Pritchett helped to stuff Emmanuel (24) and the USC ground game.

Mari Okuda

fighting an uphill battle, the USC fans never gave up hope in their team. Late in the fourth quarter, the Los Angeles Coliseum's large screen TV treated the record-setting 93,829 spectators to a clip of the 1964 USC-Notre Dame game in which USC came from behind to win by a score of 20-17 and give Notre Dame their only loss of the season and denying the Irish the national championship. For a brief moment, all the USC fans cheered. Fortunately for the Irish, history did not repeat itself.

Pecte's ability as a passer and a rusher are well-known, but he never got a chance to show it because he was virtually shut down. The Irish defense kept him to a net rushing total of minus 31 yards and he did not pass for even one touchdown. Pecte was also sacked three times for losses totaling 31 yards.

Pecte did manage to pass for a total of 225 yards, and although the numbers do look impressive, the Irish used their "bend but don't break" defense because even though USC ended up with more first downs, more yards and almost 10 minutes more playing time, they only managed to get the ball into the end zone once - and that is the only

statistic that counts.

The Irish coach had nothing but compliments for his defense after the game.

"Our football team is prettier than me, but that's about it. They just play together as a team."

- Irish Coach Lou Holtz

"Pecte is an outstanding quarterback," said Holtz. "We were hoping to cover (the receivers) one-on-one in the secondary. I was impressed with the way our secondary played. They have gotten better."

One uncharacteristic thing that the Irish

did defensively in this game was blitz the quarterback. All through the season Holtz had mentioned that people were telling him to blitz more but he said he was afraid that blitzing would leave people uncovered. Because his secondary was covering man-to-man, that freed up other players, especially linebackers, to blitz more.

The secondary was not the only part of the team that got praise from this coach who usually holds his praise.

"Our defense was unbelievably good," said Holtz. "I've never seen them play like that. It was a total defensive effort. Our defense set the tempo of the game and they generated the turnovers."

The conclusion of the USC game was more than just the end of a game for Lou Holtz. This was the first time that a Notre Dame team had finished the regular season 11-0 in the school's history, it was the first time Notre Dame beat USC three times in a row and it would be the first time Lou Holtz would be vying for a national championship.

By beating USC, Lou Holtz not only made his mark on the record books, he also made his first step toward being remembered as one of Notre Dame's great coaches.

Scoring Summary

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	14	6	0	7	27
Southern Cal	0	7	3	0	10

1st Quarter: ND: Rice 65-yd. run (Ho kick)

ND: Green 2-yd. run (Ho kick)

2nd Quarter: SC: Lockwood 1-yd. run (Rodriguez kick)

ND: Smagala 64-yd. interception return (Ho kick failed)

3rd Quarter: SC: Rodriguez 26-yd. field goal

4th Quarter: ND: Green 1-yd. run (Ho kick)

1988 Notre Dame Football Honors and Awards

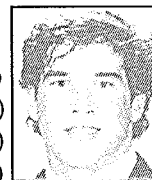


LOU HOLTZ, head coach

- United Press International coach of the year
- Football News* coach of the year
- CBS Sports coach of the year
- American Football Coaches Association coach of the year
- Football Writers Association of America coach of the year finalist

MICHAEL STONEBREAKER, junior linebacker

- Butkus Award finalist (finished third behind Alabama's Derrick Thomas and Nebraska's Broderick Thomas)
- Associated Press, Football Writer's Association of America, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Walter Camp Foundation, *Football News* All-America (all first team)
- UPI and *The Sporting News* All-America (second team)
- AP Midwest Defensive Player of the Week vs. Michigan State (17 tackles, two interceptions)
- The Sporting News* Defensive Player of the Week vs. Michigan (16 tackles)



ANDY HECK, senior offensive tackle

- AP, UPI, *The Sporting News*, Newspaper Enterprise Association and *Football News* All-America (all first team)
- Nick Pietrosante Award (by vote of teammates, to player who best exemplifies the courage, teamwork, loyalty, dedication and pride of the late All-America Irish fullback)
- Japan Bowl Participant

FRANK STAMS, senior defensive end

- AP, UPI and *Football News* All-America (first team)
- The Sporting News* and Newspaper Enterprise Association All-America (second team)
- Notre Dame Lineman of the Year, Moose Krause chapter of National Football Foundation Hall of Fame
- CBS/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Miami (two forced fumbles, one recovery)
- AP Midwest Defensive Player of the Week vs. Miami
- Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Defensive Player of the Game
- Hula Bowl participant

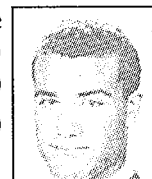


TONY RICE, junior quarterback

- Notre Dame Monogram Club MVP (by vote of teammates)
- AP, *The Sporting News* and *Football News* All-America (honorable mention)
- CBS/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Penn State
- ABC/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. USC
- Sunkist Fiesta Bowl Offensive Player of the Game

CHRIS ZORICH, sophomore nose tackle

- Newspaper Enterprise Association All-America (first team)
- Football News* All-America (third team)
- AP and *The Sporting News* All-America (honorable mention)



GEORGE STREETER, senior strong safety

- The Sporting News* and *Football News* All-America (honorable mention)
- Hula Bowl Participant

TIM RYAN, sophomore offensive guard

- AP All-America (honorable mention)



STAN SMAGALA, junior cornerback

- AP All-America (honorable mention)



WES PRITCHETT, senior linebacker

- The Sporting News* All-America (second team)
- AP and UPI All-America (honorable mention)
- Hula Bowl and East-West Shrine game participant



PAT TERRELL, junior free safety

- AP All-America (honorable mention)



NED BOLCAR, senior linebacker

- Football News* All-America (honorable mention)
- General Foods Spirit of Notre Dame Award



REGGIE HO, senior kicker

- Sports Illustrated* Special Teams Player of The Week vs. Michigan (four field goals)
- CBS/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Michigan
- Hesburgh/Joyce Hall of Fame Scholarship Award (postgraduate study grant for walk-on who has contributed significantly to the football program; maintains a 3.77 in pre-med)



DEREK BROWN, freshman tight end

- The Sporting News* All-America (honorable mention)



GEORGE WILLIAMS, sophomore defensive tackle

- The Sporting News* All-America (honorable mention)



BRAD ALGE, senior split end

- Hesburgh/Joyce Hall of Fame Scholarship Award (postgraduate study grant for walk-on who has contributed significantly to the football program; maintains 3.31 in management)

TODD LYGHT, sophomore cornerback

- AP All-America (honorable mention)



MARK GREEN, senior tailback

- AP, UPI and *The Sporting News* All-America (honorable mention)
- ABC/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Michigan State (125 rushing yards on 21 carries)
- Japan Bowl Participant



RICKY WATTERS, sophomore flanker

- Football News* All-America (honorable mention)



RAGHIB ISMAIL, freshman split end

- The Sporting News* All-America (honorable mention)
- AP Midwest Offensive Player of the week vs. Rice (kickoff returns for 83 and 87 yards for TDs)
- Sports Illustrated* Special Teams Player of the Week vs. Rice
- Season leader for NCAA in Kickoff Returns



TIM GRUNHARD, junior offensive guard

- The Sporting News* All-America (honorable mention)



TOM GORMAN, senior offensive guard

- Toyota Leadership Award on CBS national telecast vs. Michigan
- Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Student-Athlete Award (3.13 grade-point average in government)



PAT EILERS, senior flanker

- Toyota Leadership Award on CBS national telecast vs. Penn State



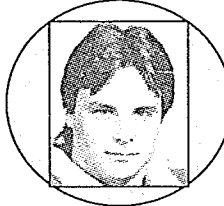
The 1988 Scholastic

Offense

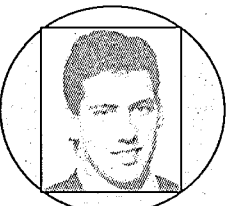
Rick Phillips
Tackle
West Virginia



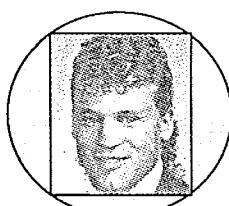
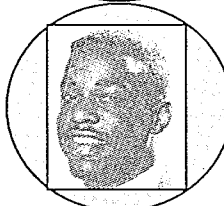
Mark Stepnoski
Guard
Pittsburgh



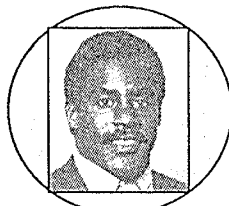
Steve Walsh
Quarterback
Miami



Courtney Hall
Center
Rice

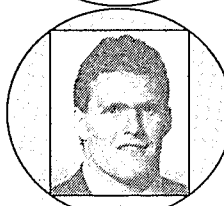


Blake Ezor
Tailback
Michigan State

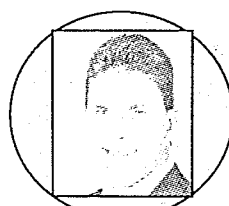


Cleveland Gary
Fullback
Miami

Mike Sullivan
Guard
Miami



Mike Husar
Tackle
Michigan

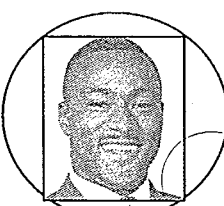


Mike Gillette
Placekicker
Michigan

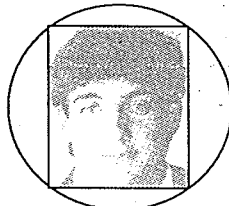
Rob Chudzinski
Tight End
Miami



Andre Rison
Wide Receiver
Michigan State

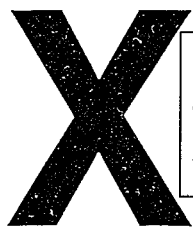


Erik Affholter
Wide Receiver
USC



All-Opponent Team

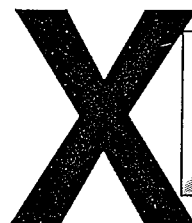
Defense



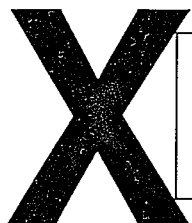
Lester Archambeau
Defensive Tackle
Stanford



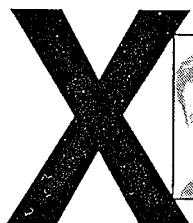
Scott Ross
Linebacker
USC



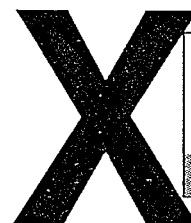
Ernest Spears
Defensive Back
USC



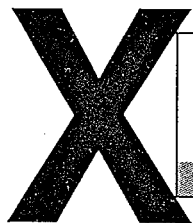
Mark Messner
Defensive Tackle
Michigan



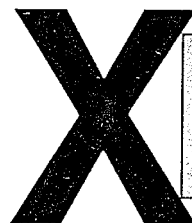
Scott Gob
Linebacker
Penn State



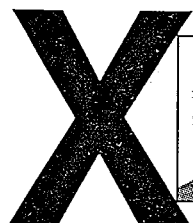
Bo Orlando
Defensive Back
West Virginia



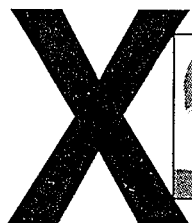
Chris Parker
Defensive Tackle
West Virginia



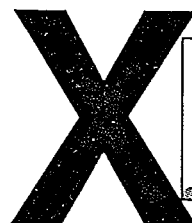
Marc Foster
Defensive Back
Purdue



Bill Hawkins
Defensive Tackle
Miami



Chris Haering
Linebacker
West Virginia



Ronnie Beeks
Defensive Back
Purdue

Lou's Coup

Third-year Irish Head Coach Lou Holtz brought his "not so good football team" to a National Championship

BY LOU HOLTZ



There has to be a beginning to every story and I vividly recall the day when I believed that the University of Notre Dame's football team could be outstanding. I don't mean to say that we, the coaches, never believed that we could have an outstanding football team this season, but one day showed that we might have the qualities necessary to be champions. That day was August 29.

That afternoon was one of the longest, most grueling practices I have ever seen on a football field. But when it was all over, you could sense the players knew what they were capable of. That was a tired group of young men that walked off the practice field in the dusk, but you could see in their eyes that, as a unit, they had come to realize the commitment that it would take to be champions. And they realized they were committed. That's the day we came together as a football team.

A little over a week after that, Andy Heck, a senior tri-captain, predicted to the press that the team would finish 12-0 and be national champions "if we do what we're capable of." At that point, I had to check with our medical staff to see if Andy had suffered a blow to the head in practice that day. He hadn't.

The commitment of the players, especially the senior class, was what made this Notre Dame football team special, national champions and one that will be considered among the greatest in the fine tradition of the university.

Andy Heck is a perfect example of the type of dedication it required for this team

to win. Since coming to Notre Dame, Andy has always been a tight end, but following the end of the 1987 season, we asked him to move to offensive tackle because of the large number of losses there due to graduation. Andy told the coaches he would do whatever necessary to make Notre Dame a winner. He put on the weight necessary, he became stronger, he learned the position and at the end of his only season as an offensive tackle he was named an All-American. I cannot think of too many instances in the history of college football where that has happened.

Another shining example of the senior class was Flash Gordon. Here was a young man in his fifth season who started against Pittsburgh and then did not play the next week against Miami. But Flash Gordon never complained. He just went out there and kept playing hard football and contributing to the team. And I'll remind you that Flash Gordon started in the Fiesta Bowl against West Virginia. His willingness to sacrifice is one of the things that made this team a winner.

Ned Bolcar, another one of our tri-captains, was voted the defensive player of the year two years ago, but his role found him coming off the bench this season. Ned Bolcar wasn't happy about it, but that's because he's a competitor and no competitor wants to sit by and watch. But Ned Bolcar is also a winner and so he came off the bench for his team. And in the Fiesta Bowl, Ned was one of the key characters in our win. He played almost the entire game and came off the field in Phoenix without an

inch of clean uniform showing. He was bruised and bloodied from a cut over his nose, but he was also a champion.

The willingness of our seniors to accept their roles, especially as leaders, was an integral part of this team's success. I cannot emphasize how the players did exactly as the coaching staff asked of them. They trusted our judgement and never questioned our requests. I can say unequivocally that the attitude of this football team was as good, if not better, than any other I've ever seen.

One reason this team was a winner was because it had fun playing football. I can't think of any individuals I've ever seen enjoy the game as much as Wesley Pritchett or Frank Stams. They've both overcome adversity as players and their enthusiasm toward playing and their commitment made them outstanding football players. They had a special gift of keeping those around them loose. They truly kept the game in perspective. I don't think I will ever forget the site of Wesley smoking a cigar at practice with his helmet on just to liven things up, or of Frank Stams constantly sending freshmen over to me one day in practice because "I had requested to see them," when actually I hadn't. I don't think those freshmen will ever forget that day either.

There were many memorable moments for this football team both on and off the field. I would later look back and realize that Reggie Ho's last minute field

goal against Michigan would set the stage for this season. In order to be a champion you have to have some things happen in your favor. You could call that luck or you could attribute that to hard work. Either way, that was the type of win that you grow up dreaming of. It also demonstrated to our team that even with their backs against the wall, they would not flinch and carry out their mission.

I have never seen the enthusiasm, hype and wonder surround one football game like the game against the University of Miami. The amount of press coverage was unbelievable. But our players handled it well, and in stride. I could not believe waking up the morning of the game, picking up my newspaper, and reading that I had predicted at the pep rally that the University of Notre Dame would win the football game. Many people questioned why I said that. We, as the coaches, knew that we could win that particular football game; I just wanted to make sure that our players knew we believed that we could win.

At that point we were not the best football team in the nation. I repeatedly said that I believed Miami was. But we told our team that it didn't matter what team was listed atop the polls. That did not mean that team would start the game with six points or get five downs to gain ten yards. What mattered was who was the best team in Notre Dame Stadium on that day.

We told the team all year not to concentrate on anything but the next game. If you could be the best team on the field on a particular Saturday, then you could be a winner every Saturday. The players understood that and believed that. There was never anyone on this team looking ahead except to next Saturday's opponent. That also helped to make this team a winner.

On the trip home from Baltimore after playing the Naval Academy the team heard that Washington State was beating top-ranked UCLA and the feeling was that Notre Dame would go to number one in the rankings. Someone asked me how I felt about it when our team was ranked number one. I inquired if that was the final

poll of the year. They said no. I asked if there would be another poll next week. They said yes. So I told them to ask me about polls when they finished voting and the final one had come out.

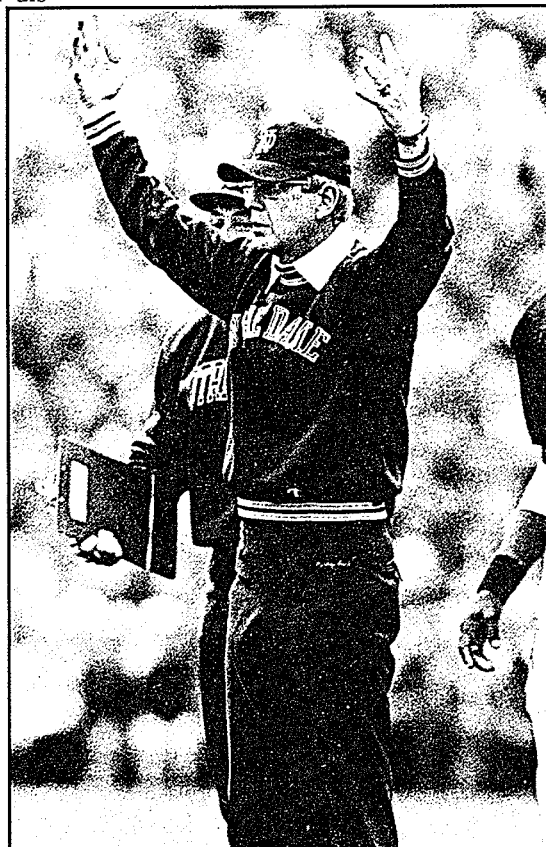
The character this football team displayed while it was ranked number one was remarkable. They soon realized that being ranked number one doesn't make you any faster, it doesn't mean you can throw the ball any farther or kick it any longer. It just means that everyone is just that much more eager to play and defeat you. I think our football team did a fine job of keeping the rankings in proper perspective. We didn't talk about the polls. The only reminder was the "number one" sign that was lit up on Grace Hall. When I saw that every night as I drove home it made me realize that the student body was enthused and that was good for the university.

The history of being ranked number one is usually short for most teams, so the fact this team carried it throughout the rest of the season was quite an accomplishment. It's much tougher to stay on the top than it is to get there. Following our victory against a fine West Virginia team in the Fiesta Bowl I had no doubts about who had the best football team in the country - Notre Dame. This team had beaten the number two, three and four teams in the nation. It had beaten the top team in the West in USC. It had beaten the best team in the South in Miami, it had beaten the best team in the Midwest in Michigan and had it beaten the best team in the East in West Virginia.

But the process for being named a national champion in Division I football is a unique one. Unlike all the other NCAA sports, Division I football does not have a format for determining a national champion. There is a lot written and said about winning a national title. That is something you cannot do. You simply wake up one morning and you are the national champions. That's what happened with this football team.

Many of the young men on this football

squad said that being national champions did not sink in right away after the game. I can say the same for myself. It was not until I walked into my office the first day I was back on campus that I realized that

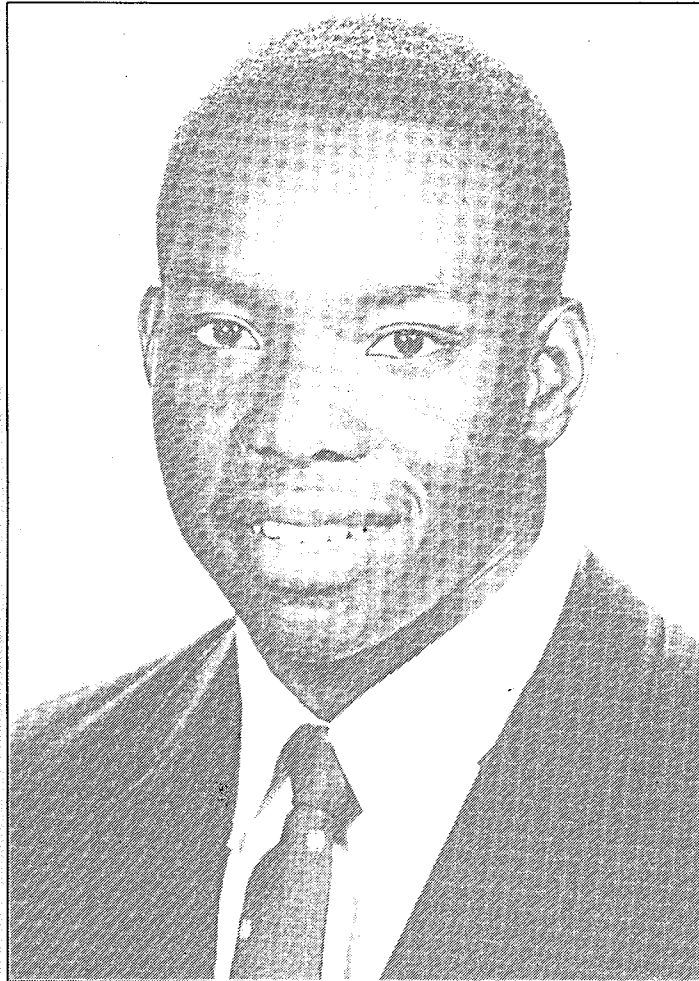


the university's football team was the national champion. It was a fulfilling moment, but you can't dwell on it or become complacent with it. You have to move on. As I tell our players, "Don't tell me what you did yesterday; what have you done today?"

I don't think you can say that we're going to be an outstanding football team next year because we won this year and we'll have quite a few players back. The question I ask is, "Are they going to be willing to work like this year's team did?" If there was one thing about this year's team that was really great, it was that from day one, they said, "Hey, tell us what we have to do."

That willingness and commitment towards a common goal is what makes a good football team a great one, and what makes that great one a champion. ■

In Memoriam



Robert Satterfield

September 14, 1966 - January 19, 1989

Future Schedules

1989

August	31 - Virginia (Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, NJ)
September	16 - at Michigan
September	23 - MICHIGAN STATE
September	20 - at Purdue
October	7 - at Stanford
October	14 - at Air Force
October	21 - USC
October	28 - PITTSBURGH
November	4 - NAVY
November	11 - SMU
November	18 - at Penn State
November	25 - at Miami

1990

September	15 - MICHIGAN
September	22 - at Michigan State
September	29 - PURDUE
October	6 - STANFORD
October	13 - AIR FORCE
October	20 - MIAMI
October	27 - at Pittsburgh
November	3 - at Navy
November	10 - at Tennessee
November	17 - PENN STATE
December	1 - at USC

1991

September	7 - INDIANA
September	14 - at Michigan
September	21 - MICHIGAN STATE
September	28 - at Purdue
October	5 - at Stanford
October	12 - PITTSBURGH
October	19 - at Air Force
October	26 - USC
November	2 - NAVY
November	9 - TENNESSEE
November	16 - at Penn State
November	30 - at Hawaii

1992

September	5 - at Northwestern
September	12 - MICHIGAN
September	19 - at Michigan State
September	26 - PURDUE
October	3 - STANFORD
October	10 - at Pittsburgh
October	24 - BYU
October	31 - at Navy
November	7 - BOSTON COLLEGE
November	14 - PENN STATE
November	28 - at USC

1993

September	4 - NORTHWESTERN
September	11 - at Michigan
September	18 - MICHIGAN STATE
September	25 - at Purdue
October	2 - at Stanford
October	9 - PITTSBURGH
October	16 - at BYU
October	23 - USC
October	30 - NAVY
November	13 - at Penn State
November	20 - BOSTON COLLEGE

1994

September	3 - at Northwestern
September	10 - MICHIGAN
September	17 - at Michigan State
September	24 - PURDUE
October	1 - STANFORD
October	8 - at Boston College
October	15 - BYU
October	29 - at Navy
November	12 - PENN STATE
November	19 - RICE
November	26 - at USC

Home games in **CAPS**

non-profit organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Notre Dame, IN
Permit No. 10

Festival
April 7-8

Spring Break Trips : So. Padre,
Vail


30

EXP- Feb 24

Commons Elvis Costello
The Replacements?

Get Involved In These!

Student Player's Musical : "Simon"
Feb 22-25

Peace with Justice W.
featuring  St. Pat's Week Festivities
March 13-17

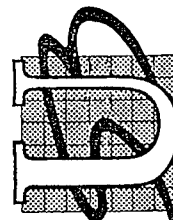
April 3-7

e Siskel and Martin Sheen
April 3-7
Sophomore
Literary Festival

Antosai
April 23-30

Week with
Apartheid Awareness
Donald Woods - main character in "Cry Freedom"
and journalist who brought Steven Biko's story to the world
April 10-13

Organizational Meeting **Wednesday Feb. 15, 6:30 pm**
SUB office, 2nd Floor LaFortune — all interested please attend



STUDENT UNION BOARD