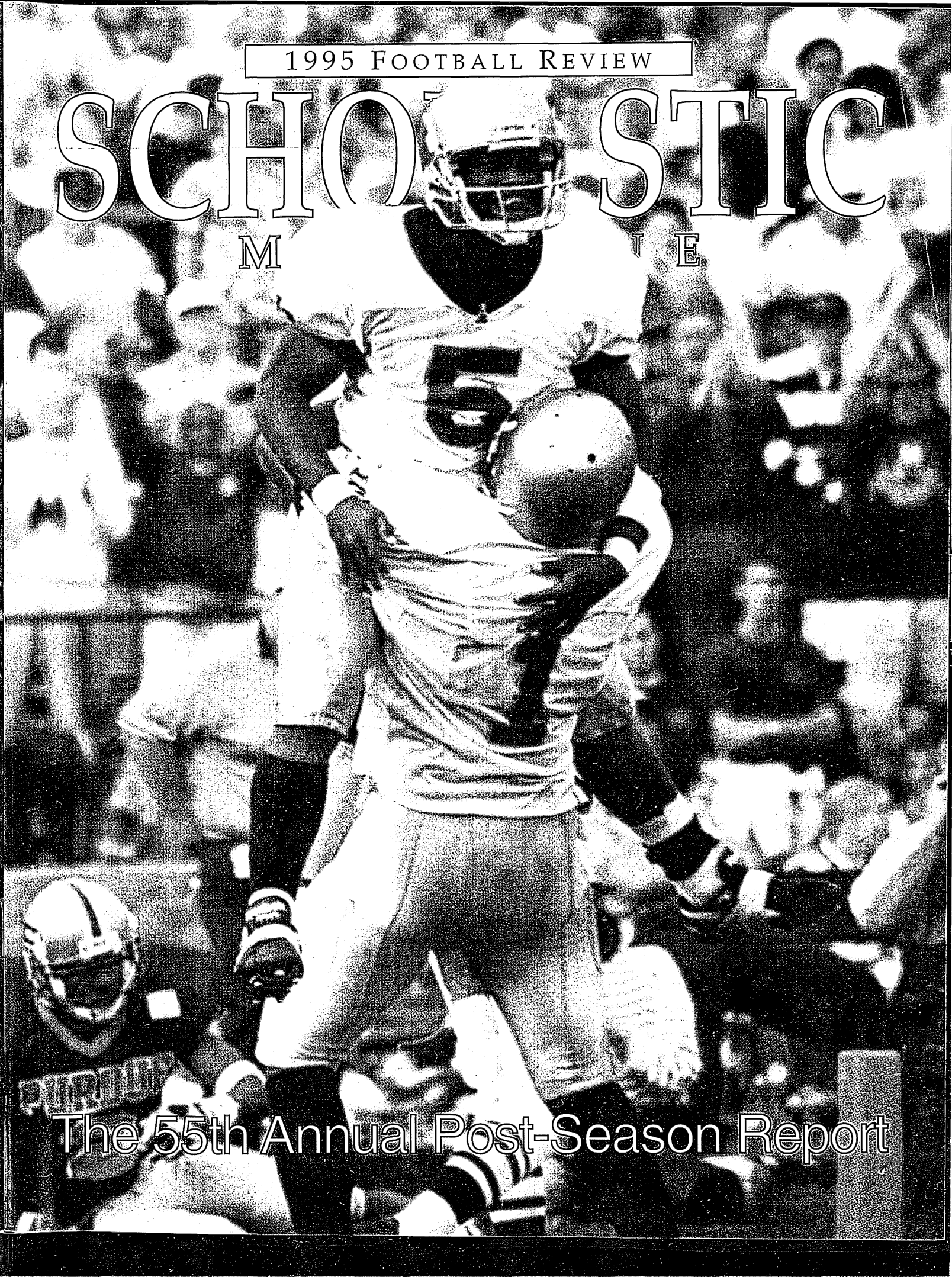


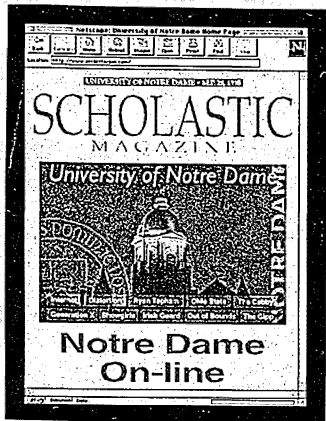
1995 FOOTBALL REVIEW

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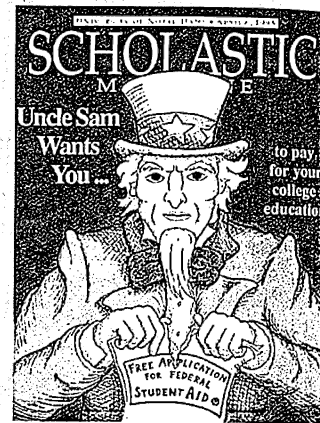
M I E



The 55th Annual Post-Season Report



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It's the Climb that Counts

I don't know about anyone else, but I, for one, get so sick of hearing old sayings and proverbs. That is, until I actually see an example of where they would be true.

Last summer, when I went to Hawaii with my family, we landed on Oahu. We decided to go sight-seeing immediately, jet lag and all. We made a whirlwind tour of the island, spending time at Pearl Harbor and the other famous sights.

By about four in the afternoon, we were all beat and more than a little irritable. The only thing standing between the pool at our hotel and where we were on the island was Diamond Head Mountain. Despite our fatigue, my family and I decided to stop and make the hour or so hike to the top.

At first I was far from happy about this. The base of the mountain resembled a desert. It was dry and ugly — the opposite of how I pictured Hawaii. My mood became worse as the climb up the mountain became harder and harder. But once we finally got to the top, the view, as you may have already guessed, was spectacular. Breathtaking. I was amazed by how beautiful the landscape looked from the top of the mountain, as opposed to its view from the base. And the fact that the hike up was so difficult made the view that much better.

When the Fighting Irish opened the 1995 season with a loss to Northwestern, the majority of fans, including myself, expected the worst. Add the dismal 1994 season and what looked to be a soft schedule to the equation, and you have people searching for answers and looking for scapegoats.

But as bleak as the season looked back then, I believe that at the end of the season we can be proud. First of all, the Irish finished the season 9-3, a huge improvement from 1994. Among their wins were spirited triumphs over eventual SWC champion Texas, PAC-10 champion USC and rival Boston College. Their losses came to Northwestern, Ohio State and Florida State, all top 10 foes. Funny how a schedule that seemed so weak at the beginning of the season was ranked as the toughest slate in the country according to final regular-season statistics released by the NCAA.

Most impressive is the fact that the Irish accomplished what they did under a lot of adversity. They constantly had to answer for last season and the Northwestern loss. They had to deal with the loss of their starting quarterback. They had to cope with Lou Holtz's surgery and his absence.

So when we look from atop the mountain that was the 1995 season, let's remember not where the Irish slipped or stumbled, but how treacherous the climb was and how well the Irish navigated it.

Thanks

Special thanks to our photographers Aaron Skalicky and Stan Evans who were at all but two of the games this season; John Heisler and the Sports Information Department; Ryan Leahy for his thoughts; Ryan Kennedy, Jeremy Dixon and Brian Hiro for their input; and the rest of the *Scholastic* staff who helped with layouts and editing. This issue wouldn't have been possible without you.

Jake Schaller
Sports Editor

Cover Photo by Aaron Skalicky

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*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus
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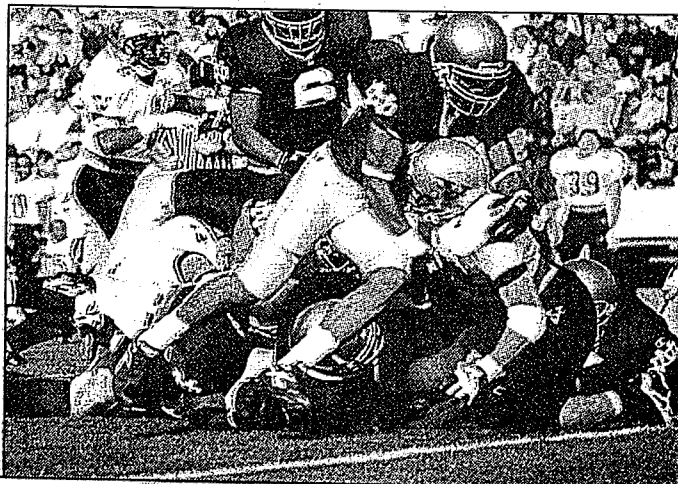
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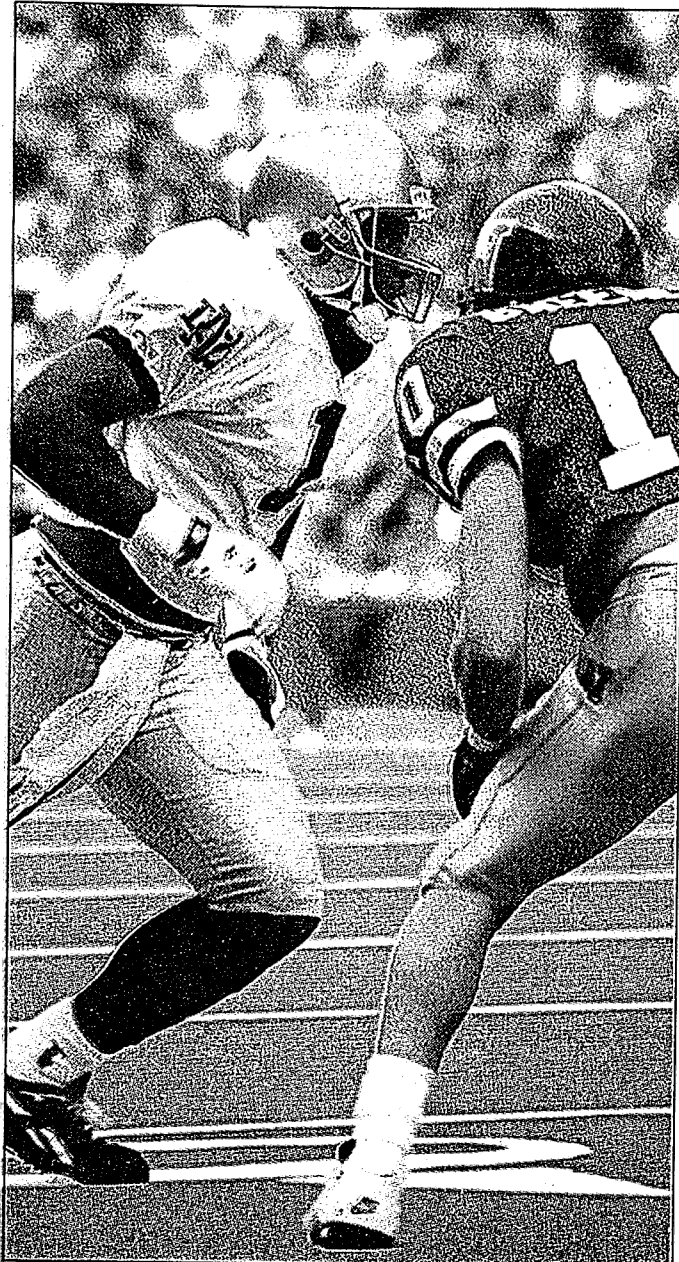
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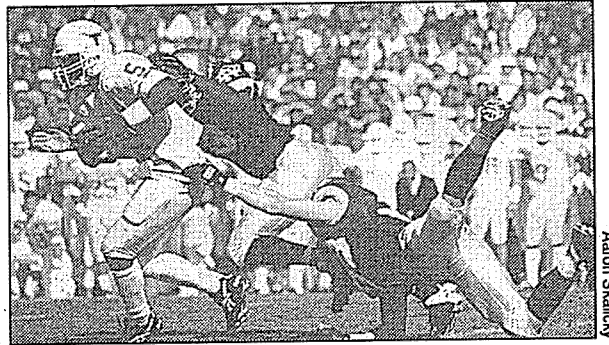
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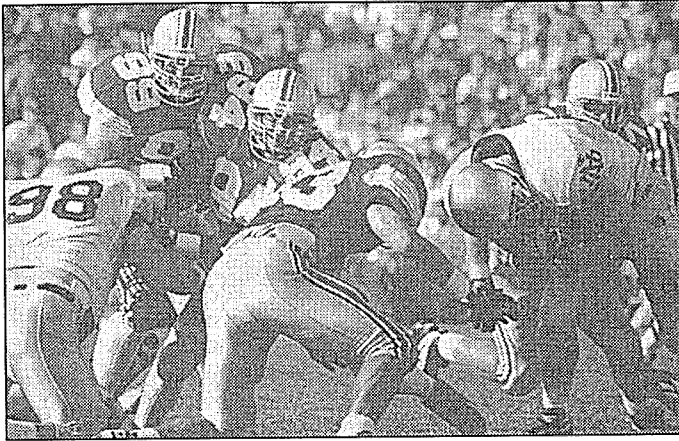
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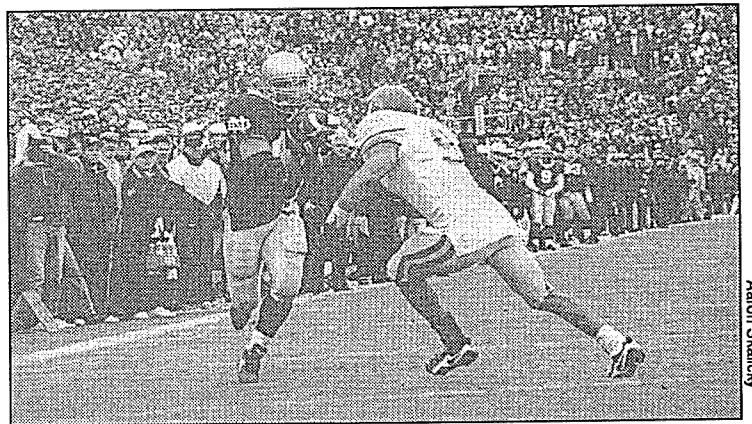


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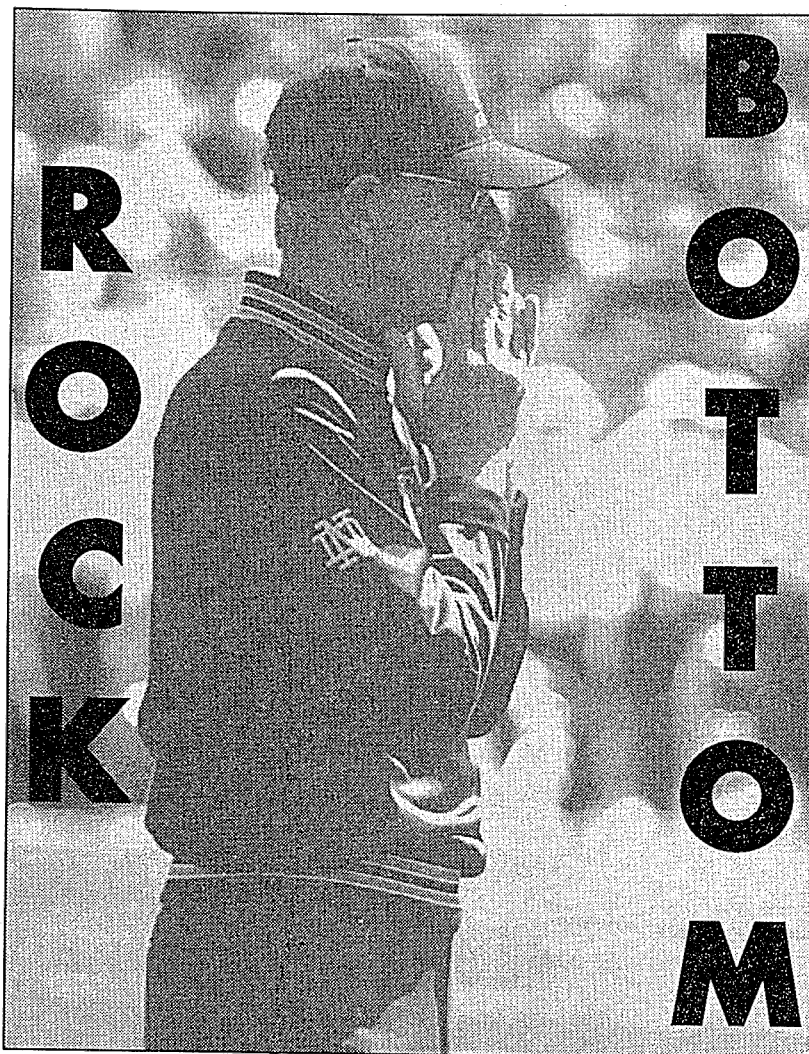
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Sian Evans

The prophetic Gary Barnett and his upset-minded Wildcats made Notre Dame the first victim of their Cinderella season, 12-15

BY JEREMY DIXON

● **SEPTEMBER 2, 1995 — NOTRE DAME, IN**
 ● It was one of the biggest upsets ever in Irish
 ● football history. Northwestern, a team which
 ● had not had a winning record since 1971, a team
 ● that last went to the Rose Bowl in 1949, crashed
 ● Notre Dame's comeback season party with a 17-15
 ● shocker. Dreams of the Fiesta Bowl and a National
 ● Championship were dashed by a team intent on
 ● ending the running joke their program had become.
 ● "It's not about talent, it's about 11 guys pulling
 ● together. We all believed in each other a lot," said
 ● Wildcat Head Coach Gary Barnett. In a game that
 ● Northwestern fans will forever relish, the Wildcats
 ● held off the Irish at every crucial point of the game.
 ● Nothing went well for Notre Dame. On the
 ● opening drive, the Irish offense moved the ball out to
 ● mid-field when tailback Randy Kinder fumbled a
 ● handoff from Ron Powlus. "I should have had it,"

UH OH. Head Coach Lou Holtz watches helplessly as Northwestern drives down the field and runs down the clock. Wildcats Head Coach Gary Barnett predicted victory over the Irish.

said Kinder. "The defense wasn't involved." Northwestern, behind the running of sophomore Darnell Autry, marched through a lackluster defense. After rushing to the 8-yard line, quarterback Steve Schnur found Dave Beazley in the end zone for six points. Sam Valenzisi added the extra point to give Northwestern a lead they would not relinquish. "I think that [the fumble] really hurt us mentally," said Powlus. "I don't think we ever really recovered from that."

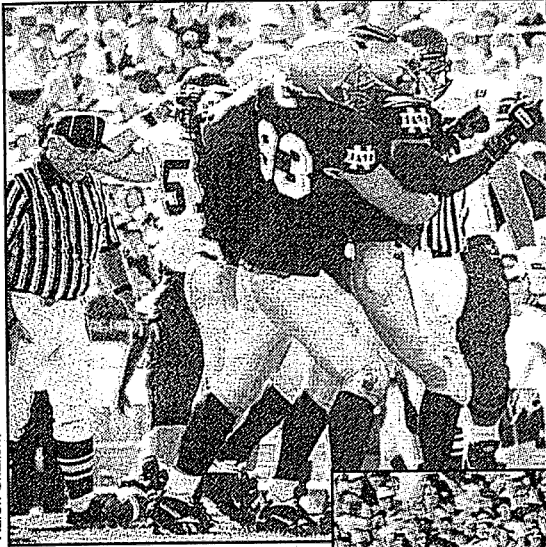
The Irish offense seemed out of sync the entire afternoon. Passes were off-target, blocking assignments were missed, and the running game was never established. "We just could not seem to develop a rhythm," said Irish fullback Marc Edwards. "That's all offense is, and we couldn't seem to find it today." The Irish finally put together a drive at the end of the first quarter. Behind Edwards and Robert Farmer, along with a 26-yard pass to Emmett Mosely, the Irish marched to the Northwestern 15. The drive stalled there, however, and Notre Dame had to settle for a 35-yard field goal from freshman Kevin Kopka.

Schnur and the Wildcats came right back. The Northwestern signal-caller threw to fullback Matt Hartl for a 17-yard gain followed by a 10-yard run by Autry. On a third down from the Irish 40, Schnur connected with junior wide receiver Brian Musso for a 19-yard gain. Thankfully for the Irish, Schnur overthrew D'Wayne Bates, who was wide open in the end zone, forcing the Wildcats and Valenzisi to kick a 37-yard field goal.

After the Northwestern field goal, the Irish offense seemed to wake up. Farmer and Edwards powered forward, setting up a 17-yard completion to Derrick Mayes which gave the Irish a first down at the Wildcat 10. Two plays later, Farmer danced into the end zone bringing the Irish within one. Then came one of the most crucial plays of the game. Kopka, the supposed savior of Notre Dame's maligned kicking game, missed the attempt wide right. Shades of Scott Cengia clanging a PAT off an upright in the Florida Citrus Bowl last year flashed through the heads of the Irish faithful.

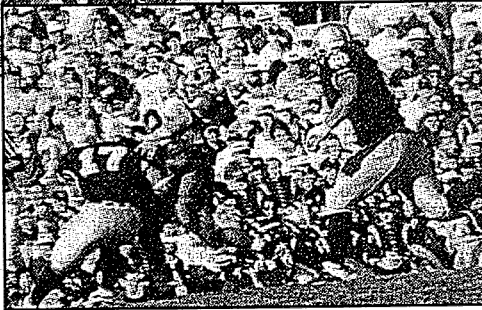
"I thought that the PAT that we missed really hurt," said Holtz later. "The snap was a little bit low, he rushed it a little bit too much, and the timing was off."

Indeed, special teams hurt the Irish all afternoon. Northwestern kickoffs consistently sailed out of the end zone, while they would begin their drives outside of the 30-yard line. Scott Sollman, due to poor decisions on fielding punts and break downs in blocking, ended up with negative three yards in returns. Meanwhile, Northwestern's Musso averaged 11 yards per punt return. "Special teams was a key factor, and it was critical to us going in," said



Aaron Skalicky

WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED. Paul Grasmanis congratulates Kory Minor on his stop. The suspect Irish defense came up big, giving the offense the ball numerous times, but they could not stop the 'Cats on Northwestern's last possession.



Aaron Skalicky

play for 15 more. Three plays later, Kinder rolled over the goal line for a two-yard score.

Due to Kopka's earlier miss, the Irish were still down 17-15. A two-point conversion to tie the game seemed to be Holtz's only option. The Notre Dame faithful held their breath as Powlus went under center. After a quick sigh of relief over a successful center-quarterback exchange, the crowd gasped in horror. Tripping over his center's feet, Powlus fell to the ground and lofted the ball incomplete. The play, which was going to Mayes, never had a chance.

The Irish were not finished yet, however. With over five minutes left in the game, the defense came

up big for the team, forcing Northwestern to punt after only three plays, and giving the offense the ball at their own 36. But the offense seemed to have nothing left. After three plays, the Irish faced fourth and two. Holtz rolled the dice and kept his offense on the field. But a sweep



Stan Evans

Barnett. The only bright spot for the Irish special teams unit was the punting of freshman Hunter Smith, who averaged 49.3 yards on his eight punts.

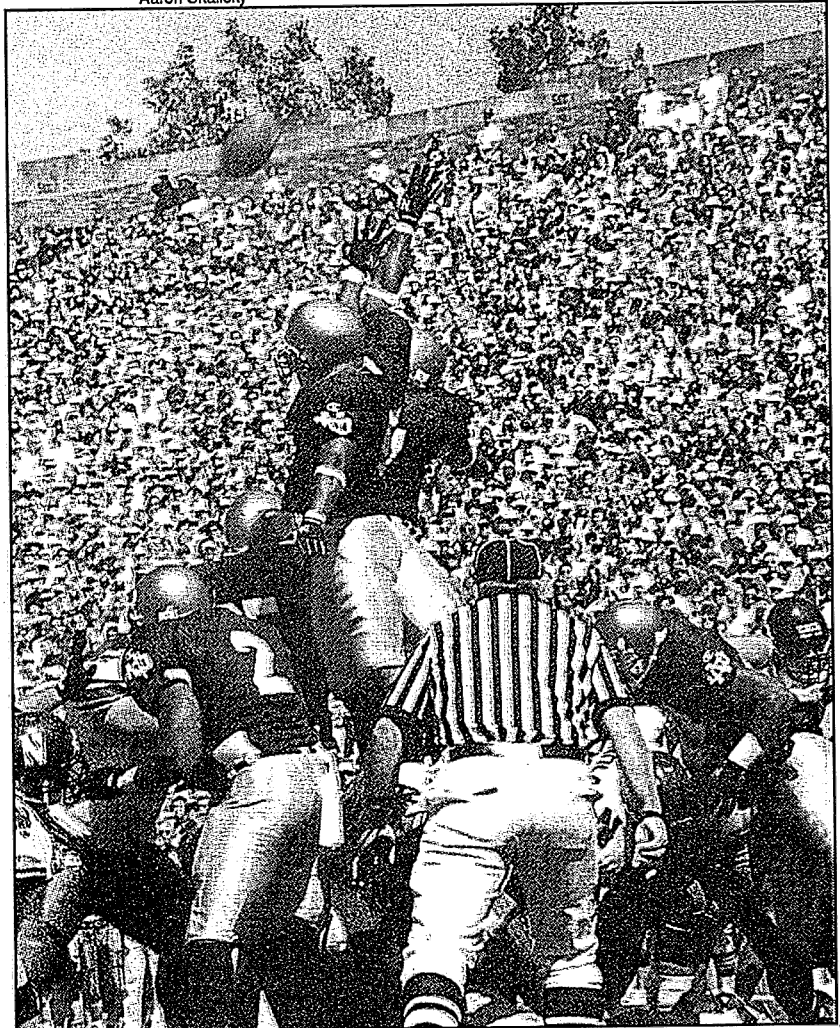
Holtz's woes continued in the second half. After the offense went three and out to open the half, the defense seemed to stay on the sidelines. The Wildcats went 55 yards in three plays, topped off by Bates' 26-yard touchdown reception, which gave Northwestern a 17-9 lead.

The Irish offense continued to struggle. Another fumble, this one by Farmer, stopped the Irish on the second play of their drive. On the ensuing possession, the Irish started to move the ball behind Edwards. But an incomplete pass and a fumbled snap stymied the offense again.

"The turnovers hurt us. The team that makes the fewest mistakes and the fewest turnovers usually wins," Holtz said later.

In the fourth quarter, the Notre Dame defense came to life. After another Irish punt, the Wildcats started at their own 26. A holding penalty drove them back further before Autry was stopped for no gain. On third down the defense came up with their biggest play of the afternoon: Paul Grasmanis brought down Schnur for the only Irish sack of the day, igniting Notre Dame Stadium and filling heads with thoughts of another miracle comeback. Backed up to their own six-yard line, the Wildcats were forced to punt out of their end zone.

Powlus and the offense played off the crowd's energy on the ensuing drive. The junior quarterback dumped off a pass to Edwards, who ran up the right side for 14 yards, then optioned to Farmer on the next



UPS. Emmett Mosley and Brian Magee get up high, but not high enough to block a Wildcat field goal attempt.

Aaron Skalicky



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Northwestern	7	3	7	0	17
Notre Dame	0	9	0	6	15

1st Quarter

NW: Beazley 6 pass from Schnur at 8:45 (Valenzisi PAT)

2nd Quarter

ND: Kopka 35 FG at 11:12

NW: Valenzisi 37 FG at 7:05

ND: Farmer 5 run at 2:35 (PAT failed)

3rd Quarter

NW: Bates 26 pass from Schnur at 12:02 (Valenzisi PAT)

4th Quarter

ND: Kinder 2 run at 6:16 (run failed)

Team Statistics

	ND	NW
First Downs.....	20	14
Rushing.....	10	6
Passing.....	9	8
Net Yards Rushing.....	196	165
Net Yards Passing.....	175	166
Total Net Yards.....	371	331
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	5.1	4.9
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-2	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	1-6	8-64
Punts-Averages.....	7-44.6	9-36.6
3rd Down Conversions.....	3-13	6-18
Possession Time.....	31:43	28:17

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Kinder 12-68, Edwards 10-49, Farmer 16-35, Powlus 6-(-24) NW- D. Autry 33-160, A. Autry 1-5, Harl 1-4, Schnur 4-(-4)

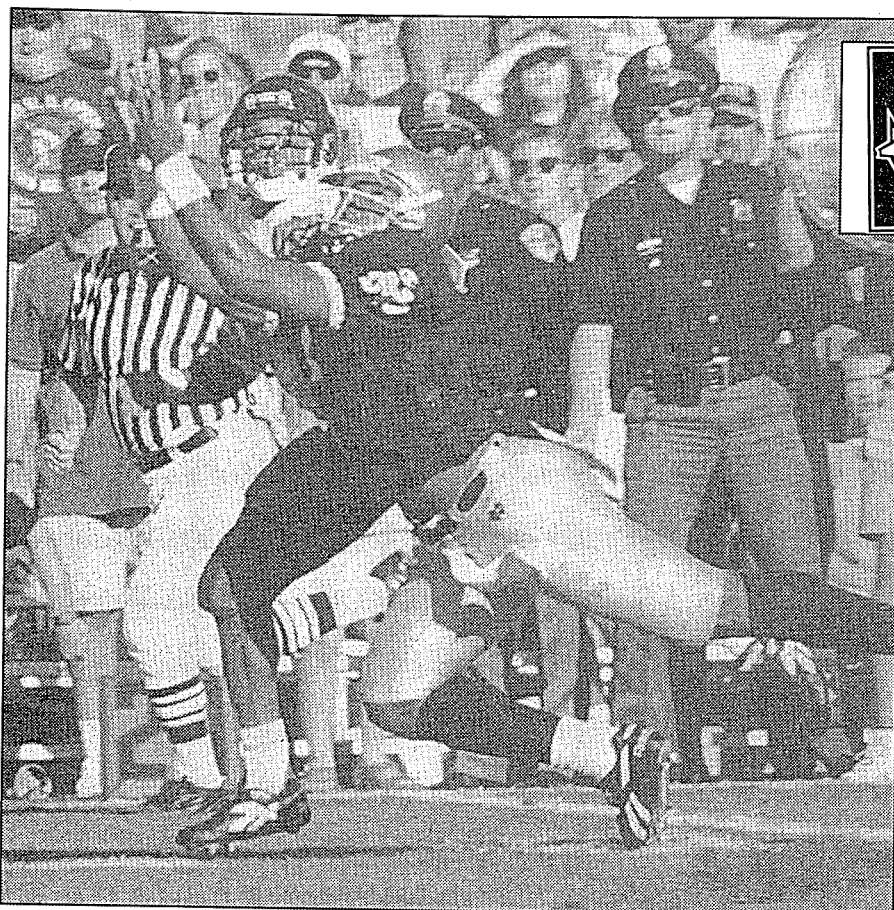
Passing: ND- Powlus 26-17-0-0
NW- Schnur 26-14-2-0

Receiving: ND-Mayes 8-94, Edwards 4-37, Mosley 1-26, Chryplewicz 1-13, Farmer 1-6, Wallace 1-5 NW- Bates 4-58, Musso 2-42, Beazley 2-28, Harl 2-25, Autry 2-8, Graham 1-3, Drexler 1-2

Leading Tacklers: ND- Cobbins 9, Magee 7, Bennett 7, Moore 5, Wynn 5, Rossum 4, Wooden 4, Grasmanis 4 NW- Fitzgerald 11, Martin 9, Collier 9, Ismaeli 7, Ray 7, Scharf 7, Bennett 6

Sacks: ND- Grasmanis 1 NW- Ismaeli 1, Dailey 1, Curry 1, Rice 1

Aaron Skalicky



NOT QUITE. Derrick Mayes lays out for a Ron Powlus pass but cannot quite reel it in. Mayes had a strong showing despite the loss.

to Edwards was stuffed by a pack of Wildcats, and the offense left the field quietly.

"A punt would have been logical with two timeouts left, but hindsight's 20/20," Holtz remarked.

With nearly four minutes left, the Irish now had to shut down the Wildcat offense again. But Schnur and Autry stepped up to the challenge, refusing to let the game slip away. Twice the defense forced a third down and twice Northwestern came up with another first down. As time wound down and Notre Dame depleted their supply of timeouts, it became apparent that there would be no miracle to rescue the Irish this time.

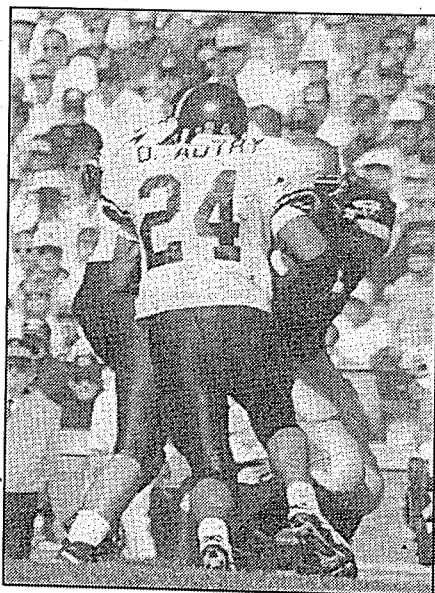
"You don't ever think about losing here," said Holtz later. "We all hurt at the present time, it's very disappointing".

But if the bottoming out of Notre Dame's program looked to be the big story in the wake of the upset, it changed during the course of the year. To the Wildcats, what transpired was not a miracle, it was only the beginning of a year in which they would consistently astonish the nation. Northwestern would end their regular season 10-1 with a Rose Bowl bid.

But it all started with the Irish, who were

caught off guard by the 'Cats. "I told the players when we boarded the bus that I didn't want to be carried off the field when we won," remarked a jubilant Barnett. "I wanted them to act like we had done this before." □

Aaron Skalicky



FIELD DAY. Northwestern running back Darnell Autry threw his helmet in the ring for the Helsen Trophy with his 160-yard rushing performance.

The Road Back

Notre Dame survived a scare from a fierce Boilermaker squad, squeaking out a 35-28 win



Eric Parades

BY JAKE SCHALLER

SEPTEMBER 9, 1995 — WEST LAFAYETTE, IN

Notre Dame football has always had a flair for late-game heroics. Irish teams are defined by their last-minute comebacks and nail-biting wins. But this year's edition of the Irish might love them too much. Why else would Notre Dame let the Purdue Boilermakers back into their second-week showdown, making a last-minute defensive stand necessary? And nearly making CPR necessary on the shocked Irish faithful who traveled to Purdue's Ross-Ade Stadium.

With a mere three minutes to play in the third quarter, the Irish struck what looked like a devastating blow. On second and six from his own 49-yard line, Ron Powlus dropped back and faked a reverse to Derrick Mayes, a play they had run earlier. While Purdue defenders keyed in on Mayes, flanker Emmett Mosley slipped behind the safeties. Powlus then lofted a 51-yard bomb to the wide-open Mosley who gathered the ball and continued into the end zone.

"Basically, we knew they were keying in on Derrick so we ran the fake reverse," said Mosley. "The safety came up and tried to fill quickly and we got him coming up. The line gave Ron plenty of time."

After trading punts, Purdue took a stab at the Notre Dame lead with a six-play, 80-yard drive that tailback Ed Watson punctuated with a 13-yard touchdown

run right through the middle of the Irish defense. The drive was aided by a 10-yard pass interference penalty against cornerback Allen Rossum and a 15-yard roughing the passer penalty called against linebacker Kory Minor.

With the offense churning, Irish fans were expecting a long, run-oriented drive that would milk some time off the clock and end any Wildcat-like upset thoughts that the Boilermakers might be entertaining. But what happened bordered on disaster.

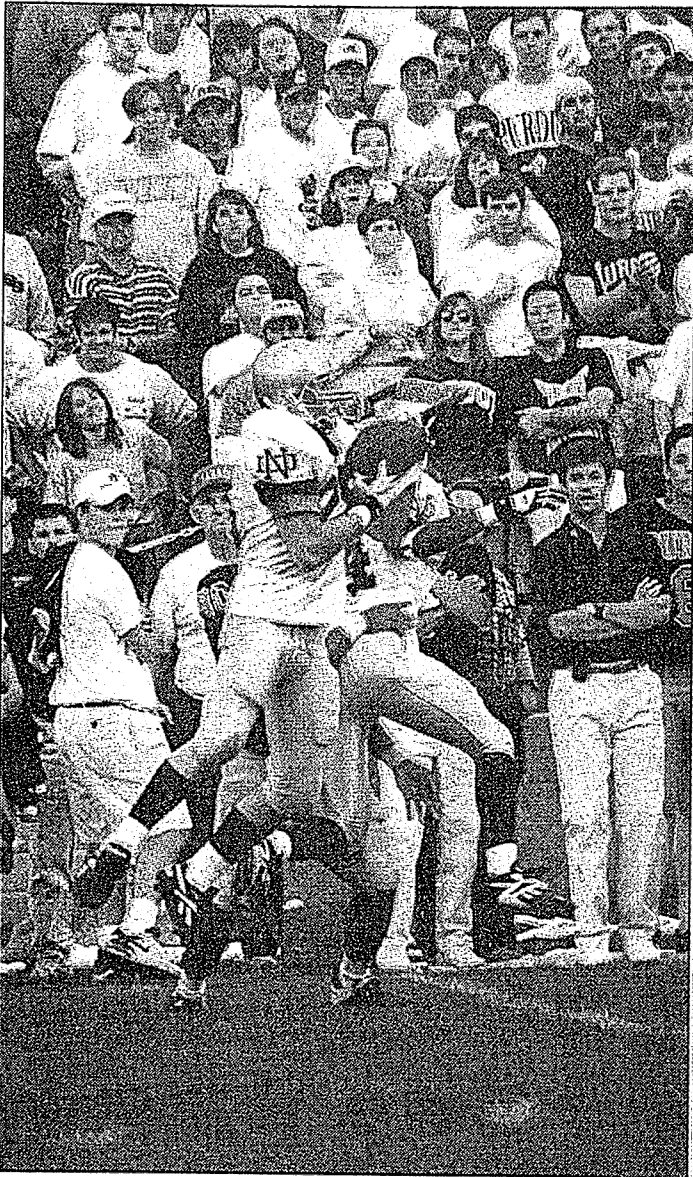
Three plays into their drive, on third and six, Powlus audibled out of a sprint draw play and tried to hit Mayes on a post pattern. Northwestern safety Derrick Brown broke on the ball, however, getting there a step before Mayes. "If [the ball] had been there one one-hundredth of a second earlier, it would have been a touchdown," Powlus said. It wasn't, and Brown capitalized.

"We had worked on that particular play in practice so we were looking for it all the way," Brown said. "It happened just like it was supposed to. I stepped in front and I was in the end zone even before I got to the ball."

Fifty-four yards and a two-point conversion later, the Irish found themselves in another dogfight, tied at 28 with nine and a half minutes to play.

The next play from scrimmage was absolutely critical. After the loss to Northwestern, the team's confidence was obviously shaken. Now, after blow-

• **SEE YA'!** Emmett Mosley looks back at Purdue defensive back Derrick Brown after reeling in a 51-yard bomb from Ron Powlus off a fake reverse. The Irish totalled 252 yards through the air.



Aaron Skalicky

MY ROCK! Irish defensive back Mark Monahan skies to pick off a Rick Trefzger pass. The late interception gave the ball back to the Irish with 7:03 remaining.

ing a 15-point fourth quarter lead against Purdue, its confidence bordered on shattered.

But it didn't show. "At that point we just came back and answered," said Mosely.

After Robert Farmer took a short Purdue kick 26 yards to the Irish 48, Powlus entered the huddle and asked for some help. "I told the guys in the huddle, 'OK, I made it interesting,'" the junior said. "Then I said, 'Let's make a big play.'"

Tailback Randy Kinder came through for Powlus and the Irish. Kinder took a pitch to the right side, stretched it out, used a superb block from Marc Edwards, cut back and then raced 52 yards for a much-needed Irish touchdown. "Marc got his guy down, I cut back, and it was just open field," Kinder said.

THAT'S THE BALLGAME. The Irish defense exults after Ivory Covington and Bert Berry tackle tailback Ed Watson at the 5-yard line on fourth down to preserve the victory.

"We're sort of like the O.J. jury. We've been sequestered and everybody on the outside has their own opinions and voices them."

— Lou Holtz

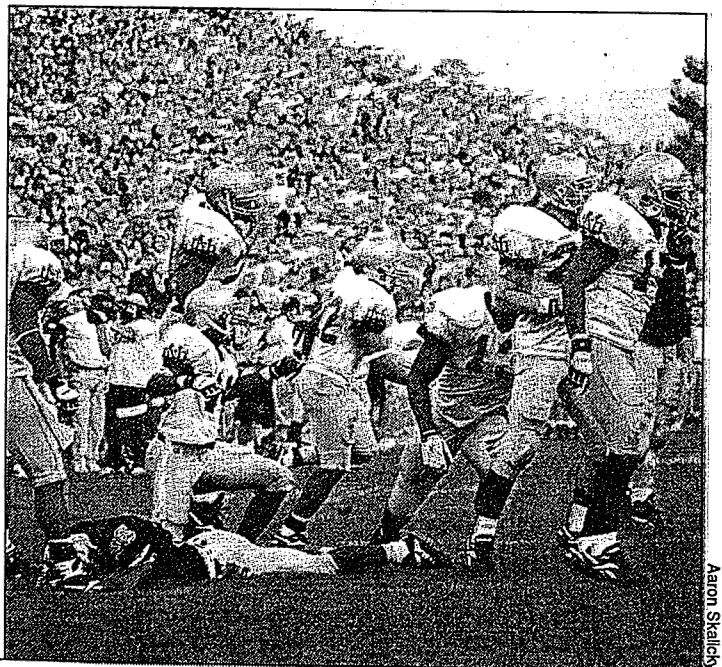
It was a relief for Powlus, whose previous miscue had knotted the game. "Kinder's touchdown was huge," he said. "I ran up to him afterwards and said, 'Thank you.'"

The whole team should have said "thank you." Kinder had a game-high 142 yards on the ground.

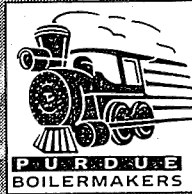
Despite these Irish efforts, Purdue just wouldn't lay down. After a Mark Monahan interception and a 45-yard drive, the Irish put Kevin Kopka in position to put the game away with a 41-yard field goal. But that would have been the easy way out. Kopka missed it, and Purdue had one more chance. "I really, truly thought he would make it," Holtz said after the game.

Taking over at their own 23, Rick Trefzger's passing and Watson's running brought the Boilers to the Notre Dame 47. That's when the A-Train took over. Mike Alstott, Purdue's Heisman Trophy candidate fullback, rambled 34 yards to the Notre Dame 13. It would be the last run of his impressive 118-yard performance. With first down on the Irish 13, Purdue Head Coach Jim Colletto called for four straight passes. The first three were incomplete, and Bert Berry and Ivory Covington stopped Watson three yards short of the first down on the fourth attempt.

Despite giving up 478 yards to the Boilers and almost giving them the game, the Irish were glad to leave with a win. The win also began to answer the questions of critics. "Our defensive coordina-



Aaron Skalicky



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Notre Dame	0	14	14	7	35
Purdue	7	3	3	15	28

1st Quarter

PUR: Rogers 42 run at 3:59 (Bobivk PAT)

2nd Quarter

ND: Kinder 30 pass from Powlus at 9:58 (Kopka PAT)

ND: Mayes 12 pass from Powlus at 4:22 (Kopka PAT)

PUR: Bobich 25 FG at 0:06

3rd Quarter

ND: Sollman 15 pass from Powlus at 11:30 (Kopka PAT)

PUR: Bobich 21 FG at 5:02

ND: Mosley 51 pass from Powlus at 3:12 (Kopka PAT)

4th Quarter

PUR: Watson 13 run at 11:31 (Bobich PAT)

PUR: Brown D 54 interception return at 9:29 (Trefzger pass)

ND: Kinder 52 run at 9:12 (Kopka PAT)

Team Statistics

	ND	PUR
First Downs.....	26	27
Rushing.....	14	14
Passing.....	11	11
Net Yards Rushing.....	250	275
Net Yards Passing.....	252	203
Total Net Yards.....	502	478
Avg Yds Gained Per Play...	7.4	6.1
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards.....	6-64	5-51
Punts-Averages.....	1-21	3-36.7
3rd Down Conversions.....	5-12	6-13
Possession Time.....	28:32	31:28

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Kinder 14-142, Denson 7-69, Edwards 8-30, Farmer 3-5, Mayes 1-5, PUR- Alstott 21-115, Rogers 5-68, Watson 10-60, Trefzger 5-15

Passing: ND- Powlus 25-17-252-4-2 PUR- Trefzger 27-15-181-0-2, Reeves 8-3-22-0-1

Receiving: ND- Mayes 7-85, Kinder 2-38, Mosley 2-61, Farmer 1-17, Edwards 1-17, Sollman 1-15 PUR- Alford 7-91, Alstott 4-45, Watson 2-20, Allen 2-26, I. Jones 1-12, Stephens 1-6, Olivadotti 1-3

Leading Tacklers: ND- Cobbins 15, Berry 8, Moore 8, Howard 7, Wynn 6, Magee 6, Rossum 6 PUR- Burroughs 13, Brown 10, Brush 8, Goward 7, O'Connor 6

Sacks: ND- Grasmanis 1 PUR- Williams 1

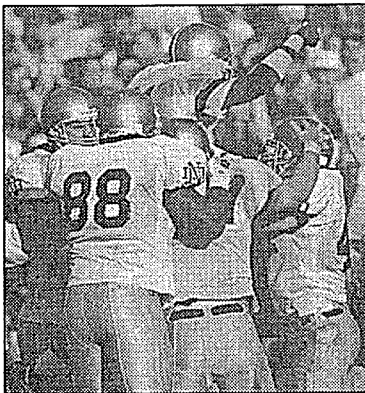
DERAILING THE A-TRAIN. You can't do it very often. Heisman Trophy candidate Matt Alstott racked up 118 yards on 21 carries.

tor Bob Davie said it best," said Holtz. "We're sort of like the O.J. jury. We've been sequestered and everybody on the outside has their own opinions and voices them. But the only thing that matters is the people in the room. The only thing that matters to us is our people in the room."

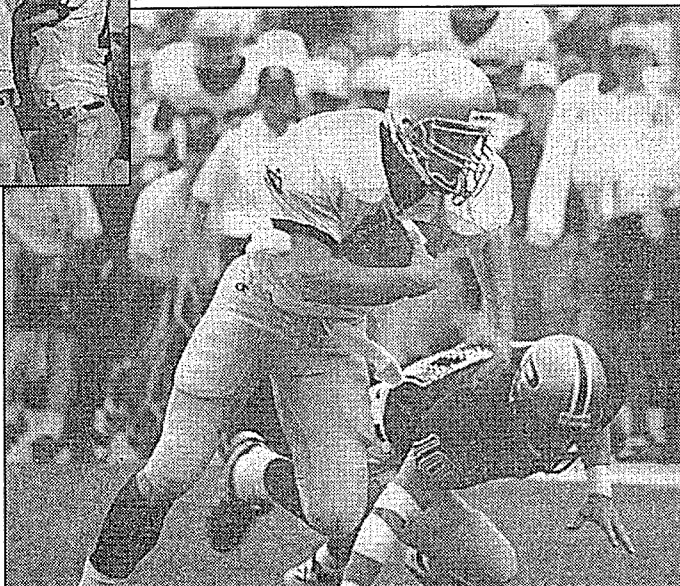
"To get this win was huge," Powlus added after the game. "We needed a win and we needed it now. An 0-2 start would have really hurt us." Powlus' performance,

though tainted by the interception, was impressive. He put up great numbers (17-25, 252 yards and four touchdowns), and he also moved the ball around, hitting Scott Sollman, Kinder, Mayes and Mosely for his record-tying four touchdown strikes.

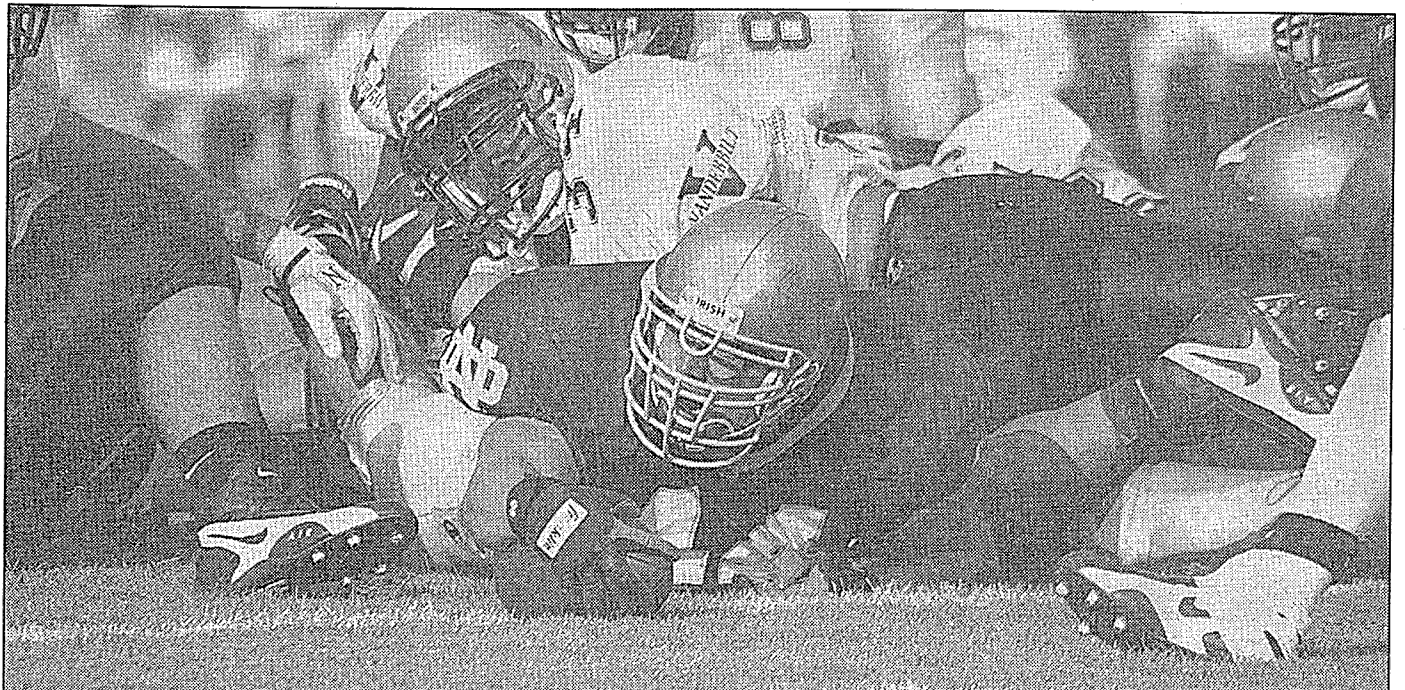
And so the Irish won another pull-your-hair-out-victory. Though it was not as aesthetically pleasing as most Irish fans would have liked, it was at least a step in the right direction. With nine games left against good competition, a Tier One bowl game was still a possibility. But it was obvious the Irish could not take anyone lightly, and this win was only one stop on the road back. □



HEADED FOR PAYDIRT. Junior receiver Scott Sollman dismisses Purdue's Lee Brush and scampers into the end zone for his first career touchdown.

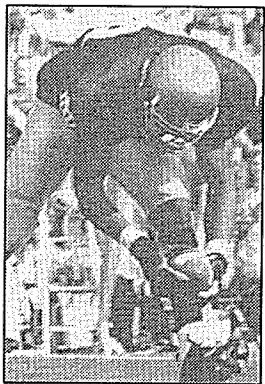


WIN ONE FOR THE



SKIPPER

With Lou Holtz watching from home, Bob Davie led the Irish to a 41-0 rout of Vandy



I'M IN! Marc Edwards looks for the ref's signal after burrowing through the Commodore defense for a score. Edwards had two touchdowns on the game.

FUMBLE RECOVERY + TOUCHDOWN= BIG PLAY. Jarvis Edison puts this equation to use, scooping up a fumble caused by Kurt Belisle in the second quarter.

BY MIKE McALLISTER

SEPTEMBER 16, 1995 — NOTRE DAME, IN

First the Northwestern loss, and now this? The Irish faithful were beginning to think the season was scripted by Boston College fans. After the opening day disaster and the near flop against Purdue, Notre Dame was shaken by the news that their tenth-year coach, the man to whom part of an overture and an entire cheer is devoted, was undergoing surgery and would miss three to four weeks. In 33 years as a college coach, Lou Holtz had never missed a practice, let alone a game. But now, he would have to undergo emergency surgery to remove a disc that was bulging against his spinal cord.

The team that had just given Holtz his 200th career win now lay in the hands of defensive coordinator Bob Davie. While many speculated that Holtz's absence would thoroughly decimate an already shaken team, Davie used it as a rallying point on which to turn the season.

"It's a big challenge to win a game without Lou

Holtz," Davie said at the Friday night pep rally. "But we're not going to win without Lou Holtz, we're going to win for Lou Holtz." And with those words and a letter from Holtz that was read to the team before the game, the Irish took the field and acted out a modern day "Win one for the Gipper" scenario.

But while the media and fans entered the game thinking of Holtz as the story, the Irish turned in their best performance of the season to date to make themselves the story. Behind a potent offense, a defense that held the Commodores to less than 100 yards, and a big-play special teams unit, Notre Dame cruised to a 41-0 victory and began a new season.

The Irish offense began the game with a statement, rushing Randy Kinder five times for 29 yards on the game's first five plays. Ron Powlus then silenced critics of his "tunnel vision" by throwing to tight end Pete Chryplewicz for 19 yards. Kinder ended the drive with a 6-yard score.

After giving up a combined 45 points in the previous two games, the Irish defense played with an attitude and intensity not seen under the Dome in quite some time. They shut down the Vanderbilt

attack which just a week earlier had scored 25 points on Alabama. Led by Shawn Wooden, the secondary looked much improved, holding Commodore quarterbacks to only three completions for 38 yards.

Meanwhile, the defensive line simply outmuscled Vandy. "They were just too physical on defense," Vanderbilt Head Coach Rod Dowhower said. With the exception of some missed sacks, they played the best they had all season.

The second quarter provided the fireworks that Irish fans had been waiting for. An inspired Notre Dame squad notched a pair of touchdowns and a pair of field goals while keeping the Commodore offense from advancing inside the Irish 31-yard line.

Then a long-awaited special teams spark helped put the game away early. After a five-yard Autry Denson touchdown scamper, the Irish kicked off to Vandy's sophomore returner Corey Chavous. At the 20-yard line, Irish linebacker Kurt Belisle jarred the ball loose, and sophomore Jarvis Edison scooped it up at the 8-yard line and sped in for the score. Another field goal by Kopka put the Irish up 27-0 at the half.

More of the same awaited the Commodores in the second half. The Irish defense repeatedly turned Vandy away. When they

but the Irish execution did not seem as sharp. "We got a little sloppy in the second half," Davie said later.

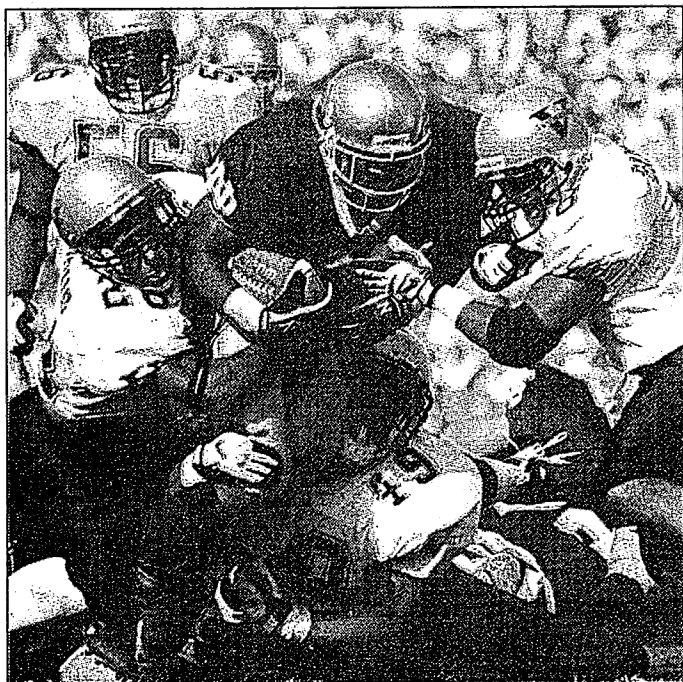
The fourth quarter was a mere formality. Senior safety Brian Magee intercepted a pass and returned it to the Vandy 18-yard line, setting up another Edwards touchdown to cap the scoring. "In Marc's two touchdowns, he showed tremendous effort," Powlus said. "He's a fighter."

The game left Irish fans to ponder which Irish team would show up the next week. But for now, they were happy. Kevin Kopka hit all five of his extra points and was 2 for 3 on field goals. Powlus not only completed 13 of 18 for 200 yards and no interceptions, but he also spread the ball around, hitting six different receivers. And although the rushing attack received a blow with Robert Farmer's knee injury, they showed their depth, with Kinder racing for 110 yards and a touchdown.

And then there was Davie, who received rave reviews for his first head coaching job. The interim coach had successfully converted three fourth down attempts as well as opting for a field goal to get points on the board early in the game. After he received the now traditional Gatorade dousing and

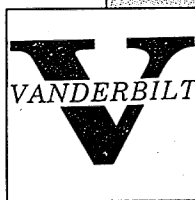
was carried off the field, it was certain that he had filled the unfillable shoes of Holtz. "This has been an amazing week and day," Davie said. "To say I'm humbled by this is to make an understatement." The interim head coach tried to keep the victory in perspective. "Hopefully this football team is on track," he said. "But I'm still very realistic about where we are. We are just so young and so thin, particularly on defense."

The emotion of the game underscored a truly different Irish team. Overcoming the loss of their head coach, the Irish turned in their best performance of the season to date and were finally back on the right track. □



IT TAKES A DEFENSE OF MILLIONS... Tailback Autry Denson smashes his way through the Vandy defense. Denson rushed for 38 yards and one score.

eventually reached the Irish 27-yard line, Paul Grasmanis recovered a Damian Allen fumble. Marc Edwards bowled his way to a touchdown to push the Irish lead to 34-0,



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Vanderbilt	0	0	0	0	0
Notre Dame	7	20	7	7	41

1st Quarter

ND: Kinder 6 run at 7:51 (Kopka PAT)

2nd Quarter

ND: Kopka 38 FG at 14:56

ND: Denson 5 run at 6:39 (Kopka PAT)

ND: Edison 8 fumble recovery at 6:27 (Kopka PAT)

ND: Kopka 22 FG at 00:42

3rd Quarter

ND: Edwards 1 run at 2:35 (Kopka PAT)

4th Quarter

ND: Edwards 1 run at 10:26 (Kopka PAT)

Team Statistics

	ND	VA
First Downs.....	28	7
Rushing.....	18	4
Passing.....	9	2
Net Yards Rushing.....	293	56
Net Yards Passing.....	200	38
Total Net Yards.....	493	94
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	5.9	2.1
Fumbles-Lost.....	5-1	4-3
Penalties-Yards.....	5-39	2-21
Punts-Averages.....	2-20	5-48
3rd Down Conversions.....	6-14	3-11
Possession Time.....	39:29	20:31

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Kinder 17-110, Farmer 14-58, Denson 12-38, Thorne 2-34, Edwards 7-32, Stokes 4-14, Barry 2-11, Spencer 2-6, Powlus 5-(-5), Krug 1-(-5) VA- Johnson 13-38, Deese 4-6, Marinangel 1-6, Dunnavant 2-5, Gordon 1-2, Allen 9-(-1)

Passing: ND- Powlus 18-13-200-0-0, Krug 0-0-0-0-0 VA- Allen 12-3-38-0-0, Gordon 2-0-0-0-1

Receiving: ND- Mayes 3-56, Edwards 3-46, Wallace 2-41, Mosley 2-28, Chryplewicz 2-25, Kinder 1-4 VA- Simmons 1-24, Tomichek 1-10, Deese 1-4

Leading Tacklers: ND- Berry 8, Tatum 5, Cobbins 5 VA- Jefcoat 12, Duncan 10, Hall 9, Chavous 8, Williams 8, Manley 8

Sacks: ND- McLaughlin 1, Smith 1, Wynn .5, Tatum .5 VA- Hall 1

Filling BIG Shoes

*Defensive Coordinator
Bob Davie served
admirably as interim
head coach while Lou
Holtz recovered from
spinal cord surgery*



BIG TIME. Davie chats with NBC's John Dockery after leading the Irish to a victory over Boston College.

BY BRIDGET CASEY

The announcement that Lou Holtz was temporarily out of commission struck fear into the hearts of even the most devoted Notre Dame fans, but interim head coach and defensive coordinator Bob Davie quickly dispelled any doubts with a convincing win over Vanderbilt less than a week later.

Perhaps the most resounding endorsement of Davie's temporary status, though, came from the student body at the beginning of the fourth quarter of that game. During the traditional rendition of the "1812 Overture," sprinkled in with the regular cheers for Lou, the word 'Bob' resounded from the block of blue shirts in the corner of the stadium. These cheers for Davie were a vote of confidence for a man who, while viewed as crucial to the success of the Irish, is not yet a well-known figure on campus.

If anything is evident about the way Davie approaches his coaching position, it is that hard work is the key to success in football. His no-nonsense attitude is personified in his sparse JACC office, which is filled with videotapes of game footage and blackboards covered with defensive plays.

Jumping into Holtz's shoes would be an overwhelming task for anyone, but Davie took it in stride.

"The hardest thing about taking over on the field for Coach Holtz was the organization," says Davie. "I was experienced in working with the defense, but such things as giving the pre-game talk and facing the team at half-time were added pressures. I wasn't used to being the central focus, and I really had to concentrate on gathering my thoughts and communicating the right point at exactly the right time."

The advice given to him by Lou Holtz prior to his debut? "Coach Holtz told me to be myself. That piece of advice goes for everything, though, not just coaching football. The bottom line is that you are what you are, and you shouldn't try to be bigger than that."

In Davie's second season with the Irish, the defense has made incredible strides. The games against Texas, Washington and even Army exhibited the team's tenacity in adverse situations. "There is a great attitude on the team this year and a sense of comradery that is crucial to winning tough games," says Davie. "We are not a dominant defense and we don't have a lot of



DEE-FENSE! Davie gives his defense a hand during the win over Washington. With Lou Holtz in the press box, Davie had increased responsibility.

depth on the squad, but we always say, 'Find a way to win,' and that has carried us through a lot of tough games."

With an undefeated record in his brief tenure as the head coach of Notre Dame, it is probable that other teams and schools will now look to him to fill vacated posi-

• "The hardest thing about taking over for Coach Holtz was the organization ... I wasn't used to being the central focus." — Bob Davie

tions. According to Davie, however, there is a lot of work yet to be done at Notre Dame. "I just want to see us become really good," he says. "When I first got here it was hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are making some definite progress, and I would hate to leave here without becoming a really great football team."

The cheering students may have recognized Davie's talents as a coach during his short stint in the golden spotlight. Davie clearly has a vision for the Irish defense and the football team as a whole, and his laid-back approach and respect for the players has already had a positive impact.

And while for now the traditional "Lou" cheer will continue, Davie's efforts and enthusiasm will go unnoticed. □

Aaron Skalicky

How The West Was Won

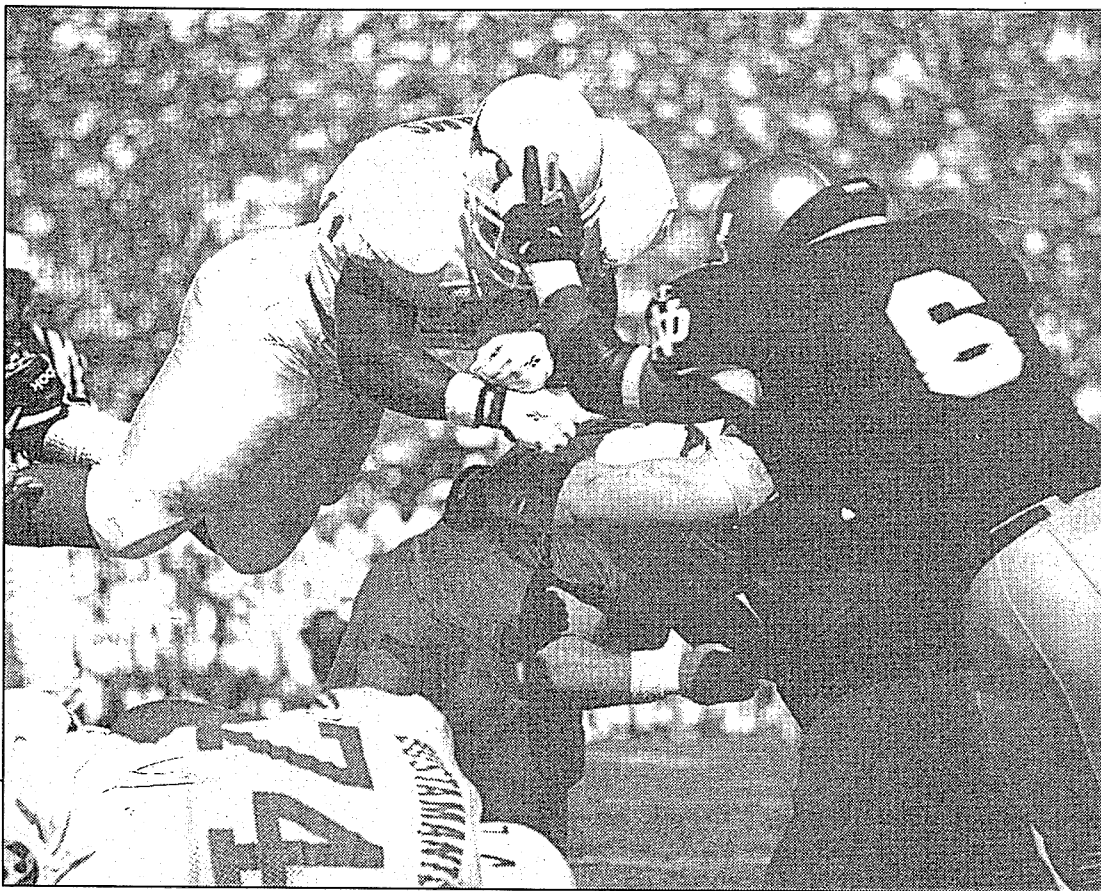


TEXAS

Aaron Skellie/ky

TEXAS TWO-STEP. Tailback Autry Denson dances through the Longhorn defense for some of his 61 yards. The Irish piled up 511 yards of offense against Texas.

*The Irish branded an **ND** on the collective hide of the Longhorns with a 55-27 win that spurred Notre Dame's season*



Aaron Skellicky

USING HIS HEAD. Linebacker Lyron Cobbins pushes Ricky Williams away and attempts to pursue the play.

touchdown connection of the day, the stage was set for Dawson to break the PAT record. But "Old Faithful's" kick was blocked then scooped up by cornerback Allan Rossum, who sprinted 98 yards, giving the Irish an extra two points. "Even though I didn't break [the record], it is still an honor sharing the record," Dawson said. "What's more important is on that play Notre Dame ended up getting two points." The score remained 19-13 Irish at the half.

The Longhorns

BY JOSHUA M. DICKINSON

SEPT. 23, 1995 — NOTRE DAME, IN

On this day, the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team entered Notre Dame Stadium to take their first exam of the year. This exam was preceded by three quizzes. The first was against the Northwestern Wildcats. The Irish assumed, as usual, that this first quiz would be easy. They were wrong, and they failed miserably. The second quiz was the Purdue Boilermakers. Although this didn't look to be very difficult, the Irish came unprepared and barely escaped with a passing grade. The third and final quiz was the simplest yet. This time the Irish aced it, destroying the Vanderbilt Commodores. Their first exam, however, pitted the Irish against 13th-ranked Texas. The Longhorns loomed as a stiff test, but one that could propel the number 21 Irish toward the head of their class.

The game opened with a fired up Notre Dame defense stuffing Texas and forcing a punt. As a result, the Irish received good field position and took advantage of it. Led by running back Randy Kinder, Notre Dame marched down to the Texas 9-yard line before stalling. Kevin Kopka knocked in a 27-yard field goal to give the Irish a 3-0 lead

and begin an onslaught of points.

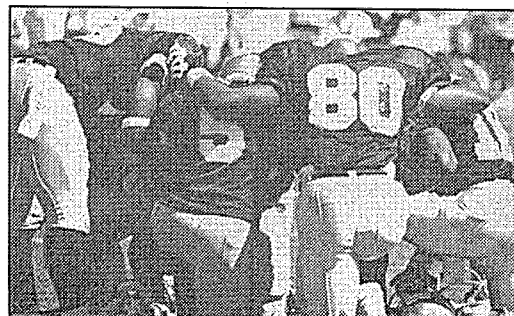
Again, Texas failed to move the ball, as Renaldo Wynn sacked quarterback James Brown to end the drive. On the ensuing punt, not only did Emmett Mosley relieve fans by catching the ball, he wowed them with an electrifying 64-yard punt return for a touchdown. Mosley juke right and then jetted down the right sideline, outlegging Longhorns to the end zone.

The Longhorns refused to be lassoed so easily, however, as Brown grabbed the team's reigns and displayed his ability. Throwing on five of the next six plays, he marched his team down the field, moving the Longhorns to the Irish 1-yard line. There he hit tight end Pat Fitzgerald for the touchdown. Phil Dawson's 54th straight extra point brought Texas within three, and tied him for the all-time Texas record for consecutive PATs.

Not wanting to have the spotlight stolen, Derrick Mayes reeled in a touchdown pass, putting the Irish up 17-7. The reception was the 100th in Mayes' career, putting him in sixth place all time. Though Texas responded with another good drive, it ended up giving the Irish more momentum. After Brown hit Fitzgerald for their second

looked ready to take over the game in the beginning of the second half. Texas drove down the field with ease, and on a fourth down try from the 5-yard line, Brown hit a wide open Steve Bradley in the end zone. Dawson started a new streak with a successful point after, giving the Longhorns their first taste of the lead, 20-19. When Powlus fumbled the snap from center on the ensuing drive, Texas seemed to have the game in its hands.

But then the Irish secondary responded with a big play. LaRon Moore and Jarvis Edison both leapt for a Brown pass over the middle. The two converged on the ball simultaneously, creating a spectacular collision. Edison wound up injured, but Moore hung on to the ball. The critical turnover took the buck out of the Longhorns.



Stan Evans

Two plays later, Powlus launched a bomb to a double-covered Mayes, who made another trademark grab that left fans wondering how he did it. The play set up a 3-yard touchdown by Kinder, which gave the Irish the lead back after a two-point conversion. A Shawn Wooden interception and Kory Minor's second sack of the game helped the defense keep the Longhorns out of the end zone, and when the third period ended, the Irish had the ball and momentum. "Momentum wise, [the interceptions] hurt us more than anything else," Texas Coach John Mackovic said. "It gave Notre Dame a lift more than anything else and gave them something to feel good about."

To begin the final period, the Irish jumped on the backs of Kinder and Marc Edwards and put together their longest drive, ending with Edwards slamming into the end zone from two yards out. The drive put the Irish in command, 34-20, and gave Kinder his third straight 100-yard game.

The lead allowed the Notre Dame defense to settle in. After heavy pressure from the Irish, Brown coughed up the ball, and John McLaughlin recovered at the Texas 12-yard line. Three plays later, Powlus showed some fancy feet, scrambling before finding Edwards for a score. This strike vaulted Powlus to seventh on the all-time Notre Dame touchdown list, tied with Joe Montana.

With only 7:42 left, Brown, the "Godfather" of the Texas offense, worked his magic. He took the Longhorns 74 yards in a little over a minute, cutting the Irish lead to 41-27 with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Fitzgerald.

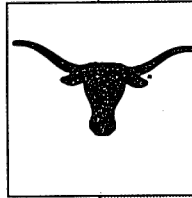
The Irish soon got the ball back and made fans feel a bit sentimental by reviving their smash-mouth ground game of old. It carried the Irish offense down the field, setting the stage for Edwards. From the 27, the bruising fullback went off tackle, broke through more than a handful of Texas defenders and remarkably kept his balance on the way to payday.

This was evidence that Edwards would be able to continue the Notre Dame fullback tradition. He had successfully replaced Ray Zellars who had replaced Jerome Bettis who had replaced Anthony Johnson. For his 116 yards and three touchdowns, Edwards was awarded the NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame Most Valuable Player Award. "We went out and played Notre Dame football," Edwards said of the game. "This is the way things need to be."

Rossum added insult to injury with a 29-yard pass return, giving the Irish a satisfying 55-27 win. "This was a huge win," Powlus said. "We can't afford losses."

Although the Irish gave up 422 yards overall, they were able to capitalize on five Texas turnovers and blow the game open in the fourth quarter. The game was filled with impressive numbers posted by the Irish. In addition to Edwards' performance and Kinder's 100-yard day, Derrick Mayes had 146 receiving yards.

Exam number one was thus passed with flying colors. But with three exams in the next four weeks in the form of Ohio State, Washington and USC, the Irish clearly had a lot of homework ahead of them. □



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Notre Dame	7	6	7	7	55
Texas	10	9	8	28	27

1st Quarter

ND: Kopka 27 FG at 8:16
 ND: Mosley 64 punt return at 6:01 (Kopka PAT)
 TX: Fitzgerald 1 pass from Brown at 4:22 (Dawson PAT)

2nd Quarter

ND: Mayes 11 pass from Powlus at 13:02 (Kopka PAT)
 TX: Fitzgerald 15 pass from Brown at 10:09 (Dawson PAT blocked)
 ND: Rossum 98 PAT return at 10:09

3rd Quarter

TX: Bradley 1 pass from Brown at 8:43 (Dawson PAT)
 ND: Kinder 3 run at 5:10 (Edwards run)

4th Quarter

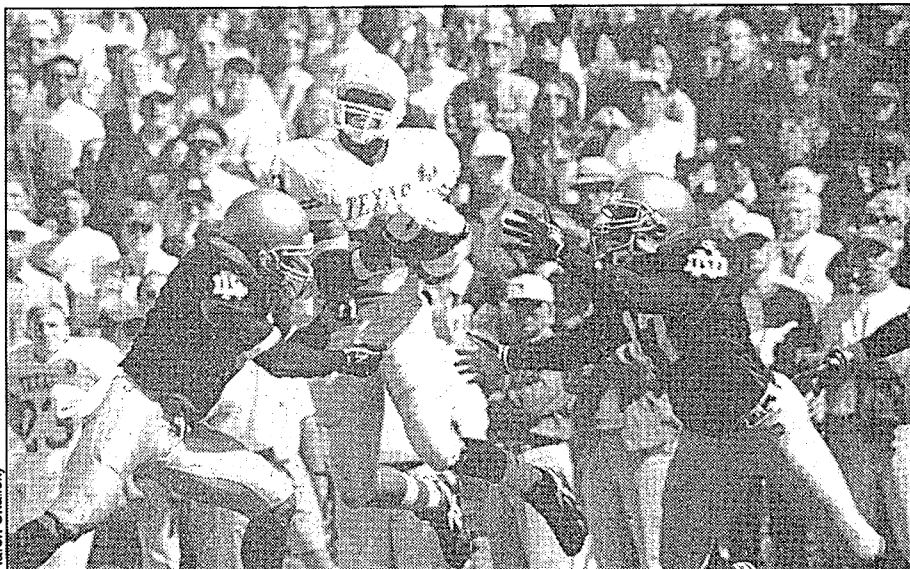
ND: Edwards 2 run at 9:38 (Kopka PAT)
 ND: Edwards 12 pass from Powlus at 7:48 (Kopka PAT)
 TX: Fitzgerald 19 pass from Brown at 6:26 (Dawson PAT)
 ND: Edwards 27 run at 1:50 (Kopka PAT)
 ND: Rossum 29 interception return at :39 (Kopka PAT)

Team Statistics

	ND	TX
First Downs.....	28	23
Rushing.....	14	6
Passing.....	12	14
Net Yards Rushing.....	238	87
Net Yards Passing.....	273	335
Total Net Yards.....	511	422
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	6.2	5.7
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards.....	10-85	8-60
Punts-Averages.....	4-37	4-34
3rd Down Conversions.....	10-16	6-16
Possession Time.....	33:47	26:13

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Kinder 29-129, Denson 10-61, Edwards 8-44 TX- Williams 14-72, Mitchell 9-67, Walton 1-(-3)
Passing: ND- Powlus 28-16-273-2-1 TX- Brown 33-19-326-4-2, Walton 4-1-9-0-1
Receiving: ND- Mayes 6-146, Edwards 6-72, Kinder 3-35 TX- Adams 5-141, McGarity 5-75, Fitzgerald 4-42
Leading Tacklers: ND- Minor 7, Moore 7, TX- Carter 12, Thomas 8, King 9
Sacks: ND- Minor 2, McLaughlin 1, Wynn 1, Grasmanis TX- King 1

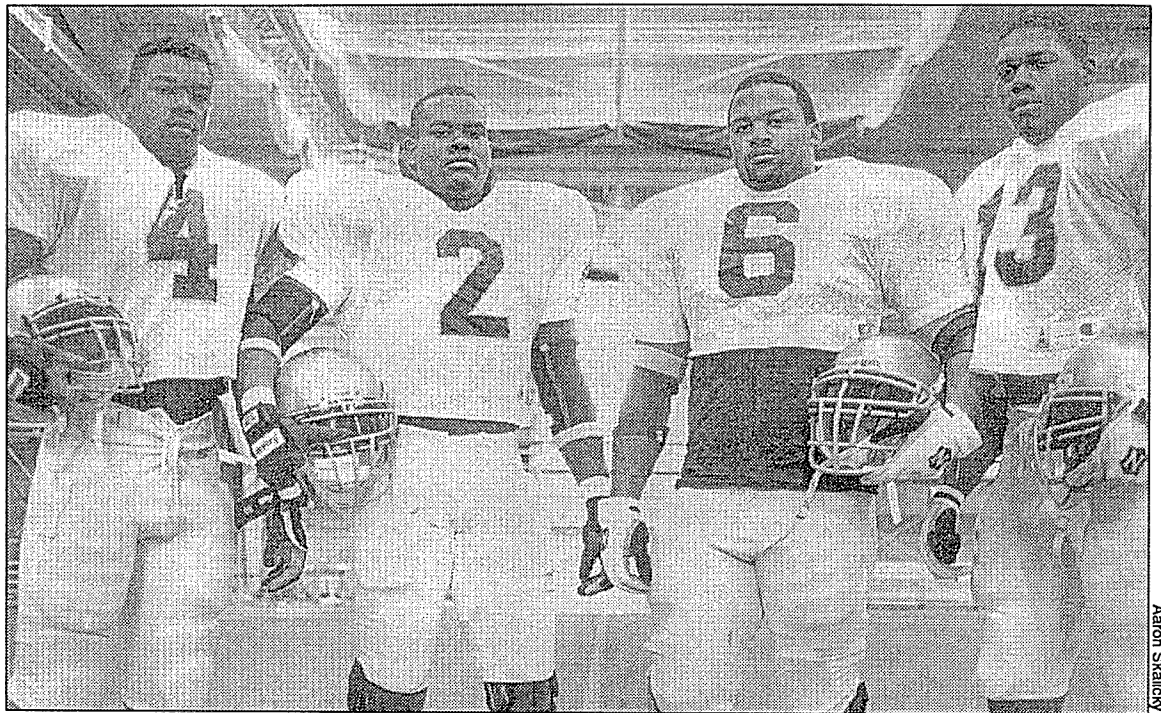


BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD HIT. LaRon Moore and Brian Magee prepare to make a Texas sandwich. The secondary helped to force five turnovers against the Longhorns.

Aaron Skalicky

HEADBANGERS

Notre Dame's linebackers made up a fearsome foursome that held the team together and made big plays



Aaron Skalkich

By T. RYAN KENNEDY

The third quarter had just ended. Notre Dame was making a mockery of its skeptics and pounding the daylights out of Air Force 37-7. One of ESPN's sideline cameras zoomed in on two of the four men bearing the largest burden of the five-game Irish win streak: Lyron Cobbins and Kinnon Tatum, who were grinning from ear to ear, and with good reason.

Seconds earlier, Cobbins had iced the game. Falcon quarterback Beau Morgan had moved to his left and prepared a pass. Cobbins had read the play and dropped back in front of the tight end. He grabbed the ball with the form of a receiver and barreled down the field like a fullback for 33 yards to the Air Force 4-yard line. It was his fifth pick in four games and it set up the final Irish touchdown by Marcus Thorne.

Meet Notre Dame's starting linebackers: number 4, freshman Kory Minor; number 13, junior Bertrand Berry; number 6, junior Lyron Cobbins; number 2, junior Kinnon Tatum.

They call themselves the "Headbangers," and with good reason. They play fearlessly, yet they ought to be feared. They are

stronger than many defensive linemen, and they can run with the fleetest of opponents. Just ask Beau Morgan. Then again, he wasn't the one who almost got his head taken off by Tatum. That was Delon Washington of Southern Cal.

At this juncture, there is no need for conjecture. The Headbangers are undoubtedly one of the best linebacking crews in the country, if not the best. They are the product of defensive coordinator Bob Davie, whose style consists of two elements: speed over size and the ability to make big plays.

"They've made some of the biggest plays of the entire team," says Davie.

Indeed, Tatum's play against Southern Cal turned the game around for Notre Dame, and you could even say it turned the season around. Well, almost.

"The turning point of the season was Ivory Covington's hit against Army," asserts Berry. "It was a crucial point. We were on the ropes. As a team and a unit, we carried that momentum into USC. We were full steam ahead against USC."

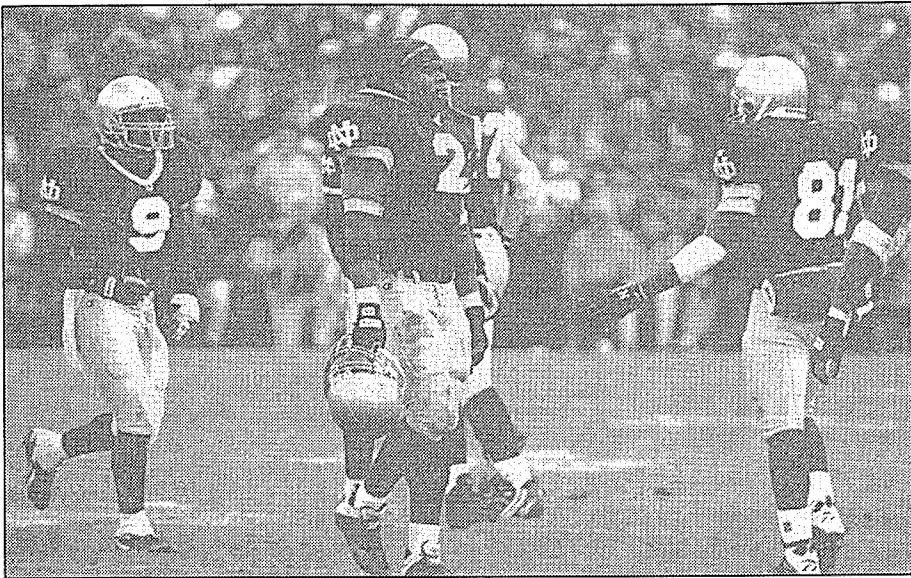
With Notre Dame ahead 6-0, Southern Cal had the ball on the Notre Dame 3-yard line and was threatening to take over. So far in the game, the Trojans had been moving

the ball without great difficulty — until all 6'0", 216 pounds of Kinnon Tatum delivered the hardest hit Notre Dame has seen in years. USC tailback Delon Washington had just collected the ball on the second-down hand-off up the middle. Then Tatum left his feet, flew over Southern Cal's fullback and derailed Washington, popping the ball. Washington fell to the ground as if he had been shot with a cannon, and Berry made the recovery.

"When you see a kid make a play like that, it's a credit to the whole defense," Davie says, trying to conceal his almost boyish jubilation at recalling the hit. "He went airborne. He was parallel to the ground, flat out, laid out. Plays like that don't just happen. That's a guy totally selling his body out."

Later in the same game, sack master Kory Minor led a blitzkrieg on quarterback Kyle Wachholtz, recording his first safety and making the most important play of his young Notre Dame career. The safety put the score at 23-10, but the damage was not yet complete, as Notre Dame would score on its ensuing possession. In a sense, a Minor sack had added up to 10 points.

Cobbins came away with two intercept-



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. Kinnon Tatum and the Notre Dame defense walk off the field after stopping the Boston College offense cold.

tions in the game, while Berry had smothered Wachholtz with pressure and forced him to throw when it was third and goal with seven seconds left in the half. Each of these plays had sent the Trojans reeling, and each of these plays had helped Ron Powlus and the offense rip off 38 points against a team that had not given up any more than 16 all year.

"Next year, we want to be the unit everybody looks upon," says Berry. "We want to go out and make big plays on defense, but also help the offense score points. And who's to say that the defense can't score points?"

The 6'1", 241-pound Cobbins has put together a one-man offense of his own. He finished the year with five interceptions (more than any player on the secondary), three fumble recoveries, one forced fumble and three pass break-ups. He broke the 100-tackle mark in the Navy game.

In comparison, Notre Dame's leading tackler last season was Brian Magee, with 81. Along with Berry, Cobbins was considered a candidate for the Butkus Award, which goes to the top linebacker in the nation.

"As a credit to Lyron, there was a point [last year] where he should have started more, although he did start against Air Force," asserts Davie. "What I found is that these guys have to pay their dues a bit. We'll have to address that with Kory Minor. We're going to make sure he works hard in the off season and pays his dues." The 6'2", 225-pound Minor finished the season first in sacks with six.

On the other side is the quiet, but ubiquitous, Bert Berry. The fact that he hails from Humble, Texas, might explain his modesty, but Berry may also have the most talent of the four. First of all, he runs a 4.35 in the 40. He also led the '94 team in sacks with six coming off the bench, and the one that got away from him was not his fault. Berry was the one who nearly had Michigan's Todd Collins in the pile-drive position when Collins managed to complete the pass that set up Michigan's winning field goal in 1994.

When defensive end Melvin Dansby injured his neck last spring, Davie had to maneuver his troops. He moved Berry from rush end to drop end, a switch that might make some players pout, others ineffective. But Berry chose to excel.

"Culver helped me out a lot, getting away from everybody," says Berry. "It was the most critical point for me, in terms of honing my skills and preparing mentally."

Of the number change from 60 to 13, Berry says it was merely psychological. "That's an attitude adjustment with the number change. It looks better, it gives a more athletic look. It changes the mindset a bit and brings some unity to our group because we all have low numbers."

"When I think of Bert Berry, I'm thinking totally unselfish," says Davie. "He's probably playing out of position and yet look at what he's doing."

Davie is a lot like a mad scientist — Dr. Frankenstein perhaps. He came to Notre Dame from Texas A&M two years ago, and quickly concocted this monster, a

linebacking machine that only gets better as time passes. In the nine years he coached at A&M, every one of his starting linebackers was drafted into the NFL. He is setting the table for a similar record at Notre Dame. "There's something to a style of play you create," says Davie. "You see guys making plays and that's what motivates a team."

According to Davie, due to the small size of the defensive line, guys like Renaldo Wynn and Corey Bennett get pushed around and the traffic comes to the linebackers. The constant pounding makes them weary. But with towering Dansby returning next season, the defensive line will begin to have some size. This will give the linebackers the opportunity to make even bigger plays next year.

They call themselves the Headbangers, not to be confused with Horsemen. They are big fans of the intimidating face shield, and they hit hard, brutally hard, but clean. Three of the four are leading tacklers and the other is the sack master.

Someone ought to remind Washington to keep his head up and his hands wrapped painfully tight around the ball, because the Headbangers will all be coming back next year. □



THANK YOU. Lyron Cobbins salutes the student body after an Irish win. The crowd came to expect big plays from the Headbangers as the season went on.

CHRISTMAS IN COLUMBUS



Aaron Stalich

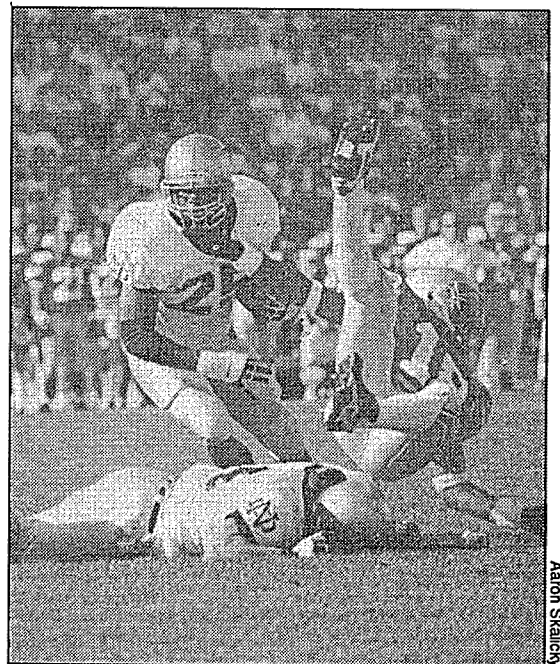
The Irish gave the Buckeyes three turnovers in a seven-minute span, gift-wrapping a 45-26 victory

BY SHANNAN BALL

SEPTEMBER 30, 1995 — COLUMBUS, OH

It was called a rivalry renewed, and the hype surrounding the Ohio State-Notre Dame matchup was incredible. Days before the game, seats to watch the 15th-ranked Irish take on the seventh-ranked Buckeyes were selling for hundreds, even thousands, of dollars. Thousands of Notre Dame students entered the campus ticket lottery, hoping to see the Irish defeat Ohio State in Columbus. Before the game the streets surrounding campus overflowed with fans from both sides, and police had to use tear gas to keep the excited crowd under control.

The last time these two teams faced off, 60 years before, the match-up had been dubbed the "Game of the Century." That time, top-ranked Notre Dame emerged victorious. This year, however, the Buckeyes were the favorites. Ohio State went into the contest undefeated, while the Irish posted a record of 3-1. It was clear this game was crucial to both teams' seasons. Ohio State wanted to beat a national power and further legitimize their run for the national championship, while Notre Dame was looking to continue their turn around against a top-ranked opponent. And in the first half, at least, it looked as though they



Aaron Stalich

HEISMAN-WORTHY. The kind of day Eddie George (top photo) had against the Irish, rushing for over 200 yards.

RUNNING ON EMPTY. Randy Kinder (above) and the Irish ground game couldn't overcome some costly mistakes.

would.

But a tumultuous 6:57 second span in the third quarter turned the tide. Three key Irish miscues translated into 21 quick points for the Buckeyes. Notre Dame's mistake-laden football proved a gift to the Gods of the Horseshoe, and gave the rowdy Columbus fans something to celebrate.

You could almost call it the Buckeye rule of threes. In the *third* quarter, the Irish committed *three* turnovers which resulted in *three, three--*play touchdown drives for the Buckeyes who scored all *three* times on *third* down. So often in football the game comes down to who capitalizes in turnovers. Ohio State knew it, and they made the Irish pay. "The name of the game was turnovers, and we got some good breaks today," Cooper said.

Strike One: After taking the second-half kickoff and driving 76 yards in 17 plays, the Irish settled for a 22-yard Kevin Kopka field goal, putting them up 20-14. The Notre Dame defense then forced an Ohio State punt, and it looked like an Irish knock-out punch would not be far behind.

But as Irish fans have learned over the last few years, every punt is an adventure. Emmett Mosley attempted to field a punt he should have let go, muffed it, and the Buckeyes recovered. Mosely said later that he thought the Ohio State player next to him was a Notre Dame player, and he didn't want the ball

to hit him. Three plays later, Bobby Hoying hit senior tight end Rickey Dudley, who carried an Irish defender into the end zone. After the PAT, it was 21-20, Buckeyes.

Strike Two: The very next drive began ominously. Mosley started a kickoff return left and tried to hand the ball to Autry Denson. The exchange was bobbled, but Denson recovered on the Notre Dame 12. Aided by a 56-yard bomb to Mayes, the Irish drove to the Ohio State 32, setting up a crucial third down. Powlus tried Mayes again, but because of a mix-up Mayes ran the wrong route and Powlus threw too deep. Cornerback Shawn Springs chased down the ball and made a diving interception. Three plays later, former walk-on wide receiver Terry Glenn blistered a path to stardom with an 82-yard touchdown. On third down and three, Glenn ran a simple 10-yard curl in front of cornerback Allen Rossum, who slipped. Glenn turned and burned, out-legging Rossum, the all-star sprinter, for the next 72 yards. After the PAT, it was 28-20, Buckeyes.

Strike Three ('Yer Out): The Irish didn't wait until they had established a drive to turn the ball over again. On the first play from scrimmage on the next drive, quarterback Ron Powlus and center Rick Kaczinski finally botched a snap when it counted. The Buckeyes recovered.

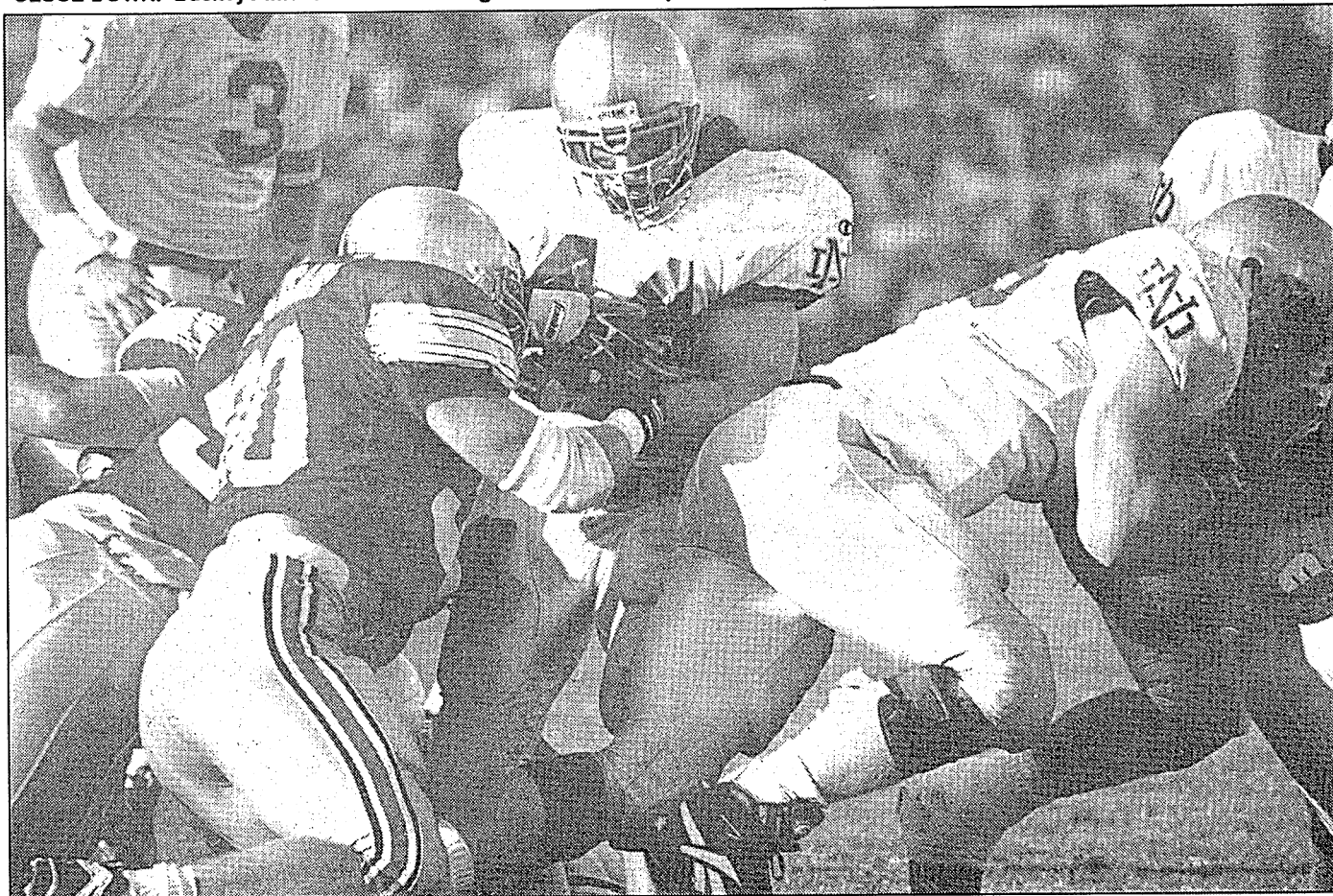
Three plays later, on the first play of the fourth

SAID

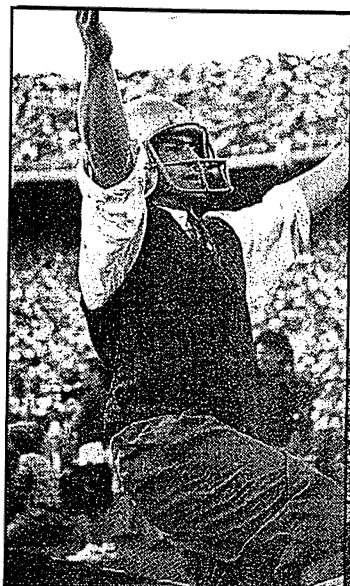
COOPER:

"THE NAME OF THE GAME WAS TURNOVERS AND WE GOT SOME GOOD BREAKS TODAY"

CLOSE DOWN. Buckeye middle linebacker Greg Bellisari closes up a hole and stops Marc Edwards.



Aaron Skalko



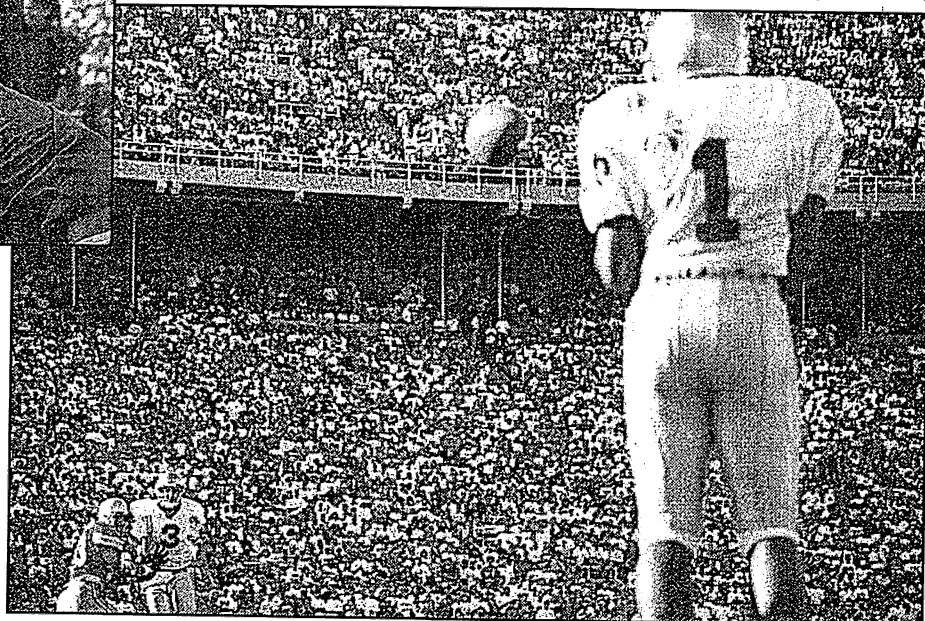
RIGHT AT 'YA. Powlus' completion to favorite target Mayes gave Irish fans something to cheer about.

for 207 yards, and although the Irish managed to contain him in the first half, he broke loose in the second stanza. Hoying also boosted the Ohio State offense, completing 14 of 22 passes for a total of 272 yards, including four touchdowns. Two of those touchdown passes were caught by Glenn who made four catches for 128 yards.

"Eddie [George], Terry [Glenn], and Bobby [Hoying] had great games. Our

standing," commented Holtz. "I thought we could keep up with them as long as we could mix the run and the pass. The touchdown before the half was a big break for them, I'm sure."

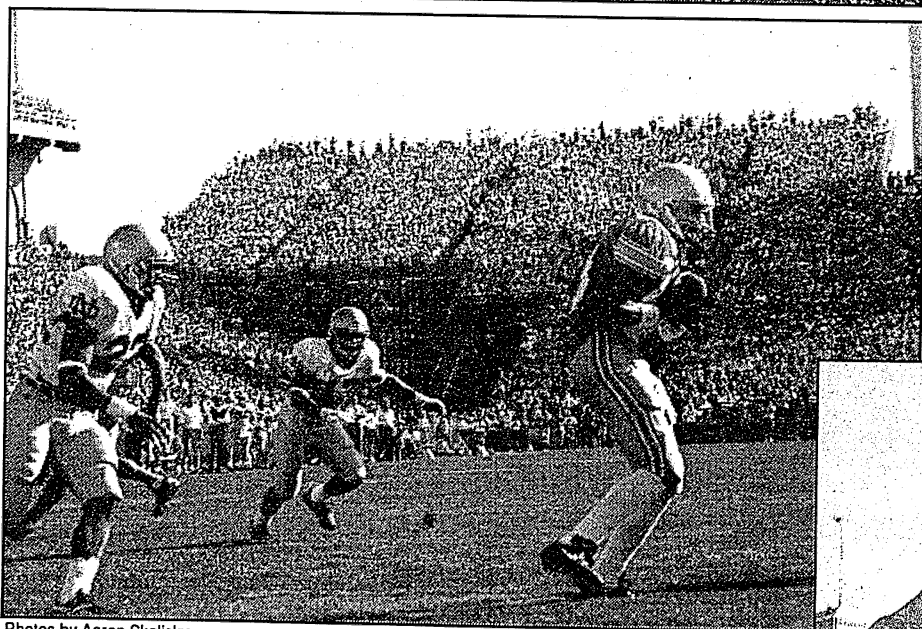
It had all started so well, despite the crowd of 95,537 gathered in Ohio Stadium. As the teams ran out into the bright sun at the horseshoe in Columbus, they were greeted by deafening noise. "The 12th man



today —wow— the crowd was fantastic," Ohio State Head Coach John Cooper said. "It really helped us." Holtz, an Ohio native and former assistant coach at Ohio State under Woody Hayes, appeared on the sidelines for the first time since his neck surgery. This was a bit of a surprise, since Holtz was expected to remain in the press box for at least one more game.

quarter, Eddie George took the ball in from five yards out for the score. After the PAT, it was 35-20, Buckeyes.

To Notre Dame's credit, it fought back. Kinder scored the third touchdown of his impressive 144-yard day, but a missed two-point conversion left the score 35-26 and out of reach. The Buckeyes then used their workhorse, George. The tailback immediately made a big play, racing around the left end for 61 yards before Shawn Wooden finally made a touchdown-saving tackle. It wouldn't matter, however, as George would get his paycheck three plays later on a 3-yard cut-back run.



Photos by Aaron Skaliky

"I had planned on [coaching] upstairs [in the press box], but assistant coach Bob Davie thought I should be there [on the sidelines]," Holtz said.

The Irish defense forced the Buckeyes to punt twice, and

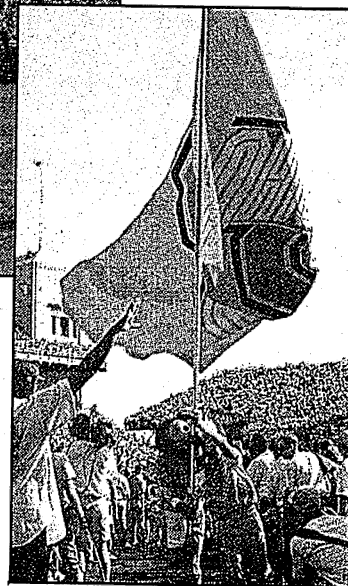
Any chance of a miracle ended after Marc Edwards was stopped short on a fake punt. The Buckeyes added a field goal, making the score a lopsided 45-26 as the mob of scarlet and gray took the field.

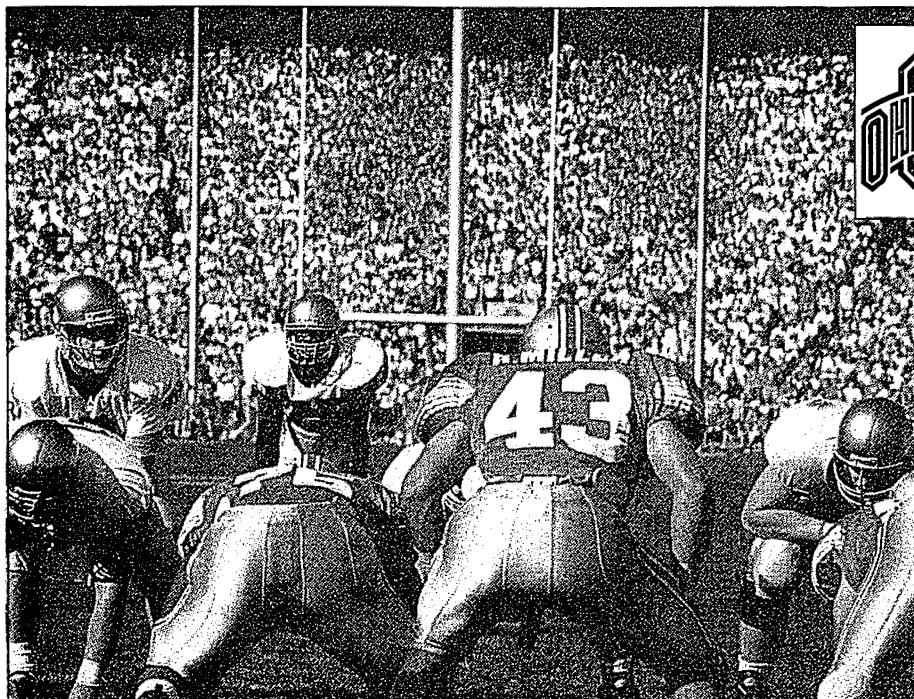
The powerful force behind the Buckeye victory was the performance of their trio of Heisman hopefuls. George rushed 32 times

entire offensive line deserves credit. And I wouldn't want to get in a foot race with Terry Glenn," Cooper said following the win.

The 45 points scored by the Buckeyes were the most surrendered by Notre Dame under Holtz. "Ohio State played an outstanding game. Their offense was out-

FRESH START. Glenn's touchdown reception opened OSU's scoring as the Buckeyes went nuts.





GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Notre Dame	0	17	3	6	26
Ohio State	0	14	14	17	45

2nd Quarter

ND: Kopka 20 FG at 14:50
 ND: Kinder 3 run at 11:25 (Kopka PAT)
 OSU: Glenn 10 pass from Hoying at 8:08 (Jackson PAT)
 ND: Kinder 7 rush at 4:31 (Kopka PAT)
 OSU: Stanley 17 pass from Hoying at 0:44 (Jackson PAT)

3rd Quarter

ND: Kopka 22 FG at 9:14
 OSU: Dudley 15 pass from Hoying at 5:06 (Jackson PAT)
 OSU: Glenn 82 pass from Hoying at 1:20 (Jackson PAT)

4th Quarter

OSU: George 5 run at 14:55 (Jackson PAT)
 ND: Kinder 13 run at 12:55 (Powlus run failed)
 OSU: George 3 run at 11:24 (Jackson PAT)
 OSU: Jackson 35 FG at 6:09

Team Statistics

	ND	OSU
First Downs.....	21	24
Rushing.....	12	15
Passing.....	9	9
Net Yards Rushing.....	204	261
Net Yards Passing.....	243	272
Total Net Yards.....	447	533
Avg Yards/Play....	6.1	7.6
Fumbles - Lost.....	5-2	0-0
Penalties - Yards.....	1-5	2-14
Punts - Average.....	3-39	3-35
3rd Down Conversions.....	7-15	7-14
Time of Possession.....	28:23	31:37

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND - Kinder 28-143, Edwards 12-49, Powlus 4-6, Stokes 1-4, Mosley 1-3. OSU - George 32-207, Pearson 7-29, Hoying 4-14, Jackson 3-8, Sualua 2-3.
Passing: ND - Powlus 26-13-243-0-1. OSU - Hoying 22-14-272-4-0.
Receiving: ND - Mayes 5-125, Mosley 3-21, Edwards 2-48, Chryplewicz 2-41, Denson 1-8. OSU - Glenn 4-128, George 3-22, Tillman 2-61, Sualua 2-9, Dudley 2-35, Stanley 1-17.
Leading Tacklers: ND - Cobbins 14, Berry 10, Wynn 10. OSU - Bellisari 12, Miller 10, Fickell 10, Howard 8, Springs 8.

HIGH-O. The big O, as in Offense, couldn't pull through for the Irish as the crowd of 95,000-plus watched the Buckeye victory.

Aaron Skalicky

took over on downs once during Ohio State's first three possessions. A Kevin Kopka field goal gave the Irish an early 3-0 lead.

During the second quarter, both offenses got in sync, scoring two touchdowns apiece. The Irish were led by Kinder, whose 83 first half yards and two touchdowns helped give the Irish a slim 17-14 lead. The Buckeyes' attack came primarily through the air, with Hoying completing 10 of 17 passes for 152 yards. He hooked up for touchdowns with Glenn and Dimitrious Stanley to account for the Ohio State points.

After being out-played for most of the first 30 minutes, Ohio State had been able to shake off 10-0 and 17-7 deficits. The touchdown to Stanley came with only 44 seconds left in the first half, and clearly gave the

Buckeyes some much-needed momentum going into the lockerroom. Starting their drive at their own 24-yard line with only 4:27 remaining, the Buckeyes moved down the field swiftly, courtesy of George and Hoying. The senior quarterback showed his poise, delivering the touchdown pass in the face of a Notre Dame blitz.

The three turnovers killed an outstanding first half effort by the entire squad, as well as the individual performances of Powlus and Kinder. "We shouldn't have lost the game the way we did," said Powlus, who completed 13 of 16 passes for 243 yards. "If they were going to beat us, they should have beaten us on a last second field goal or a last touchdown drive. We beat ourselves today, there's no question." □

SAID POWLUS: "WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST THE GAME THE WAY WE DID. WE BEAT OURSELVES TODAY, THERE'S NO QUESTION."

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

Undersized as a 245-pound defensive end, sophomore Corey Bennett fought off the "Big Nasties" and held his own

BY DEREK BETCHER

Sophomore defensive end Corey Bennett has always lined up on the defensive side of the ball, but each year with the Notre Dame football program has seen him move progressively deeper into the trenches. Bennett actually played in the secondary for much of his high school career until Notre Dame recruited him as a prospective linebacker. His freshman year was spent adapting to the more physical play of a rush backer, but Bennett's most dramatic switch didn't come until this summer.

"Coach Davie called me at home and said to gain as much weight as I could because I'd be playing on the line this fall," Bennett explains.

On the line? At the time of Davie's call, Corey tipped the scales at 225 pounds. That's a respectable girth for mortal men, but for a starting Notre Dame lineman, that's notably undersized. An unfortunate spring injury to projected starter Melvin Dansby necessitated the move.

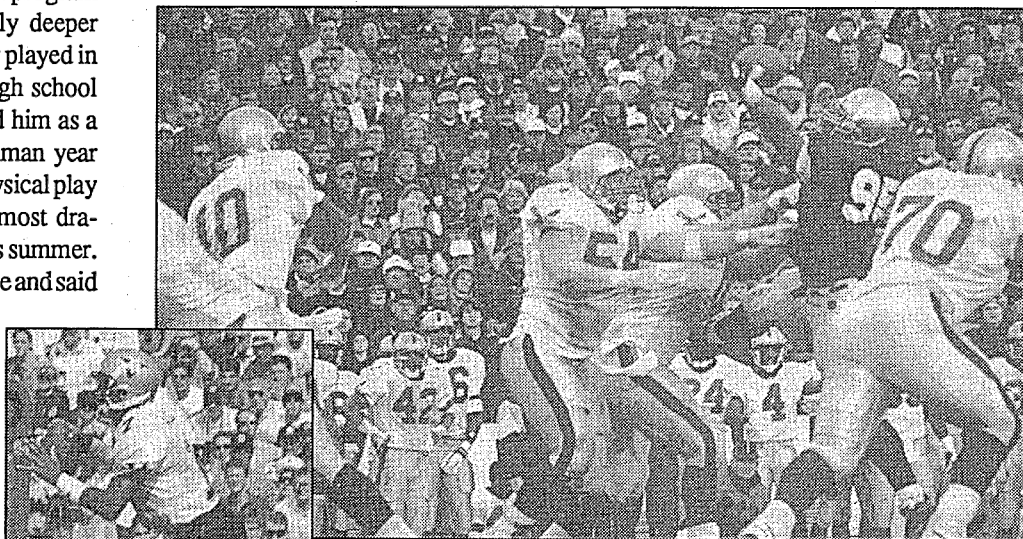
At Davie's recommendation, Bennett had upped his weight to 240 pounds by midseason. His secret? "I just try to eat everything in sight. Two-forty fluctuates a little bit, though, because the dining hall food isn't too consistent," Bennett reveals. While his newfound bulk adds respectability, it leaves Corey at a consistent 60-70 pound disadvantage compared to today's behemoth offensive lineman. These size adjustments have only been part of the challenge for Bennett this season. The fundamental differences between linebacking and line play have also been a major adjustment.

"Sure they're both defense, but in some ways they're totally different. On the line it's so much more physical because you have to make contact every play. For one thing, I've had to learn how to use the hands

to get around blocks," he explains. Bennett credits Defensive Line Coach Kirk Doll and teammate Renaldo Wynn with helping him to make the transition.

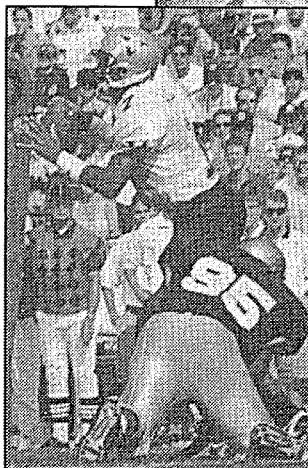
hard, he's been diligent in the weight room, and he's held out pretty well."

Junior linebacker Lyron Cobbins also appreciates Bennett's contributions this sea-



Stan Evans

GET IT OUT! Bennett (above) leaps to bat down a Mark Hartsell pass. Below, he takes down Vandy quarterback Damian Allen.



Aaron Stalczyk

Bennett sees his game against Texas' sizable and accomplished line as a microcosm for his season.

"The first few quarters, I was all right. In the second half, they started putting double teams on me. After three quarters I was getting worn down, but it feels good to earn a double team, especially when you know it helps to open holes for your teammates." The Texas game was quietly consistent — like most of the 1995 season for Bennett. He handled the transition to line admirably and finished the regular season with 37 tackles, so why the fuss? Bennett is a sterling Rudy-like reminder that size isn't everything.

Coach Doll appreciates the value of speed and athleticism in linemen, especially his undersized ones: "If you're not real big, you better be real quick. Corey's worked very

son. "Corey has made a big sacrifice for the team by moving up to the line," he says. "He goes up against bigger physical players, but he's very fundamentally sound."

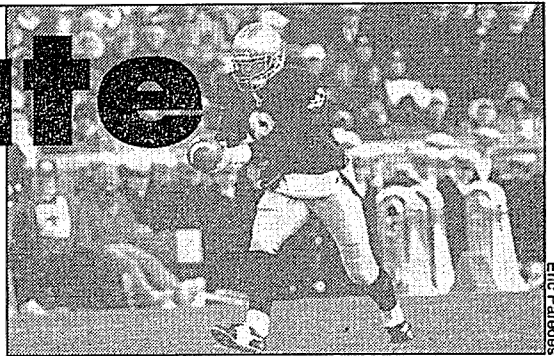
Corey also knows where his bread and butter is: "I see leverage as my biggest strength, especially when we run stunts. I've got to use my quickness, too" he says.

With 1995 only his second season, Bennett's future could be even more rewarding. The question now is whether he can make the transition into a big time playmaker.

"Sure he could, he's only a sophomore," notes Cobbins. "Anyone who works hard will get the payoff."

Bennett acknowledges that the most difficult transitions are behind him. He admits, "At first, I was amazed at how well I've done at my weight, but I guess I've known all along that I could do it. I just put my heart into it and play well." □

Immediate Impact



Eric Paredes

(P)HUNTER. Freshman Hunter Smith gave the Irish a steady punter for the first time in two years.

Notre Dame's highly-touted freshman class was instrumental in the team's rebound



Aaron Shalby

BY BRIAN HIRO

Before the ink even dried on the **FRESH LEGS.** Autry Denson supercharged the Notre Dame rushing attack against Vanderbilt, giving it another game breaker.

25 letters of intent last February, the Notre Dame freshman class was unanimously lauded as the best in the nation. Recruiting analysts tossed around phrases such as "no weaknesses" and "once-in-a-lifetime." Many considered this group superior on paper to Holtz's 1990 class, which produced familiar names like Jerome Bettis, Bryant Young, Aaron Taylor and Jeff Burris.

Even with the summer defections of star receiver Randy Moss and speedy tailback James Jackson, bringing the total number down to 23, the class was expected to make an immediate impact. While most freshmen arrived at Notre Dame in August feeling the ordinary pressures of starting college, the new football players were saddled with an extra burden — the responsibility of revitalizing the Irish football program that had fallen so far in 1994.

As the 1995 season began, two freshmen emerged from the collection of eight *Parade* and five *USA Today* 1st-team All-Americans, one on each side of the ball.

The defensive standout in the class, rush end Kory Minor, surprised no one. After all, he had been everyone's national defensive player of the year at Bishop Amat High School in California. What did surprise some was the degree of his contribution. Minor started every game of the season from his rush end position and, while backup John McLaughlin was out with a sprained knee, rarely even left the field. He finished the season with 48 tackles, six sacks and a world of valuable experience.

Minor, however, believes he has just scratched the surface of his potential.

"My coaches and teammates tell me that I'm doing real well and

I take that as an initiative," he says. "But there are a lot of things I need to work on. I guess I'm doing pretty good for a freshman, but I can definitely move my game up another level."

Tailback Autry Denson also made significant contributions. Early in the season, though, two things appeared to block his path to first-year stardom. First, junior returnees Randy Kinder and Robert Farmer looked prime for huge seasons.

Second, Denson began the season as a backup cornerback. But the week before the Purdue game, Lou Holtz gave Denson a try at running back and was impressed with his speed and elusiveness. Denson's 69 yards on just seven carries against the Boilermakers made the switch permanent.

As the season progressed, Denson steadily improved, while both Kinder and Farmer succumbed to injuries. In Notre Dame's biggest win of the year, 38-10 over USC, Denson was the workhorse, rushing 27 times for 95 yards. His 695 yards on the ground rank second in Irish history for a freshman back and his eight touchdowns tie Marc Edwards' freshman record.

Minor and Denson may have stolen the show as freshmen, but there are other contributors who will compose the nucleus of future Irish squads. Massive offensive tackle Mike Rosenthal provided quality depth to the line and even started in some important games including Ohio State, USC and Air Force. He has All-America written all over him. Bobbie Howard gave the Irish another great linebacker. Kevin Kopka struggled at times with his kicking, but he still made six out of 11 field goals and all but two of his extra points. And Hunter Smith, despite his modest 36.4 yard average, stabilized the punting game and showed glimpses of a booming leg.

So were the so-called experts right about this class? Is it one for the ages? Maybe not, but Smith thinks it's good enough to get Notre Dame football back to the promised land.

"I'm sure that this class can win the national championship," he says. "I've never seen this kind of talent, this kind of athletic ability, within a group of guys. It's a special group." □

THE ALL-OPPONENT TEAM

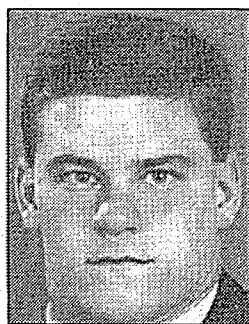
The Wildcats and Buckeyes head the list of the best the Irish faced

OFFENSE

Sam Valenzisi, K
Northwestern
Nailed a field goal and two PAT's versus the Irish; one of nation's best before injury.

Jake Campbell, KR
Air Force
One of the Falcons' lone bright spots against the Irish, he returned six kicks for 145 yards.

Orlando Pace, OT
Ohio State
The 6'6" 320-pound terror opened holes for Mr. Heisman as large as his waistline.

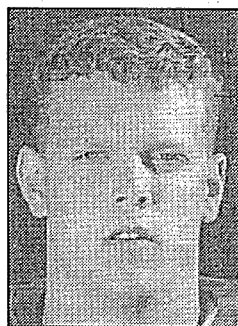


Pete Kendall, OT
Boston College
Despite his herculean efforts, Boston College could not pull off a third straight upset of the Irish; repeat All-Opponent performer.

Ed Stover, OG
Army
Three-year starter helped clear the way for 365 Cadet rushing yards

Ryan Padgett, OG
Northwestern
How did Autry surpass 100 yards on the ground in every game? This first-team All-Big Ten is part of the answer.

Rob Johnson, C
Northwestern
See above.



Bobby Hoying, QB
Ohio State
Riddled the Irish secondary with 272 yards and four touchdown passes.

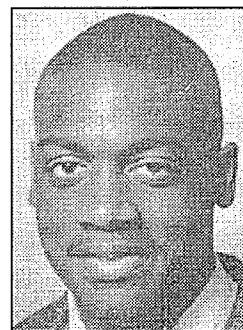
Eddie George, RB
Ohio State
His 207-yard, two-TD performance was Heisman-worthy.



Darnell Autry, RB
Northwestern
His 160 yards and crucial third-down run shocked the Irish and began his quest for the Heisman.

Pat Fitzgerald, TE
Texas
Brought back memories of Irish-killer Pete Mitchell with his three touchdown receptions.

Terry Glenn, WR
Ohio State
Four catches, 128 yards, two TD's. Made sprinter Rössum look slow.



Andre Cooper, WR
Florida State
Three TD's and a two-point conversion grab killed the Irish chances and extended the Seminoles' remarkable bowl streak.

HONORABLE MENTION
Mike Alstott, FB
Purdue

Keyshawn Johnson, WR
USC

Mike Adams, WR
Texas

Rashaan Shehee, RB
Washington

Jeremy Hogue, C
USC

Dan Neil, OG
Texas

ON THE SIDELINES

Gary Barnett, Head Coach

Northwestern

The stunning victory over the Irish was only the beginning of the Wildcats' storybook season.

Greg Gregory, Offensive Coordinator

Army

Orchestrated the Cadets' wishbone attack that shredded the Irish defense for almost 400 rushing yards.

Ron Vanderlinden, Defensive Coordinator

Northwestern

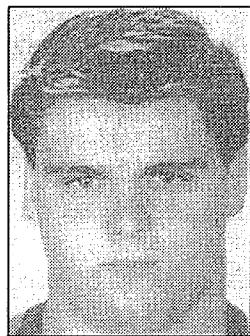
His troops limited the Irish to 15 points, their lowest point total of the season.

DEFENSE

Bill Marinangel, P

Vanderbilt

Averaged 48 yards on five punts, including a 70-yard bomb.



Matt Finkes, DE

Ohio State

Failed to match his linemate's numbers, but did apply pressure to Powllus.

Greg Bellisari, LB

Ohio State

Was everywhere for the Buckeyes, making 12 tackles.



Matt Keneley, DT

USC

Helped neutralize the Irish power running game; the only defensive player to repeat as All-Opponent.

Tim Morabito, DT

Boston College

Tallied three tackles for losses and a sack; still trying to get the number of that truck named Marc Edwards, though.

Mike Vrabel, DE

Ohio State

The All-Big Ten performer had eight tackles, two for losses, and caused an Irish fumble.

Pat Fitzgerald, LB

Northwestern

His 11 tackles in the opener kicked off a season in which he was voted the nation's best defensive player.

Ink Aleaga, LB

Washington

Also nominated for the All-Name team, the Butkus candidate made seven tackles and forced a fumble for the Huskies.

Shawn Springs, CB

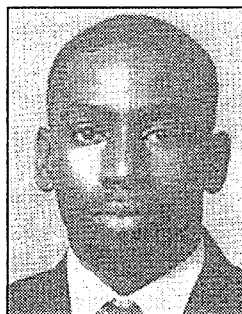
Ohio State

The sophomore recorded eight tackles and made a terrific diving interception that continued the Irish second-half demise.

Chris Martin, CB

Northwestern

Led a Wildcat secondary that contained Derrick Mayes and the Irish passing game.



Derrick Brown, S

Purdue

His 54-yard fourth-quarter interception return for a TD sent Ross-Ade Stadium into a frenzy before the Irish pulled out the win.

Lawyer Milloy, S

Washington

The Thorpe Award candidate argued his case convincingly with 14 tackles from his free safety spot.

HONORABLE MENTION

Chris Akins, DT

Texas

Tyson King, OLB

Texas

Daryl Bush, MLB

Florida State

Chris Carter, S

Texas

Darrell Russell, DT

USC

Joe Speed, S

Navy

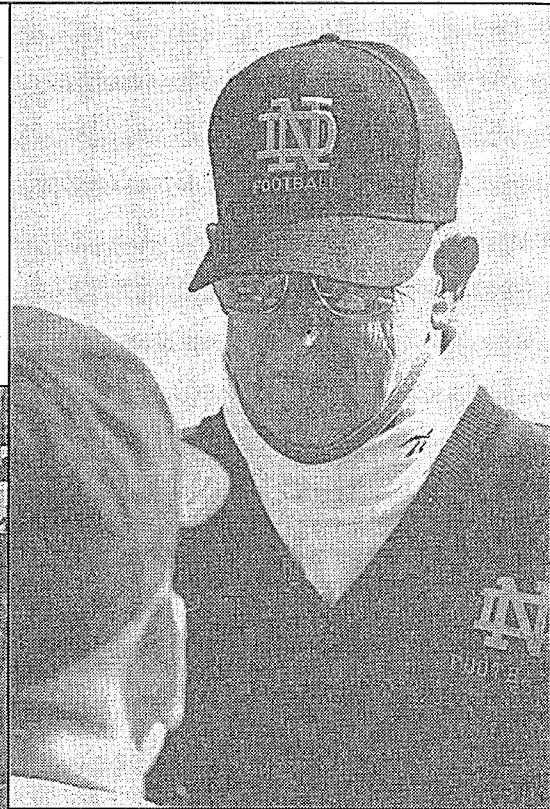
Matt Haff, OLB

Boston College

Season of Healing



Kevin Klau



Aaron Stalicky

Notre Dame's Lou Holtz looks back at a season of ups and downs

"We felt this was a football team that was going to get better ... The most encouraging thing was the way it refused to yield. I think it could've played any team in the country and it would have a legitimate chance to win."

BY TOM COYNE

Sitting in his modest office amidst subtle reminders of hard-fought victories and legendary games, Lou Holtz is brace-less and busy. By no means does he look like a man who has ridden the roller coaster called the 1995 Notre Dame football season: a season of ups and downs, of disappointment and elation, a season that sidelined players and coaches.

But Holtz's roller coaster turned into a straightway when the Fighting Irish resumed their rightful position among the premier programs in the nation and Lou Holtz resumed his rightful position among his players on the sideline. His medical difficulties are now a thing of the past. Looking at him now, it is difficult to recall that this is a man who faced more than Ohio State and USC this season; this is a man who faced his mortality. The night before his neck surgery, Coach Holtz, legendary leader of the blue and gold, was faced with the

possibility of life without football.

"Anytime you have pressure on the spine and somebody's going to go in there with a knife, even when you're at the Mayo clinic, you remember what they called the person who finished last in his class at medical school — they called him doctor," says Holtz. "When someone goes through your neck and operates on your spine, you never know what's going to happen."

Holtz recalls his concern about what an unsuccessful procedure would have meant for him and his family. "I didn't want my wife of 35 years to spend her remaining years taking care of me, if at all possible. But sometimes you just have to put your future in the hands of other people, and when I started thinking about it, that's what I do every Saturday — put our future in the hands of other people."

The hands of other people have been friendly to Holtz and his football team as they ascended after a suspect start. "After our opening loss to Northwestern, we came back to beat Purdue, and I had two objec-

tives at that point," says Holtz. "One, not to do anything that would jeopardize my health long range. Second was that if this was going to be a bad year, and it looked like it had every ingredient to be one, I didn't want the seniors to go through it without me being a part of it, encouraging them and providing leadership."

Holtz would indeed be a part of it. After a speedy recovery, he was back to coaching. The new perspective of the pressbox had certain pros and cons in Holtz's estimation. "There are a lot of advantages to being upstairs. You sort of feel like a general in war. You're not on the front lines, but you're back where you can see and make strategic decisions," muses Holtz. "Yet at the same time, there were some instances where there was a lack of communication. I think the proper place for a head coach is on the sidelines, for leadership, for decision making."

The only thing that recovered faster this season than Coach Holtz's neck was his football team, as they improved in ways that

and new faces were early question marks for a young team that had a lot of learning to do, but this coach is most impressed with the result.

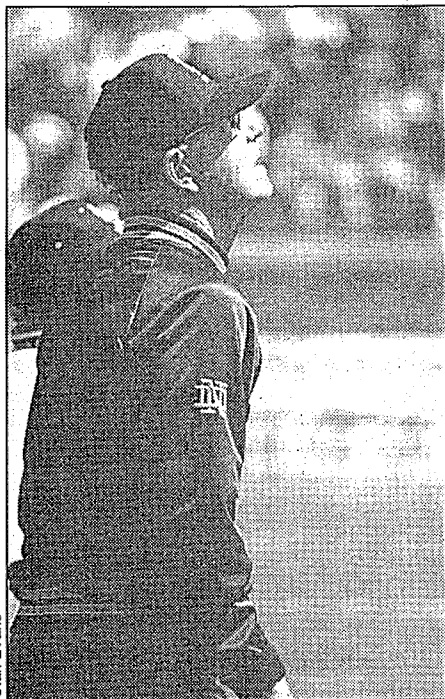
"We felt this was a football team that was going to get better. We played, according to the experts, the most difficult schedule in the country. We lost three games, but if we don't turn the ball over and we don't give up big plays, we can play with anyone."

"The most encouraging thing," Holtz says, "was the way this football team refused to yield. No matter what happened, no matter how bad people got down on us early, this football team has just gotten better and better and better as the year has progressed. I think this football team could play anybody in the country and we'd have a legitimate chance to win."

Faced with the dilemma of losing Ron Powlus, Coach Holtz remained confident that the Irish will continue to improve with Tom Krug in the lineup: "I feel very comfortable now with Tom Krug. I think he's going to play well."

What pleases Holtz most about this determined team is not their victories, but their attitude. "The most positive thing is that we win, but we're not happy. 'Hey, that wasn't a very impressive performance today. We won, but we can play better.' That's the way Notre Dame should be."

Although disappointed by a second



Stan Evans

LOOKING UP. That is, until this loss to Northwestern. Holtz had his problems compounded with his neck injury.



Stan Evans

STILL THE ONE. Irish students show their support for their injured general. Lou was more omnipresent than ever seated in the press box.

straight defeat in a bowl game, Holtz was pleased with his troops' efforts. "I am proud of our football team. I thought we played well. Florida State did a tremendous job. I felt our fans were great."

Looking ahead to next season, Holtz is optimistic. Along with their winning attitude, next year's squad will bring a heightened level of talent and experience to the new Notre Dame Stadium. "Thirty-eight of our 44 players have eligibility remaining. I know that we're young in some respects, but next year when we get Dansby back and Cliff Stroud back and Lamont Bryant back, what we're really going to have is a talented football team."

Coach Holtz speaks from his leather chair of gold and blue sipping his Diet Coke and cracking an occasional smile in an office that smells of sweet pipe smoke. Underneath the tradition and the mystique, Notre Dame's head football coach is indeed a regular guy, but the chances for him to be one during the hectic season are extremely limited.

"I really don't have any diversions during the season. I never make speeches; I don't play golf. I take my wife out to dinner on Wednesday and from the time I sit down to the time I'm out of there is less than an hour." When he has the time in the off-season, Coach Holtz partakes in his other interests, though he approaches all of his endeavors with the intensity and focus he brings to football. He loves the game of golf and, by his modest estimation, he is not a particularly good golfer at a seven handicap. He participates in charity work and speaks publicly as a way to get away from

the Xs and Os of coaching.

The motivation and drive that Lou Holtz brings to Notre Dame football carry over into the way he lives his life. By any standard, his non-football accomplishments are truly remarkable.

Dining at the White House, appearing on "The Tonight Show," jumping out of an airplane, landing on an aircraft carrier and being in a submarine are just a few of Holtz's life experiences, experiences embarked upon out of his genuine zest for life. "You don't do them to say 'I'm special;' you do them to experience life."

With such a wide array of adventures and accomplishments, Lou Holtz acknowledges he still has goals outside of football. He readily admits he is less adept than the average Notre Dame student in two particular areas that he hopes to explore someday: he can't speak a foreign language and he knows nothing about computers.

Regardless of the amount of football prestige and success packed into one person, Lou Holtz is foremost a father and a husband. He speaks of his children not like a football coach, but like a proud Notre Dame Dad who isn't above a little harmless bragging.

"What gives me the greatest satisfaction? My 34 years of marriage and that I talk to my children once week. We never end a conversation without saying 'I love you;' it's just automatic and there's nothing awkward about it. To have that relationship with my children," says Holtz as he reclines in front of a wall of trophies and game balls, "is by far my greatest achievement. By far." □

Mayes, Rossum and the Irish overcome mistakes and the Huskies in a 29-21 battle in Seattle.

BY JAKE SCHALLER

OCTOBER 7, 1995 — SEATTLE, WA

Derrick Mayes, an Irish savior for three years, has always had the ability to make the impossible catch. Starting with his diving, one-handed miracle against Boston College in 1993, number one has reeled in his share of tough balls.

But while snagging the hard-to-reach balls might be his specialty, Mayes sometimes has a tough time hanging onto the tosses that hit him in the hands. This was never as evident as it was against the Huskies. Mayes dropped two sure catches, but that wasn't even close to the worst of it.

With the Irish down 21-14 and driving, Ron Powlus found Mayes over the middle. The senior split end clawed his way to the 21-yard line before losing the football, which Washington recovered.

Three of the most vivid visual images of the season followed: The first was Mayes, helplessly lying on the field after the fumble. "Maybe I'm trying to do too much," Mayes said after the game. "You know a lot of times your team is relying on you, and you know it's third down. You just want to go out there and do so much. Maybe you lose your concentration and try to hurry."

The second image was again Mayes, this time on the sideline, head in hands.

The third image was once again Mayes, but this one was different. It was Mayes split out to Powlus' left, all alone and waving. This one needs some explaining.

Following the aforementioned fumble, the Irish defense had made their best stand of the game, forcing the Huskies to punt. "When we fumbled the ball ... that could have been disastrous," Holtz remarked. "The defense rose to the occasion."

The Huskies lined up to punt with 2:51 remaining, and backup punter John Wales (starting for the injured Geoff Prince) fumbled the snap. Mark Monahan smothered Wales and gave the Irish the ball on the Husky 18.

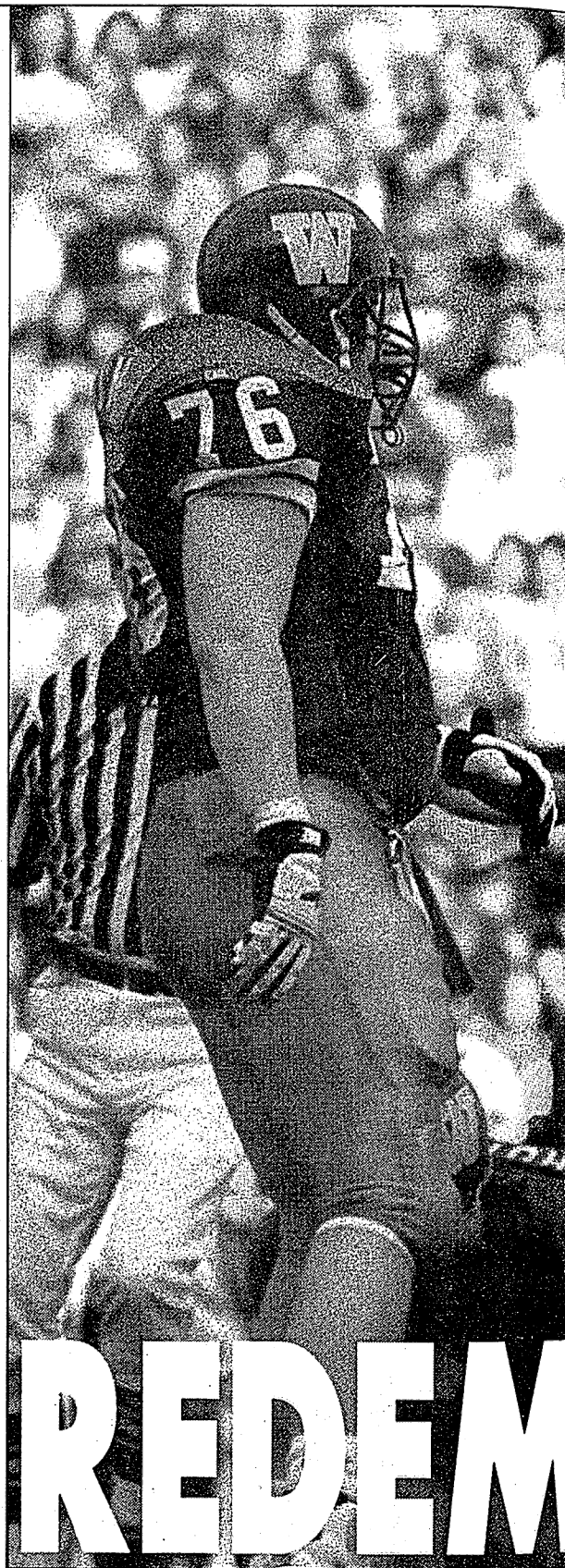
Autry Denson dashed into the end zone from seven yards to bring the Irish within a point, setting the stage for that third image. When the Irish sent a receiver in motion, Mayes was left alone on the side of the field. Completely alone.



Aaron Skalicky

SLASHING. Randy Kinder (above) cuts his way through the Husky defense.

WOO HOO! Paul Grasmanis (center) celebrates a sack.



REDEM

"When we were moving in motion, there was some confusion on their part," Notre Dame Offensive Coordinator Dave Roberts said.

Realizing the Huskies' miscue, Mayes signaled and yelled to Powlus, who noticed, but tried to act as



INTERCEPTION

Aaron Skalicky

if he didn't.

"Right away, I knew," Powlus said. "I didn't want to stare out there too long and give it away. I didn't know if I couldn't see a guy out there for them or what."



Aaron Skalicky

But his eyes weren't deceiving him, and the junior quarterback sailed a pass to Mayes in the corner of the end zone, giving the Irish a scanty 22-21 advantage. It was Mayes' 13th and 14th points of the game. The senior had already grabbed 10-yard and 30-yard touchdown passes. And to give credit where it is due, Mayes did have seven catches for 132 yards. But the two-point conversion play made up for his earlier mistakes, in addition to setting the stage for Allen Rossum.

A week earlier against Ohio State, Rossum fell, was beaten, and was outrun — all on one play. With Terry Glenn's 83-yard touchdown still fresh in the minds of Notre Dame fans, Rossum was beaten again by Husky receivers in this game.

But just when it looked like Husky quarterback Damon Huard would lead Washington down the field for an all too familiar last-second field goal, Rossum saved the day. Picking off an overthrown pass, the sophomore cornerback bobbed, weaved and sprinted his way 76 yards through the Husky offense for a touchdown and checkmate. "We really needed that," Rossum said of his redemption. "I finally got my confidence back."

For Defensive Coordinator Bob Davie, the resulting feeling was more tangible. "One of the players commented that coming back to win this game and Rossum's interception cut about two hours off that flight home. I said, 'I was probably going home by bus if he didn't come up with that interception.' It cut a lot more than two hours off that flight for me."

Mayes and Rossum's fourth quarter heroics overshadowed an excellent Husky performance and a shaky Irish performance. Washington running back Rashaan Shehee rushed for 171 yards and two touchdowns on 32 carries, while Huard, except for the interception, was an efficient 10 for 13 for 109 yards.

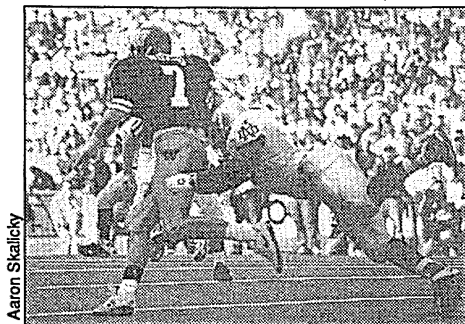
Meanwhile, Powlus suffered through what he thought might have been his worst day under center

● **HELP ON THE WAY.** Kinnon Tatum speeds in to help bring down Rashaan Shehee. Despite the efforts of the Irish defense, the tailback still ran for 171 yards.

"We needed a win, and in a win like this, everybody came together"

- Ron Powlus

WASHINGTON



Aaron Skalicky

DAYLIGHT. Damon Huard scrambles out of trouble. His 26-yard run looked like a knife through the heart of the Irish until Allan Rossum's interception saved the day.

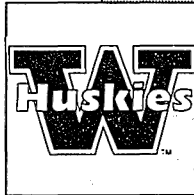
at Notre Dame. Powlus was 12 of 28 for 197 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. But he badly underthrew some receivers and killed a drive with an interception that he threw while falling to the ground. On his way down, Powlus hurled the ball across the field, right into the hands of linebacker Reggie Davis. For the record, it was his third poor game on artificial turf, after Boston College and Michigan State

last year. "I don't know what it was, but I couldn't throw the ball right today," he later commented.

Kevin Kopka continued to struggle, missing a 30-yard field goal just before halftime that could have killed the Irish, if not for the late-game heroics.

Despite the ease with which Shehee ran through the defense and the many mistakes the Irish made on both sides of the ball, it was nonetheless another win. "We beat a good football team away from home, a team which had won 32 of 34 games at home," Holtz said. "To come in here and win it the way we did, with a lot of big plays, it's a big win for us. We just have to go from here."

Powlus agreed: "This is a huge win. Coming off Ohio State where we thought if we hadn't turned the ball over we would have won the game, that was a real tough loss for us. We needed a win, and in a tough win like this, everybody came together." □



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Notre Dame	7	0	0	22	29
Washington	7	0	7	7	21

1st Quarter

ND: Mayes 10 pass from Powlus at 5:08 (Kopka PAT)

UW: Shehee 1 run at 0:42 (Wales PAT)

3rd Quarter

UW: DeSaussure 13 pass from Huard at 4:44 (Wales PAT)

4th Quarter

ND: Mayes 30 pass from Powlus at 9:40 (Kopka PAT)

UW: Shehee 22 run at 6:06 (Wales PAT)

ND: Denson 7 run at 1:24 (Mayes pass from Powlus)

ND: Rossum 76 interception return at 0:28 (Kopka PAT)

Team Statistics

	ND	UW
First Downs.....	22	19
Rushing.....	16	13
Passing.....	5	4
Penalty.....	1	2
Net Yards Rushing.....	212	195
Net Yards Passing.....	197	109
Total Net Yards.....	409	304
Avg Yards/Play....	5.2	5.6
Fumbles - Lost.....	1-1	1-1
Penalties - Yards.....	8-56	5-50
Punts - Average.....	4-32	5-42
3rd Down Conversions.....	12-20	4-10
Time of Possession.....	32:38	27:22

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Edwards 15-90, Denson 13-63, Kinder 13-46, Mosley 1-19. UW- Shehee 32-171, Thomas 4-28, D. Huard 4-10, Wales 1-(-14).

Passing: ND- Powlus 28-12-197-2-1. UW- D. Huard 13-10-109-1-1.

Receiving: ND- Mayes 7-132, Chryplewicz 2-31, Mosley 2-29, Edwards 1-5. UW- Shehee 3-20, Janoski 2-34, Thomas 2-8, Conwell 1-22.

Leading Tackles: ND- Cobbins 13, Berry 10, Moore 7, Wooden 7, Magee 5. UW- Milloy 14, Fiala 13, Parrish 10, Aleage 7, Malloe 7, Richie 7.

Sacks: ND- Wynn 1, Berry .5, Grasmanis .5. UW- Ewaliko 1.

"Maybe I'm trying to do too much"
— Derrick Mayes



Aaron Skalicky

LAYOUT. Derrick Mayes goes after yet another Powlus pass. Though Mayes had a few drops and a critical fumble on the day, his two-point conversion catch was key.

The Doc

Former walk-on Marcus Thorne excelled for the Irish while maintaining a 3.6 GPA in pre-med

BY JEREMY DIXON

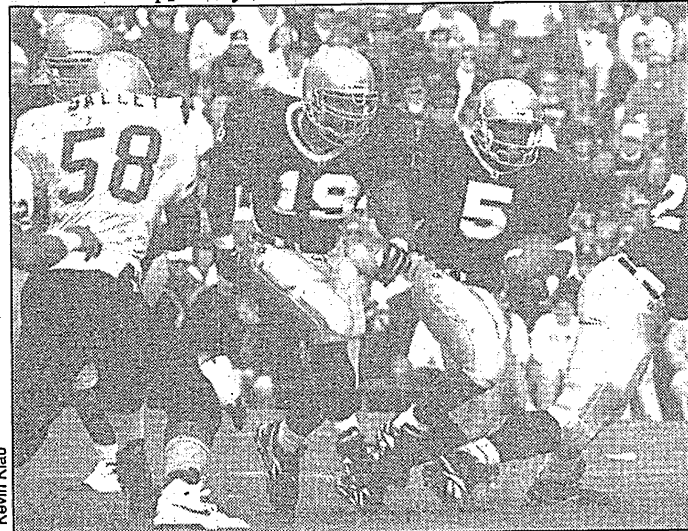
Everyone has seen *Rudy* by this point. It's probably even a part of Freshman Orientation by now. Still, why would any walk-on want to devote himself every day to football and never see the field? For some, it's a yearning to wear the blue and gold; for others it's simply a life-long dream. For fullback Marcus Thorne, it was a dream come true.

When Thorne, now in his senior year, came to Notre Dame, he did not expect to play football for the Irish. But his brother and his cousin persuaded him to try out for the team. "They said that they thought I was as good as anyone else, so why not walk on and see what happens," Thorne recalls. Taking his family's advice, Thorne made the team. It was not an easy transition for him, though. "When I first got here, everyone was bigger, stronger and faster than I was, and the system seemed so in-depth that I didn't think I'd be able to understand everything that we had to do," he says.

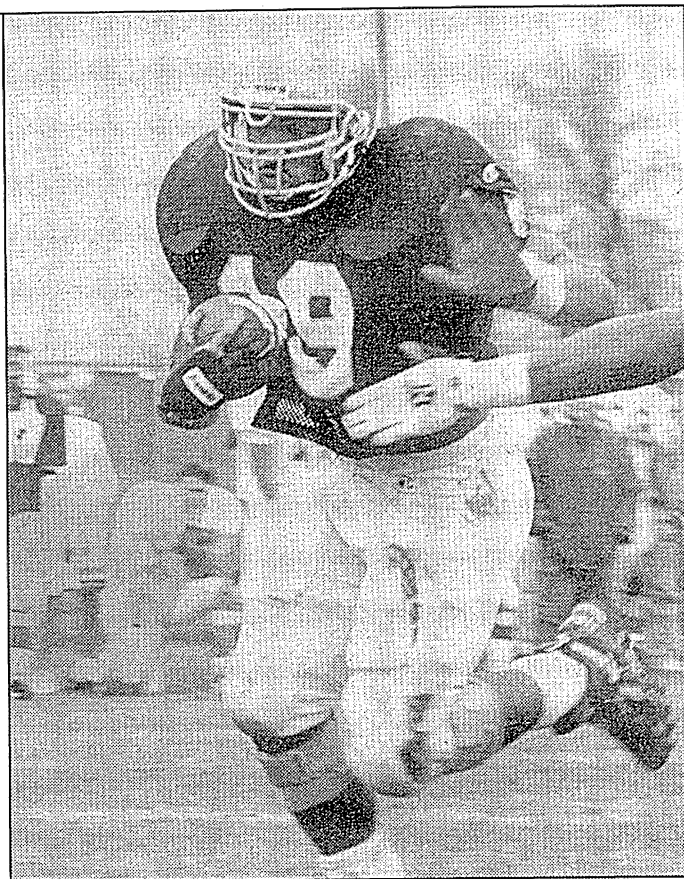
To get him through this difficult time, some seniors helped him out, including former tight end Irv Smith. Thorne remembers, "During freshman year, we were doing a drill and Irv said not to be discouraged because I would learn."

His sophomore year, Thorne began playing on special teams and even had a few carries at fullback. Thorne credits his playing time to his work ethic. "I gained weight and speed, and gained confidence in my ability, which made me start playing better."

All of the hard work and dedication paid off this year. Although he was already receiving a partial academic scholarship, the football program decided to pay the rest with an athletic grant. Thorne was stunned at the decision. "I don't know [why I received the scholarship]. Maybe because some other players in my class



FOLLOW ME. Marcus Thorne clears a path for Emmett Mosley. As a fullback Thorne acted as a lead blocker on most of his plays.



Aaron Shalicky

TRUCKIN'. Thorne rumbles down field during practice. For his work on and off the field, the fullback was given the State Farm/Mutual Broadcasters student-athlete of the year award.

left and they had some money."

Running Back Coach Earle Mosley has a different answer. "[Thorne] did a good job, and he knows the system well," Mosley says. "Marcus steadily improved his football skills and worked hard in the off-season."

Even though he didn't carry the ball very much, Thorne remained an integral part of the team by aiding younger backs. Said Mosley, "Marcus is one of the leaders of the team. He has helped bring the younger guys along, especially [freshman fullback] Jamie Spencer."

His role goes far beyond simply teaching, though. He relieves starting fullback Marc Edwards and has performed as well as many starters this year. Many recall a key block he threw on a Randy Kinder touchdown against Ohio State or the time he found paydirt himself against Air Force.

Besides all of the hours spent on the field, Thorne also finds time for his studies, not an easy task considering he is pre-med. How does he find the time to play football and still maintain a 3.6 GPA? "I know that out of sports, I have to study," he says. "Many times I'm tired and don't want to study, but you have to make yourself."

After graduation, Thorne plans to attend medical school somewhere in the midwest and thanks Notre Dame in part for the opportunity. "Here they give you the tools to go elsewhere and perform well."

Although Mosley calls Thorne "one of the unsung heroes on the team," Thorne himself feels comfortable with his place. "I don't think that what I'm doing is any different than what anyone else is doing," he says. "I'm just trying to do what's right." □



Kevin Klau

Ivory Covington's eight-million dollar tackle preserved Notre Dame's 28-27 victory and kept alive hopes of a Major Bowl berth

SURVIVAL OF THE TOUGHEST

BY JOHN C. ILLIA

OCT. 14, 1995 — EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ

READY FOR BATTLE. (Above) The war in the trenches is about to begin as Ron Powlus barks out the cadence. The offensive and defensive lines of both teams did battle all day as both rushing attacks flourished.

One hundred sixty pounds and one foot. That's all that kept the Cadets of the United States Military Academy from pulling off one of the greatest upsets in college football history. Who would have thought that with 39 seconds left in the game, one of the smallest players on the Notre Dame roster would make a tackle that was described by ABC announcers as "one of the greatest plays in Notre Dame history?" Almost everyone associated with the game, whether they would admit it or not, expected Notre Dame to roll. The Irish entered the game ranked 17th in the country. Although Army had fallen just short of upsetting Washington earlier in the year, it was still a service academy. Every team needs a couple of easy games on its schedule and Army was seen as one for the Irish. With Lou Holtz entering the game 17-0 versus the service academies, the outcome seemed obvious. A walk in the park was expected,

and that's actually what happened, at least for the first three quarters.

It all began as expected for the Irish. After Army went three and out on its first possession of the game, the Irish took control and quickly drove 42 yards for a touchdown and first blood. On the following possession, however, Army showed why it was ranked fifth nationally in total yardage coming into the game. With their versatile wishbone offense, quarterback Ronnie McAda, running back Ron Thomas and fullback John Conroy gave the Irish an option-running seminar. The Cadets needed only three minutes and 32 seconds to drive 80 yards and tie the game.

Notre Dame scored twice more before the half. Autry Denson shined in the first half of his first collegiate start, rushing for two touchdowns, while Derrick Mayes showed off his skills with receptions of 31 and 47 yards. Indeed, as Ron Powlus took a knee to end the first half, the Irish seemed primed to complete a rout in the second half and prepare for the

complete a rout in the second half and prepare for the fifth-ranked USC Trojans. A glance at the scoreboard revealed a 21-7 Irish lead which seemed certain to expand in the second half.

The Irish received the ball to start the second half and after three Denson runs, Marc Edwards took a Powlus screen pass 46 yards to put Notre Dame in front 28-7. Little did the Irish know that those were the last points they would score the entire afternoon.

On their first possession of the second half, the Cadets capitalized on a Notre Dame pass interference call to bring the score to 28-14 with a Conroy 5-yard touchdown run. Notre Dame responded with a quick 55-yard drive to the Army six and seemed poised to score again when Edwards made an uncharacteristic mistake. The bruising, ever-dependable fullback showed his human side, losing a fumble.

Having walked away with no points after recovering the fumble, the Cadets had to wait only two plays for another scoring opportunity. On a diving interception by

John Tomasits, the Army offense was set up on the Notre Dame 33. On a 3rd and 7 play, McAda found Coby Short for a 24-yard gainer. Two plays later, Conroy sealed the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run.

“When he caught the ball, he was on about the 2-yard line. I knew I had to hold him up.”

— Ivory Covington

The Irish received the Army kick off with a little over four minutes remaining in the ball game. What happened next seemed scripted from a Boston College voodoo book.

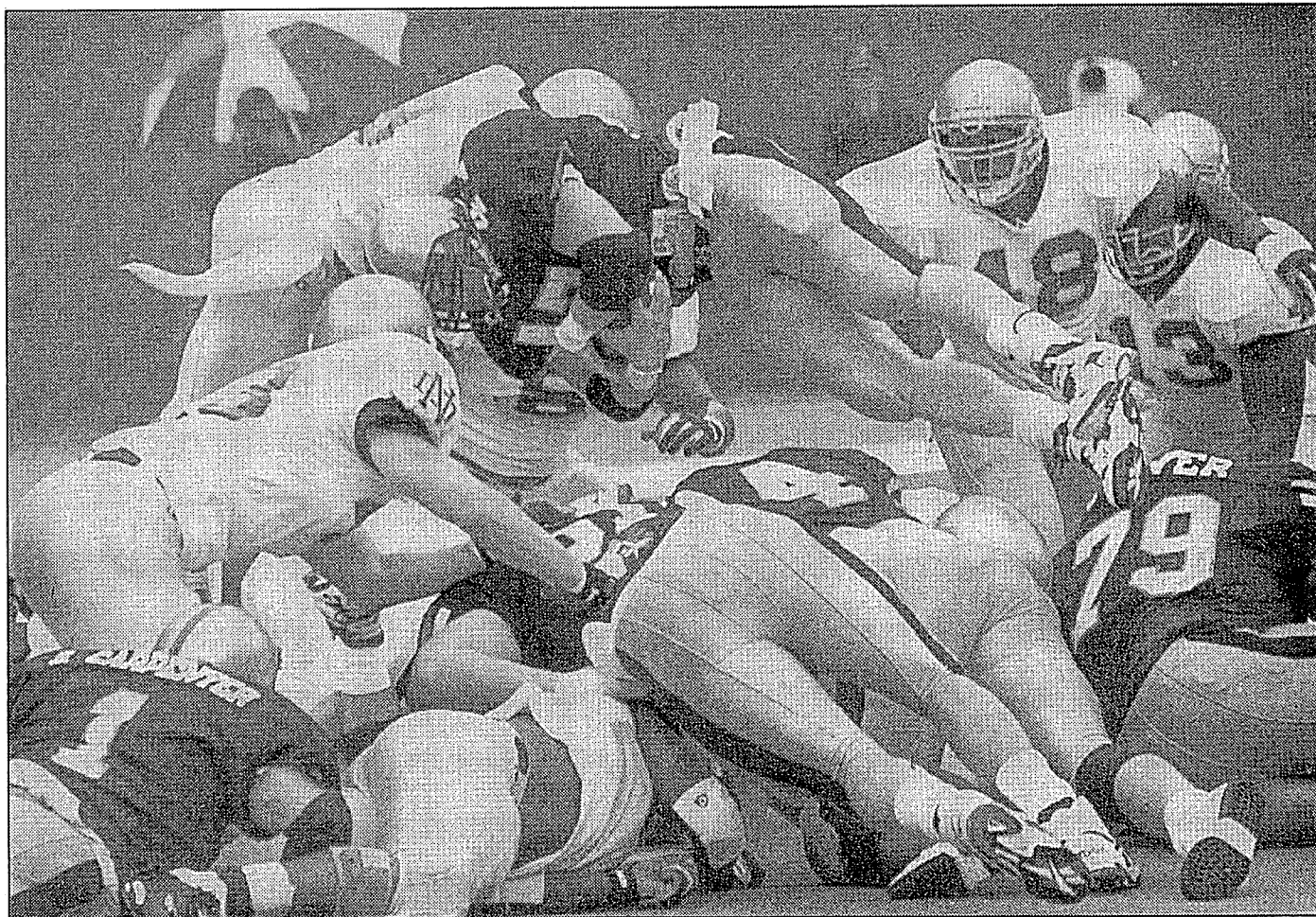
The offensive line for Notre Dame lined

up on fourth and one. Ron Powlus ducked under center Rick Kaczinski and the ball was snapped. Instead of being a successful quarterback sneak for the first down, the ball jumped wildly out of the hands of the quarterback and was swarmed by a sea of Army defenders.

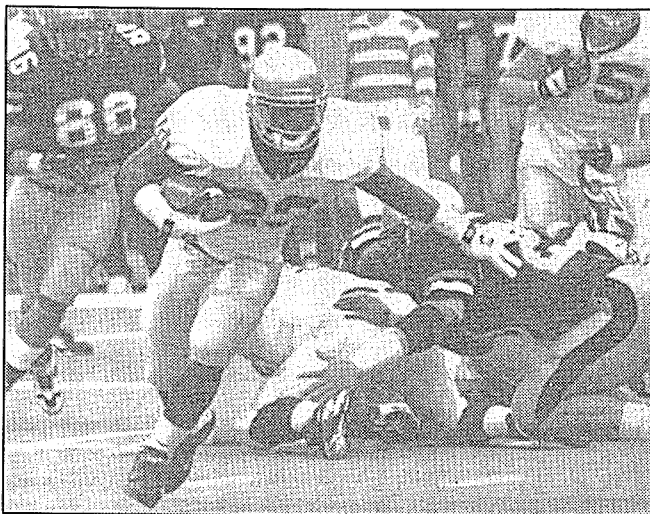
A reoccurring offensive error this season had come back to haunt the Irish. “I was upstairs. It was fourth down, it looked like a half-yard, there were three minutes in the game, and I wasn’t sure I wanted to give Army the ball back,” said Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz. “But the decision was made at that time to let the clock run down and call timeout, and I was screaming to let the clock run down and call timeout. . . You don’t want to do something like that when you’re racing against the clock.”

With 2:33 remaining in the ball game, Army had the ball on the Notre Dame 42-yard line. During that walk in the park the Irish had come face to face with a mugger.

True to form, the Cadets continued with their three-man game, pitching to Thomas around the end and handing off to Conroy



OVER THE TOP. Army fullback John Conroy leaps over the pile his line has made of the Irish Defense. The Cadet rushing attack racked up an eye-popping 365 yards.



Kevin Klau

OUTTA MY WAY! Freshman tailback Autry Denson sheds a tackle and heads upfield. In his first collegiate start, Denson rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries.

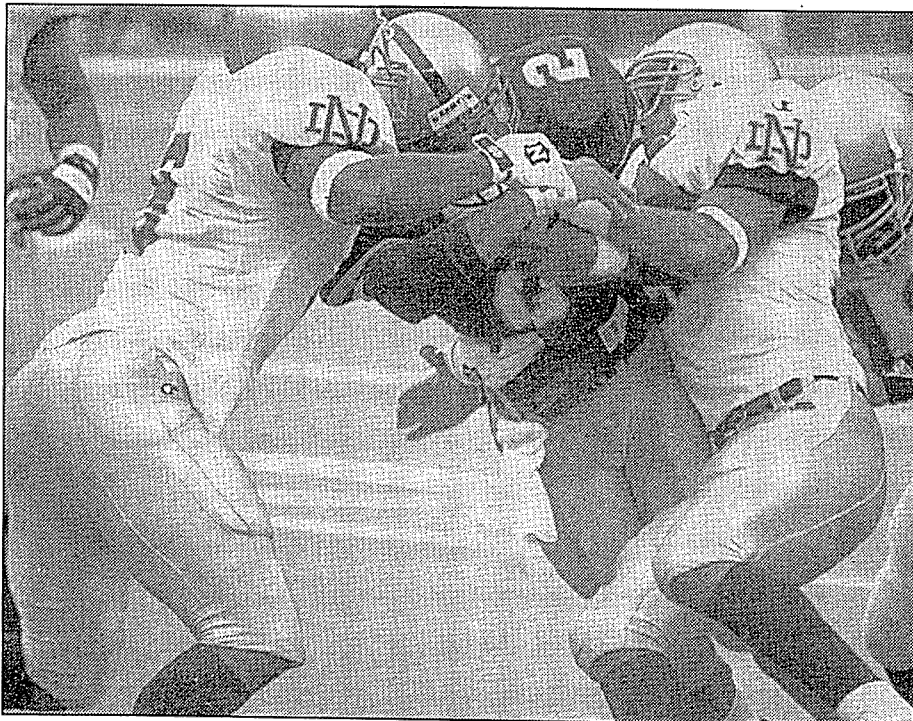
up the middle. Then, suddenly, with 39 seconds left, Army broke the mold they had been using all day. McAda faded back and hit Leon Gantt with a pass on the right side of the field slightly behind the line of scrimmage. Gantt took the pass seven yards and, on a diving leap, put the Cadets within one point of Notre Dame, 28-27.

It took Army head coach Bob Sutton no time to make the decision. Army was going for the win. On the snap of the ball, instead of heading down the line of scrimmage as he had all day, McAda faded back. Ron Leshinski, the Army tight end who had caught a pass from McAda for Army's first

touchdown of the day, was free and clear in the right flat at the 2-yard line. McAda threw and hit Leshinski right in the numbers. He was all alone. For an instant it seemed as though number 84 would walk into the end zone.

But as Leshinski began to turn toward the goal line, a one-hundred and sixty pound cornerback hit the tight end and the comeback was over. "We always talk about how the low man wins," Covington remarked after the game. "I had some momentum going forward, and he was going sideways. When he caught the ball, he was on about the two-yard line. I knew I had to hold him up."

Covington did just that and, in the process, earned the *Sports Illustrated* Defensive Player of the Week award. Simply put, Ivory made the most important play of his career. He helped keep dreams of a tier one bowl and an eight-million dollar pay-off alive. □



Kevin Klau

SMOTHERED. The Notre Dame defense converges on Army's Ron Thomas. In the second half, however, Army's offense riddled the Irish defense.



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Notre Dame	14	7	7	0	28
Army	7	0	7	13	27

1st Quarter

ND: Denson 2 run at 8:35 (Kopka PAT)
 ARMY: Leshinski 1 pass from McAda at 3:32 (Parker PAT)

ND: Edwards 2 run at 1:45 (Kopka PAT)

2nd Quarter

ND: Denson 2 run at 6:58 (Kopka PAT)

3rd Quarter

ND: Edwards 46 pass from Powlus at 13:00 (Kopka PAT)

ARMY: Conroy 5 run at 7:40 (Parker PAT)

4th Quarter

ARMY: Conroy 3 run at 4:17 (Parker PAT)

ARMY: Gantt 7 pass from McAda at 0:39 (Pass failed)

Team Statistics

	ND	ARMY
First Downs.....	17	25
Rushing.....	9	22
Passing.....	7	2
Net Yards Rushing.....	166	365
Net Yards Passing.....	189	42
Total Net Yards.....	355	407
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	6.2	4.8
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-2	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	3-39	4-30
Punts-Averages.....	3-38	4-52
3rd Down Conversions.....	6-10	8-18
Possession Time.....	23:52	36:08

Individual Statistics

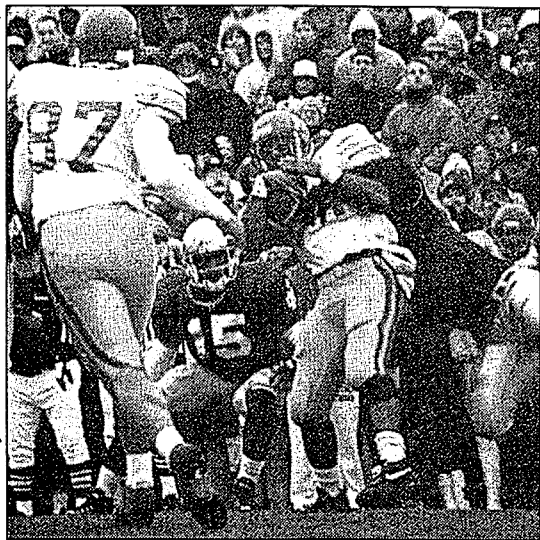
Rushing: ND- Denson 23-111, Edwards 10-44, Powlus 4-10, Spencer 1-1 Army- Thomas 15-157, Conroy 31-104, McAda 16-77, Perry 2-9, Short 1-7, Young 2-6, Hodge 1-4, Brizic 2-3, Carpenter 3-(-2)

Passing: ND- Powlus 19-8-189-1-1 Army- McAda 9-5-42-2-0, Thompson 2-1-0-0

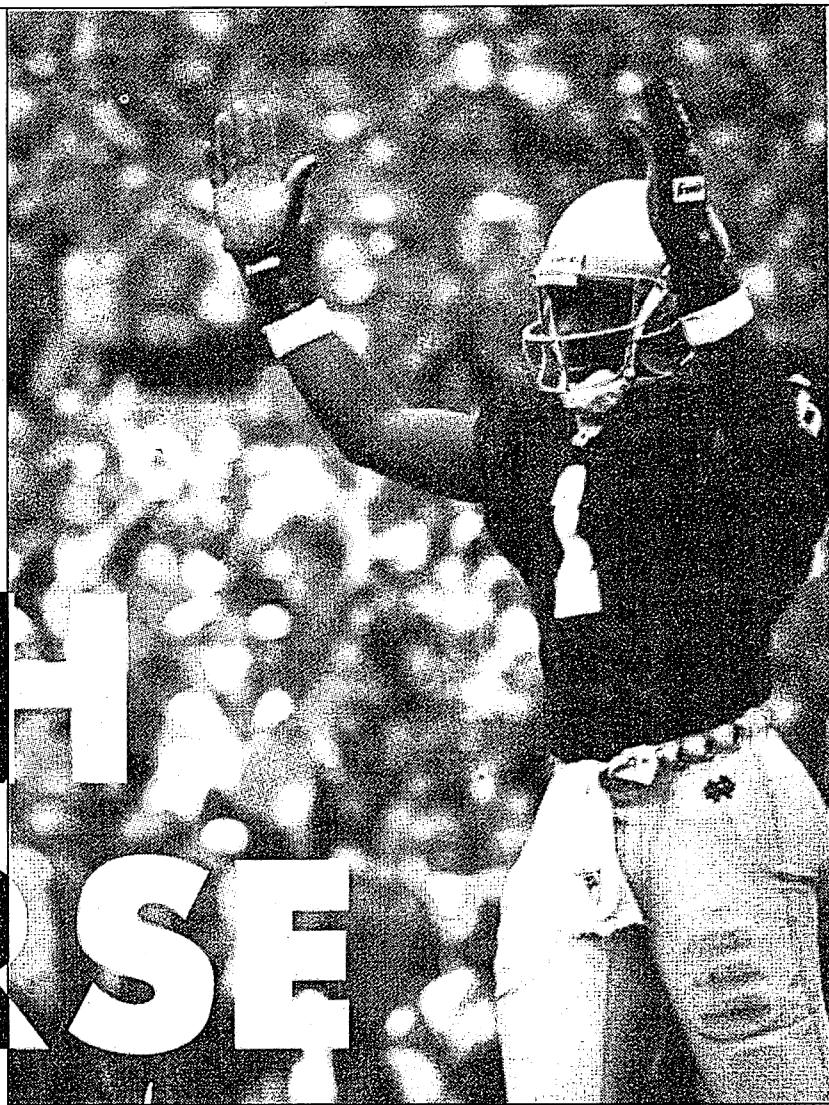
Receiving: ND- Chryplewicz 3-40, Mayes 2-78, Edwards 1-46, Mosley 1-13, Denson 1-12 Army- Thomas 2-10, Leshinski 2-1, Short 1-24, Gantt 1-7

Leading Tacklers: ND- Cobbins 14, Minor 13, Tatum 13, Wooden 12, Wynn 10, Berry 9, Bennett 6, Howard 6, Magee 6, Moore 6 Army- Tucker 10, King 8, Cantelupe 6, Gay 6, Tomasits 6, Coldsnow 4

Sacks: ND- Minor 1



Aaron Skalicky



Aaron Skalicky

IRISH HORISE

The Irish snuck up on the nation's number five team, whipping the men of Troy 38-10 in their best performance of the season

BY JAKE SCHALLER

An Open Letter to the Notre Dame Football Team

Dear Lou and the boys:

I would like to publicly apologize. I admit it. I thought you guys would lose to the Trojans of Southern Cal. Well, as long as I'm writing this, I had better come clean. I thought you had no chance. I thought USC would wipe the rain off the field with your uniforms and then run up and down the field on you. I thought that Keyshawn would strike that Heisman pose in the end zone all day. I thought Robinson and his Men of Troy would finally end that pesky streak of non-victories in style.

And could anyone not suiting up for the Blue and Gold on that October day feel any differently? I mean this is a team that came inches away, literally, from losing to Army! And now number five USC was rolling into town? Please.

OCTOBER 21, 1995 — NOTRE DAME, IN

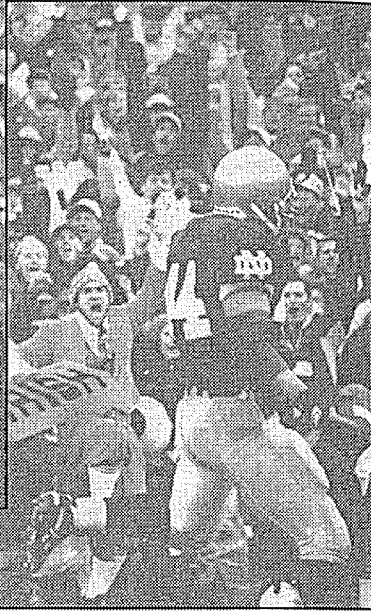
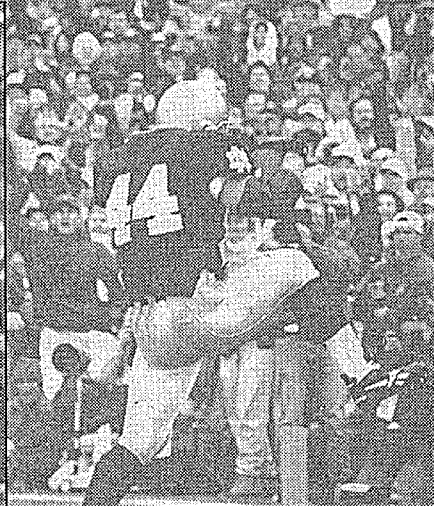
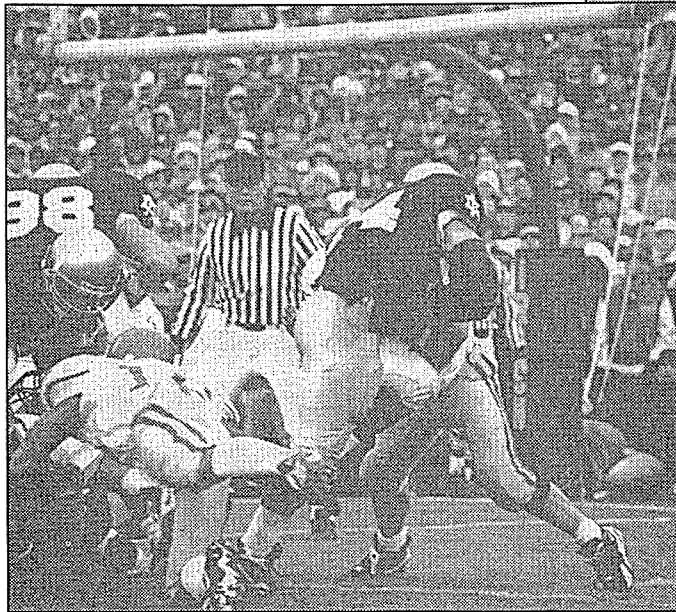
In one motion, a reborn Irish squad shocked the nation, turned in their best game of the season, threw themselves into the hunt for a major bowl and eliminated a national championship contender. That very smooth motion was the USC game, a story in domination.

On two October 21st possessions, the Notre Dame football team took a huge step towards becoming a great

• LOOKS GOOD FROM
• HERE. Senior
• Derrick Mayes
• (above) helps out the
• officials by signalling
• a Notre Dame score.

• NOWHERE. Irish
• defenders converge
• to bring down a
• Trojan receiver (top
• left). The Irish
• defense did a
• marvelous job
• containing USC's
• high-octane offense.

USC



RUNAWAY TRAIN. To the delight of Irish fans, bruising fullback Marc Edwards pounds his way into the USC end zone.

team instead of only a good one.

After a shocking first quarter in which the Irish thoroughly dominated the fifth-ranked Trojans, and less than six minutes of an equally impressive second quarter, all Notre Dame had to show for its efforts was a one-point deficit.

The Irish defense had just sent the Trojans to the sidelines without points for the third time in three tries during the game when a series of events that most watching thought would spell disaster actually brought out the character of this Irish squad.

Junior Scott Sollman caught John

Stonehouse's punt, and USC's Jesse Davis jarred the ball loose. His teammates recovered, giving the Trojans the ball on the Irish 17-yard line. Two plays later, Keyshawn Johnson caught a pass on an out pattern, slipped out of an Allan Rossum tackle and pranced into the end zone.

A successful extra point, a feat Kevin Kopka was unable to pull off earlier, put the Trojans up 7-6.

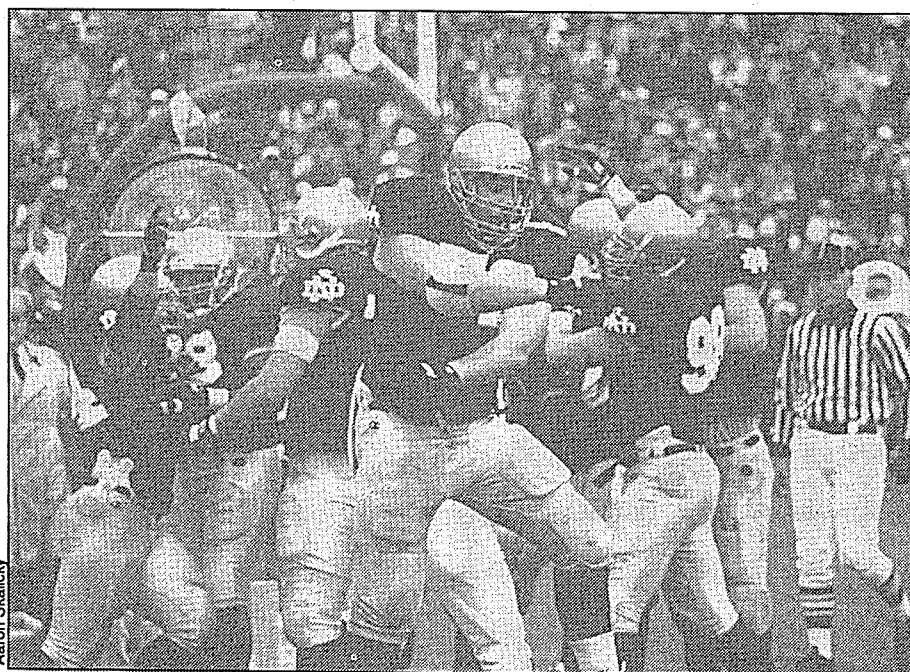
But just as the television audience and fans at Notre Dame Stadium began to roll their eyes and think to themselves, "Here we go again," the Irish came right back. The

fumble could have sparked a Columbus-esque turnover-fest. But the Irish shrugged off the turnover just as they had the rain and the cold, which bothered the visiting Trojans all day.

An offside and an illegal procedure penalty on the Trojans gave the Irish the ball at the USC 40. An 8-yard Autry Denson run and a 15-yard center screen to Denson got the drive going. Then a highlight reel block by fullback Marc Edwards on defensive end Israel Ifeanyi, which later appeared in *Sports Illustrated*, allowed Powlus to sneak out of trouble and scramble for six. Edwards and Denson then shared seven of the next eight carries, taking the Irish down the field before Edwards scored from two yards out.

Maybe even more impressive was that the eighth carry was made by Powlus. Criticized for his inability to run the option effectively, Powlus had asked Holtz to run it more in practice. "I said, 'Coach, I don't mind running the option if you want to run it,'" he recalled. Practice didn't make perfect, but it made it at the very least effective, giving the Irish another weapon. "We felt we had to run a little bit of option," Holtz said.

Edwards, who staked his claim for player of the game honors with his 82 yards, three touchdowns and tremendous blocking, also showed his athleticism on a crazy two-point conversion attempt that put the Irish up 14-7. Edwards took a pitch right, ran and then pulled up. He looked for Mayes and back to Powlus, who he thought was covered. Doing his best Fran Tarkenton imitation, the big fullback reversed his field and danced away



Aaron Skalicky

BIG MAN BOOGEY. Following another Irish touchdown, senior guard Ryan Leahy shows that linemen can dance.

from the defenders. He then headed for the left corner of the end zone. The man covering Powlus had to commit to Edwards, who then calmly lofted the ball to Powlus.

"The two-point conversion was a well-executed play," Edwards said. "I got great blocking from the line and USC took the bait. Ron was wide-open in the corner of the end zone."

The second series in which the Irish grew up came just before halftime. Denson had just given the Irish a 21-7 lead with a 4-yard touchdown run off of a delay. But the Trojans wanted to notch another touchdown before the last 41 seconds of the first half evaporated. Good field position and two long strikes gave USC the ball at the Notre Dame 5-yard line with only 19 seconds to go. Shades of the Ohio State game, in which the Buckeyes tabbed a momentum changing touchdown just before half, danced through the heads of Irish faithful.

Quarterback Kyle Wachholtz tried unsuccessfully to hit Johnson on corner patterns three times, but an interference penalty on the first of the three tries had given the Trojans the ball on the Notre Dame 2-yard line. On third and goal from the two, Wachholtz tried to go over the middle. Inside linebacker Lyron Cobbins batted the ball and USC running back Rodney Sermons collected it, but was swarmed short of paydirt as time expired. Momentum saved. "That was tremendous," Edwards said of the stand. "That was a huge boost." Powlus agreed: "The defense, they won the game."

Notre Dame continued to slosh through the soaked Trojans in the second half of play. But tenacity and a little Fighting Irish luck kept the Trojans at arm's length.

The defense had to step up first. Powlus, perhaps because of the wind, underthrew Mayes to start the second half, and the ball was intercepted. Backed up to their own thirty, the Irish defense allowed the Trojans to advance to the six, but then slammed the door. USC settled for a field goal.

Later in the third quarter, the Trojans' Larry Parker took a Hunter Smith punt at his own 41. He ran straight up the middle before breaking to the right sideline. Enter Irish luck. His jaunt, which ended in the end zone, would have been a game-breaking play, save for a little yellow hanky. An illegal block on USC brought the ball back.

The defense stepped up again later in the third quarter, after Kopka missed a chance

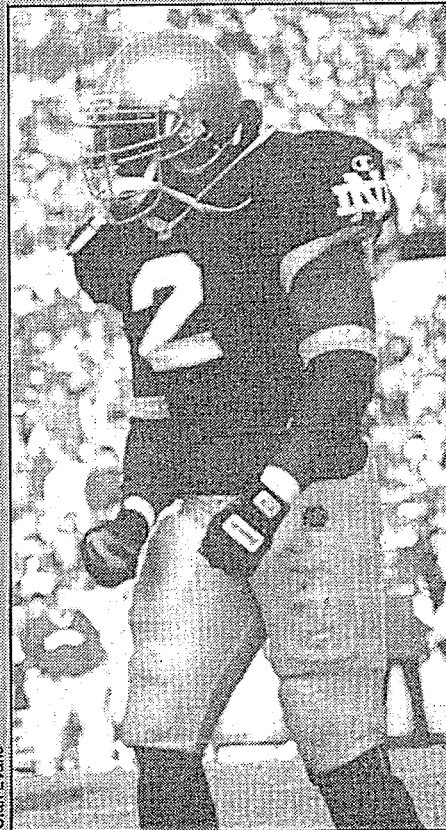
The Hit of the Year

Wham! Delon Washington, meet my friend Kinnon Tatum. Kinnon is a six-foot, 216-pound, hard-hitting (guess you know that) linebacker. He wears number two, just in case your memory is a bit fuzzy.

With their backs to the wall and USC with second down and goal from the Irish three, Tatum made the defensive play of the year. Launching himself over USC's fullback, the Tatum Torpedo rocked Washington just after the tailback had received the ball from quarterback Brad Otton. The hit knocked Washington back and jarred the ball loose. Fellow linebacker Bert Berry pounced on the ball at the three, ending the scoring threat. "[The fullback] was hitting me low," Tatum explained. "So I just went over top of him."

Sounds easy enough, but no matter how many times the replay is replayed, you still have to marvel at the anticipation, the power and the timing of the hit. "That was a great hit," Berry said. "They were getting a little momentum, and that gave us the momentum right back." □

—by Jake Schaller



BAD TO THE BONE. Kinnon Tatum's bone-crushing hits were the stuff highlights are made of.

to put the game away with a 29-yard field goal. This miss, however, provided one of the most striking visual images of the season. Intercepting Kopka as he made his way back to the sideline, Mayes grabbed the freshman to ensure eye-contact, and spoke to him for over a minute.

In the fourth quarter, the Irish iced the game. Kory Minor crumpled Wachholtz in the end zone for a safety, Powlus threw a touchdown pass, and Edwards notched his third touchdown of the game.

The spectacular plays, however, could not overshadow what was without a doubt the best, most complete win of the Irish season. After the game, USC coach John Robinson couldn't even point to a single play as the turning point. "There's really not much to say," he said. "We played bad, Notre Dame played good. It was a matter of their ability to run at us and our inability to make plays on third down. They had a good

plan, they executed it, and they overwhelmed us."

The Trojans seemed upset by the cold, rainy weather, while the Irish fed off of it. The offensive line pushed the Trojan defense out of the way, and Irish backs exploited it for 216 rushing yards. "[Edwards] was a real tough runner, and he was running behind a great offensive line," senior linebacker Scott Fields said. "They were easily the best offensive line we have faced this year. Not only are they big, but they are athletic and they were able to execute today."

The line also gave Powlus plenty of time to turn in a solid performance. Not flashy, with huge numbers, but effective, the way Holtz likes it. The junior completed 18 passes in 29 tries for 189 yards and a nifty 2-yard flip to tight end Pete Chryplewicz.

After Notre Dame struggled against Army's option wizardry, questions

abounded before the USC game. But starting with Tatum's mammoth hit (see sidebar), the Irish forced three turnovers and put the game away with a safety. Cobbins, who in two years had no interceptions, picked off two, returning one 37 yards. "We worked on pass drops during practice all week," he explained. "We played our best to get the big plays we needed to produce a win." Bert Berry contributed a drive-killing tackle, and Kory Minor a safety in a fine all-around effort by Notre Dame's standout linebacking core.

Of all those certain of a USC victory, the Trojans themselves might have been the most cocksure. Pregame comments from the Men of Troy incited Irish fury. "Some people can do it with their mouth, and we proved that we could do it by action," said Mayes.

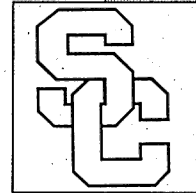
So please accept my apology. I promise to stop talking about that Army game. I guess it was midterm week.

*Thanking you in advance,
Doubting Schaller*

P.S. Lou, loved the tight end screen, the middle screens and the whole defensive plan. The play calling was as good as it has been in the past three years — great job. Which reminds me, no offense, but you being in the press box isn't so bad after all. □

TOUGH GAME. University of Southern California's Keyshawn Johnson (below) stands alone on the field. Johnson had 122 yards receiving, but could not carry USC to victory.

I'LL TAKE A LEG. A Southern Cal defender (bottom) pulls down Charles Stafford by one leg. The Southern Cal defense was unable to contain Notre Dame, as the Irish gained 191 yards on the ground and 278 yards in the air.



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Southern Cal	0	7	3	0	10
Notre Dame	6	15	0	17	38

1st Quarter

ND: Edwards 9 run at 8:38 (Kopka PAT)

2nd Quarter

USC: Johnson 17 pass from Wachholtz at 9:03 (Rendon PAT)

ND: Edwards 2 run at 3:25 (Powlus pass from Edwards)

ND: Denson 4 run at 0:41 (Kopka PAT)

3rd Quarter

USC: Rendon 25 FG at 12:31

4th Quarter

ND: TM safety at 12:05

ND: Chryplewicz 2 pass from Powlus at 9:07 (Edwards run)

ND: Edwards 1 run at 4:53 (Kopka PAT)

Team Statistics

	ND	USC
First Downs.....	23	20
Rushing.....	13	6
Passing.....	10	13
Net Yards Rushing.....	191	101
Net Yards Passing.....	278	189
Total Net Yards.....	380	379
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	4.5	5.5
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-1	4-2
Penalties-Yards.....	4-19	7-39
Punts-Averages.....	4-30	4-41
3rd Down Conversions.....	15-20	6-14
Possession Time.....	35:11	24:49

Individual Statistics

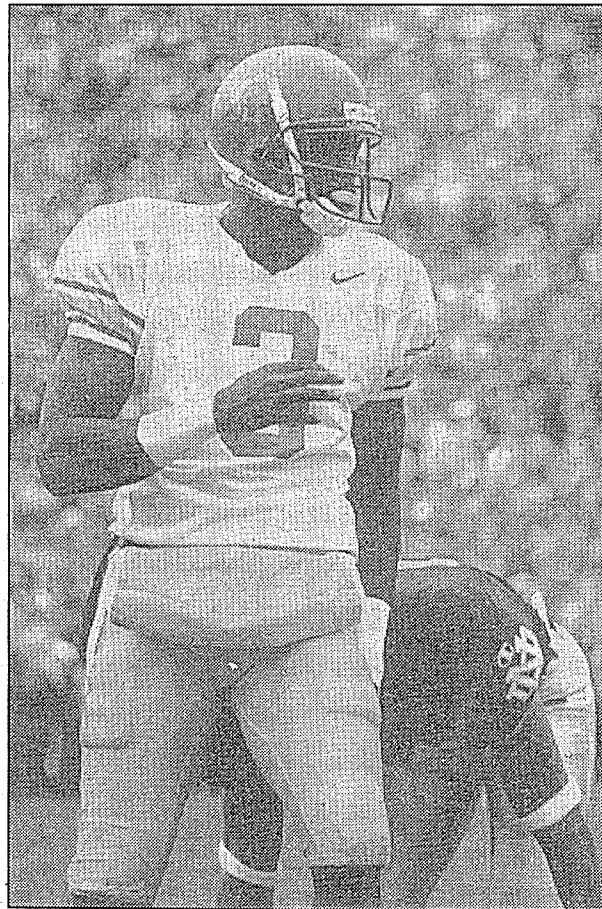
Rushing: ND- Denson 27-95, Edwards 17-82, Powlus 7-6, Mayes 1-5, Spencer 1-3, Kinder 2-2, Stokes 1-(-2) **USC-** Washington 19-69, Sermons 4-28, Otton 1-9, Wachholtz 5-(-5)

Passing: ND- Powlus 29-18-189-1-1 **USC-** Wachholtz 23-14-168-1-1, Otton 17-8-110-0-1

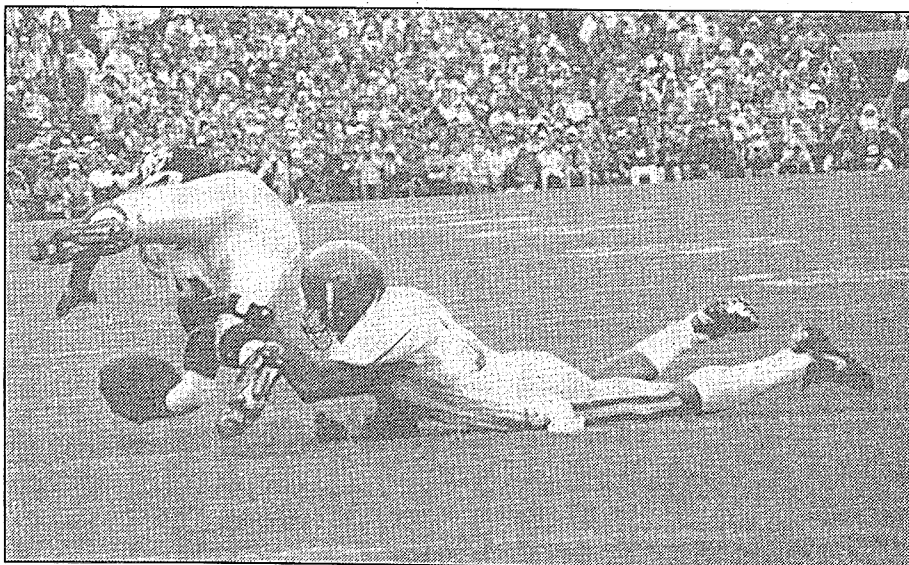
Receiving: ND-Edwards 4-30, Mosley 3-51, Denson 3-36, Chryplewicz 3-24, Mayes 2-22, Wallace 2-21, Stafford 1-5 **USC-** Johnson 6-122, McWilliams 4-65, Miller 3-28, Sermons 3-18, Barnum 3-8, Parker 2-29, Allred 1-8

Leading Tacklers: ND- Tatum 8, Cobbins 6, Berry 6, Rossum 6, Monohan 5 **USC-** Haas 13, Fields 10, Kelly 7, Phillips 8, Harrison 6

Sacks: ND- Minor 1

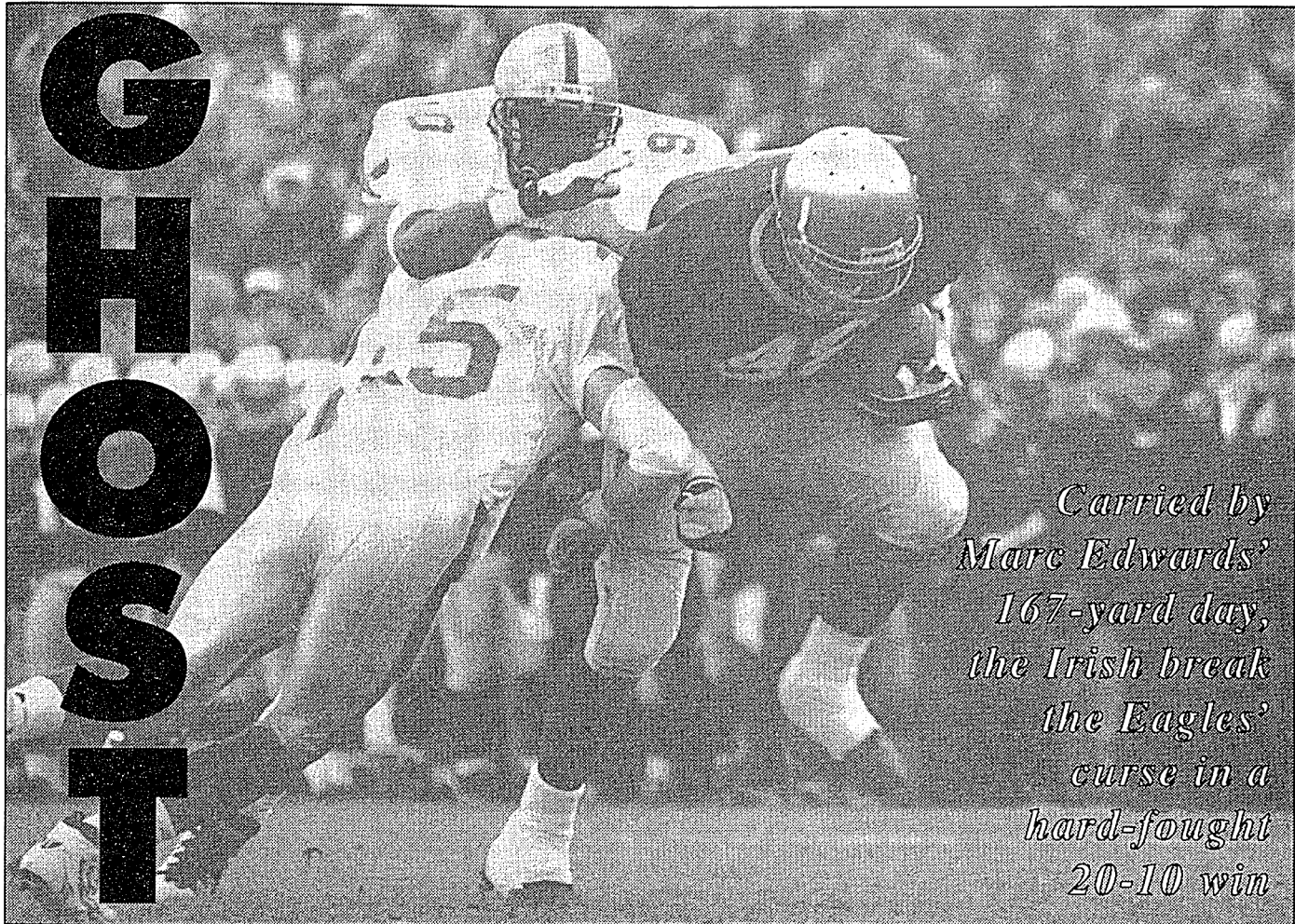


Aaron Skelley



Aaron Skelley

HIS OFT



*Carried by
Marc Edwards'
167-yard day,
the Irish break
the Eagles'
curse in a
hard-fought
20-10 win*

Eric Paredes

B UST ERS

BY DAVID FREITAG

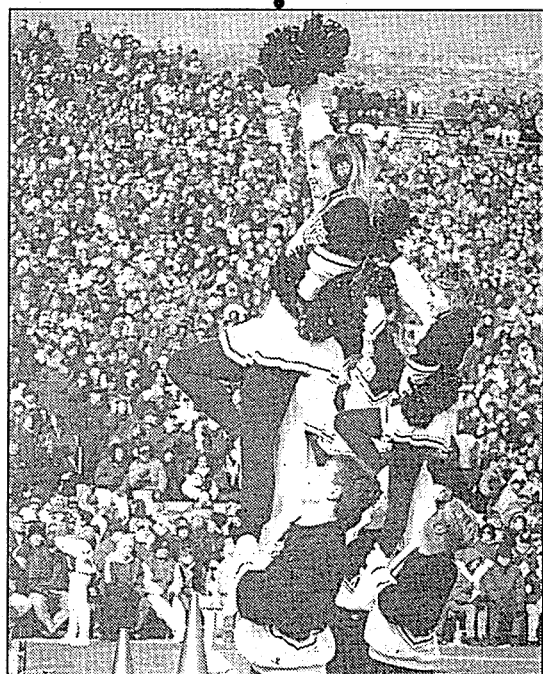
OCTOBER 28, 1995 — NOTRE DAME, IN

The 1995 Notre Dame-Boston College match-up had roots deeper than many of the large oak trees on the campus. It was a grudge-match that, for the Irish, meant far more than revenge.

Think back to 1993. The Irish had just come away with a victory in "The Game of the Century" over a powerful Florida State team which some had acclaimed as one of the best ever. To go along with their perfect record and soaring confidence, Notre Dame owned the #1 ranking. Along came a Boston College team which was supposed to be just another step to Notre Dame's ultimate goal. But the Eagles refused to be stepped on.

Not only did Boston College manhandle the Irish throughout the first three quarters, they prevented a patented Irish comeback with a 42-yard game-winning field goal as time expired.

Fast forward to 1994. The Irish were seeking revenge for having their fairy-tale season end in the second slot of the polls. Once again, the Irish were coming off a big win, this time against Stanford, and they had momentum on their side. They were slowly climbing the polls, as well, after an early season loss

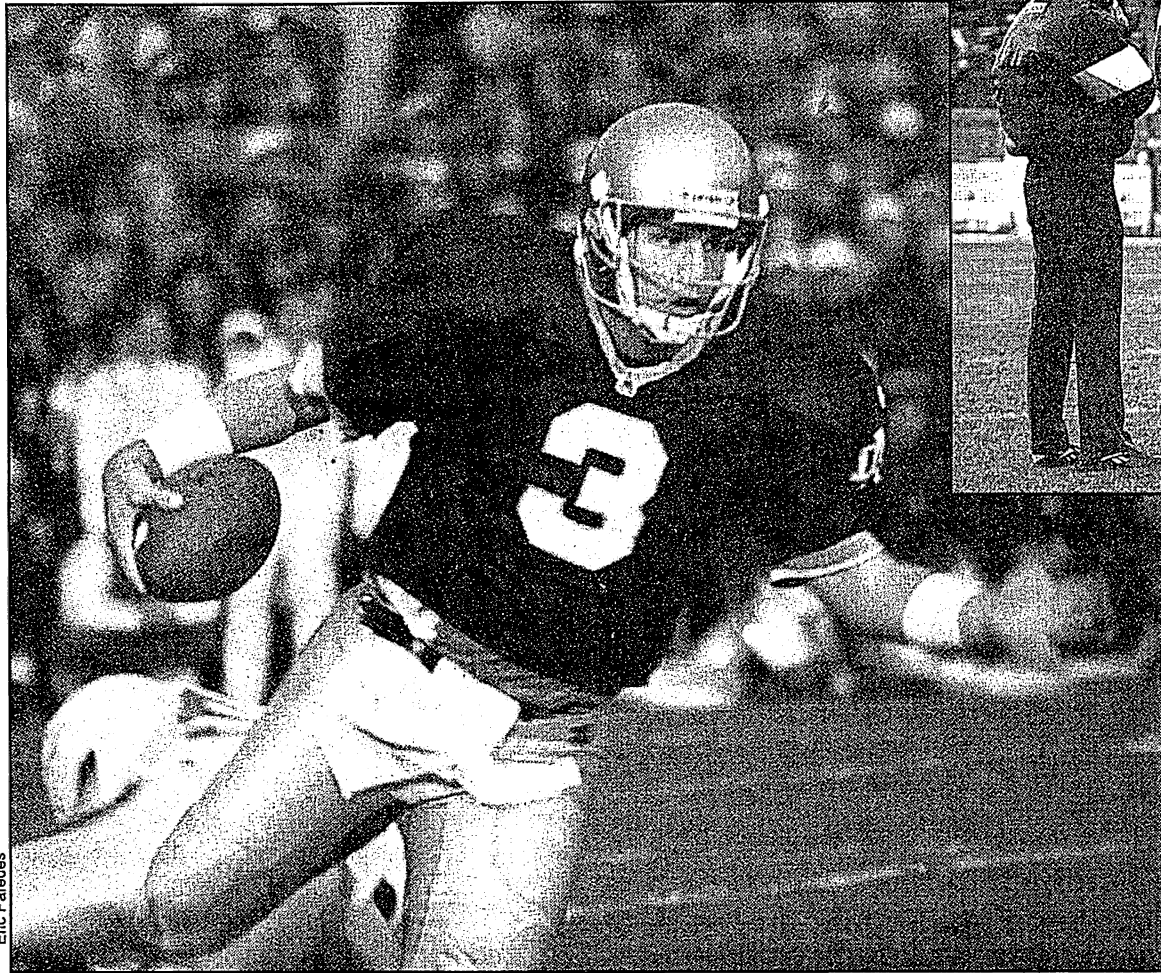


Arnon Skalkly

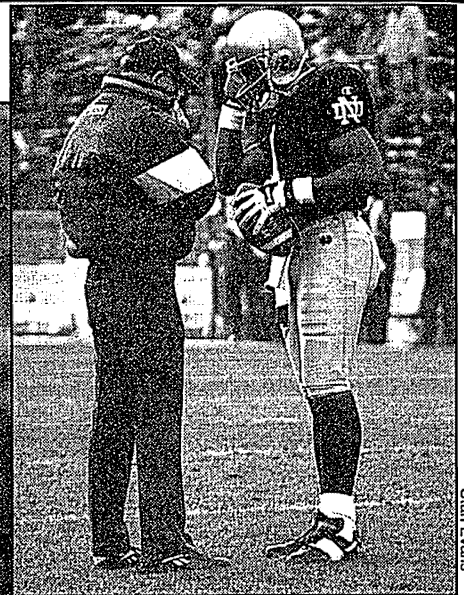
HIGHSTEP. Senior Pete Chryplewicz (top) drags two Boston College defenders down the field.

CHEER. Cheerleaders (above) excite the crowd.

BOSTON COLLEGE



Eric Paredes



Sean Evans

WHAT'S UP, COACH? Derrick Mayes (above) tries to listen to Lou Holtz during a break in the game.

FANCY FEET. Ron Powlus (left) shows off his escapability by leaving a BC defender eating dirt.

at the hands of Michigan. The Boston College game amounted to just another stepping stone on the path to recovery.

Once the dust, and the score, had settled, it was Boston College 30, Notre Dame 11. In a game that was more lopsided than the final score indicated, the Irish were thoroughly dismantled in every facet of the game and sent home with their tails between their legs.

On paper, this year's game looked to be an Irish cake-walk. After all, it was the 12th-ranked Irish taking on a subpar Boston College team which was coming off a 49-7 drubbing at the hands of Army. But there was that pesky curse the Eagles had concocted.

On the first series of the game, the Irish started with the ball on their own 30-yard line. From there, carried on the broad shoulders of Marc Edwards, Notre Dame found itself deep in Boston College territory in a handful of plays. The drive was capped with a center screen from quarterback Ron Powlus to Edwards, who hauled in the pass and dodged defenders en route to the end zone. Following a successful point

after attempt by Scott Cengia, who was making his first start in place of sporadic freshman Kevin Kopka, the Irish held an early 7-0 lead.

The ensuing kickoff gave the Eagle's possession on their own 28-yard line. From there, the running back tandem of Justice Smith and Omari Walker carried the ball down to the Notre Dame 22-yard line in just seven plays. But the Irish secondary stepped up. On the next play, Notre Dame free safety LaRon Moore made a difficult grab for an interception. It amounted to a crucial play, abruptly ending an otherwise impressive drive which could have knotted the score at seven.

The powerful Irish rushing attack advanced the ball to the Eagles 20-yard line. But then, the offensive line went on break, and the Irish threw it in reverse. The running game sputtered and Powlus received pressure. On a fourth down attempt, Powlus was flushed from the pocket on a pass attempt and hit from behind. The junior coughed up the ball and the Eagles recovered.

The Eagles came out rolling. After sev-

eral effective runs by Smith and a couple of completions by quarterback Mark Hartsell, the Eagles found themselves on Notre Dame's 40-yard line to begin the second quarter. Once again, the Eagles were driving and Notre Dame's defense was bending.

After stalling on their first drive of the game by attempting a pass that resulted in an interception, the Eagles were sticking to the ground game this time around. They capped the drive with an Omari Walker 2-yard run, tying the game at seven.

The score indicated that the Eagles' had definitely come to play, putting behind them their embarrassing loss to Army the week before. After all, they were now playing Notre Dame and they had an opportunity to play the spoiler once again. "Emotion played a huge part in this game," said BC's Darryl Porter after the game. "Last week in practice guys realized that we were still a good team. We are just young."

Notre Dame added a Cengia field goal before halftime, but it did not seem like enough.

A missed BC field goal in the third quar-

ter gave the Irish the ball on their own 32. With seven carries shared between Austry Denson and Edwards, the Irish were able to advance to the Eagle's 31-yard line. Powlus found Derrick Mayes for a 16-yard gain and then hit Chryplewicz over the middle two plays later for another 16. The drive was capped by Edwards barreling over left tackle for the score. The Cengia PAT gave the Irish a 10-point cushion. But the Eagles refused to fly peacefully away. On the following drive, Hartsell took advantage of Notre Dame's sagging secondary. He was able to move the Eagles into field goal

the exception of a fumbled snap, which has managed to find a prolonged stay in Notre Dame's playbook, Notre Dame's last drive could be categorized as perfection. The drive put three more points on the board, amassed 83 yards, required 18 plays and, most importantly, sucked 9:41 off the clock. With a 10 point lead, the Irish defense closed out the game. "I really liked the way we used up nine minutes on our fourth quarter offensive drive," Holtz said. "To me that shows good old-fashioned football."



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Boston Coll	0	7	3	0	10
Notre Dame	7	3	7	3	20

1st Quarter

ND: Edwards 17 pass from Powlus at 12:46 (Cengia PAT)

2nd Quarter

BC: Walker 2 run at 11:16 (McGuire PAT)
ND: Cengia 22 FG at 1:21

3rd Quarter

ND: Edwards 2 run at 5:10 (Cengia PAT)
BC: McGuire 41 FG at 1:34

4th Quarter

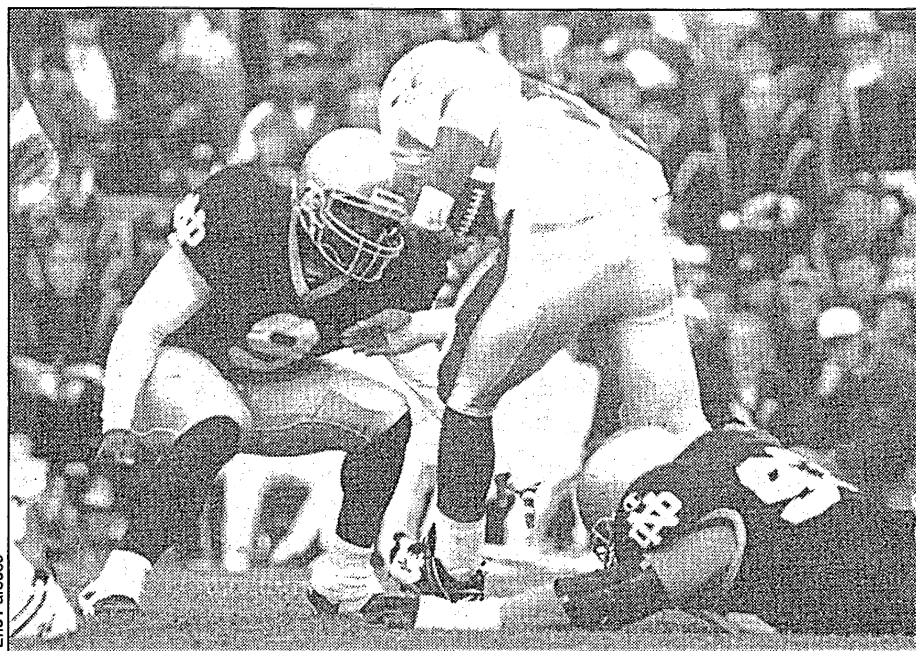
ND: Cengia 26 FG at 2:42

Team Statistics

	ND	BC
First Downs.....	21	17
Rushing.....	16	10
Passing.....	4	7
Net Yards Rushing.....	247	154
Net Yards Passing.....	71	149
Total Net Yards.....	318	303
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	4.9	4.9
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards.....	2-11	5-40
Punts-Averages.....	2-42	1-28
3rd Down Conversions.....	8-15	3-11
Possession Time.....	32:17	27:43

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Edwards 28-167, Kinder 9-38, Denson 10-32, Mosley 1-3, Powlus 7-3 BC- Smith 25-97, Walker 8-30, Watson 1-17, Hartsell 2-9, Cloud 1-1
Passing: ND- Powlus 10-6-71-1-0
BC- Hartsell 25-15-149-0-2
Receiving: ND- Stafford 1-22, Edwards 1-17, Mayes 1-16, Chryplewicz 1-16, Kinder 1-4, Farmer 1-(-4) BC- Everson 3-38, Watson 3-21, Harding 2-26, Walker 2-15, Pollack 2-13, Dragos 2-12, Grice 1-24
Leading Tacklers: ND- Magee 11, Berry 9, Moore 7, Wynn 6, Tatum 5 BC- Haff 11, Monk 9, Blount 8, Wiggins 7, Clifford 7
Sacks: ND- Wynn 1 BC- Haff 1, Morabito 1



Eric Paredes

GET IN FOOTBALL POSITION. Senior safety LaRon Moore breaks down and prepares to stick Eagles running back Justice Smith.

range, where they successfully converted the kick from 41 yards out. Up by only one touchdown, Irish eyes were not smiling.

As usual, Notre Dame did not fail to make the game even more interesting. On the next series, Notre Dame went three and out. To make matters worse, a low, line-drive punt by Hunter Smith covered only 37 yards, and was returned to the Irish 43.

The defense was summoned to make a play once again, and it answered. This time it was linebacker Lyrone Cobbins, picking off his third pass in two games. Cobbins snagged the pass on the Irish 2-yard line and returned it to the 10. For the record, the pick marked the Eagles' second turnover in the red zone on the day. "The two errors inside the 20 really hurt us," said Boston College Head Coach Dan Henning.

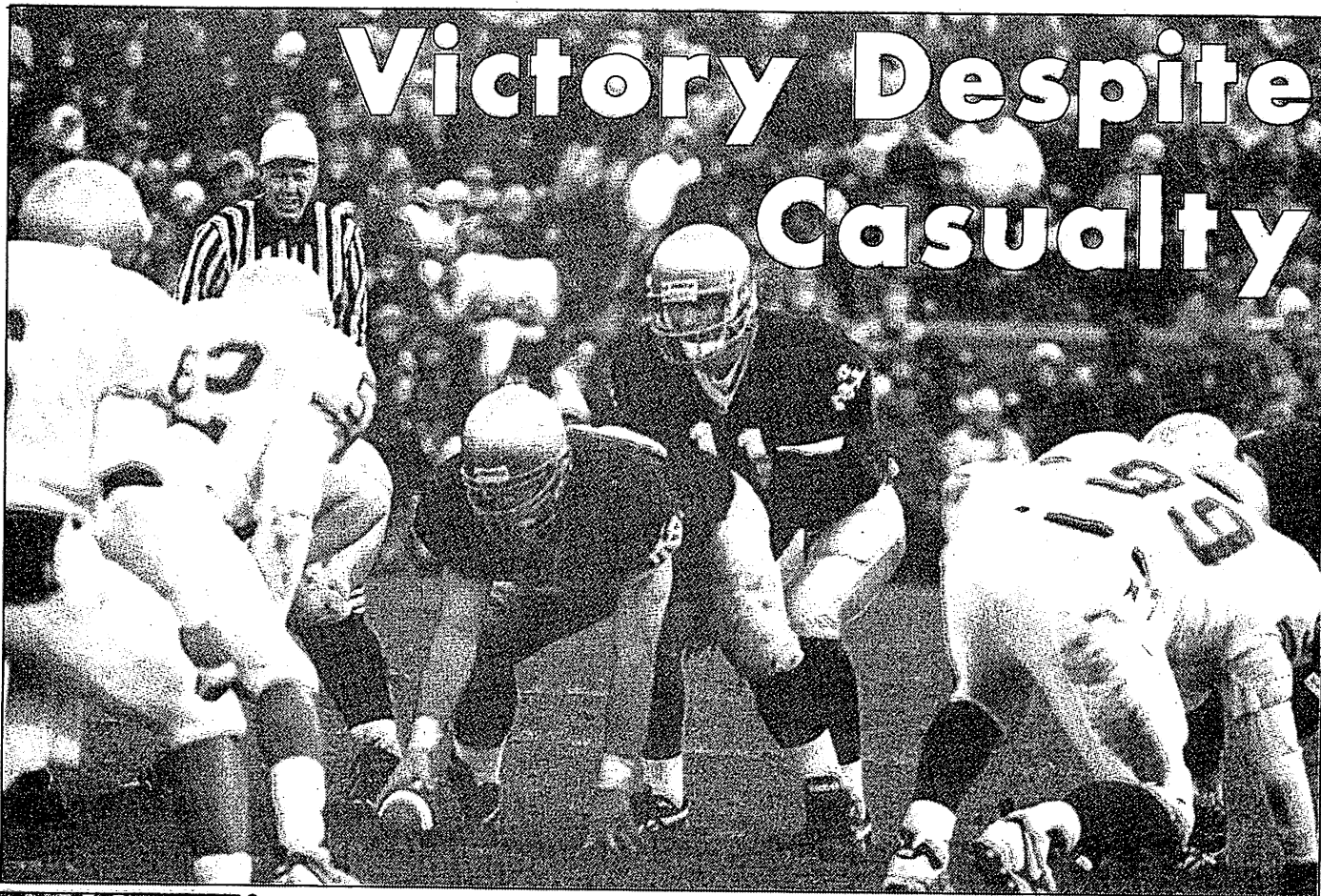
The rest was vintage Notre Dame. With

Edwards continued to bulldoze his way to stardom. The junior fullback carried the ball, as well as the load, during the game. He rushed for 167 yards on 28 carries and a touchdown, and caught a touchdown pass that covered 17 yards. Though his 167 yards were a personal best, the junior passed along the credit. "That's a tribute to our offensive line — they just dominated," he said. "They came through all day. We never got less than three yards on a play."

Despite playing down the rivalry and denying the revenge factor before the game, it was obvious the Irish shook a huge burden from their shoulders.

"We can't undo what happened the last two years," said Ryan Leahy. "We were thinking about the guys on the '93 team, like Aaron Taylor and Tim Ruddy. This was for them." □

Victory Despite Casualty



Eric Paredes

Ron Powlus broke his humerus bone, but Tom Krug rallied the Irish to a 35-17 win over the Middies

BY FRED LeBRERQUE

NOVEMBER 4, 1995 — NOTRE DAME, IN Even before the game started, it would be remembered as a game of endings. The final home game for the Irish matched them up with the Midshipmen of Navy in what would be the last game a talented group of seniors would ever play in Notre Dame Stadium.

Even more than that, though, it was the last game any Notre Dame football player would play in the stadium as it had stood for so many years. Construction, scheduled to begin the next day, would add an extra 20,000 seats to the house that Rockne built. All of this was expected. But it was the unexpected ending in the second half that became the most memorable for Irish players and fans alike.

Less than five minutes into the second half, Ron Powlus rolled left from his own 17-yard line. Navy linebacker Fernando Harris blitzed through the line untouched and slammed the junior quarterback for a 9-yard loss. Powlus came down heavily on his left arm, and he did not get up. Not a pretty sight for Irish fans.

The humerus in his left arm had snapped all the

way through about four inches above his elbow. Dr. Willard Yergler, who examined Powlus, said after the game that the recovery time for this injury would be four to six months. Ron Powlus' season was over.

This was not how this season was supposed to end for Powlus. Enter Tom Krug.

And what a difficult entry it must have been. Krug took his heavily meaningful snap of his college career with the much favored Irish down 17-14. After being outplayed by an inspired Navy team, most felt that the Irish were lucky to be down by only three points. Krug also entered the game with less than seven minutes playing time in only three games on the season. Factor in that he had yet to attempt a pass this season, and you had a potential recipe for disaster.

But the other members of the Irish offense were not about to allow Krug to lose confidence in himself. They knew he needed to execute in order for Notre Dame to come back and win this game.

"I encouraged [Krug] every play. I let him know that in distress, I'm always there if he needs me," said Derrick Mayes. Simple translation: "Throw me the ball." Krug did not take this advice lightly, unloading



Sian Evans

NEW FIELD GENERAL. Tom Krug (above center) tossed two touchdown passes while filling in for Ron Powlus and leading the Irish to victory.

MILITARY PRECISION. A Precision Drill Team leader oversees the half time performance.

a bomb down the sideline in the direction of Mayes on his third passing attempt of the year. Mayes came back to the slightly underthrown ball, eluded the defender and coasted the rest of the 42 yards to the end zone. This play gave Notre Dame its first lead of the game.

On the very next drive, Krug hit Mayes in the corner of the end zone to put the Irish up by 11.

The Irish went on to win the game 35-17. That score implies that the Irish had easily handled an under-matched Navy team, just as they were expected to.

After all, most people had expected the game to be over by halftime. But they all forgot to tell the Middies.

Navy entered Notre Dame Stadium as the least penalized team in the nation. As it turned out, however, the little yellow flags were one of the Midshipmen's biggest enemies against the Irish.

Navy had two touchdowns called back because of penalties in the first half, and they ended up with seven costly infractions for a total of 61 yards.

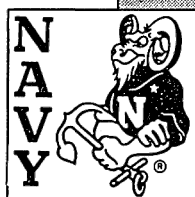
"I felt we should have had 35 or 38 points in the first half, but we beat ourselves," first year Navy Head Coach Charlie Weatherbie said, "I think in the first half we had more penalties than we had all year."

Penalties aside, Navy thoroughly dominated the first half of play. While the Notre Dame offense sputtered, the Midshipmen sailed down the field with little resistance from the Irish defense. Indeed, Notre Dame seemed confused by the well-engineered option attack of Navy.

Irish defensemen were tackling three Navy players on every play because they did not know where the ball was. When the first half mercifully came to a close, the Irish had been outgained 301 yards to 132. Navy quarterback Ben Fay, who was starting his first game of the year for the Midshipmen, accounted for 180 of Navy's yards, 113 through the air and 67 on the ground. Obviously, adjustments had to be made.

The Notre Dame defense came to play in the second half, shutting Navy out for the final 30 minutes of play. Moreover, the same defense that had allowed Navy to rack up 188 yards on the ground in the first half held them to a meager 14 in the second stanza. The Irish offense had just needed a jump start to really get things rolling. Unfortunately, it was the injury of one of its most vital members that ended up being this spark.

Everyone knew that the final home game for the seniors and the final game in Notre Dame Stadium before its renovation was going to be an emotional one. Holtz had told his players before the game not to let their tears get in the way of their blocking, tackling and catching. Fortunately they were able to heed his advice, and put their emotions aside long enough to take care of business. □



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Navy	7	10	0	0	17
Notre Dame	7	7	14	7	35

1st Quarter

NAVY: Scott 15 run at 11:02 (Covarrubias PAT)

ND: Wallace 8 pass from Powlus at 8:19 (Cengia PAT)

2nd Quarter

NAVY: Fay 3 run at 4:03 (Graham PAT)

ND: Powlus 1 run at 1:17 (Cengia PAT)

NAVY: Graham 21 FG at 00:00

3rd Quarter

ND: Mayes 42 pass from Krug at 4:58 (Cengia PAT)

ND: Mayes 3 pass from Krug at 3:28 (Cengia PAT)

4th Quarter

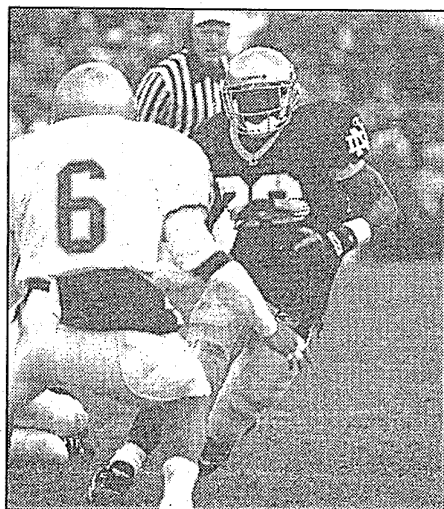
ND: Denson 24 run at 10:54 (Cengia PAT)

Team Statistics

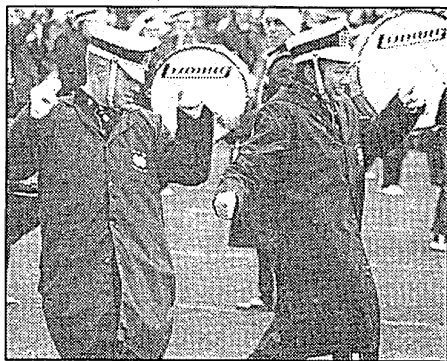
	NAVY	ND
First Downs.....	24	15
Rushing.....	12	8
Passing.....	11	5
Net Yards Rushing.....	202	165
Net Yards Passing.....	231	154
Total Net Yards.....	433	319
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	5.1	5.4
Fumbles-Lost.....	3-3	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	7-61	6-77
Punts-Averages.....	3-42	8-34
3rd Down Conversions.....	9-17	4-12
Possession Time.....	32:32	27:28

Individual Statistics

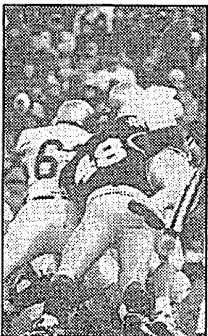
Rushing: ND- Denson 16-115, Edwards 11-46, Farmer 2-11, Kinder 5-10, Spencer 2-4, Krug 1-0 NAVY- Carnadal 5-56, Fay 26-53, Scott 3-42, Smith 1-24, Schemm 2-12, Dingle 2-7, McGrew 1-4, Nelson 3-4
Passing: ND- Powlus 8-4-64-1-0, Krug 8-5-90-2-0 NAVY- Fay 31-18-231-0-2
Receiving: ND- Mayes 4-81, Wallace 2-6, Stafford 1-38, Edwards 1-30, Chryplewicz 1-(-1) NAVY- Heaven 6-97, Schemm 5-35, McGrew 2-30, Butts 2-29, Scott 2-19
Leading Tacklers: ND- Grasmanis 12, Moore 11, Cobbins 10, Tatum 10 NAVY- Alota 14, Harris 6, Andrews 4, Thompson 4
Sacks: ND- Cobbins 1, Wynn 1 NAVY- Speed 1, Harris 1, Person 1



Eric Paredes



Stan Evans



Eric Paredes

JUST WYNN BABY. Senior Renaldo Wynn puts the hit on Navy's Ben Fay, jarring the ball loose.

ONE ON ONE. Autry Denson prepares to juke Navy's Gervy Alota. Denson led the Irish in rushing with 115 yards on 16 carries.

LAST DANCE. Band members dance to the music of Miami Sound Machine's Conga during their final performance of the year in Notre Dame Stadium.

NAVY



Mike Runza

GROUND FORCE

With a scary rushing attack, the Irish piled up 410 yards on the ground and secured a spot in a major bowl with a 44-14 win over the Falcons.

RIGHT THIS WAY. With blockers opening mammoth holes, Clement Stokes (above) has room to run. The sophomore picked up 11 yards on the carry.

BUT COACH! Senior captain and defensive back Shawn Wooden (right) talks with defensive coordinator Bob Davie.

NOWHERE. That's where Air Force quarterback Beau Morgan (next page) is going. The Irish held the dangerous quarterback to 63 yards passing and 40 yards rushing.



Mike Runza

BY JAKE SCHALLER

NOV. 18, 1995 — COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Listen to Lou Holtz talk about football and you will begin to understand. Look back at the big games that the Irish have won with Holtz and you will find more insight. Peruse stat sheets from his tenure and it will begin to be quite clear:

Lou loves to run the football.

To Holtz, the passing game is a last resort. A plan B, if you will. The game is controlled by the rushing attack. Whomever can control the line of scrimmage and push the opposing team back will win.

Holtz's tenure with the Irish has been marked by ferocious rushing attacks. Taylor, Ruddy, Heck, Dahl, Grunhard. Giant men who open giant holes. Bettis, Brooks, Watters, Rice, Becton. Talented runners who run through those holes. These names are synonymous with Holtz's smash-mouth philosophy.

On a night when eight-million dollars rode on his football team, Holtz turned to his newest stable to

lead his team to a 44-14 victory. Though the injury to Ron Powlus had necessitated a simpler game plan, the Irish rushing attack became the story of the game not because of how much they were used, but because of how brilliant they were.

True to Holtz form, it was not one star, but a collection that carried the load. Randy Kinder's 121 yards, Autry Denson's 109 yards and Marc Edwards' 84 yards led the way. "They complement each other so well," Offensive Coordinator Dave Roberts said of his running backs. "They, along with Robert Farmer, are three great backs."

So great, that Krug only had to supervise, handing off and throwing the occasional completion to win his first start: For the record, eight completions in 13 tries for an unspectacular but solid 96 yards. With the exception of one interception, Krug did everything he was asked to do. "Coach Holtz did a great job and I felt so comfortable with the game plan," the junior quarterback said. "I was getting all the reads and it seemed so easy."

Holtz's plan was apparent from the start. During the first Irish scoring drive, the offense went 94 yards — all on the ground. Edwards even got the ball on a third down with seven yards to go. Kinder's 17-yard scamper gave the Irish a 7-0 lead that they would not relinquish. The Irish scored on all but one of their first half possessions, jumping out to a 20-0 lead.

While the offensive onslaught brought smiles to the faces of the Irish faithful, it was

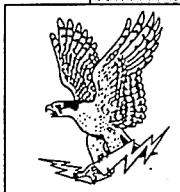
the defense that made them proud: The defense showed that the third time really is a charm, shutting down Air Force's dangerous option attack, which Army and Navy had used so effectively. "What really made a difference was the fact that they have had four weeks of preparation [one each for Army and Navy and two for Air Force] defending against the option," Air Force Head Coach Fisher DeBerry said. "I really salute the job they did preparing for this game."

Vindication was made even sweeter for the defense because of the praise heaped on the Falcons before the game. Led by Lyrone Cobbins, who picked off his fifth pass in four games, the Irish created three turnovers and shut down the wishbone.

A second half letdown was non-existent, as the Irish continued to pile up the yards and stack up the Falcons. Touchdowns by Kinder, Denson and Thorne and another field goal by Scott Cengia (who kicked three field goals and five extra points without a miss) wrapped up the blowout.

Cengia's reliability and new punt-returner Derrick Mayes' exciting bursts highlighted a rare mistake-free special teams day. The whole game, in fact, seemed perfect. You might even say the Irish looked like a million bucks. Make it eight million.

"This is definitely a great way to go out," senior captain Ryan Leahy said. "Now we just have to get ourselves ready for a big bowl." □



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Notre Dame	10	10	17	7	44
Air Force	0	0	7	7	14

1st Quarter

ND: Kinder 17 run at 5:26 (Cengia PAT)
ND: Cengia 30 FG at 0:38

2nd Quarter

ND: Denson 3 run at 9:34 (Cengia PAT)
ND: Cengia 26 FG at 2:44

3rd Quarter

ND: Cengia 27 FG at 10:07
AF: Addison 17 pass from Morgan at 6:47 (Whatley PAT)

ND: Denson 23 run at 4:25 (Cengia PAT)
ND: Kinder 5 run at 0:42 (Cengia PAT)

4th Quarter

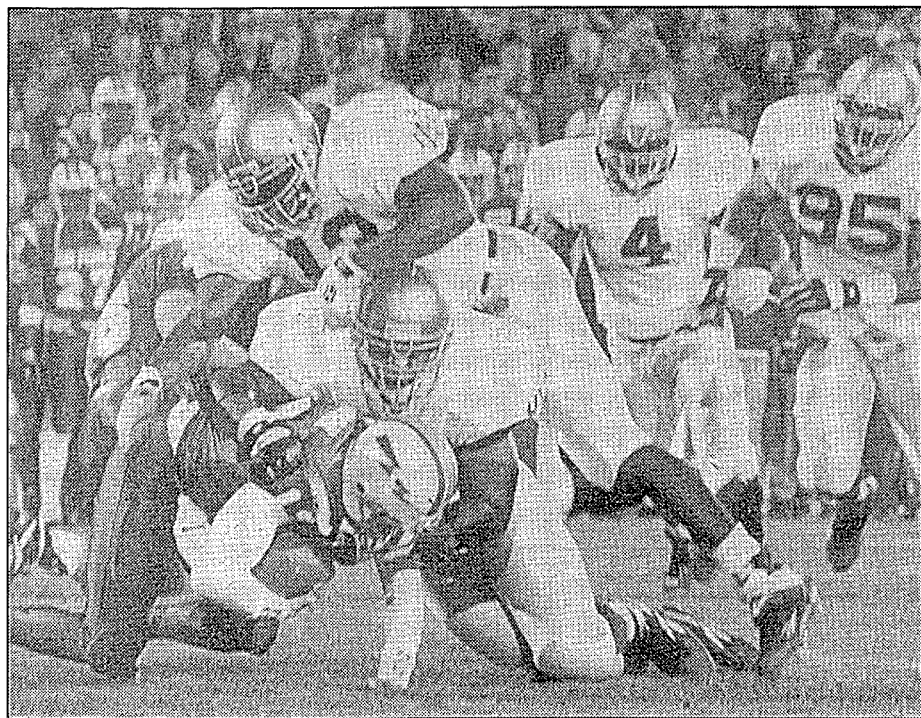
ND: Thorne 5 run at 14:57 (Cengia PAT)
AF: Brooks 11 pass from Morgan at 13:03 (Thompson PAT)

Team Statistics

	ND	AF
First Downs.....	27	14
Rushing.....	24	9
Passing.....	3	3
Net Yards Rushing.....	410	223
Net Yards Passing.....	104	63
Total Net Yards.....	514	286
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	6.7	5.4
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	7-52	4-25
Punts-Averages.....	1-38	4-56
3rd Down Conversions.....	3-8	1-10
Possession Time.....	34:59	25:01

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND- Kinder 14-121, Denson 16-109, Edwards 14-84, Farmer 8-35, Sollmann 1-16, Thorne 3-15, Krug 3-13, Stokes 1-11, Spencer 2-6, Berry 1-0 AF- Addison 10-108, Morgan 10-40, Wilkerson 6-30, Tanner 3-17, Johnson 3-11, Eilers 1-10
Passing: ND- Krug 13-8-96-0-1, Perona 1-1-8-0-0 AF- Morgan 16-8-63-2-2
Receiving: ND- Mayes 3-46, Mosley 2-19, Edwards 1-13, Stafford 1-7, Chryplewicz 1-11, Carretta 1-8 AF- Campbell 3-29, Addison 2-10, Johnson 1-5, Brooks 1-11, Ranger 1-8
Leading Tacklers: ND- Grasmanis 7, Magee 6, Moore 5, Wynn 5, Wooden 4 AF- Hudgins 12, Fernandez 8, Maunz 6, King 5
Sacks: ND- Wynn 2, Grasmanis 1



AIR FORCE

RESULTS AND ATTENDENCE

Sept. 2	N'WESTERN	L 15-17	59,075
Sept. 9	at Purdue	W 35-28	70,569
Sept. 16	VANDY	W 41-0	59,075
Sept. 23	TEXAS	W 55-27	59,075
Sept. 30	at Ohio State	L 26-45	95,537
Oct. 7	at Washington	W 29-21	74,023
Oct. 14	vs. Army	W 28-27	74,218
Oct. 21	USC	W 38-10	59,075
Oct. 28	BOST. COLL.	W 20-10	59,075
Nov. 4	NAVY	W 35-17	59,075
Nov. 18	at Air Force	W 44-14	54,482

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	OPP
FIRST DOWNS.....	248	213
Rushing.....	154	117
Passing.....	84	83
By Penalty.....	10	13
3rd Down Conv.....	.513	.388
4th Down Conv.....	.500	.524
TOTAL PLAYS.....	801	740
TOTAL NET YARDS.....	4619	3984
Avg. Per Play.....	5.8	5.4
Avg. Per Game.....	419.9	362.2
RUSHING YARDAGE.....	2572	2098
Yds. Lost Rushing.....	218	276
Avg. Per Rush.....	4.6	4.5
Yds. Rushing/Game.....	233.8	190.7
Rushing TDs.....	29	11
PASSING YARDAGE.....	2047	1886
Attempts.....	239	272
Completions.....	138	148
Interceptions.....	8	16
Percentage.....	.577	.544
Avg. Per Catch.....	14.8	12.7
Avg. Per Game.....	186.1	171.5
Passing TD's.....	14	16
FUMBLES-LOST.....	25-12	18-14
PENALTIES-YARDS.....	53-453	57-455
TIME OF POSSESSION.....	31:39	28:20

SCORE BY PER.

	1	2	3	4	TOT
NOTRE DAME	68	111	77	110	366
OPPONENTS	42	50	58	66	216

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LP
Mosley, E.	10	145	14.5	1	64
Sollmann, S.	8	39	4.9	0	24
Mayes, D.	4	85	21.3	0	34
Total	22	269	12.2	1	64
Opponents	15	124	8.3	0	18

SCORING — PAT's —

	TD	Run	Rec	Kick	FG/A	Pts
Edwards, M.	12	2-2	—	—	—	76
Kinder, R.	10	—	—	—	—	60
Denson, A.	8	—	—	—	—	48
Kopka, K.	—	—	—	27-29	6-11	45
Mayes, D.	6	—	1	—	—	38
Cengia, S.	—	—	—	12-12	5-5	27
Rossum, A.	2	1	—	—	—	14
Mosley, E.	2	—	—	—	—	12
Powlus, R.	1	0-2	1	—	—	8
Chryplewicz	1	—	—	—	—	6
Sollmann, S.	1	—	—	—	—	6
Farmer, R.	1	—	—	—	—	6
Thorne, M.	1	—	—	—	—	6
Edison, J.	1	—	—	—	—	6
Wallace, L.	1	—	—	—	—	6
Total	47	2-4	2	39-41	11-16	366
Opponents	28	—	1	25-26	7-12	216

INT RETURNS

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LP
Cobbins, L.	5	86	17.2	0	37
Wooden, S.	3	10	3.3	0	10
Rossum, A.	3	105	35.0	2	76
Moore, L.	2	9	4.5	0	9
Tatum, K.	1	8	8.0	0	8
Monohan, M.	1	7	7.0	0	7
Magee, B.	1	43	43.0	0	43
Total	16	268	16.8	2	76
Opponents	8	100	12.5	1	54

KICKOFF RET

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LP
Mosley, E.	15	419	27.9	0	50
Sollmann, S.	6	142	23.7	0	51
Denson, A.	4	39	9.8	0	22
Rossum, A.	3	94	31.3	0	38
Farmer, R.	3	53	17.7	0	26
Stafford, C.	2	25	12.5	0	16
Stokes, C.	1	6	6.0	0	6
Kinder, R.	1	5	5.0	0	5
Carretta, K.	1	10	10.0	0	10
Total	36	793	22.0	0	51
Opponents	59	1116	18.9	0	40

PASSING

	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD	Int	LP	Effic
Powlus, R.	124	217	1853	12	7	56	140.7
Krug, T.	13	21	186	2	1	42	158.2
Perona, M.	1	1	8	0	0	8	167.2
Total	138	239	2047	14	8	56	142.3
Opponents	148	272	1886	16	16	82	171.5

RUSHING

	Att.	Yds	Avg	/G	TD	LP
Kinder, R.	143	809	5.7	80.9	9	52
Edwards, M.	140	717	5.1	65.2	9	27
Denson, A.	137	695	5.1	63.2	8	25
Farmer, R.	43	194	4.5	32.3	1	22
Thorne, M.	5	49	9.8	4.5	1	30
Stokes, C.	12	43	3.6	4.8	0	11
Mosley, E.	4	32	8.0	2.9	0	19
Spencer, J.	9	22	2.4	3.1	0	4
Sollmann, S.	1	16	16.0	1.5	0	16
Barry, K.	3	11	3.7	3.7	0	7
Mayes, D.	2	10	5.0	0.9	0	5
Krug, T.	5	8	1.6	1.6	0	10
Powlus, R.	58	-34	-0.6	-3.4	1	12
Total	562	2572	4.6	233.8	29	52
Opponents	468	2098	4.5	190.7	11	61

RECEIVING

	No. /Gam	Yds	Avg	TD	LP	
Mayes, D.	48	4.4	881	18.4	6	56
Edwards, M.	25	2.3	361	14.4	3	46
Mosley, E.	17	1.6	268	15.8	1	51
Chryplewicz	17	1.6	204	12.0	1	28
Wallace, L.	8	.73	79	9.9	1	35
Kinder, R.	8	.80	75	9.4	1	30
Denson, A.	6	.55	65	10.8	0	15
Stafford, C.	4	.36	72	18.0	0	38
Farmer, R.	3	.50	19	6.3	0	17
Sollmann, S.	1	.09	15	15.0	1	15
Carretta, K.	1	.09	8	8.0	0	8
Total	138	12.8	2047	14.8	14	56
Opponents	148	13.5	1886	12.7	16	82

PUNTING

	No.	Yds	Avg	Blkd	LP
Smith, H.	38	1382	36.4	0	58
Palumbo, S.	1	16	16.0	0	16
Total	39	1398	35.8	0	58
Opponents	45	1881	41.8	0	70

Tackles (Total): Cobbins 105, Tatum 82, Berry 76, Moore 70, Magee 69, Grasmanis 69, Wooden 63, Wynn 57, Minor 48, Bennett 46, Rossum 36, Covington 24, Howard 16, Monohan 15, McLaughlin 13, Carretta 12, Wagasy 12, Quist 7, Thorne 6, Mitoulas 5, Guilbeaux 5, Kramer 5, Smith 4, Babey 4, Edwards 3, Belisle 3, Goode 2, Farrell 2, Kopka 2, Friday 2, Maloney 1, Frascogna 1, Denson 1, Leahy 1, Edison 1

Sacks: Wynn 6.5-46, Minor 6-30, Grasmanis 4.5-42, McLaughlin 2-27, Cobbins 1-4, Smith 1-3, Berry .5-11, Tatum .5-7

THE PRESS BOX

Honors and Awards

Autry Denson, tailback

- ABC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Army (23 carries for 111 yards, 2 TD's; 1 reception for 12 yards)

Bert Berry, outside linebacker

- Nominee for Butkus Award as top linebacker in the country

Lyron Cobbins, inside linebacker

- Nominee for Butkus Award as top linebacker in the country
- *Football News* All-Independent team

Ivory Covington, cornerback

- *Sports Illustrated* Defensive Player of the Week vs. Army (for his game-saving tackle on two-point conversion attempt)
- *Athlon* Defensive Player of the Week vs. Army

Marc Edwards, fullback

- Nominee for Doak Walker Award as top running back nationally
- *Football News* All-Independent team
- NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Texas (8 carries for 44 yards, 2 TD's; 6 receptions for 72 yards, 1 TD)
- NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. USC (17 carries for 82 yards, 3 TD's; 4 receptions for 30 yards; one two-point conversion scored on a run and another thrown to Ron Powlus)
- NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Boston College (28 carries for career-high 167 yards, 1 TD; 1 reception for 17 yards, 1 TD)

Paul Grasmanis, nose guard

- *Football News* All-Independent team
- Selected to play in East-West Shriner Game

Randy Kinder, tailback

- ABC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Purdue (14 carries for 142 yards, 1 TD; 2 receptions for 38 yards, 1 TD)
- ABC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Ohio State (28 carries for career-high-tying 143 yards, 3 TD's)
- ESPN/VISA Notre Dame MVP vs. Air Force (14 carries for 121 yards, 2 TD's)
- Nominee for Doak Walker Award as top running back nationally

Ryan Leahy, offensive guard

- *Football News* All-Independent team
- Notre Dame Lineman of the Year by Moose Krause Chapter of National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame
- Selected to play in East-West Shriner Game

Derrick Mayes, split end

- Notre Dame National Monogram Club team MVP (by vote of players), his second straight
- *Football News* Independent Player of the Year
- NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Northwestern (career-high 8 receptions for 94 yards)
- ABC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Washington (7 for

132, including TD receptions of 10 and 30 yards and game-winning two-point conversion reception)

- One of 10 semifinalists for Biletnikoff Award as top receiver nationally
- Selected to play in Senior Bowl all-star game

Mark Monohan, strong safety

- Knute Rockne Student-Athlete Award from the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley

Richard Rolle, receiver

- Nick Pietrosante Award winner (by vote of players to individual who exemplifies characteristics of late Irish All-America fullback)

Marcus Thorne, fullback

- State Farm/Mutual Broadcasting Student-Athlete of the Year

Dusty Zeiglar, offensive guard

- *Football News* All-Independent team
- Selected to play in Senior Bowl all-star game

Offensive Line

- NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP vs. Vanderbilt (493 total yards and 41 points, including season-high 293 rushing yards)

Senior Captains (Paul Grasmanis, Ryan Leahy, Derrick Mayes, Shawn Wooden, Dusty Zeigler)

- NBC Sports/Chevrolet Notre Dame MVP's vs. Navy

All-Scholastic Honors:

Matador Award, Air Force Defense

Offensive Player of the Year, Marc Edwards

Defensive Player of the Year, Lyron Cobbins

Offensive Most-Improved, Offensive Line

Defensive Most-Improved, Shawn Wooden

Best Potential Offense, Mike Rosenthal

Best Potential Defense, Kory Minor

Defensive Play of the Year, Covington's tackle vs. Army

Offensive Play of the Year, Mayes' catch vs. FSU

Best Hit Award, Tatum's on goaline vs. USC

Confusion Award, Washington Secondary that left Mayes all alone on two-point conversion attempt

Play We're Most Sick of, Fumbled Snap

Best Opponents Crowd, Ohio State

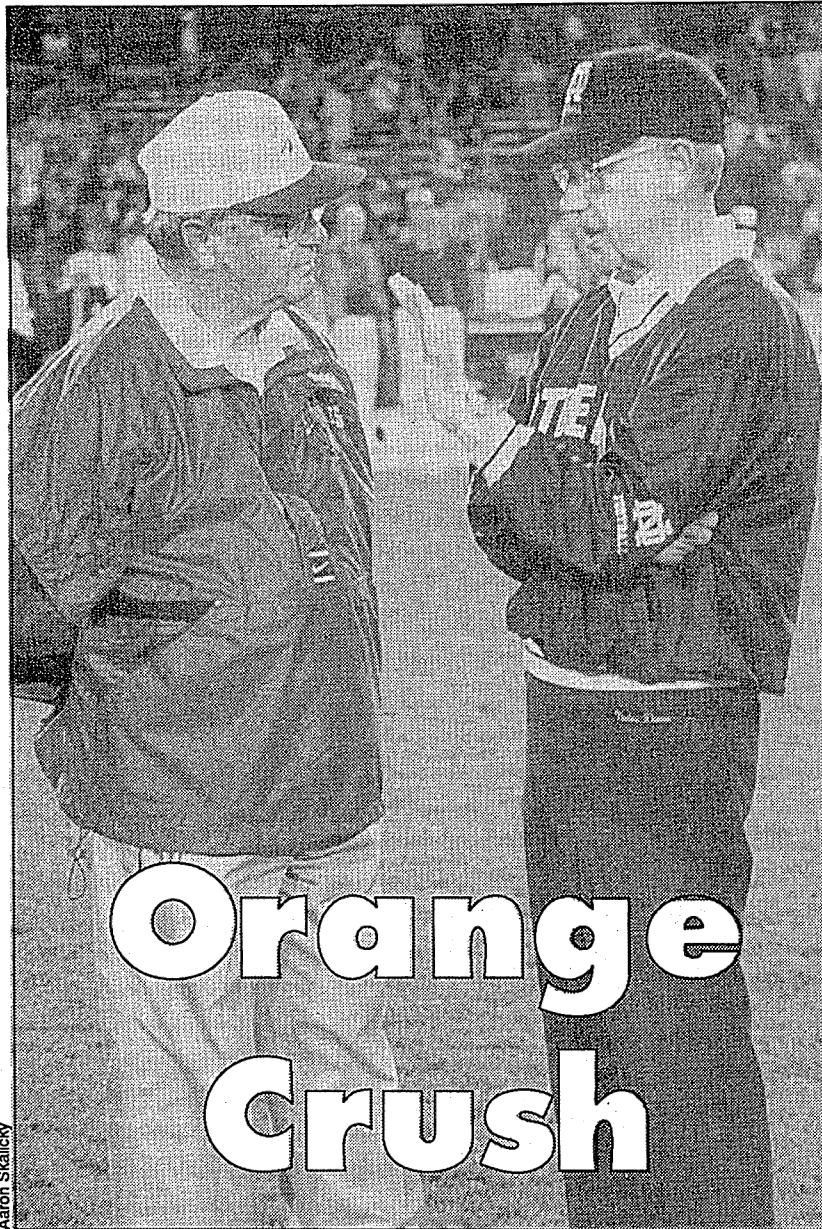
Courage Award, Corey Bennet

Hospitality Award, Ohio State Tear Gas Team

Worst Opponents Twirling Team, Vanderbilt

Best Band Halftime Show, ND's Conga dance at Vandy game

Most Entertaining Run, The Streaker at the Ohio State Game



Aaron Stalicky

Orange Crush

Notre Dame's 12-point fourth quarter lead evaporated as the Seminole explosion left Irish fans feeling glum

YOU AGAIN? ●
Coaches Lou Holtz ●
and Bobby Bowden ●
(above) meet again, ●
this time at midfield ●
before the 62nd ●
Orange Bowl.

RITE OF PASSAGE. ●
According to Holtz, ●
Farmer "became a ●
man" through his ●
unexpected ●
contributions to the ●
Irish offense, like this ●
51-yard scamper on a ●
key third down in the ●
fourth quarter.

BY JAKE SCHALLER

JANUARY 1, 1996 — MIAMI, FL

● On a humid January 1st night in Miami, two heavyweights, Notre Dame and Florida State, met in the Orange Bowl. The last chapter in a three-year trilogy, this final battle seemed to shape up as more of an afterthought than a rousing conclusion. In 1993 we had number one versus number two, "The Game of the Century." The hype was tremendous, but the game lived up to it. A stirring 31-24 Irish victory seemed to set the stage for a bowl game rematch, until Boston College got in the way.

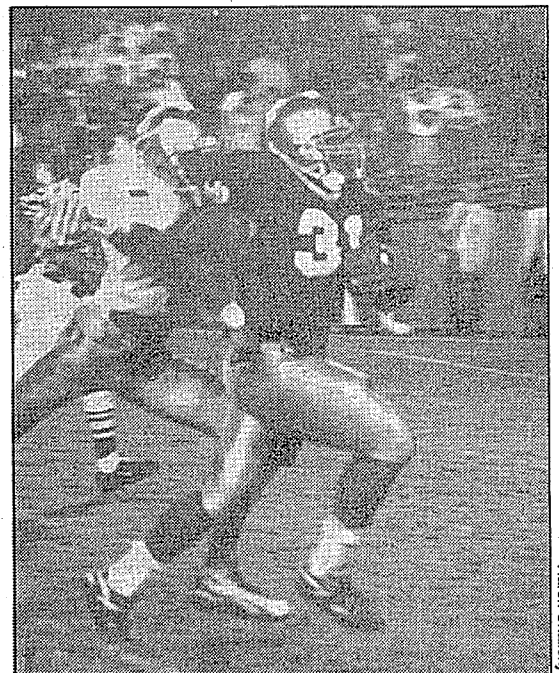
Fans had to wait until 1994 for the rematch, but Ali-Frazier II it wasn't. The Irish brought a less than spectacular 5-3 record into the game and were thoroughly outplayed. They gave up 517 yards to the Seminoles while managing only 221 of their own. Florida State had its revenge, 23-16.

Now with the stage set for the rubber match, nobody seemed to care. The game wasn't sold out; in fact, fans were selling extra tickets for as little as five dollars before the game. Both coaches seemed to be searching for ways to motivate their teams. Days before the game Seminole Head Coach Bobby Bowden lamented that Lou Holtz had "gaining momentum for next season" as a motivating point, while he had none. The Irish and the Seminoles were used to playing a part in the national title picture on New Year's Day, and this year, both teams were noticeably absent.

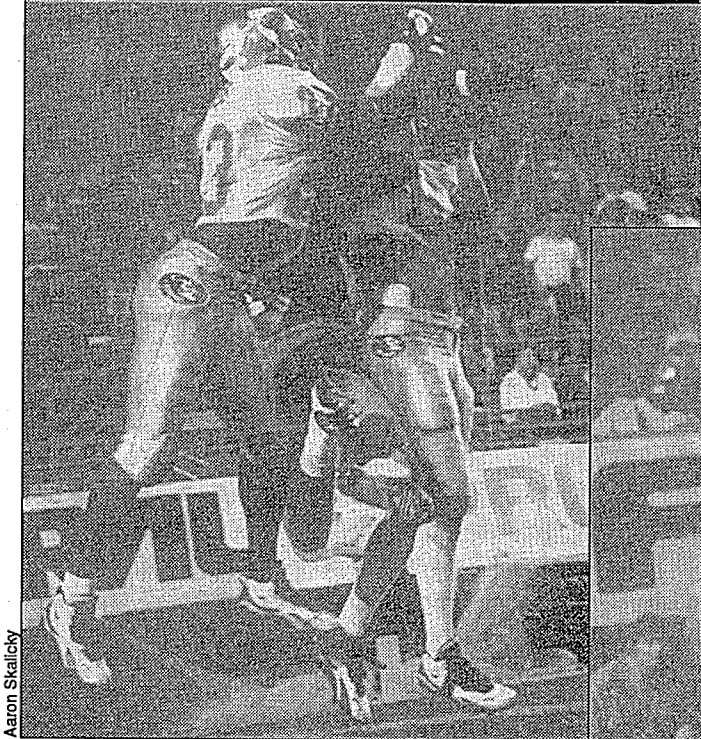
But when it came time for kickoff, all of a sudden it didn't matter that the National Championship would be decided in 24 hours over 2,000 miles away. On the field were two great college football teams with extensive tradition. Pride was at stake, and that was all that mattered.

In heavyweight boxing fights, it's often telling to see how a fighter reacts to a punishing shot from his opponent. When a boxer suffers a barrage of punches, he is very likely to hit the canvas.

With 11:43 left in this year's Irish-Seminole fight, Notre Dame had just delivered its haymaker. After taking a 17-14 lead in the third quarter, the Irish added a safety and another touchdown to begin the fourth quarter and push their lead to 26-14. The Notre Dame sideline exploded with exuberance, while Bobby Bowden and his troops looked beaten and befuddled.



Aaron Stalicky



Aaron Skalicky

SANDWICHED. Caught between two Seminole defenders, wide receiver Derrick Mayes was unable to play tips with this heave from Tom Krug as time expired in the first half.



Aaron Skalicky

But just when it looked like Florida State would remain on the canvas and be counted out, the Seminoles got back on their feet. Refusing to let the Irish break their streak of 13 straight bowl victories, Florida State mounted a Rocky-like comeback, scoring 17 unanswered points and stealing a 31-26 decision in the 62nd Orange Bowl. Of course they did have some help, from the Irish and the officials. Let's start with Notre Dame's last points.

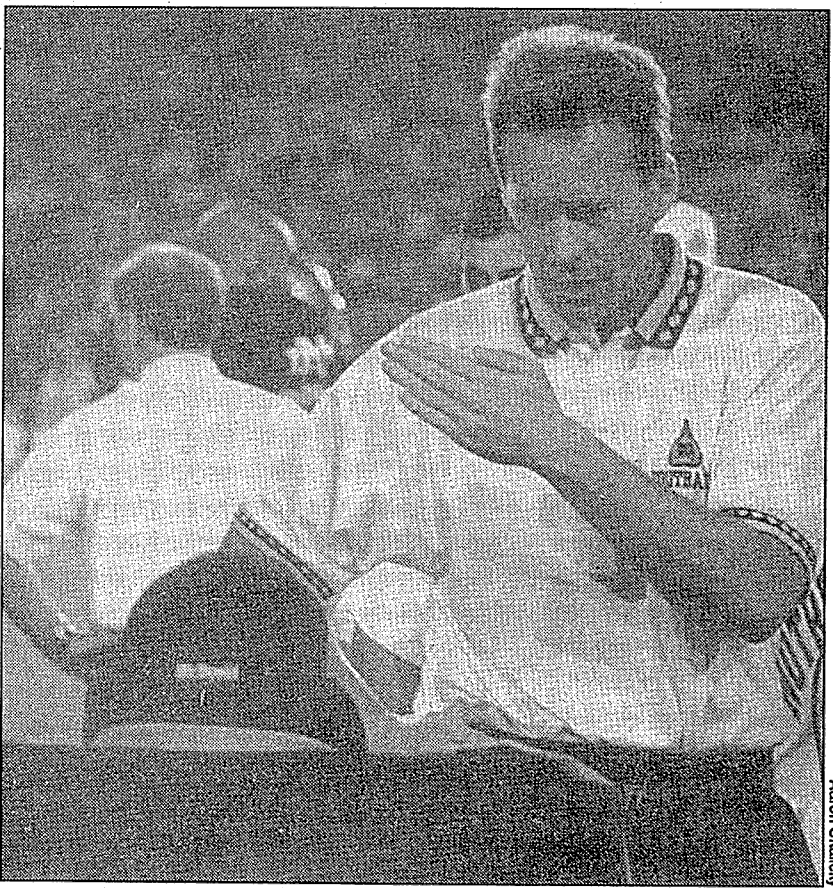
Leading 17-14, Hunter Smith launched a beautiful punt that the Irish special teams chased down and killed at the 1-yard line. The Seminoles tried to get back a bundle of yards in one play with a deep pass, but quarterback Danny Kanell's foot grazed the back of the end zone, resulting in a safety.

The Irish didn't waste any time after taking the ensuing free kick. On their third play, Lou Holtz called on Robert Farmer. With only four rushes so far in the game, Farmer had fresh legs, and it showed. The junior tailback took a Tom Krug hand-off and exploded for 51 yards to the Florida State 4-yard line. It was sweet vindication for Farmer who, due to a knee injury and the emergence of freshman Autry Denson, was a forgotten man at tailback. "I thought Farmer really became a man tonight," Holtz said after the game.

Two plays later, Krug found Pete Chryplewicz in the back of the end zone for his third touchdown toss and the 12-point bulge.

And though the Notre Dame sideline celebrated, it was premature. After all, this was Florida State, a pass-happy squad with game-breaking personnel. Momentum can switch sides so quickly in football; 11 minutes and change proved to be more than enough for the Seminoles.

"There in the fourth quarter, I was wondering if we had a chance," Seminole Head Coach Bobby Bowden



Aaron Skalicky

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS. Defensive Coordinator Bob Davie (above) gives Lyron Cobbins some tips on how to defend the Seminole spread offense.

said. "But the kids stayed together and made the plays they had to make."

Florida State's stars responded. First, slippery tailback Warrick Dunn ate up 17 yards on two carries. Then Kanell took to the air, completing three straight passes for 56 yards, the last going 11 to E.G. Green for a score. With prodigal son Scott Bentley's extra point, the Seminoles had pulled within five, 26-21.

"I don't think there's any doubt that we got worn down," Holtz said. "It was a hot and humid day. [Florida State] probably turned up the tempo a little bit too."

The quick response seemed to shock the Irish whose next four plays from scrimmage were disastrous. First, Farmer tried the left side, but slipped for a loss of two yards. Then Holtz gambled on some trickery. Edwards took a hand-off and then attempted a pass back to Krug. Under heavy pressure, the fullback threw the ball away, setting up third and 12 and awakening the Seminole crowd.

A false start by tackle Mike Doughty pushed the Irish to third and 17 and incited the crowd further. Finding nobody open, Krug scrambled and picked up 13 yards, four yards short of the first down after a 5-yard penalty.

After punting extremely well the entire game, Smith booted a 41-yard punt. Its length was adequate, but it was low enough to give Seminole Dee Feaster a chance at an excellent return, and he sped all the way to the Notre Dame 30.

The Irish defense forced the Seminoles into a fourth and five situation, but Kanell came through again. A 22-yard laser to Green set the 'Noles up with first and goal from the three. On second down, Kanell found receiver Andre Cooper in the end zone for the third time in the game. He did it again on the two-point conversion, pushing the Seminole lead to 29-26.

In a back-and-forth game, the Irish seemed confident they would have the last laugh, as they often do in close games. But for a smash-mouth offense that this night would line up in the shotgun with five wide receivers, nothing would happen as planned.

That could be the explanation for reliable Marc Edwards fumbling on the next Irish drive. While attempting to cut left, offensive tackle Chris Clevenger's helmet jarred the ball loose. Henri Crockett recovered on the Irish 43, and the game seemed over.

"I thought the fumble was critical," Holtz lamented. "We had a first down at midfield. The fumble was really critical."

Then the true pride of the Irish defense came through. A sometimes dominant, sometimes reckless, sometimes porous Bob Davie creation, it came through when it had to and stopped the Seminoles at the 3-yard line.

But the storybook 97-yard winning drive was shut down before it even started. An official flagged Krug for intentional grounding in the end zone when he was pressured on the first play of the drive. That meant a safety and a knockdown from which the Irish couldn't get up.

A tired and downcast Holtz addressed the media after the game. From the way he looked and talked, it was obvious that this game meant more than people had thought it would. "I thought our players competed well. We had a lot of costly penalties," said Holtz. "It seems like when you come to the Orange Bowl, you have a controversial punt return called back. We don't make any alibis." □



GAME SUMMARY

SCORING

Florida State	7	7	0	17	31
Notre Dame	10	0	7	9	26

1st Quarter
 ND: Mayes 39 pass from Krug at 8:27 (Cengia PAT)
 FSU: Cooper 15 pass from Kanell at 6:08 (Bentley PAT)
 ND: Cengia 20 FG at 0:02

2nd Quarter
 FSU: Cooper 10 pass from Kanell at 2:30 (Bentley PAT)

3rd Quarter
 ND: Mayes 33 pass from Krug at 8:04 (Cengia PAT)

4th Quarter
 ND: Safety at 13:44 (Kanell steps out of end zone)
 ND: Chryplewicz 5 pass from Krug at 11:43 (Cengia PAT)
 FSU: Green 11 pass from Kanell at 9:47 (Bentley PAT)
 FSU: Cooper 3 pass from Kanell at 6:09 (Cooper pass from Kanell)
 FSU: Safety (Krug penalty in end zone)

Team Statistics

	ND	FSU
First Downs.....	17	26
Rushing.....	11	10
Passing.....	5	16
Net Yards Rushing.....	256	188
Net Yards Passing.....	169	290
Total Net Yards.....	425	478
Avg Yds Gained Per Play..	6.0	6.8
Fumbles-Lost.....	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards.....	7-55	7-59
Punts-Averages.....	5-42	3-44
3rd Down Conversions.....	7-16	6-13
Possession Time.....	31:47	28:13

Individual Statistics

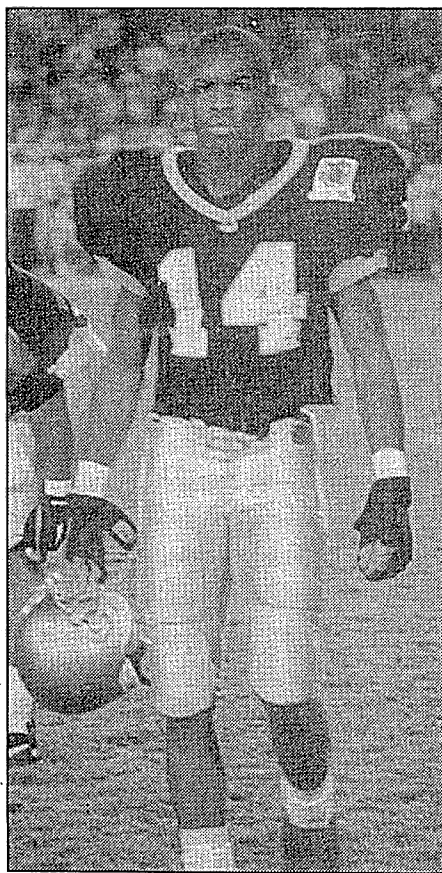
Rushing: ND- Farmer 7-93, Denson 11-67, Edwards 14-55, Krug 11-45 FSU- Dunn 22-151, Preston 6-55, Kanell 5-(-27)

Passing: ND- Krug 24-14-140-3-1
 FSU- Kanell 32-20-290-4-2

Receiving: ND- Mayes 6-96, Edwards 2-25, Chryplewicz 3-18, Stafford 2-14
 FSU- Messam 6-103, Green 5-99, Cooper 4-38, Williams 2-17, Dunn 2-19

Leading Tacklers: ND- Cobbins 8, Moore 8, Magee 7, Wooden 6, Wynn 6 FSU- Hamlet 7, Rebol 6, Rolle 5, Capers 5, Bush 5

Sacks: ND- Rossum 1, McLaughlin 1, Wynn 1 FSU- Rebol 1



UNHAPPY ENDING. Cornerback Ivory Covington came up with a key interception, but the defense was unable to stop the Seminole passing attack down the stretch.

Aaron Stebbins

■ BOWL COMMENTARY

The Silver Lining

Beyond bad calls



Aaron Stalczyk

Placekicker Scott Cengia exemplified Notre Dame's problems with Florida State. Cengia's missed field goal from close range was one of many missed opportunities to capitalize on Irish momentum.

BY JAKE SCHALLER

Thirty years from now, when alumni and friends think back to the 62nd Orange Bowl, what will they remember? Perhaps it will be Danny Kanell's fumble that was ruled a dead ball after Rossum sacked him. Or maybe they'll remember another questionable call on a Notre Dame punt return for a touchdown. Or even the questionable intentional grounding call that resulted in a safety, sealing the win for the Seminoles.

Odds are that it will be one of these three. And that's too bad.

As much as those calls can be debated, argued and lamented, they overshadow not only a great game, but an inspired effort by the undermanned Irish. Notre Dame came into this game without their starting quarterback, their starting tailback and one of their tight ends. But they came to play. So instead of remembering one of the above calls, here's what I'll take away:

• **Holtz's offensive game plan:** Are we sure that was Lou out there? Five wide receivers and the shotgun? One back with three receivers, including Chryplewicz split wide? The offense still leaned on the rushing attack, but opening it up did wonders. And the timely passing attack was effective and utilized Krug's abilities well.

• **The fake punt:** I almost had a heart attack when I saw this happening. Never in a million years would I (and more importantly FSU) have expected it. That's why it was so great. There wasn't a Seminole within 10 yards of Marc Edwards. It's a shame we didn't get any points out of it.

• **Tom Krug's gutsy performance:** Cool as the other side of the pillow, Krug took on the heralded position of Notre Dame quarterback as if it were a pick up game on Thanksgiving. "I stepped on the field and there wasn't a butterfly in my stomach; there was just the drive to win," Krug said after the game. "When it gets down to it, it's ball and these are my teammates and my friends." Spoken like a true Golden Boy. He put up solid numbers (14-24, 140 yards 3 TD's 1 INT), put his team in position to win and, maybe most impressively, continuously got up. Krug suffered what bordered on a ridiculous amount of abuse from the Seminole defense on options, when scrambling and while being rushed. Somehow, he just kept getting up.

• **Scott Bentley** missing a field goal wide.

• **Scott Cengia** hitting an upright and the ball going in.

• **Derrick Mayes:** We should have thanked him every day for coming back his senior year. His last performance in an Irish uniform? "Derrick Mayes is amazing." Thank you, Coach Holtz—that about sums it up. Mayes' finale was classic: Six receptions for 96 yards and two touchdowns. But what don't show up on the stat sheet are the handful of times he played defensive back, knocking away possible interceptions. His tip-the-ball-out-of-the-defender's-hands-into-his move made him look like he was playing games with a little brother.

• **Robert Farmer:** He finally stole the tailback spotlight which had been occupied by Lee Becton, Randy Kinder and now Autry Denson. His seven carries for a team-high 93 yards were a pleasant surprise and a shot in the arm for the Irish offense.

The last six minutes of the game just didn't seem fair for Irish fans. They didn't seem to fit. After a terrific performance by such an undermanned team, it seemed poetic justice would ensure one last drive, another patented Irish comeback. Fate would not have it this time, but the Irish had nothing to be ashamed of. □

It's Time to Go Again

by Ryan Leahy

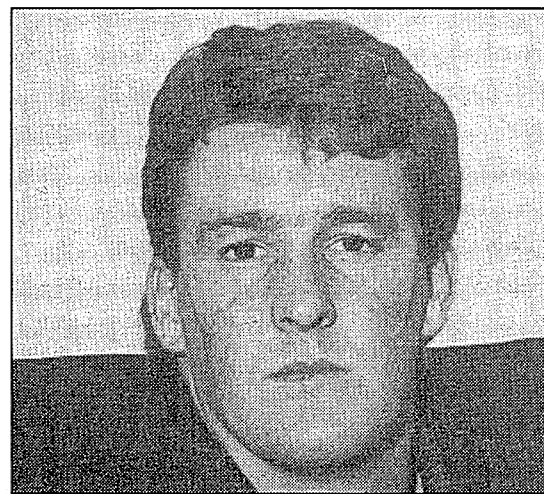
In a year that began with doubt, the Notre Dame football team, students and community never lost faith. One moment, for me, which exemplifies the 1995 season came to light immediately following the Vanderbilt game. The preceding week held much speculation over the pending results of Coach Holtz's absence. Many people predicted mayhem, turmoil and defeat. Exactly the opposite occurred, however.

Because of Coach Holtz's disciplined practice structure, our excellent assistant coaches and the team's willingness to accept more personal responsibility, I knew success was inevitable. When the game clock ticked to zero and Vanderbilt was left scoreless, we were all overcome with emotion. We had put aside our fears and competed with the opposing team rather than with ourselves. All of us knew that we had the physical ability to beat any team we faced provided we properly executed our game plan.

The 1995 team was close in the locker room and extremely competitive on the field. Coach Holtz emphasizes "togetherness" and I believe that describes our team. The season carried many ups and downs. Without all of our teammates working together, the season would have been a disaster.

Our biggest challenge came after the Northwestern game, when we were incredibly disappointed in ourselves. We had to redefine some goals and, most importantly, exercise our resolve. Our togetherness and determination took us through the season, adding only two more losses to our record. Looking back, we realize how close we were to winning those games and being one of the truly great teams of Notre Dame.

Every game demonstrated that the Notre Dame community is truly special. Two unique strengths of Notre Dame are that our student body is second to none and support is ever-present. Home and away, the student body remains on its feet throughout the game, never leaving early. They have set a recog-



nized standard that is unmatched and that few others attempt to achieve. Not only is the student body an asset in winning, but it is also a source of pride to each team member. As athletes, we are an extension of the student body, and I hope that we have represented you, the students, in the best way possible.

I will miss the unique electricity present during home football game weekends. This atmosphere of excitement extends far beyond the football team and involves many groups which dedicate hours of work. Obviously, some familiar faces will not be present on football Saturdays next fall. Seniors on the football team have finished their eligibility and now graciously, as well as sadly, hand the program over to the juniors. Some members of the cheerleading squad, pom pom squad and band are also leaving their individual experiences behind them. Most importantly, the class of 1996 will pass into alumni status and will never again experience a game from the student section. Now that my final season is over, I want to say farewell to the graduating seniors, the "House that Rockne built" and an experience which can never be recreated, but which will provide memories to last a lifetime. □

*Offensive guard
Ryan Leahy was a
senior captain of the
1995 Fighting Irish
football team.*





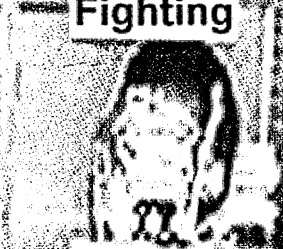
Voice

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