# Scholastic February 7, 1977



1976 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL REVIEW

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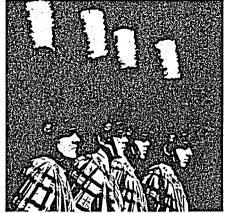
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# Scholastic

Vol. 118, No. 7, February 7, 1977 Notre Dame, Indiana

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Second-class postage paid at Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. The magazine is represented for national advertising by National Educational Advertising Services, 360 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017. Published fortnightly during the school year except during vacation and examination periods, Scholastic is printed at Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. The subscription rate is \$5.00 a year and back numbers are available from Scholastic. Please address all manuscripts to Scholastic, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. All unsolicited material becomes the property of Scholastic.

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### First Word

by Tom Kruczek

It's been said so often that it's almost trite. Notre Dame has the best student body in the nation. Since that statement is rather broad, I would like to modify it to read that the students are the people that make Notre Dame football a unique event.

It's the students who make a Notre Dame game an event that people go home and tell their neighbors about. Before the game, there are the hordes of students that sell food and other things to the poor unsuspecting people walking around the campus. Then there are the great numbers that go onto the field to form the tunnel at half time and make the signs that hang out of dorm windows. It's the students who lead the crowd in the vociferous cheers that bring the team from the locker room before a big game. All of this helps to make a Notre Dame football game something to remember-something unique.

The football team, of course, is also composed of students, and these are real students who go to classes, take tests and live in the same dorms as do "normal" students. There's no Devine Hilton here, like there are at other schools. Sometimes it's hard to conceive of players from places like Texas and Oklahoma being students, as they're more like semi-pros than the students they are supposed to represent. The students are also the ones who manufactured some of the most ridiculous and vicious rumors a season back about Dan Devine. They also listened and repeated reports from Pittsburgh, a city 400 miles away, that the head coach had been fired. These students love to look for that one savior that will take an average team and make it an immediate national champion. The students are the ones that booed Rick Slager in the first game of the season and who second-guessed on just about every play sent in this year.



And all of this isn't necessarily wrong, because this is what makes Notre Dame football the unique event that it is. People don't talk about the time they went to see Iowa play Wisconsin, but they do talk about the time they went to a Notre Dame game. It's because the students focus their attention so strongly on football during the season, and perhaps blow the games out of proportion, that this maniacal devotion to the sport—Notre Dame football—is something special.

If it means at times that some individuals have to be booed or derided, then it is something that has to be accepted as part of the game. Other schools, including some that Notre Dame visited this year, could care less for what happens at the Saturday get-together. They could care less about who the coach is, who sends in the plays, or how the defensive secondary plays.

Not so at Notre Dame. The students here care—they care so much as to come out in April and May to see the team scrimmage on Saturdays. Last April, one scrimmage had an estimated 500 people attending, and most were students. Part of the students' interest comes out in a fanatical desire to see the team win. When the team doesn't, someone will catch the students' wrath, as Devine found out last season, and to a lesser extent this year.

The students of Notre Dame may not be the best in the nation like it has been said all too often, but they are inexorably linked to football. The students make Notre Dame a place where more than just a game is played on a Saturday. It's where an event that lasts a

whole weekend takes place, and it is something that is remembered.

And remembering is what *The Football Review* is all about. It's remembering a season and the events that took place during that season. Just like the season and the events of a football weekend draw their flavor from the students, so too this magazine is work from the students.

The Football Review is put together once a year as a special issue of Scholastic. The magazine you have before you is a student publication, which means that it is written, edited and designed entirely by the students, which makes it something special.

It's special because those of you who do not reside on this campus get an opportunity to see what we, as students, think of the past season. You probably could get a more polished magazine if the University were to put one out, but it would be a University publication which would reflect what the University thinks, and not what the real people of this place think.

Perhaps what we think will surprise you. Not everyone here is wildly crazy about many of the things that happened during the season. On the other hand, not everyone here thinks that the future of Notre Dame football is doomed. What you'll get in this issue is both sides of Notre Dame football, the good and the bad, and that for sure you would not get from a University publication. But the students will give you both sides.

Since 1948, the students have given to the school and outside circulation *The Football Review*. We hope that next year, and in the years to come, *The Football Review* will remain in the hands of those that know the football season the best—the students.

The magazine this year has been put together with an open mind to what you the reader think and want. After reading the issue, we hope that you will learn some things that you did not know about Notre Dame football. We also hope that suggestions will come to mind for ways of improving the issue. Let us know about your thoughts; we'd like to hear them.

We hope, lastly, that you enjoy our effort of *The Football Review*.

# Pittsburgh

by Tom Kruczek

First games are always difficult for a young team, but the opening game against Pittsburgh represented more than just a chance for the inexperienced players to get their feet wet in game competition. It also represented a game which could make or break a season.

Notre Dame was coming off a difficult season that was filled with rumors of dissent and team difficulties. The Irish needed a win to put the talk of last season behind them and to avenge the miserable showing against the Panthers last year in Pittsburgh. Also, the Irish were coming into the game with question marks at virtually every position, and the game represented a chance for the team to erase the questions and start the season with confidence.

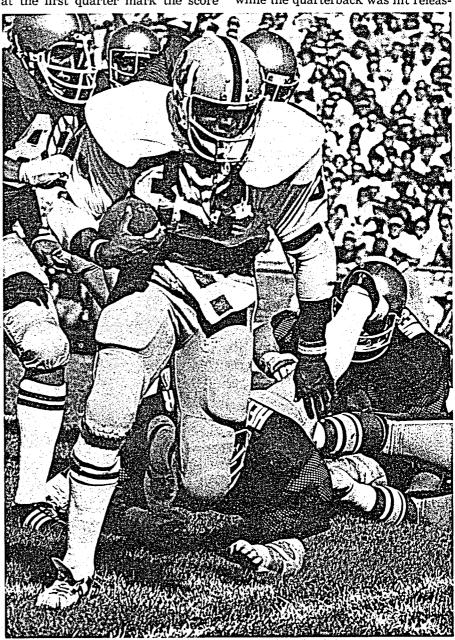
That's what could have happened. What did happen was a show by Tony Dorsett and Bob Haygood that was nothing short of tremendous in a 31-10 drubbing of Notre Dame. Pittsburgh outclassed the Irish in just about every way possible, and at the game's end, the question marks that existed prior to the game were still there, and now even more were added.

"In situations such as this it's easy to blame one segment of the team or an individual," Dan Devine related after the game. "But we lost as a team and they won as a team. It would be hard to isolate what hurt the most, as we expected more from everyone."

Expecting more from everyone wasn't hard, as the only good drive of the game for the Irish came on the very first possession. Quarterback Rick Slager looked confident and poised in the pocket and the whole offense looked as if they had been playing together for a year instead of just in their first game. The key play was the touchdown, with Ken MacAfee delaying at the line, then going against the flow of the play to catch the pass and take it in 25 yards for the score.

Pittsburgh came right back, and made ABC very happy as they countered the Irish score in just seven plays. The big play of the drive came on the first play from scrimmage for Pitt as Dorsett blew through the line, broke two tackles and 61 yards later was pulled down from behind by Ross Browner.

Although the big run by Dorsett seemed to take the wind out of the Irish sails, the defense stiffened and at the first quarter mark the score was 7-7. It was, however, just inside the second quarter, when the turning point of the game occurred. Slager, trying to pass, took his eye off the cornerback on the right side covering Mark McLane, who was coming out of the backfield. Slager admitted after the game that he did not see LeRoy Felder step up, and while the quarterback was hit releas-



Tony Dorsett in a familiar setting, breaking away from the Irish defense.

ing the ball, Felder picked off the pass and returned it from the Irish 30 to the two-yard line. Two plays later Pittsburgh scored.

The next drive was equally disastrous, and whatever confidence the starting quarterback may have had disappeared completely as Jeff Delaney intercepted at the Notre Dame 33. Three plays later quarterback Haygood dove over from the one and now the Panthers held a dominating 21-7 lead.

The Irish then got their first break of the game, recovering a fumbled punt on the Pitt 23. Slager was sacked while trying to pass Carl Johnson for a 13-yard loss. Dave Reeve then missed a 44-yard field goal wide, and the break went for naught.

The only other score of the half came on Reeve's record-setting 53-yard field goal with 2:59 left to play in the half. It broke the old record held by Joe Perkowski from 1961 when he kicked a 49-yard field goal against Southern California.

In the third quarter the Irish, through various avenues, foiled themselves. The first drive of the quarter started on the N.D. 26, with Notre Dame picking up three first downs while keeping the ball on the ground. However, with the Irish moving well, on the Pitt 42-yard line, Hunter turned the ball over on a fumbled pitch, which Arnie Weatherington fell on for the Panthers.

On the next drive following a Pitt punt, a dubious play selection stalled

the drive deep in Notre Dame territory. Starting on their own five behind runs by Heavens and Slager, Notre Dame incurred another motion penalty for its 40th yard in penalties of the day. After Hunter gained two yards and Heavens picked up four, the Irish were faced with a tough third and nine situation. Instead of trying to get the first down, the Irish chose to toss a long pass from the Notre Dame 17. Slager missed on the deep route to Kris Haines at the Pitt 40, and another drive was stalled.

The third drive of the quarter was started thanks to a crushing tackle by Bob Golic on Haygood. The quarterback fumbled the ball while trying to pass, and Ross Browner recovered for Notre Dame on the Pitt 44.

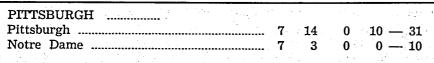
But on the next play, a holding penalty forced the Irish back to their own 39. From there they were unable to move the ball and were forced to punt.

In the first drive of the fourth quarter, the Panthers were able to take 3:26 off the clock with a drive that ended in Carson Long kicking a 34-yard field goal. The Irish were now down 24-10 and in desperate need of a sustained drive.

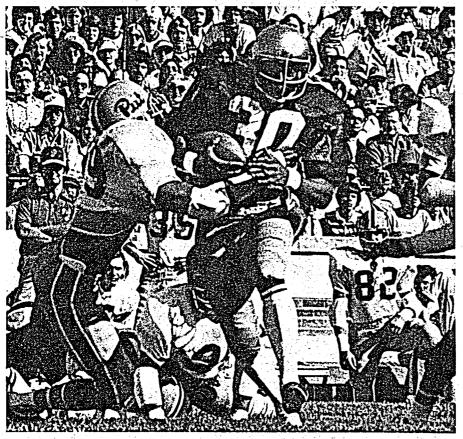
On the next series for Notre Dame, the offense failed again, and as the Irish quarterback left the field, boos filled the air. Restic's punt traveled just ten yards, and Pitt had the ball on the Notre Dame 37. From there, the Panthers needed just two plays to score. Tony Dorsett of course had one of those plays, a 28-yard run. Matt Cavanaugh carried it in the final three yards to wrap up the scoring for the day. It was at this point that the Pitt spotters left the press box, signaling that even the usually conservative coaches thought that game was over with 9:33 left to play.

Tony Dorsett finished the game with 181 yards in 22 carries and over the past three seasons the Heisman Trophy candidate totalled 651 yards against Notre Dame. Dorsett was named the offensive player of the game by ABC television, and Randy Holloway the defensive player.

The game was made even worse with the knowledge that starting defensive tackle Jeff Weston incurred a knee injury which would require surgery. Add to that the academic difficulties which caused Jay Case to be declared ineligible for the season plus separated shoulder of Joe Montana, and certainly the Irish football fortunes looked bleak.



- N.D. Slager to MacAfee, 25 yards (Reeve kick).
- U.P. Dorsett, 5-yard run (Long kick).
- U.P. Haygood, 1-yard run (Long kick).
- U.P. Haygood, 1-yard run (Long kick).
- N.D. Reeve, 53-yard field goal.
- U.P. Long, 34-yard field goal.
- U.P. Cavanaugh, 8-yard run (Long kick).



Jerome Heavens finds out why the Panthers defense was one of 1976's best.

### Purdue

by John Delaney

Purdue-Notre Dame. An intense, intrastate rivalry was being renewed for the 48th time. The Boilermakers came into South Bend after a hardfought victory over Northwestern, and the Irish had been outplayed by Pittsburgh in their initial contest. Last year on a gloomy Saturday in West Lafayette, Notre Dame just got by Purdue, 13-0, on some last-minute heroics by Luther Bradley.

The Irish this year took the opening kickoff and proceeded to use the running of Jerome Heavens, Al Hunter and Mark McLane to reach

the Purdue 36-yard line. The Boiler-maker defense stifled the N.D. effort, but after the Purdue offense failed to move, they were again confronted with the driving Irish offensive unit. This time, however, Hunter dropped a pitch from quarterback Rick Slager and linebacker Rick Arrington recovered for Purdue on his own 44.

Scott Dierking, who had gained 151 yards the week before against Northwestern, led the Boilermakers into Irish territory. On third down and three yards to go, Ted Burgmeier and Bob Golic teamed up to stop the

Boilermaker tailback. A 49-yard field goal attempt fell short.

Notre Dame put its offense into gear on its next possession. Hunter dashed for 24 yards, and three plays later, freshman Dave Waymer gained 14 more on a reverse. The Purdue defense turned stingy once again and the Irish settled for a 39-yard Dave Reeve field goal with 47 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

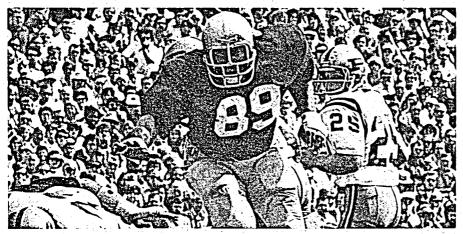
Following an exchange of punts, the Purdue offense began to execute in their next appearance on the field. They marched 52 yards in 14 plays on the strength of Dierking's legs and an 18-yard Mark Vitali-to-Jappy Oliver pass. The Irish secondary tightened as the Boilermakers got closer to the N.D. goal line. Scott Sovereen's second field goal try of the afternoon fell short again, this time from 41 yards.

Jerome Heavens, workhorse of the Irish backfield, took things into his own hands as he powered his way for gains of six, six and five yards. In a third-and-three situation, the entire Purdue defense swarmed the sophomore fullback and stopped him at the line of scrimmage. Two Purdue mistakes were to keep the Irish drive alive. First, the Boilermakers were penalized for roughing the punter, and on the following play they were called for pass interference, giving N.D. a first down on the Purdue 26. The luck of the Irish ran out as Slager's pass was intercepted by Paul Beery, who returned the ball to midfield.

Quarterback Vitali again went to the air futilely. Dave Eagin dropped back to punt, faked and looked for a receiver. Luther Bradley would have none of this and pinned Eagin for a 13-yard loss. Boilermaker coach Alex Agase explained after the game that "the receivers didn't hear the call." According to the Purdue coach, the fake was a good call. "It was a darn good time to do it. We used the same play last year against Notre Dame, and used it effectively. The kids just didn't hear the call." Regardless, the Irish took over on Purdue's 38.



Bringing the halfback option pass back to college football, Al Hunter prepares to unload a touchdown pass to Mark McLane.



Displaying the pursuit that won him the Outland Trophy, Ross Browner chases a Boilermaker.

After Hunter rushed for five yards, Devine unveiled his razzle-dazzle play. Slager pitched out to Hunter who threw a somewhat wobbly halfback option pass which flanker Mc-Lane caught and carried into the end zone. Of his touchdown toss, Hunter modestly remarked, "I was lucky. On a pass, three things can happen and two of these things are bad. I'm happy it worked out. We worked on it every day (in practice) to make sure we got it down, but I still was a little lucky." Reeve added the extra point to give the hosts a 10-0 advantage with slightly less than two minutes to play in the first half.

Mike Northington ran the kickoff back to his 20 and Purdue went into its hurry-up offense. Aided by a pass-interference penalty on Notre Dame, the Boilermakers progressed to the N.D. 32. On the last play of the second quarter, Vitali threw to Reggie Arnold who fell to his knees just two yards away from six points as the gun sounded.

The first half was characterized by the Irish taking advantage of Boilermaker miscues. Not all went well for N.D. in the first 30 minutes. On the last play of the half, free safety Randy Harrison fractured his left forearm. Lost for the season, he was replaced by sophomore Joe Restic, who saw very little action last year at the safety spot.

The Irish defense continued their uncharitable ways in the second half. They shut down the Purdue passing game with a combination of excellent coverage by the secondary and steady pressure by the line.

Purdue began the third quarter with a drive which ended at their 45 with another Eagin punt. Ted Burgmeier returned the kick 33 yards to the Purdue 48-yard line. Utilizing the running talents of Heavens and Hunter, and a . Slager-to-MacAfee aerial, the Irish progressed to the P.U. 17. Dave Reeve came in for a field goal attempt but the kick was blocked. However, it was blocked because the Boilermaker rush was offside. From the 12 on fourth down with three to go, Hunter went over right tackle for a seven-yard gain. On the next play Heavens twisted and turned to advance to the one. Slager then took it in, and Reeve's kick made it 17-0.

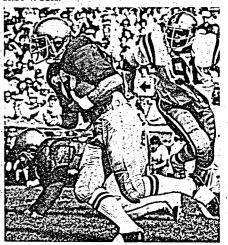
Following an exchange of punts, Purdue advanced from its own 20 to its 38, on its next possession, in three plays. Vitali followed it up with a deep pass, only to be intercepted by Irish cornerback Burgmeier, who sprinted to midfield before he was tackled.

Notre Dame took full advantage of this opportunity. The Irish covered 49 yards in three minutes as Al Hunter capped a fine day with a twoyard zigzag run into the end zone. Reeve's boot was wide right, but the Irish held a commanding 23-0 edge.

Later in the period, N.D., with Gary Forystek leading the second-team offense, began what looked to become another scoring drive. Willard Browner's 28-yard jaunt highlighted the Irish drive to the Purdue 30. Misfortune struck again when halfback Vagas Ferguson fumbled and the Boilermakers recovered.

Inspired by the Irish miscues, the Purdue "0" mounted a scoring threat. Vitali started finding receivers for his tosses, one in particular. He teamed with Reggie Arnold on four passes and the Boilermakers found themselves only seven yards from a touchdown which would break the defense's consecutive quarter-shutout streak. However, on the next play, running back Bennie Leverett was hit hard, lost the ball, and Joe Restic recovered for N.D. With less than two minutes to go, the home team could taste their first victory of the 1976 season.

Coach Alex Agase was disappointed in his team's effort, yet felt they performed well. He commented, "We failed in some of the strangest ways. We found every way we could not to score." Dan Devine had some words of praise for the boys from West Lafayette, "We beat a good football team — one that was well conditioned." Of his own team's appearance, Devine said, "We made a few mistakes but I thought we executed well for the most part." He summed up the team's as well as his personal feelings when he remarked, "This feels a heckuva lot better than last week."



Although Mark McLane didn't carry the ball often, here he runs outside on Purdue.

Notre Dame 3 7 7 6 — 23
Purdue 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

#### Scoring:

N.D. Reeve, 39-yard field goal.

N.D. Hunter to McLane, 33 yards (Reeve kick).

N.D. Slager, 1-yard run (Reeve kick).

N.D. Hunter, 2-yard run (Reeve kick wide).

# Northwestern

by Chuck Sweeney

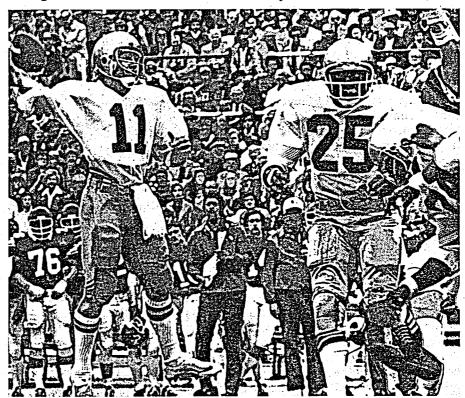
When the Fighting Irish marched into Dyche Stadium on September 25, it was for the last time. The Irish have been matched against the Northwestern Wildcats 43 times in the last 87 years, winning all except seven games while tying twice. 1976 marked the end of the Northwestern era for the Irish, however, as no future games are scheduled between the two teams.

Notre Dame arrived at Northwestern for the final encounter heavily favored. Injuries to starters Jeff Weston and Randy Harrison over the first two weeks of the season had raised some concern about the Irish depth at various positions, especially in the defensive line. The Irish needed to beat the Wildcats soundly in the wake of the loss to Pittsburgh the first week and then coming back with a shaky victory over Purdue a week later. The Irish, 1-1, needed the win to shore-up any confidence gaps. Although the first quarter had been scoreless, in the second quarter the Irish came through. After a 32yard drive, Al Hunter scored the first six points on a 16-yard carry. With 55 seconds left in the half, the Irish got on track for a second time. Rick Slager connected with Dan Kelleher for a 38-yard gain which was followed by an eight-yard touchdown pass to Willard Browner. N.D. went for two with Slager pitching to Browner who then tossed the option pass to Kelleher, wide open in the end zone.

The second half brought 34 more points for the Irish, as they continued to shut out the Wildcats. Early in the third quarter Slager found halfback Tom Domin for a 70-yard touchdown pass. Additional scoring was provided by Hunter with a 37-yard run, tightend Ken In rushing it was Notre Dame 331 reception, and an interception in the fourth quarter by linebacker LeRoy Leopold.

Notre Dame dominated the statistics, leading in first downs 24-11. In rushing it was Notre Dame 331 yards to Northwestern's 92 yards, and most impressive of all, the Irish rolled up 231 yards passing. Slager set a new Notre Dame record for pass completions, hitting 12 of his 14 attempts for a .857 percentage. This topped the old mark of .813 set by Bob Williams in 1949 against Michigan State.

Dan Devine commented after the game, "I am proud of the way our people kept their poise. This is the second week that we have had bad things happen to us early in the game. We had enough problems in the first half, but those things have a way of being taken for granted when you win."



Settled in at quarterback, Rick Slager hit on 12 of 14 passes to set a new completion mark.

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Notre	Dame		. 0	14	21	13 — 4	48.
x .	western					-	

- Scoring:
  N.D. Hunter, 16-yard run (Reeve kick wide).
- N.D. Slager to W. Browner, 8 yards (W. Browner pass to Kelleher - two points).
- Slager to Domin, 70 yards (Reeve kick). N.D.
- Hunter, 37-yard run (Reeve kick). N.D.
- N.D. Slager to MacAfee, 7 yards (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Lisch, 4-yard run (Reeve kick).
- Leopold, 57-yard interception return (Reeve kick no good).

# Michigan State

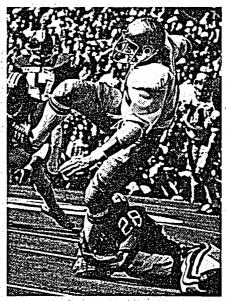
by Burt Brunner

The fourth game of the season brought together two teams with different perspectives of 1976. Notre Dame, coming off its big win the week before, was looking forward to avenging last season's defeat by Michigan State and improving its bowl chances. The Spartans, however, were in an entirely different situation. Denny Stolz was gone as head coach and several important performers were sitting out suspensions, both the result of NCAA recruiting violation penalties.

MSU featured a wide open attack in their first three games, passing the ball almost twice as much as the Irish. Their offense was averaging 407 yards per game with both Levi Jackson and Rick Baes, returning backfield stars, and Ed Smith coming off a 324-yard passing effort against North Carolina State. The defense had been the trouble spot for Coach Darryl Rodgers, yielding 73 points in just three games, including 31 the week before. The new coach feared the worst beforehand, claiming Notre Dame was "a much better team" than a previous opponent, Ohio State.

As the game opened, it appeared that Rodgers' suspicions were right on the money. The Spartans received the kickoff, could not move, and punted to the Irish 38. Al Hunter burst off tackle on the Irish's first play, cut to the outside, and sped to the MSU 38, a gain of 23 yards. Notre Dame kept the ball on the ground for the next four plays, setting up the ground game—today's game plan. The drive stalled at State's 30, but Dave Reeve kicked a

47-yard field goal, giving the Irish a lead that was not to be relinquished.



Tom Domin, almost but not quite, evading tackle in MSU game at East Lansing.

On the next drive the Spartans again could not move the football, running twice and passing on third down. Tom Birney punted to Steve Schmitz at the N.D. 28, but Schmitz broke the kick coverage, cut to the sideline, and raced 40 yards down to the Spartan 32. This play was emblematic of the field position the Irish would receive in the first half, causing Rodgers to comment afterward that "all day the defense was put in poor field position by bad punt coverage. Birney punted well, but received no coverage until late in the game."

Notre Dame went the rest of the distance in seven plays, with Hunter scoring off right tackle with 5:28 to

play in the first quarter. This drive again was indicative of Devine's game plan — all runs, and using mostly the two-tight-end system instituted against Purdue.

Reeve kicked off into the end zone, but the Spartans could gain only nine yards in six plays, and again Birney punted the ball away, this time to Burgmeier on the Irish 29. Rick Slager tried to catch the State defense asleep, but his pass to Ken MacAfee on first down was too high. A fumbled pitchout on third down lost 12 yards, so Joe Restic came in to punt for the Irish. Restic, who averaged 46.3 yards a punt for the afternoon, hit a line drive which flew, bounced and rolled 63 yards to the Spartan 26.

This time MSU mixed the pass with the run and moved to the Irish 37, but two incomplete passes and a sack by Ross Browner (who had 3 in the game for 22 yards) forced another punt. The ball sailed into the end zone and the Irish went to work from the 20. Notre Dame followed with one of the best drives of the young season, moving the 80 yards in 11 plays while using up over five crucial minutes. Slager completed two important third-down passes and threw 20 yards to Terry Eurick for the score. Afterwards, Eurick recalled that the play was a "fullback in the flat play. MSU flooded my side, but Rick dumped it off and there was no one around. The line blocked well and I was off." Again Reeve kicked the conversion and the Irish led 17-0 after only 21 minutes of play.

Michigan State eventually moved the ball down to the Irish 14-yard line, but two passes by Smith were deflected and Hans Nielsen came in to try a 31-yard field goal. The kick was wide right, much to Rodgers' anger as he later called it "a chip shot, and one that had to be made." For the half, MSU totaled 60 net yards with only 22 rushing yards on 16 carries. The Irish meanwhile had rolled up over 180 yards with Al Hunter leading the way with 68 yards.

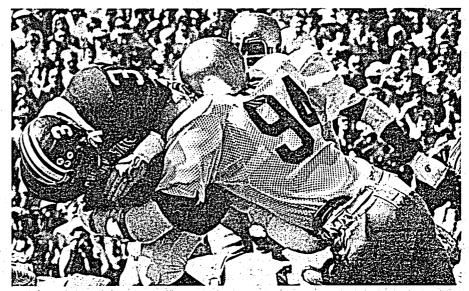
Unfortunately for the Irish, the second half was exactly opposite as far as offensive movement was concerned. Tom Domin's fumble on a counterplay was recovered by State on the Irish 32, but the Spartans could only move one yard in four

plays. Nielsen came in and booted a 48-yard field goal with 11:44 left in the third quarter.

Again the Irish failed to move and State set up its offense on the N.D. 46 following a 37-yard Restic punt. Two passes and a run netted only five yards and again Hans Nielsen entered the game. This time his 57yarder was short, resulting in a touchback. But the Spartan defense had made minor halftime adjustments and again stopped the Irish cold, resulting in yet another punt, which was downed at the MSU 46. This time, however, Smith found his leading receiver Kirk Gibson on a crossing pattern and he carried the ball down to the Irish 16-yard line for a gain of 38 yards. The Irish defense again tightened and in came, you guessed it, Hans Nielsen. This time his 29-yarder split the uprights and the Irish lead shrank to 17-6.

The Irish offense again entered, but stayed for only one play when Slager's first-down pass to MacAfee was intercepted on the 39-yard line by Ken Jones. The N.D. defense yielded only three yards in three plays, bringing our friend Hans Nielsen back into the game. His 50-yarder was partially blocked by Jim Browner, resulting in another touchback.

Fumbles, incomplete passes, quarterback sacks and strong defense took center stage for the next ten minutes. Finally, at the five-minute mark, with the fans either heading for the exits or falling asleep, the Irish took over in excellent field position at the 50. The offense, with a few new faces in the lineup, woke up and proceeded to move the ball to the one-yard line. Slager passed to MacAfee for the score because "the defense was jammed for the rush," Devine later explained. Reeve's extra point with 36 seconds left brought the score to 24-6. But the heroics were not over, at least as far as the Irish were concerned. Marshall Lawson entered at QB for State and promptly completed a 28-yard pass to Eugene Byrd. On the next play, however, he overthrew Byrd and Joe Restic intercepted. Restic returned the ball 45 yards to the Irish 37, and appeared to have a chance of going all the way, but was finally downed at the 32. Restic later said that "it was as hot out there as any game I've played in and I just ran out of steam."



Spartan runner Rick Baes meets Irish co-captain Willie Fry, one of many such meetings.

On the next play the Irish, looking either for AP Poll votes or a chance for practice under game conditions, passed. Slager's aerial was caught by MacAfee at the 17, but he was immediately tackled as time ran out.

In his post-game conference Rodgers didn't withhold his opinion of State's play for very long. "The pass protection stunk, our passer certainly did not play well either. Our players were in a complete daze in the first half . . . the most ridiculous thing I've seen. But in the second half, our defense played as well as it has all year," he stated. Rodgers was also upset over the lack of the running game, but he did praise the Irish defense stating that it is "every bit as strong or stronger than Ohio State's." And why did Nielsen try field goals from such long distances? "We felt that if you keep chipping away with the three's then eventually we'll get the seven's," claimed Rodgers, adding that Nielsen had this type of range in previous years and in practice. The two field goals he did make, however, tied Nielsen with Dick Kenney (the kicker in the '66 classic) with 19 career field goals.

And speaking of these things, Dave Reeve kicked his 21st to move into first place with Bob Thomas on the career list. But more importantly, the Irish defense held MSU to just 174 yards, a whopping 233 under their average. Smith and Lawson, combining at quarterback, could complete only 11 out of 34 passes including two interceptions.

Offensively for the Irish, Hunter and Eurick both rushed for over 60 yards while Willard Browner added 31 as N.D. tried to offset the loss of Jerome Heavens by using six different running backs. Rick Slager again had a 100-yard passing day, hitting on nine of 19 for 111 yards.

Coach Devine was pleased with the defensive effort, stating it was a "remarkable achievement" that the Irish haven't given up a touchdown in three straight games." Commenting on MSU's third-quarter rally, Devine stated his satisfaction with the team's "exceptional poise, especially considering how young it is."

The game represented the third straight win over a Big Ten team this season and the largest victory margin in the series since 1970.

Notre Dame	n trak bar badijini s	10	7	0 7 — 24
Michigan State			0	6 0 — 6

#### Scoring:

N.D. Reeve, 47-yard field goal.

N.D. Hunter, 6-yard run (Reeve kick).

N.D. Slager to Eurick, 20 yards (Reeve kick).

M.S. Nielsen, 48-yard field goal.

M.S. Nielsen, 29-yard field goal.

N.D. Slager to MacAfee, 1-yard (Reeve kick).

# Oregon

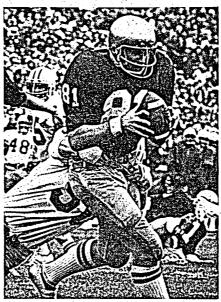
by Burt Brunner

The weekend began with Ziggie Czarobski and his teammates on the 1946 National Championship team entertaining the pep-rally crowd and ended with the traditional "Victory Clog" dance of the Irish Guard. In between, it was hunting season for Notre Dame as the Oregon Ducks left town on the short side of a 41-0 score.

Al Hunter gained his 1000th career yard on N.D.'s first offensive play and kept right on going, rushing for three touchdowns and 97 yards, not to mention his three pass receptions for 47 more yards. His backfield mate, Rick Slager, completed 11 of 18 passes for 135 yards, with Ken MacAfee grabbing three and Mark McLane three also, one for a touchdown.

But the talk of the crowd and Oregon Head Coach Don Reid was the defense. This group, led by ends Ross Browner and Willie Fry, permitted the Ducks zero net rushing yards and only 146 yards passing. And the Irish were facing the nation's 10thranked quarterback, Jack Henderson. Under constant pressure, he was able to complete only seven of 16 passes for 50 yards. The shutout ran Notre Dame's streak of quarters without allowing a touchdown to 16, only four less than the team record of 20 quarters set by the 1946 team being honored.

The high points of the game, as far as most of the fans were concerned, both came in the second half. With 25 seconds left in the third quarter, Hunter swept right end, cut back across the grain between two tacklers, and sped 31 yards for the score. This was "the" run as #25 showed the speed and the moves that everyone has been expecting from the Greenville, N.C., junior. As Hunter later added, "I feel quicker than I did at the beginning of the year."



Ken MacAfee grabs yet another pass as the Oregon Ducks watch.

The game started out just as it would end; the Ducks could not move the ball and punted. Notre Dame immediately moved to the Oregon 8-yard line, but Dave Reeve's field-goal attempt was wide left. The next drive found the end zone, however, covering 38 yards in only three plays. On the second play of the series, Dave Waymer took the handoff from Hunter and started what looked like a reverse. He pulled up, though, and fired a 33-yard pass to wide receiver Dan Kelleher on the one-yard line. When Slager punched in for the score, the Irish led 7-0.

After a short punt, the Irish received the ball on Oregon's 33-yard line, this time using only five plays to score. Slager fired an 11-yard pass to McLane in the right corner of the end zone, Reeve converted, and the gates were open. N.D. again scored just 38 seconds into the second quarter, this time on a nine-yard inside run by Hunter, though Reeve's kick was blocked. Highlighting the drive were Slager's passes to McLane and MacAfee.

On the kickoff, Dennis Bullock fumbled when hit by Tony Zappala, and Luther Bradley recovered on the Ducks' 34. The Irish covered this distance in only six plays, again with Hunter scoring. This time he swept left end for seven yards, and the home team lengthened its lead to 27-0. N.D. threatened later in the half, but lost the ball on downs at the Oregon ten.

After 30 minutes of football, the Irish had run 48 offensive plays (22 of these using the effective two-tightend system) to only 26 for the Ducks. More importantly, Notre Dame had converted on four of eight third-down plays while Oregon could cash in on only one of eight.

The second half featured the Irish defense at their best as they intercepted three passes while the offense pushed across two more scores for the final 41-0 score. Ted Burgmeier's 20-yard punt return set the Irish offense up at the Oregon 37 and, on the second play, Hunter broke loose for his 31-yard run. In the fourth quarter, the Irish second-team offense moved 70 yards in eight plays. Vagas Ferguson showed his skill and potential on a beautiful 24-yard burst up the middle, breaking two tackles and side-stepping another. He later scored from the two-yard line with 7:59 left to play. The remaining time saw Mike Banks and Ross Christensen intercept to thwart other Duck threats.

Notre Dame	14  13  7  7 - 41	
Oregon	0  0  0  0 = 0	
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- N.D. Slager, 1-yard run (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Slager to McLane, 11 yards (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Hunter, 9-yard run (Reeve kick blocked).
- N.D. Hunter, 6-yard run (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Hunter, 31-yard run (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Ferguson, 2-yard run (Reeve kick).

### South Carolina

by Tom Kruczek

Coming off an excellent performance against Oregon the week before, Notre Dame had no reason to believe that South Carolina would be the start of something unfortunate. But the game at Columbia was a slow start to a performance that would be concluded two weeks later in Atlanta, Georgia. The Irish this time got by the Gamecocks, 13-6, thanks to some last second heroics by strong-side safety Jim Browner.

The Irish jumped off to a good start. Starting in their first possession from the N.D. 20, Rick Slager directed the offense through four first downs, three of them through the air. Ten plays later the ball rested on the Gamecock nine-yard line, where Slager rolled out right hitting Willard Browner in the end zone. Dave Reeve added the kick, and with 10:15 left in the quarter the Irish led by seven.

After trading punts, the Irish got the ball back on their own 48. This drive was less productive than the initial one, and following two first downs, Dan Devine was forced to call in Reeve for a 37-yard attempt. With 4:11 left in the quarter, his kick was good.

Reeve had the opportunity to try his foot at another field goal, with 5:08 left in the first half. The Irish began the scoring drive on their own 28, keeping the ball almost exclusively on the ground.

From the 28, they worked the ball up to the South Carolina 14, where the drive stalled and Reeve kicked his second field goal of the day.

The Gamecocks then went on the board as the half came to its conclusion. Starting off with 1:25 left to play from the S.C. 15, the Gamecocks got their first break of the drive on a roughing-the-punter call with less than a minute to play. The penalty moved the ball to the Gamecock 36, where Steve Swinehart, subbing for starting quarterback

Ron Bass, completed to end Phil Logan for 15 yards. On the next play Swinehart hit Ben Cornett for 14 yards with 29 seconds left before being pulled down by free safety Joe Restic. After three incomplete passes and an Irish offsides, Britt Parrish was called in with two seconds left in the half to try a 49-yard field goal attempt. His kick was good and South Carolina was down by 10 with a half to play.

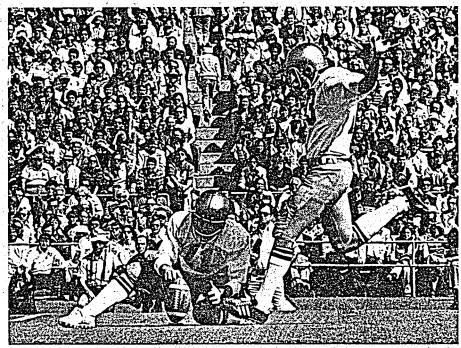
The third quarter was nothing more than changes of possession for both teams. The Irish punted once, tried one 42-yard field goal that missed, and Slager was intercepted once. The Gamecocks handed over the ball via three punts, which averaged 34 yards. Clearly neither team held any advantage going into the final quarter, as neither team did anything in the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was different, however, as South Carolina jumped on Notre Dame in their first possession. Starting on the 50, the Gamecocks moved down the field with Bass back at quarterback. Combining runs and passes, S.C. moved down the field before having their drive stalled at the Irish 14. Parrish was then summoned and put three points on the board by a 35-yard field goal. The drive also ate up five minutes on the clock, which was now very important to the Gamecocks' comeback attempt.

With 5:33 left after an N.D. punt, the Gamecocks began their final drive. Starting on their own 30, S.C. in four plays was on their own 48. On the next play, running back Kevin Long picked up six yards and the Gamecocks were now in Irish territory. McKinney and Clarence Williams then carried for runs of 9 and 12 yards, respectively, with the ball now on the Notre Dame 21. With 3:32 left in the game, Long lost three yards, thanks to a crushing tackle by Willie Fry. On the next play, Bass, trying to pick Cornett out of a crowd, threw and was intercepted by Jim Browner on the 15 with 3:23 left, and S.C. was stopped.

Notre	Dame 10 3 0 0 — 1	3
South	Carolina 0 3 0 3 —	6

- N.D. Slager to W. Browner, 9 yards (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Reeve, 37-yard field goal.
- N.D. Reeve, 30-yard field goal.
- S.C. Parrish, 49-yard field goal.
- S.C. Parrish, 49-yard field goal.



Aided by Rick Slager's hold, Dave Reeve booted his way into the record book.

# Navy

by Ted Robinson

By all means, the game was a gross mismatch. Notre Dame had won five consecutive games since their opening loss to Pittsburgh, and had not allowed a touchdown in the process. Navy was one and six after losing five straight games, including a 70-14 loss at the hands of Michigan and a 45-0 whitewash by Pittsburgh.

On their last possession of the quarter, Rick Slager, who enjoyed a fine afternoon, connected on passes of 17 yards to Dan Kelleher and 14 yards to Ken MacAfee. When the drive stalled, Dave Reeve got the Irish on the board with a 47-yard field goal.

By keeping Navy out of their end zone in the first quarter, the Notre

Mike Calhoun and Ross Browner pressuring the quarterback,

With rumors concerning his job security abounding, Middie Coach George Welsh made two moves designed to help his anemic offense. Little did the Irish know that the changes almost led to the biggest upset of the college football season.

Notre Dame's 27-21 victory was highlighted by the new Navy passing combination of sophomore quarterback Bob Leszczynski and freshman wingback Dave King. The pair hooked up ten times, including three times in a furious fourth quarter drive that came within inches of a winning touchdown.

The game was played in Cleveland's Municipal Stadium before a crowd of 61,172 that turned out to witness the first major college football game in the Ohio city since 1952.

The Notre Dame offense, which stalled in the second half against South Carolina, looked just as stagnant in the first quarter against Navy. Willard Browner's fumble on the second series cost the Irish good field position and persuaded Dan Devine to put the ball in the air.

Dame defense established a new school record of 21 consecutive quarters without allowing a touchdown, surpassing the mark set by the 1946 National Championship team.

However, any Irish attempts to extend the record quickly died in the hands of Navy's Mike Galpin whose interception and 22-yard return left the Middies on Notre Dame's 17.

After two running attempts by Reggie Thompson failed to gain, the tone for the remainder of the chilly afternoon was set. Leszczynski dropped back and lofted a pass in the direction of King in the corner of the end zone. As Jim Browner spun the wrong way, King came up with the reception for a 7-3 Navy lead.

The Middies' running attack was absent all day, so Leszczynski and King went to work through the air on Navy's next possession. Passes of 25 and 14 yards to King put the ball on the one. From there, Larry Klawinski took it in over left guard and suddenly, people began to take Navy seriously.

One of them was Kelleher, who had his finest day as an Irish receiver with seven receptions for 162 yards. "Navy challenged our rush, but they let us have the short pass. We went to work on that, which proved to be the measure of the ball game."

It was Kelleher who put Notre Dame back in the game midway through the second quarter. Slager delivered a perfect toss on a crossing pattern over the middle, and Kelleher turned on the speed for a 58-yard touchdown play.

"The play took a little longer to develop than it did in practice, but Rick's throw was there, and it was up to me," the senior split end later recalled about his first Irish touchdown:

Al Hunter culminated a 60-yard drive with a five-yard burst over left tackle for the score that gave Notre Dame the lead at 17-14. Then, two plays after Ted Burgmeier recovered a Joe Gattuso fumble, Slager and Hunter connected on a 28-yard pass play to send the Irish off at the half with a 24-14 lead.

It was obvious that during the halftime, Welsh had decided to abandon the running game altogether, as Leszczynski spent the entire third quarter standing in the pocket trying to pierce the Notre Dame pass coverage.

"They were in a man-to-man, and we felt we could pass on them," Leszczynski noted. "Our two-man patterns are designed to go against a man-to-man and we were successful." Successful was the word, as he completed 21 of 45 passes for 294 yards on the day.

After the momentary secondquarter collapse, the Irish defense was bending but not breaking. It took a dubious pass-interference penalty in the end zone against Ted Burgmeier on the third play of the final quarter to set the Middies up on the one. Thompson did the scoring honors and Navy was back in the game.

Throughout the second half, the Irish offense reverted to a pattern that was to characterize their play over the course of the second half of the season. After throwing for 180 yards in the first half, the offense changed, and the ball was kept on the ground, even on obvious passing situations.

That pattern was broken for one play following Thompson's score, but thanks to Kelleher, one play was all that was needed. Slager launched a bomb in the direction of the Navy end zone. The ball floated as Kelleher leapt between Galpin and

Greg Milo to snare the ball from their grasp. The 45-yard completion was the finest catch of the year for the Irish, yet only three points was the result.

That was because on third down, a Slager pass slipped through the hands of Steve Orsini and Reeve booted his second field goal of the afternoon to give the Irish a sixpoint cushion.

They should have known that six points was no cushion against the Middies this year. Memories flashed back to 1974's 14-6 Irish triumph, a game which Navy led until the fourth quarter; and of 1975's 31-10 Irish win, in which Navy outgained the Irish, but was victimized by a blocked punt and an interception off a fake punt.

With 8:30 remaining, Leszczynski took over from his own 20, and proceeded to take the Middies to the Irish 16. The key play was on third-and-13, with a 28-yard pass to Steve Scott, who stole the ball from Luther Bradley.

On the 16 the drive stalled as Leszczynski misfired on a third-and-two pass. Welsh decided to go for the first down on fourth down and came up inches short of victory. Only the fingertips of freshman Dave Waymer, just inserted into the game in place of Browner, broke up a pass intended for Scott.

"Inches, it's a game of inches," noted Scott. "Coach Welsh told me to break a post pattern at the goal line and cut right across the field. The ball was right there—it was six points—but he (Waymer) made a great play and tipped it away."

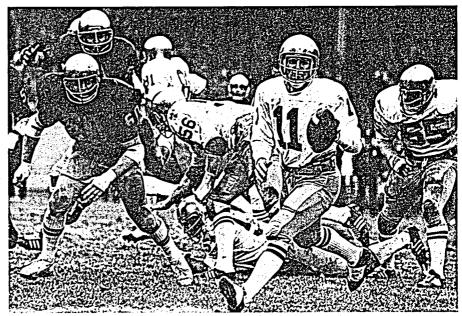
With five minutes left, the Middies were not ready for the ride back to Annapolis yet. After an Irish punt, Navy got the ball on their 16 with 1:50 left to play.

After moving the ball to the 30 on two short passes, Tony Zappala sacked Leszczynski for a nine-yard loss. But on fourth-and-19, Leszczynski and King pulled off another miraculous reception for a 22-yard gain. With the clock moving, the pair connected for 19 more yards, advancing the ball to the Irish 38.

After throwing the ball away to stop the clock with 25 seconds left, Leszczynski was dropped for a loss by Mike Calhoun and Ken Dike. However, Calhoun was shaken up on the play and the clock was stopped with one second remaining.

Leszczynski's last-gasp pass for Scott was intercepted by Bradley in the end zone and the three hour and five minute marathon game was completed.

In a relieved Notre Dame locker



The Al Hunter "point of view" as Rick Slager prepares to pitch on the option.

room, Devine had some reflective words: "I've been involved in games like this before where a team is favored because of its record, and I think this was a similar situation where we could have been upset."

How prophetic those words would turn out to be.

Notre Dame	 3	21	0	3 — 27
Navy	 0	14	0	7 — 21

#### Scoring:

N.D. Reeve, 47-yard field goal.

Navy Leszczynski to King, 17 yards (Tata kick).

Navy Klawinski, 1-yard run (Tata kick).

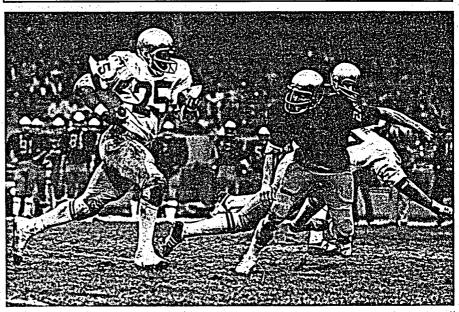
N.D. Slager to Kelleher, 58 yards (Reeve kick).

N.D. Hunter, 5-yard run (Reeve kick).

N.D. Slager to Hunter, 28 yards (Reeve kick).

Navy Thompson, 1-yard (Tata kick).

N.D. Reeve, 24-yard field goal.



Cleveland was muddy, but once again Al Hunter moves outside for yardage.

# Georgia Tech

by Tom Kruczek

Georgia Tech is the type of game that usually gets overlooked when a preseason glance is given to the schedule. It was coming late in the season, when the Irish already will have the kinks out of the offense. It was right in front of the Alabama game, and two weeks prior to the annual game with Southern Cal.

But the Georgia Tech game, after the season, would not be overlooked. Notre Dame traveled to Atlanta with a mark of 6-1 while just the week before, the Irish were ranked 11th in the country. This week was different, however, as Notre Dame fell to an extremely charged-up Tech team 23-14.

Tech coming into the game was 3-4-1, but got on the scoreboard first. It came just inside the second-quarter mark, with Tech taking the ball 66 yards in 12 plays, before stalling at the N.D. 14. Danny Smith came in and with 11:01 left on the scoreboard, Tech was up by three.

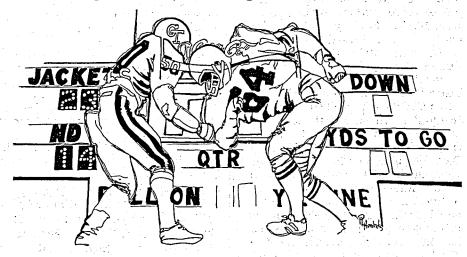
On the following drive the Irish got on the scoreboard themselves thanks to some fancy passing by Rick Slager. Slager completed three tosses to Ken MacAfee, and through the running of Al Hunter and Terry Eurick the Irish moved in front by four.

The next time the Irish had the ball, they again went on the board, aided in part by a Tech miscue. Harper Brown, back in punt formation, lost his grip on the ball coming from the snap. Brown then froze when he looked up and saw Ross Browner and Luther Bradley coming in on him, and was sacked on the Tech 35-yard line by Bradley. From there it took the Irish just six plays to score. The drive was capped by Hunter's run over a block by Steve McDaniels with 1:53 left in the half.

Tech countered immediately with the big play being a 46-yard end sweep by Drew Hill to the N.D. 18. Hill might have scored on the play had he not run into his own man, guard Bob Curley, who was literally holding off Bradley. On the play, as Curley, Hill and Bradley were sliding out of bounds, Bradley was called for a personal foul, and the

The Irish then began what would be their final drive with 14:22 left to play in the contest. Starting on their own 20, Hunter carried three times for four yards, and Joe Restic was called in to punt. On the punt, Tech was called for holding, and the Irish had a second chance.

With 12:15 left, Tom Domin carried on a left end reverse from Hunter. Ted Horansky was leading the blocking, and appeared to get his head in front of Freeman Colbert. The officials didn't see it that way, and called Horansky for clipping. After the game, Devine called this play "the biggest play of the second half, and maybe of the game."



ball was moved to the Irish 8. On the next play Gary Lanier carried it in eight yards for the score, and Tech was down by four at the half.

After an exchange of punts late in the third quarter, Tech again mounted the attack. Taking over from their own 20, back Bo Thomas provided some broken-field running for a 45-yard gain to the Irish 35. From there David Sims and Lanier carried the ball, with Sims putting the ball over with a 10-yard end sweep with 2:59 left, and Georgia Tech was ahead by two.

Then, on the next two plays, with a first down and 29 situation set up, N.D. appeared to push the panic button, and tried two long passes to Kelleher. Both fell just over his fingers, and after a draw play to Eurick, the Irish were forced to punt.

It turned out that this drive would be the last major one for the Irish because for the next seven minutes, Tech controlled the ball, marching 66 yards in 15 plays for the final score of the day and the Yellow Jackets had a most impressive win.

Georgia T	ech	•	0	10	6 7 — 23
Notre Dar	ne		0	14	0 0 — 14
		are grant			

- G.T. Smith, 31-yard field goal.
- N.D. Hunter, 2-yard run (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Hunter, 3-yard run (Reeve kick).
- G.T. Lanier, 8-yard run (Smith kick).
- G.T. Sims, 10-yard run (Smith kick wide).
- G.T. Sims, 16-yard run (Smith kick).

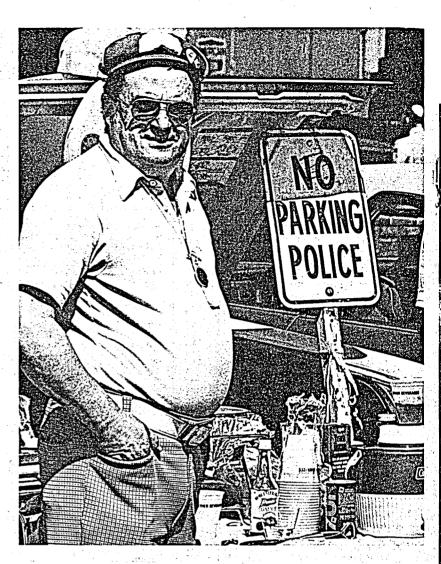
# 1976 NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL STATISTICS (ELEVEN GAMES)

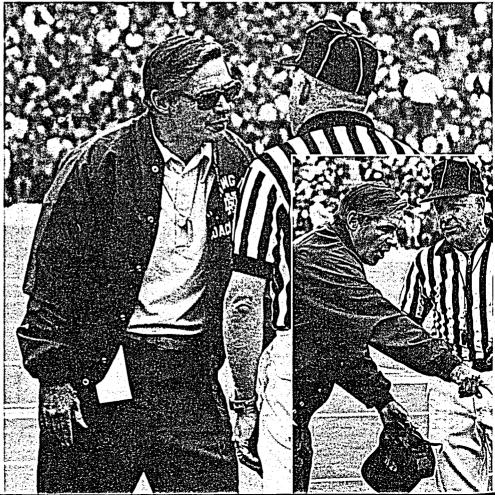
a <u>. Sene in takilli</u> nativa a	
SCORING BY QUARTERS Notre Dame	
TEAM STATISTICS	ND OPP
Total Offense	4001 3011 847 776
Yards Per Play	4.7 3.9 363.7 273.7
Net Yards Rushing	2280 1324 609 483
Yards Per Rush	3.7 2.7 207.3 120.4
Net Yards Passing	1721 1687
Comp. Percentage	.466 .419 2 238 291
Completions	111 122 17 16
Touchdown Passes	15 7 15.5 13.8
Yards Per Attempt	7.2 5.8 156.5 153.4
Interceptions Made	16 17 233 21 <i>7</i>
Punt Return Yards	324 165
Number of Returns	44 28 7.4 5.9
Total Return Yards	577 372
Kickoff Return Yards Number of Returns	541 704 32 42
Average Return	16.9 16.8
Average Punt	41.7 36.5 63 90
Yards Punting	2627 3283
Penalties Against	51 47
Yards Penalized	598 513
Yards Returned	0 0
Total First Downsby rushing	215 173 126 69
by passingby penalty	76 88 13 16
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL OFFENSE LEADER	en e
G Plays Slager 10 221	
Hunter	1091 4.7 350 4.3
RESULTS Won 8, Lost 3, Tied 0	330 4.3
ND OPP	Attendance
10 PITTSBURGH 31 23 PURDUE 0	59,075 (c) 59,075 (c)
48 at Northwestern 0 24 at Michigan State 6	44,936 77,081 (c)
41 OREGON 0 13 at South Carolina 6	59,075 (c)
27 at Navy (Cleveland) 21	56,721 (c) 61,172
14 at Georgia Tech	50,079 59,075 (c)
40 MIAM1 27 13 at Southern Cal 17	59,075 (c) 76,561
TEAM SCORING	NR OFF
Total Points	ND OPP 274 149 24.9 13.5
Touchdowns	36 18
by rushing by passing by return	
by recovery	
Juielles	0. 0
PAT — Kick	
PAT — Pass	1-2 0-1

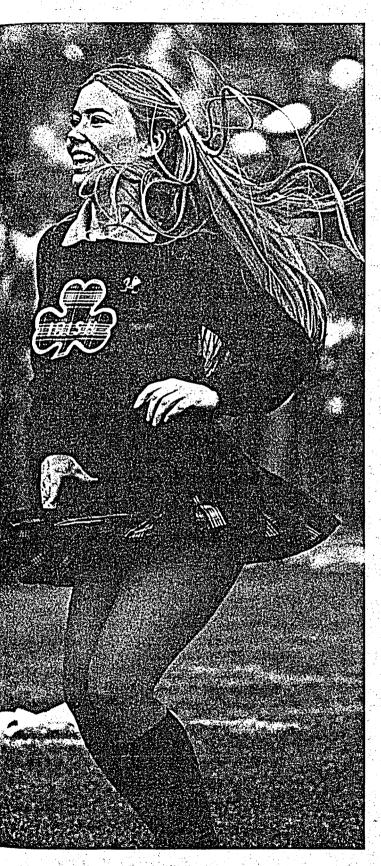
PASS RECEIVING	- 1					
	G	PC	Yds.	Avg.	TD I	long
Celleher	11	24	522	21.8	4	58
MacAfee	11	34	483	14.2	3	26
lunter	11	15	189	12.6	1	28
omin	11	5	124	24.8	I	70
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# Gallery

by Tom Everman



FEBRUARY 7, 1977

### Alabama

by Bill Delaney

Bill Delaney is a former sports editor of the Scholastic and editor of the 1974 and '75 Football Review. He is currently an MBA student at Notre Dame.

There was a great deal of apprehension up to the Alabama weekend surrounding the Notre Dame football team. The loss the previous weekend to Georgia Tech did so much for Pepper Rogers and his crew, and little for the Irish cause. The questions surrounding the Devine Corporation had resurfaced with the loss to Tech. It would have been a different situation if the Tech had beaten the Irish honestly, but they beat Notre Dame without even throwing the ball. That went out before Rockne.

Alabama represented one of the fiercest opponents Notre Dame ever faced. Armed with two victories by one- and two-point margins in bowl games, the Tide was coming to South Bend to play the Irish in the

first regular season meeting between the two schools.

But it was not the two teams that played in the bowl games that were to meet on the chilly field this Saturday. The past excitement of the bowl games was far away from the two teams' minds, as both had to salvage a season, and each figured that a win would accomplish that objective. Despite the season-opening loss to Pitt, the Irish had fashioned a powerful defense and sporadic offense to come up with a 6-2 record. Alabama also had two losses, and it was only mathematical before the Tide would lose its traditional first-place finish in the SEC.

On the first possession of the game, the Irish marched downfield from their own 24-yard line behind quarterback Rick Slager. Passes to Ken MacAfee for 18 and 25 yards moved Notre Dame through the Alabama line, something which sparked the capacity crowd of 59,075.

But the drive stalled at the 12 and

Leading the first-half passing assault on Alabama, Dan Kelleher leaps for another completion.

record-setter Dave Reeve was called upon to hit the field goal. Unfortunately the kick was wide to the left, and the Irish wound up with nothing from the drive.

A poor punt of 20 yards gave N.D. great field position on their own 30, and the Irish scoring machine started to roll again. Al Hunter went through left tackle for 36 yards and the first down, bringing the ball into Alabama territory. Slager then went to MacAfee for eight and Hunter for seven and the Irish were at the Tide four-yard line. However, the misfortunes of the past weeks continued to haunt the offense and Steve Orsini's carry into the end zone for an apparent touchdown resulted in a fumble. giving the Irish nothing again for their effort.

This wave of inefficiency continued to plague both sides until the beginning of the next quarter. On the first possession of the second quarter, Slager rolled left and hit Dan Kelleher on the left sideline for 56 yards and the score. Reeve connected on the extra point with the Irish now on top by seven with the first score of the day.

The advantage was soon to mount to 14 as Slager again moved Notre Dame downfield with some excellent playcalling. Passes to Kelleher and MacAfee moved the Irish past midfield, where the explosive running of Vagas Ferguson took over. The freshman back, who had seen little action throughout the season, was a surprise starter at the outset of the contest. In this drive Ferguson's jaunts of 12 and 13 yards put the Irish down to the Alabama 17. Hunter took over from there, and on two runs the Irish scored again.

But the bubble of invincibility was soon to burst. On Alabama's next possession, quarterback Jack O'Rear marched 'Bama downfield behind his rushing, bringing the Tide past midfield. But the key to the scoring drive was an interference call on Luther Bradley at the 11-yard line. His interference of Ozzie Newsome resulted in a 24-yard gain for the Tide. O'Rear then took over the controls, and, three plays later, Alabama broke the scoring barrier. The 77-yard scoring drive took four minutes and 19 seconds, and gave the Irish something to worry about once again.

But Slager and company put the

Tide score behind them, and took the offensive again. A 25-yard pass to wingback Tom Domin quickly gave the Irish fine field position. After a few quick runs, Slager found MacAfee over the middle for 11 yards and a first down. A four-yard burst by Heavens over left tackle gave way to Vagas Ferguson. The freshman broke around right end from the 17 for seven points. This put Notre Dame on top, 21-7 going into half time.

The third quarter appeared to be a continuation of the previous 30 minutes for the Irish, as they moved consistently with their first possession of the half. Starting from their own 20, Slager stayed on the ground behind runs by Hunter and Ferguson to move the ball to the Alabama 45. But the drive was soon halted when Slager's aerial, intended for Kelleher, was picked off by Tim Krauss, who returned the interception to the Irish 30. But the Tide could not move the ball, so Jack Berrey was called in to attempt a field goal. His kick was true, and Alabama cut the lead to 21-10 with 4:05 remaining in the third quarter.

Alabama then had the opportunity to score with its next possession as Rutledge carried the Tide from its own 32 behind some fancy passing to Newsome and Bill Flanagan before the quarter ended. On the first play of the fourth quarter Rutledge found Newsome all alone for 30 yards and the score. Electing to go for the two-point conversion, Newsome again scored for the Tide, taking a pitchout from Rutledge for the conversion, and a 21-18 score.

It was at this point that many of the fans could sense that impending doom was at hand. Playing a conservative style of football in the second half for the past few games, the Irish had barely come out on top of the contests, and the loss the previous week gave many an uneasy feeling.

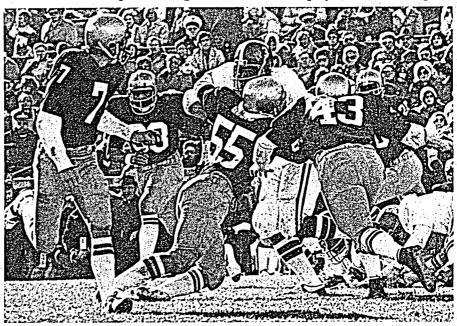
But not this afternoon. Despite Slager's injury when he was hit behind the line, the Irish hopes were kept alive by Sophomore Rusty Lisch. He killed enough time on the clock to enable the Tide to gamble for the big play. However, the big play was all Jim Browner's, as the big cornerback intercepted Rutledge's pass in the end zone for the Irish. The sophomore back was

all alone in the left corner when Rutledge put the pass up. Rutledge had failed to see an open receiver on the wide side of the field.

Lisch then took over, and some fine runs through the line ate up valuable moments for the Irish. But the Irish could not continue their drive and were forced to punt. Alabama began to roll with the possession, as it moved from its own 22 to 47. But the defense took over and Ross Browner dumped Rutledge for

had to, providing a new facet to the quarterback position — speed. Ferguson proved Devine and his coaching staff to be geniuses with their decision earlier in the week to start the freshman. He finished with a 24-carry, 107-yard performance in the afternoon.

But in the end, the victory left many questions unanswered. How could a team that had lost to a weaker Georgia Tech team come back and play a balanced game



And when you get past the line you meet the linebackers. Bob Golic and Doug Becker combine for the stop.

a four-yard loss. On fourth and nine from the 43, Rutledge saw his team's hopes lie on the field as his pass intended for Newsome fell short. Lisch sat on the ball for the last two plays as time finally ran out on the stadium clock as the Irish found themselves winners, 21-18.

The win was an impressive one for the Irish. The offense was able to move on one of the more threatening defensive lines in the country. Despite the loss of Slager, Rusty Lisch moved the offense when he

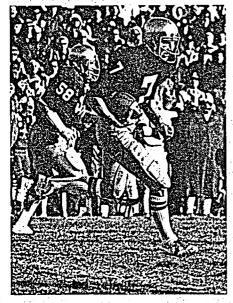
against one of the tougher teams in the country? Why does the conservative style of play continue to surface after the Irish build a comfortable lead? If the Tech game had realized a favorable outcome, then could the Alabama win perhaps have meant a major bowl invitation? But we'll never know about that. What we do know is that Notre Dame swept to its third consecutive triumph over Alabama — something that many of the greatest teams cannot brag of.

Notre Dam	e		0	21	0	0 — 21
Alabama		 	0	···· <b>7</b>	3	8 — 18

- N.D. Slager to Kelleher, 56 yards (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Hunter, 2-yard run (Reeve kick).
- U.A. O'Rear, 1-yard run (Berrey kick).
- N.D. Ferguson, 17-yard run (Reeve kick).
- U.A. Berrey, 38-yard field goal.
- U.A. Rutledge to Newsome, 30 yards (Newsome ran for two points).

### Miami

by Bob Piller



Sophomore Joe Restic returns his fourth quarter interception 21 yards to set up a Dave Reeve field goal.

Amid the excitement of bowl game invitations, Notre Dame defeated the Miami Hurricanes 40-27, aided by turnovers which took the wind out of a second half Hurricane resurgence. This game introduced Rusty Lisch as the new Irish quarterback, who was filling in for the injured Rick Slager. And Lisch performed credibly, probably establishing himself as the quarterback of the future.

Several records also added significance to the contest. Junior halfback Al Hunter set two single-season marks as he became the most prolific rusher in Notre Dame history on the most carries. The former broke Marchy Schwartz's 1930 mark of 927 yards, while the latter shattered the more recent record of Wayne Bullock, who carried the ball 203 times in 1974. Hunter finished the game with a total of 943 on 212 carries, with one game remaining in which to become N.D.'s first 1,000yard runner. Miami's 45 pass attempts was the third record, equaling the number thrown by Navy earlier this year setting a new single season record.

The game was decided for Notre Dame by a combination of Miami turnovers and opportune kick returns. But this '76 home finale continued an alarming pattern characteristic of this season: a strong first half followed by a second half in which the Irish offense turned conservative, merely content to wait out the game.

Notre Dame's first points came on a 31-yard field goal by Dave Reeve, ending a drive highlighted by the left end sweeps of Al Hunter, who accounted for 41 yards of offense. It was Miami's next possession which started the parade of costly fumbles. Miami quarterback E. J. Baker, pitched to Johnson for a five-yard gain, but Johnson was jolted by linebacker Doug Becker, freeing the ball. Tackle Mike Calhoun then recovered for N.D. at the Miami 25. Dan Devine later commented that fumbles are either offensive mistakes or the result of defensive aggressiveness, and attributed Miami's problem to the latter. "We forced them by good defense," he maintained. The Irish followed the break with a 23-yard pass completion from Lisch to end Dan Kelleher, who placed the ball on the five-yard line. Three plays later, freshman fullback Willard Browner threw an option pass to Kelleher, who made a fine catch in the corner of the end zone.

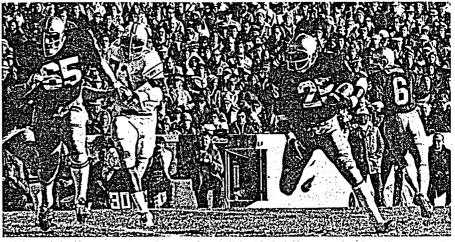
Miami immediately turned the ball over again on its next possession. Baker completed a 14-yard pass to Adams, who was struck down by Ted Burgmeier. The ball was loosened, and Steve Heimkreiter recovered at the Hurricane 40. The offense took over and promptly moved down to the 27, where a holding penalty pulled them back to the 42. From here, Lisch connected with

Kelleher for his second touchdown of the game, with 1:02 left in the first quarter.

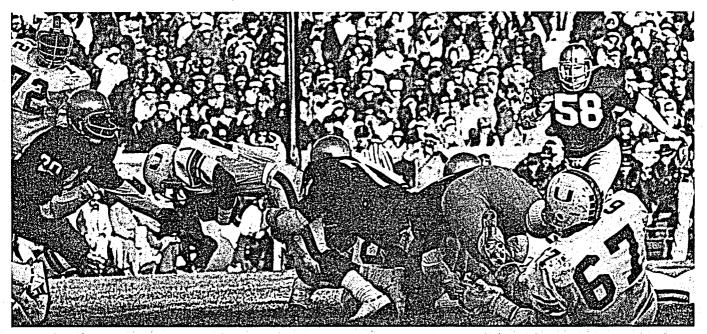
Following a Miami drive which went nowhere, Steve Schmitz's 25-yard punt return brought the ball to the 32 of Miami. A personal foul on Hurricane tackle Eddie Edwards advanced the ball to the 11, and Rusty Lisch crossed the goal line on a seven-yard circle around left end as the Irish streaked to a 23-0 lead.

Little more offense was generated in the remainder of the half, as the two teams traded punts and interceptions. Notre Dame played an excellent defensive game, giving the offense numerous opportunities to score. Meanwhile, the Miami offense in the first half was limited to two yards rushing, while Baker and his replacement, Frank Glover, could only hit on three of 12 passes. This, however, was not an accurate prognosis of what was to happen in the second half.

The opening kickoff of the second half reinforced the notion that the Irish would continue to roll in a relentness rout. Hunter carried it 54 yards until he was stopped at the Hurricane 30 by John Turner. With Hunter and Vagas Ferguson punching the ball down to within the one. Lisch snuck it in to increase the lead to 30-0 with only 2:33 elapsed in the third quarter. This was also the first touchdown scored by Notre Dame in the second half since the Oregon game on October 16, five games previous. But the ensuing kickoff triggered the Hurricane comeback which brought them to within ten points of the Irish, 30-20.



Dodging and darting, Al Hunter broke Marchy Schwartz's season rushing mark against the Hurricanes.



Moving toward the Irish goal, Miami finds the inside yardage tough

Tim Morgan fumbled the ball, got control, eluded three defenders and raced up the sideline to complete a 93-yard return for a touchdown. Miami Coach Selmer said, "Timmy (Morgan) turned it around for us." Devine concurred, saying that the "kickoff return got them back into the game. I've seen that type of return before."

Plus. the N.D. offense did very little the rest of the game. Almost totally disdaining the pass, only four were attempted and one completed (an impressive 22-yard snare by MacAfee of a pass from Lisch) as the Irish were content to run the ball at the Hurricanes' defense, which was waiting for each thrust. Of a total of seven punts, five occurred in the second half. But the Irish did manage two fourth-quarter insurance scores, again both following Miami mistakes. Dave Reeve kicked his second field goal after Joe Restic's interception and 21yard return, plus a pass interference call moved the ball within field goal range. Eight minutes later, QB Frank Glover was hit by Ross Browner and Calhoun while attempting to pass. The fumbled ball was finally captured by Ken Dike at Miami's 14-yard line. It took the Irish only one play to score, as Al Hunter once again victimized the right side of the Miami defense, upping the score to 40-20 with only 2:13 left in the game.

Miami, on the other hand, was able to put together an offense for the final 30 minutes. Despite the

continual harassment by Notre Dame's defensive ends, of whom Ross Browner recorded four sacks for 50 yards in losses and Tony Zappala (replacing the injured Willie Fry) for 33, a triad of Hurricane quarterbacks ripped the Irish defensive backfield. They completed 17 of 33 passes for 202 yards, finding strong safety Jim Browner particularly vulnerable. Near the end of the half, Luther Bradley found himself at that safety spot, while freshman Dave Waymer took over at cornerback, to no avail. The Hurricanes scored a second touchdown in the third quarter on a oneyard pass from Baker to Charlie Claud. Another drive begun at the end of the quarter resulted in another score, as E. J. Baker threw another short pass to Woody Bennett in the end zone. The muffed twopoint-conversion kept the deficit at ten points. The two Notre Dame

scores then followed, but Miami constructed one last scoring drive which covered 80 yards in 13 plays. New quarterback George Mason directed it as all 13 plays were pass attempts. Mason finally hit receiver Tokarski on a nine-yard pass with only seconds to play. Notre Dame then ran out the clock with a final score of

The victory earned Notre Dame an invitation to the Gator Bowl which was extended at the game's conclusion. Dan Devine commented, "I want to do whatever the team wants to do because they have worked so hard. The team has voted to go to a bowl game." The consensus among the team indicated that the issue of a major or minor bowl was not important. There was just a desire not to repeat last year's decision to reject any bids and the opportunity to represent Notre Dame in postseason play.

Notre Dame	 17	6	7	10 — 40
Miami	0	0	14	13 — 27

- N.D. Reeve, 31-yard field goal.
- N.D. W. Browner to Kelleher, 4 yards (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Lisch to Kelleher, 42 yards (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Lisch, 7-yard run (Reeve kick wide).
- N.D. Lisch, 1-yard run (Reeve kick).
- U.M. Morgan, 93-yard kickoff return (Dennis kick).
- U.M. Baker to Claud, 1 yard (Dennis kick).
- U.M. Baker to Bennett, 3 yards (Two-point conversion failed).
- N.D. Reeve, 42-yard field goal.
- N.D. Hunter, 13-yard run (Reeve kick).
- U.M. Mason to Tokarski, 9 yards (Dennis kick).

### Southern California

by Tom Kruczek

Last year, following the Southern Cal game at Notre Dame, Dan Devine drew the football team 'round in the locker room. He promised those on the team who would not be graduating that in the three years they had left at the University, they would not lose to Southern Cal. Dan Devine nearly kept that promise this year.

It's always tough to lose a game when you outplay the opposition, and this year the Irish did outplay the Trojans. Unfortunately they also out-errored the California team and in the end that was the downfall in a 17-13 loss to USC.

After the game was over, it was not the errors that were on the minds of the team and coaches, but rather the errors that might have been made by the officials. After the game, a shaken Devine dropped his usual noncommittal attitude toward officiating breaks. Or he sort of did.

"I'd like to comment (on the officiating) but I don't think I should. It's one of the hardest things I have to do, to hold inside my feelings, and one of the toughest things I have to do in life. When a team fights its guts out, then the officials should fight their guts out too and should be right a hell of a lot more times on calls than they are wrong."

The calls in question both occurred in the fourth quarter and the player in question on both occasions was Luther Bradley. The first came on S.C.'s second possession of the final quarter on a third down and four from the Trojan 26. Bradley was called for pushing off at the Irish 49 on flanker Sheldon Diggs and Southern Cal had excellent field position. Six plays later the drive concluded with Glen Walker's 46-yard field goal.

The next time that the Trojans had the ball the flag went down again, and once more Bradley was the guilty party. This time it went down next to the Irish bench, with the official making the call from a location yards away, and to the back of Bradley. On the play, Dave Waymer intercepted the pass, so the interception was negated by the penalty.

After the game Bradley had little to say about the interference calls. "In my opinion those plays weren't interference on my part, although I'm sure that the officials were doing the best they could."

The first quarter was a standoff,

with the Irish spending most of the time deep in their own territory. The deepest penetration they could muster was to the Trojan 32. Of course one of the reasons for the offensive difficulties was that Notre Dame began their drives deep in their own territory. The first three drives began on the N.D. 16, 13 and 38.

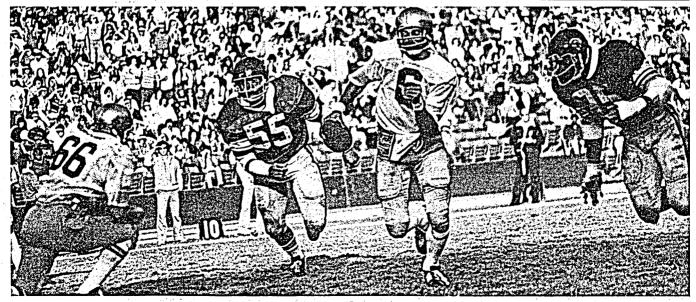
The second quarter brought little change. Rick Slager, coming off a shoulder bruise suffered two games earlier, was the starting quarterback. Midway through the second quarter Slager was taken out in favor of Rusty Lisch. Devine related that Slager, who completed three of seven passes with one interception for 32 yards, was taken out because of a re-injury to his ailing shoulder.

The best drive for Notre Dame came in the closing moments of the half. Taking over from their own 22, on the running of Al Hunter and Vagas Ferguson, the Irish were able to move downfield. The big play of

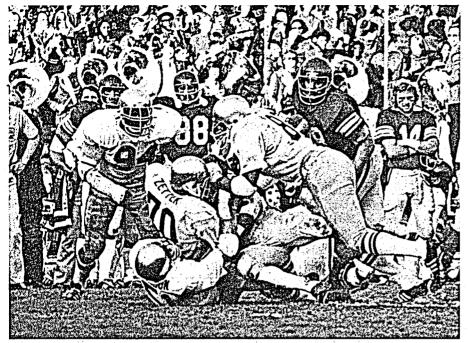
 Southern California
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 Notre Dame
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- S.C. Hertel to Diggs, 6 yards (Walker kick).
- S.C. Evans to Simmerin, 63 yards (Walker kick).
- N.D. Lisch to Ferguson, 17 yards (Reeve kick).
- S.C. Walker, 46-yard field goal.
- N.D. Lisch, 1-yard run (Two-point conversion fails).



Sophomore quarterback Rusty Lisch sprints upfield against Southern Cal.



This play fails to gain as Scott Zettek, Pete Johnson, and Ross Browner combine on the tackle.

the drive came on a dazzling run by Rusty Lisch on a roll-out left. The play covered 19 yards and the Irish were now at the S.C. 41. Three straight left-side carries by Ferguson left a fourth and one situation. Hunter got the fourth down call and was stopped by cornerback Mike Burns behind the line for a yard loss, and the drive was stifled.

Taking over on their own 33, S.C. promptly drove up the field; eight plays later the Trojans were on the Irish 6-yard line. Two plays later Rob Hertel, replacing starter Vince Evans at quarterback, found Diggs covered tightly by Ted Burgmeier. Hertel fired anyway into the right corner of the end zone, and Diggs pulled it in for the touchdown. The half ended that way with the Trojans on top 7-0.

Southern Cal then jumped on the Irish again 1:30 into the second half. The key play occurred with Evans back at the helm. While under pressure, the senior quarterback hit Randy Simmrin who took the ball 63 yards in for the score. Walker added the point after and the Trojans held a 14-point margin.

It lasted that way until four plays or 54 seconds had elapsed in the final quarter. This time it was Notre Dame's turn to go on the board, with Rusty Lisch the key man involved. Taking over on the N.D. 32 following a 23-yard punt by Walker, Lisch moved the ball in one play to the S.C. 33. The play was a six-yard pass to wide receiver Kris Haines who then took it 29 yards on his own before being

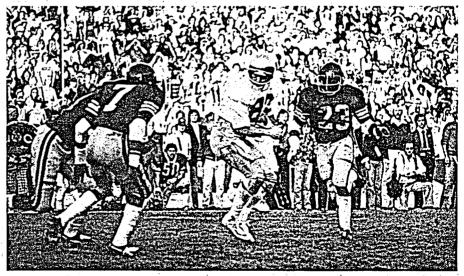
brought down. On the next play, Dan Kelleher was on the receiving end of a pass by Lisch, who picked up 16 yards to the Trojan 17. Lisch then ended the drive by finding Vagas Ferguson open just past the line, who then carried it in for the score. After Dave Reeve's conversion, the Irish were down by seven with nearly an entire quarter to play.

The Trojans and Irish then traded punts before Bradley incurred his second pass interference penalty of the game, this one leading to a Southern Cal field goal. Ricky Bell was used comparatively little in this drive, as well as through most of the game. Bell, a Heisman Trophy candidate who needed a big game against Notre Dame to make a seri-

ous contention for the Trophy, carried 21 times for 75 yards, being used at the fullback spot instead of his usual tailback position. Bell was used at fullback in place of Vic Jackson who injured his knee early in the contest.

The Irish, now feeling the pressure of being down by ten points with just over seven minutes to play, took to the air repeatedly. In the next 20 plays, the Irish quarterback put the ball in the air 11 times, completing four and having one intercepted. These weren't impressive statistics although Lisch's performance under the rush applied by the S.C. line was commendable. The sophomore never lost his poise through the entire afternoon, even though in the closing stages of the game the Trojans led by Gary Jeter and Walt Underwood were rushing hard on the pass every play.

With 1:33 left to play, the Irish began their final drive of the game from their own 24. Lisch connected on passes to Ken MacAfee and Kelleher, then scrambled for nine more yards to take the ball to the 44 of S.C. with just over a minute left. Two plays later Lisch carried again, this time around the right side for eight more yards with 50 seconds left. Two plays later Haines worked his way clear in the end zone, but as the pass was on its way, Haines was interfered with, and the Irish had first down on the one. With 30 seconds left, Hunter was stopped cold. Lisch was then foiled through the air and on the ground, before sneaking over Ernie Hughes two plays later for the score. After a missed two-point conversion and with just the kickoff left, S.C. had its 18th win in the 48-game series.



Finding the opening against the Trojans, Dan Kelleher prepares for the inevitable.

### Not Just Another Game Story

by Bob Piller

Sportswriting is often a difficult and tedious undertaking. A mass of statistics, plays and quotes must be assembled and coordinated in a story which, for the most part, should avoid a myriad of clichés. After so many games have been played and after so many stories have been written, it all becomes rather sterile.

In 1924 Grantland Rice wrote one of the more memorable sports stories, using mythical illusion and natural analogy which embellished the story and lent to it an almost literary quality. So, using this article as a model, here is an attempt to reintroduce flair, as Rice did, into sportswriting.

Outlined against a blue, blue November sky, the four horsemen rode again. In contemporary lore they are known as Cancer, high-blood pressure, Coronary Infarction, and swine flu. These are only aliases. Their real names are Slager, Hunter, MacAfee and Flatulence. formed the trough of a South Bend cyclone before which another Southern Cal football team was almost swept over the precipice of the Los Angeles Coliseum, as 93,000 spectators peered down on the bewildering panorama spread on the green plain below. And no one can deny, the USC cheerleaders were breathtaking.

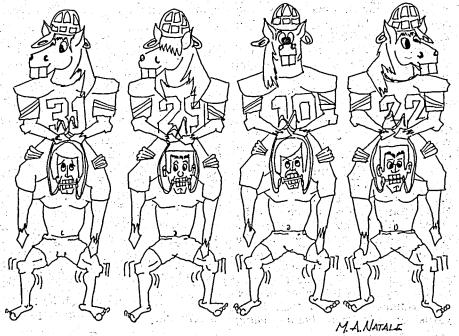
A cyclone can't be snared. It may be surrounded, but somewhere it breaks through to keep on going, usually in the wrong direction. When the cyclone starts from Notre Dame, where the candlelights still gleam through the Indiana sycamores (some things never change), it usualy fizzles out by the time it reaches the sun-washed valleys in which lies the city of angels. The cyclone struck again, as Notre Dame lost to USC 17-13, with a set of backfield stars that ripped and crashed through a strong Southern Cal defense, which ripped and crashed right back.

Notre Dame lost its 18th game in 45 USC starts through the driving power of one of its greatest backfields that ever churned up the turf of any gridiron and the stomach of any fan in any football age. Brilliant backfields may come and go, but dull ones seem to stay. In Slager, Hunter, Domin and Ferguson, covered by a fast and charging line, Notre Dame can take its place in front of the field.

Coach Robinson sent one of his finest teams into action, since it was his only team, an aggressive organization that fought to the last play around the rim of darkness. But Devine rushed his Four Horsemen to the track and they exhibited the potency of Secretariat. The Trojans had their share of stars in action, such stars as Bell, Evans, Diggs, Jeter, Simmrin, Watson, Crick and many others, but they were up against four whirlwind backs who picked up at top speed from the first step as they swept through scant openings to step out of the parking lot and into the stadium. The Trojans had great backs in Bell and White, and a great name in Mosi Tatupu, who didn't play, but who has given many throughout the nation the courage to accept their names. But USC had no great quartet who seemed able to carry the mixed blood of the tiger, the antelope and the aardvark.

The first quarter produced little of the football magic which has made this game the popular and maniacal pastime that it is. It matched many a Super Bowl in excitement. Notre Dame, with its back against the wall, fought like a cornered animal. That animal, however, was the gerbil. The second quarter witnessed little improvement. Slager, ruling with the strong arm of a Francisco Franco, provided the navigational expertise of the chief officer of the Argo Merchant.

Devine then optioned for Rusty Lisch to take the helm in the search for the great white whale. In this man lies the rising sun of Notre Dame football fortune, and he led the Irish on their best drive of the day. Al Hunter and Vagas Ferguson blasted a path from their own 22, and Lisch provided the spectacular with a 19-yard run which showed signs of



lightning and thunder. Three frantic efforts by the fleet and powerful Ferguson furnished the Irish with a fourth and one, but the USC defense stymied the following critical plunge. Hunter was repulsed for a yard loss, forcing the Midwesterners to relinquish the offensive.

This spark fostered a Trojan fury, and they found themselves six yards from placing the Midwesterners in a 7-0 deficit. Quarterback Rob Hertel, replacing the equanimiously ineffective Evans, was the man who first climbed down from the Trojan horse to stun the Irish. A well-placed spiral met flanker Shelton Diggs in the corner of the end zone, and the

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half ended with the men of Troy protecting their hard-earned advantage.

The men of the sun struck again early in the second half, as the sun god fought through the sea of chaos to re-emerge as the victor on yet another play. The ploy was simple and time-worn. The Trojan horse was again unattended, seemingly an object for the invading foes to capture and to hold as the ultimate prize—a reward left by the gods for a job well done.

But the gods play with their human toys, and perfidy rules as history does repeat itself. A beleaguered Evans, ostensibly the prize ensnared by the Midwesterners' belligerent Ross Browner, released a lance before succumbing to the violent seductions of the ubiquitous defensive stalwart. An awaiting Randy Simmrin finding himself behind a defense spellbound by the sacred gift completed the 63-yard play. Thus, although besieged with the confines of their own high-walled fortress, the Trojans were walking hand in-hand with Fortune and were fighting on to victory with a 14-0 lead.

But the men of the lake were not to be denied. Entering the final, and eminently decisive quarter, the Irish again made a game of it. Striking quickly, Lisch, in conjunction with Haines and Kelleher, gave hope to the despairing Irishmen. Notre Dame found itself poised at the Trojan 17. A short pass to Ferguson, who slipped precariously, but recovered in remarkable fashion, deftly cut to the left and outraced an overplayed defense to the gates of Troy. But hope may be a cruel expectation as well as an anxious awaiting of a blessed event. The Fates were to plague the Irish with gross misfortune. A pass interference penalty reminded everyone concerned of the presence to a force beyond the control of any mortal actor or mentor. The penalty was to haunt the Midwesterners, as the subsequent Trojan field goal created an even larger increment to be overcome.

The Irish attempted to regenerate that cyclone, going to the air 11 of 20 occasions. The results were not sufficient to alter that which had become destiny. And the spectators knew that the once defiant will of the visitors had been extirpated.

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cellars at top speed."

The Trojan horse loomed ever larger, and the once expected sack of Troy turned into a dignified attempt to exuent from the field. The stoic USC defense sustained that which had become imminent. A last-second score lessened the scoring hiatus, but the cyclone from South Bend measured to be about as great as the mountains of its northern Indiana locale.



# Gator Bowl

by Paul Stevenson

The Notre Dame football team travelled to Jacksonville, Florida, to participate in the 32nd annual Gator Bowl Classic, their first postseason appearance under Head Coach Dan Devine. The Fighting Irish downed Penn State in the contest 20-9 to increase their record in bowl competition to 5-2.

and three, Tony Capozzoli came on to boot a 25-yard field goal to cap the 12-play drive and give the Nittany Lions what was to be their only lead of the ball game.

On the ensuing kickoff, Terry Eurick returned the Matt Bahr kick from his own end zone to the Penn State 35-yard line. The Notre Dame

Penn State fullback Matt Suhey finds himself victimized by an Irish gang tackle.

This was the fifth matchup between the two schools, with the Irish holding a 3-0-1 lead in the series which saw its last confrontation in 1928. Notre Dame entered the classic with a season mark of 8-3, while the Nittany Lions compiled an overall record of 7-4.

Penn State was first to reach the scoreboard on a cold December 27th evening in northern Florida. The Lions held Notre Dame to a meager seven yards on their first possession following the opening kickoff. State then took the ball from their own 35-yard line to the Irish ten before stalling. Faced with a fourth down

offense drove the ball the remaining 35 yards to paydirt, to capture a lead they were not to relinquish in the battle.

The key play in the scoring drive came with 3:47 left in the first quarter as the Irish were faced with a fourth and one at the Penn State 16-yard line. Junior halfback Al Hunter swept off-tackle for five yards to give the Irish a first down on the Lions 11-yard line. Two plays later with a first and goal at the Penn State one-yard line, Hunter scampered around left end for the first Irish tally.

The Lions were unable to move the

ball on their next series of downs and were forced to punt. The Irish took control in excellent field position on their own 42-yard line. Seven plays later on the State 26-yard stripe, Notre Dame quarterback Rick Slager hit All-American tight end Ken MacAfee for 17 yards and a first down on the Penn State nine-yard line.

The Irish seemed ready to score again, but then the offense began to sputter. Slager hit fullback Steve Orsini with a four-yard toss and then handed off to Hunter for an additional three yards. With a third and goal at the State two-yard mark, freshman fullback Vagas Ferguson was stopped for no gain. On fourth down, Slager overthrew MacAfee in the end zone and the Irish had to surrender the football to the Nittany Lions.

The Penn State defense had held, and left their offense trailing by only four points instead of a possible 11. However, the Lions' fortunes soon faded as they returned the ball to Notre Dame. Four plays after taking possession of the football, Lion quarterback Chuck Fusina hit wide receiver Mike Guman with a two-yard strike. Guman was hit immediately by Irish linebacker. Steve Heimkreiter and fumbled the ball into the hands of Notre Dame defensive halfback Jim Browner on the 23-yard line.

Notre Dame marched from the Lion 23 to the five before the offense stalled again. Dave Reeve was called upon to kick a 23-yard field goal. Reeve's attempt was successful, as the Irish extended their lead to 10-3.

Once again, the Lions were unable to move the ball with any consistency during their next series of downs. Notre Dame regained control of the football and took advantage of their possession. The drive which began on the Irish 49-yard line ended with

Hunter's off-tackle dive on third and goal on the Penn State one. Reeve added the point after, and the score now read 17-3.

The final Irish tally came with only seconds left in the first half. After a poor 22-yard punt by the Lions and an interference call on State, Notre Dame had excellent field position on the Penn State 32 with only 17 seconds remaining before intermission.

Slager found senior wide receiver Dan Kelleher open, and connected for a 26-yard strike. Following an incomplete Slager pass, Reeve came on to give the Irish a 17-point lead as the half came to a close.

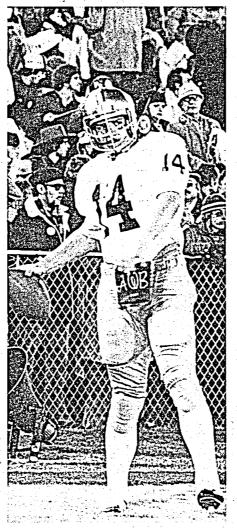
In the first two quarters, the Irish led Penn State in first downs with an 11 to five advantage. Notre Dame also commanded total yardage with a 191-86 edge.

The Fighting Trish looked as though they could score when they desired. Notre Dame outplayed the Nittany Lions by an overwhelming margin in the first half. Although the Irish went on to win the 32nd annual classic, their performance in the final quarters was not quite as phenomenal as they allowed Penn State to narrow the gap in final statistics.

The second half was reminiscent of many of the Irish clashes throughout their 1976 campaign. Notre Dame was unable to put any points on the scoreboard, counting on the tenacious defense to turn back any Lion threats.

Penn State began to move the ball with considerable consistency during the second half totaling 11 first downs and an offensive output of 188 yards. Notre Dame, on the other hand, in the second half was only able to add six first downs and 82 yards total offense.

Although the Lions were able to move the ball in the final two quarters, they could only reach the goal line once. Two Penn State threats were thwarted by Irish interceptions. With 9:14 left in the classic, the only Lion touchdown of the contest was set up. Linebacker Bruce Clark broke through the Notre Dame specialty team line and blocked a Joe Restic punt, which gave the Lions a first and goal on the Irish eight-yard line. Two plays later, Fusina connected with fullback Matt Suhey for six. Fullback Bob Torrey was stopped for no gain on his two-



Steve Orsini (plus towel) prepares to take on the Nittany Lions.

point conversion attempt and the score remained 20-9.

State began to drive again with 6:53 remaining in the game. The Lions were on the Notre Dame 17-yard line and were presented with a second and one. Fusina's pass was intercepted by Irish defender Ted Burgmeier at the three, who returned the ball 32 yards to the Notre Dame

35. From there the Irish ran out the clock to enjoy their fifth bowl victory in seven attempts.

Statistics that leaned so heavily toward the Irish in the first half were evened out by Penn State after intermission. Notre Dame led in first downs 17-16, while the Nittany Lions had a one-yard advantage in total offense 274-273.

The game may not have been played for the National Championship, but the game did have some significance. Irish mentor Dan Devine summed up the situation best, saying, "It was good to finish with a win and it makes for a good start for next season."

Following the Gator Bowl, Dan Devine announced two coaching changes for the coming season. Neither change affected the group of coaches, as both of the changes were primarily administrative in nature.

Mervin Johnson was promoted to the post of assistant head football coach. He will, in the newly-created position, be able to make major decisions in the absence of the head coach. The only time, however, that the head coach would be out of town for periods of time is during recruiting, so the decisions that Johnson might have to make could relate largely to administrative concerns. Johnson will retain his role as offensive coordinator and will continue to call the offensive plays.

On the defensive side, Joe Yonto was named as defensive coordinator. According to Yonto, the move is largely organizational, "but it does mean a lot to me personally." The Irish have not had a defensive coordinator, and the move will, according to Yonto, "bind the defense up and make decision-making a bit easier."

Notre Dame	7	13	0	0 — 20
Penn State	3	0	0	6 — 9

- P.S. Capozzoli, 26-yard field goal.
- N.D. Hunter, 1-yard run (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Reeve, 23-yard field goal.
- N.D. Hunter, 1-yard run (Reeve kick).
- N.D. Reeve, 23-yard field goal.
- P.S. Fusina to Suhey, 8 yards (two-point run failed).

### Jacksonville: A Nice Place to Visit, But . . .

by Burt Brunner

"Jacksonville has been an excellent training site. The food has been the best of any bowl I've been to and we've had a good time with no incidents."

This comment by Coach Dan Devine on the eve of the 32nd Gator Bowl reflects the attitude of the Notre Dame squad following its first trip to Jacksonville. The 40° temperature wasn't exactly Orange Bowl weather, and there wasn't any French Quarter, but the attendance of 67,827 did outdraw the Cotton Bowl by 9,000 fans. More importantly, the coaches and their charges enjoyed themselves during the stay. Winning the game didn't hurt, either.

Much of the credit for the trip belongs to Joseph O'Brien, business manager of athletics. It was his job to assemble the itinerary based on the wishes of Coach Devine and to supervise its usage through Dan Buck and his staff of five head managers. This required a separate office for Mr. O'Brien and one for the managers at the team's headquarters. Each player received an eight-page itinerary before the trip which was updated six times during the stay.

Notre Dame will receive approximately \$300,000 for its participation in the Gator Bowl. This amount consists mainly of television rights paid by ABC to the Gator Bowl Association under their contract. ABC will make a sizeable profit on this game considering the viewing audience. Yet the Irish would have received substantially more from the television network for a national, regular season game. The rest of the money comes from gate receipts, radio rights and other minimal activities. All expenditures the Irish had will come from the \$300,000 amount with the net profit not expected to be anywhere near the sums received from prior "major" bowl games.

The bowl receipt is placed into Endowment C for use by various academic departments. This net profit figure can be found on University financial statements, but an itemized list of expenses is not released. As an example to what a school would spend on a bowl trip, the University of Florida spent over \$130,000 this year for its official party's trip to the Sun Bowl.

The list of expenses for a bowl

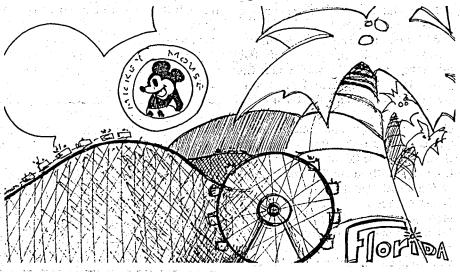
game covers many major items. Meals for the squad, spending money, hotel rooms and transportation are just a few. A stretched DC-8 for transportation, for example, costs about \$23,000 to charter for the trip. The marching band's expenses also come out of the \$300,000 figure. Over 150 band members flew from South Bend on Tuesday, December 21, and stayed at the Jacksonville Beach Sheraton till Wednesday, December 29. Each band member received \$12 per day (\$84 total) to cover all meals and incidental expenses. The group's itinerary featured several concerts and, believe it or not, a few twice-aday practices.

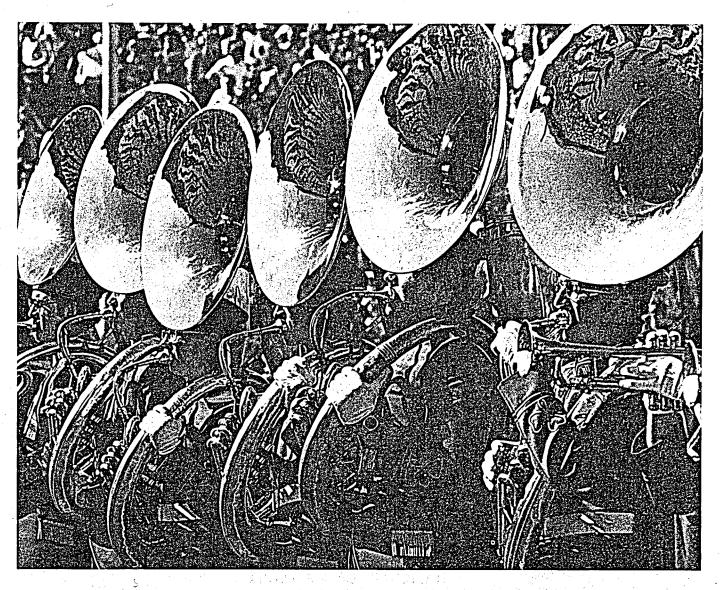
The rest of the Notre Dame entourage totaled 203 people broken down as follows: official party-101, traveling squad-87, players' wives and children-6, managers and trainers-9. The official party consisted of the coaches, their wives and children, team doctors and their families, University officials (Moose Krause, Rev. Edmund Joyce, C.S.C., and Roger Valdiserri among others), and various other athletic employees. The majority of this group was to leave South Bend on December 21, but due to bad weather left from O'Hare Field in Chicago. The party was lodged at the Turtle Inn on Atlantic Beach, occupying five floors of this hotel. This family-owned hotel was described by Mr. O'Brien as one of the "best on the beach" and its accompanying restaurant as possibly "the best restaurant in Jacksonville." Penn State also wanted to stay at the Turtle Inn but the Irish had already reserved the hotel.

Each player on the traveling squad received a check in the amount of \$262.00 covering transportation, meals and incidentals, according to NCAA rules. The majority of this amount (approximately \$100) represented the cash equivalent cost of a plane trip from the game site to the campus following the game. The players were allowed to either fly back to South Bend on the chartered team plane or fly to their homes using the money from above. All meals were not provided for the full squad and a portion of this money was allotted for that purpose. The NCAA also allows \$5.00 per day (for a period not to exceed ten days) for outof-pocket, unitemized expenses.

The team itinerary scheduled daily workouts at Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville with either free time or a planned activity filling in the rest of the day. Among these activities were visits to Marineland and St. Augustine, a night at the dog races and a tour of the USS Saratoga. Several players rented cars during the stay and visited Disneyworld on the Tuesday following the game. A Christmas Eve Mass at St. Paul's Church was also arranged with the Notre Dame Marching Band providing the music for the liturgy and carols.

Put all of these practices, activities, plans, dollar amounts, and the game together and you have the Notre Dame Gator Bowl, 1976. Perhaps Elton Moore summed it up best: "We weren't overpracticed, but were ready to play. Everything was just right. We had an excellent time."





Pittsburgh	31 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	Notre Dame	10
Notre Dame	23	Purdue	0
Notre Dame	48	Northwestern	0
Notre Dame	24	Michigan State	6
Notre Dame	o di ili kan ili sa si kata di kan dake Baga di <b>41</b> sa sa sa kali sa sa ka	Oregon	0
Notre Dame	e de la companya de La companya de la co	South Carolina	6
Notre Dame	<b>27</b> - Salas	Navy	21
Georgia Tech	<b>23</b>	Notre Dame	14
Notre Dame	<b>21</b>	Alabama	18
Notre Dame	40	Miami	27
Southern Cal	<b>17</b>	Notre Dame	13
Notre Dame	20	Penn State	9



Although rarely seen, sportswriters influence a team's image for a large number of readers.

### After 9-3, and 12th in Both Polls: The Experts Reflect

by Rosemary Mills

The preseason outlook was not as good as it usually is for the Irish. A season-opening loss to Pittsburgh and injuries did not brighten the picture. During the next ten games the Irish surprised themselves with talent from unexpected sources.

Joe Doyle, the sportswriter who covers the Notre Dame football games for the South Bend Tribune, feels that the Irish had an outstanding season. He noted that it was a young team which did not have the total maturity of other teams. Doyle cited Ross Browner and Ken MacAfee as the veteran leaders on the team responsible for some of the Irish success.

Particular games of interest, according to Doyle, were those against Alabama and South Carolina. The first half of the Alabama game was the best display of both offense and defense according to Doyle. During the game against South Carolina, the Irish showed a consistent, steady defense.

A Notre Dame alumnus, Dave Condon, now writes for the *Chicago Tribune*. Condon also noted that for a young team Notre Dame had an outstanding season. In his opinion, if the Irish had played Pitt at the regularly scheduled time, it would have

been a victory for the Irish. N.D.'s other losses, those to Georgia Tech and USC, did not dampen Condon's enthusiasm about the season in general.

The loss to Georgia Tech he analyzed as being the outcome of Tech's psyche. They knew that a defeat of the Irish would take the edge off their expected victory over Alabama. Another factor which influenced the loss was the fact that it was Homecoming weekend for Tech.

Even though the Irish lost to USC, Condon called it a fine game. In his opinion, it was the best job of coaching that Dan Devine ever did.

Perhaps the most disappointing game this season was the poor victory the Irish managed against Navy. Condon attributed Navy's success in that game to their eagerness to play N.D.

Adding his thoughts on the N.D. season, Ed Sanesbury of United Press International declared that the Irish did much better than expected from the preseason outlook. With Al Hunter the only veteran back, Sanesbury cited Vagas Ferguson and Willard Browner for the tremendous jobs they did. As freshmen, he stated, they were very important.

Although it's difficult to gauge exactly how a team will be ten years in advance, when the schedules are drawn up, the Irish opponents didn't fare too badly on the season for the 1976 year.

All totaled, Notre Dame opponent records came to a respectable 63-59-2. That figure is slightly inflated, however, thanks to the perfect record of Pittsburgh and the near perfect mark of Southern Cal. Besides those two schools, South Carolina and Alabama also were over the .500 mark on the season while the other seven schools the Irish faced during the regular season finished below the halfway mark.

 11 teams.
 12- 0

 Pittsburgh
 12- 0

 Purdue
 5- 6

 Northwestern
 1-10

 Michigan State
 4- 6-1

 Oregon
 4- 7

 South Carolina
 6- 5

 Navy
 4- 7

 Georgia Tech
 4- 6-1

 Alabama
 9- 3

 Miami
 3- 8

 Southern Cal
 11- 1

Listed below are the records of the

The chief job of the Irish, Sanesbury thought, was to "overcome key injuries," such as those of Jerome Heavens and Jeff Weston. He added that the Irish were aided by Ross Browner and MacAfee who had their usual good years.

Paul Hornung, commentator from the Notre Dame highlights show, considered every factor of the season, and asserted that Notre Dame did a fine job. The bid to the Gator Bowl was the climax to a successful season. Although all teams expect injuries, he noted that N.D. was hit harder in key positions this year. Especially helpful in overcoming these injuries, Hornung thought, were Rusty Lisch and Vagas Ferguson.

All of these writers were in agreement that next season might be the one to look for. With senior quarterback Rick Slager graduating, Joe Montana was expected to take over his position. According to Condon, Doyle and Sanesbury, Rusty Lisch is coming into his own. He may be a contender for the quarterback slot. This was even more evident after his impressive appearance in the game against USC.

One factor that might make for a better season is a considerably easier schedule. Opening against Mississippi will have much less pressure on the team than the Pitt game did. In 1977, the three service academies will not pose as much competition as other schools might have. While Army, Air Force and Navy may have good teams, it is the opinion of Joe Doyle that the academies do not compete on the same level of football as other major schools do.

Paul Hornung agrees on the possibility of another outstanding season. He sees Hunter, MacAfee and Browner as the nucleus of the team and looks to them for leadership. Hornung also sees Hunter and MacAfee as potential candidates for the Heisman trophy.

While he did not mention any Heisman candidates, Dave Condon looks to Heavens and Ferguson as being two of the great backs of the country next year. Condon mentioned the strong possibility of a national championship, "if all goes well." With other potential championship teams coming from USC and Alabama, it is possible that a team may become champions with one or two defeats.

Although the final won-lost record for the Irish has not greatly improved, all four writers agree that Devine is making an adjustment to N.D. This pertains not only to his coaching succession to Ara Parseghian, and other greats, but to the Notre Dame community as a whole.

The pressure on a Notre Dame coach is more than that at any other school. According to Joe Doyle, no one coming to N.D. knows how much the sport of football means to the school. An Irish coach must not only have a good relationship with the team, but with the whole student



body. He must know the people and how they react.

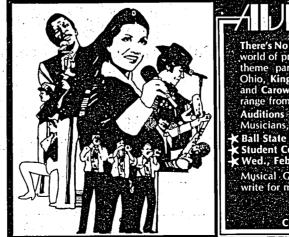
By the observations of Condon, Devine is a much calmer man this year as compared to last year. Anyone analyzing him must bear in mind that Devine has always had the difficult task of following legends. He was awed by the enormity of the Notre Dame coaching job according to the Chicago writer.

Condon summarized Devine's position as comparable to that of a woman's second husband. If her first husband is no good, her second husband will be great no matter what he does. If, by some chance, her first husband was great, no matter how hard the second one tries, he will never be any good.

Next year, the Irish football team will have three co-captains, two coming from the defensive side and one representing the offense. Named at the football banquet of December 8, ends Ross Browner and Willie Fry are the defensive captains while Terry Eurick is the offensive captain for the 1977 season.

Also honored at the banquet was Al Hunter who, along with Ross Browner, was named Most Valuable Player of the 1976 season. Quarterback Rick Slager was named winner of the John P. McMullan Award which is given each year to the player who best exemplifies the role of the student-athlete based on accomplishment in the classroom and as a leader both on and off the field.

Fry was one of the captains for the 1976 season, which also had a total of three captains. That was not how it was planned, however, as senior Mark McLane, who shared the captain's role with Fry through most of the season, was suspended for violating training regulations after the Georgia Tech game. McLane did not play in the loss in Atlanta, and was officially suspended by Dan Devine the day after the game when the team returned to South Bend. Reserve tight end Jim Weiler was named to replace McLane as co-captain for the remainder of the season.



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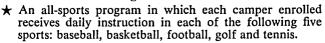
### NOTRE DAME'S SUMMER SPORTS CAMP PROGRAMS

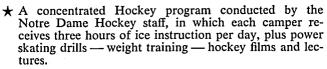
ALL-SPORTS CAMP --- CONCENTRATED HOCKEY CAMP CONCENTRATED BASKETBALL CAMP --- CONCENTRATED FOOTBALL CAMP

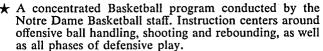


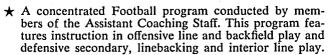
A variety of sports camp programs conducted right on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, utilizing the University's professional staff, as well as its facilities.

#### Programs Include:

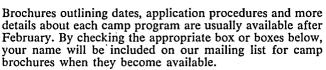


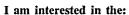






All camp programs also feature swimming and recreational activities.





- All-Sports Camp
- Concentrated Hockey Camp.....
- Concentrated Basketball Camp.....
- Concentrated Football Camp......



Lefty Smith



Digger Phelps



Paul Shoults

Send following information to:

Joe Sassano, Coordinator Notre Dame Sports Camps Athletic & Convocation Center Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Name		Age
Street Address		
City	State	Zip









