

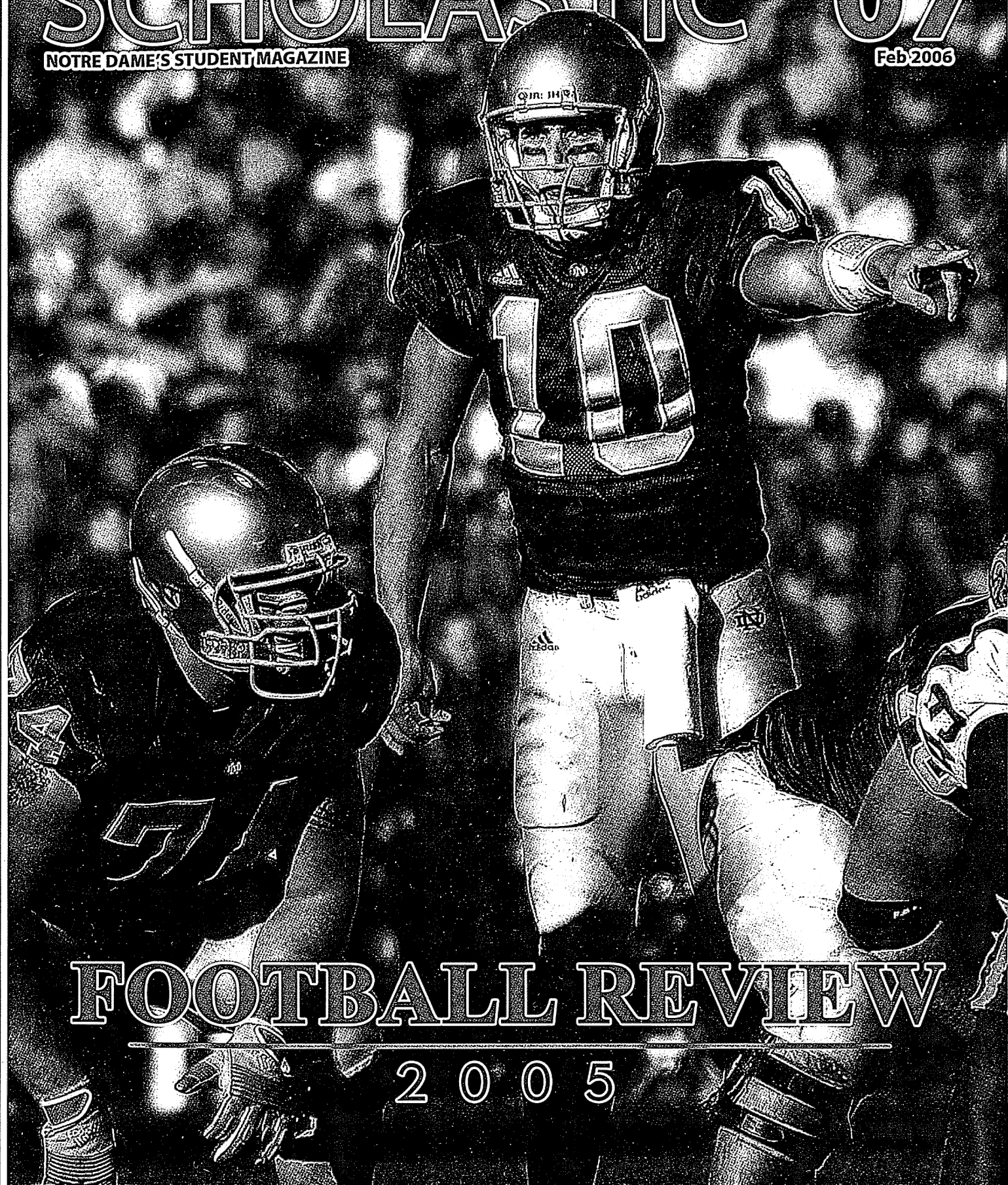
# SCHOLASTIC

NOTRE DAME'S STUDENT MAGAZINE

VOL 147

# 07

Feb 2006



## FOOTBALL REVIEW

2005

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6  
NOTRE DAME  
VS.  
SYRACUSE  
NOVEMBER

Vol. 147, No. 07 • FEB 2006

# SCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL REVIEW



COVER DESIGN  
DAVID REDENBAUGH

## FROM THE EDITOR ...

I still remember his first press conference like it was yesterday. No line stuck that day more than "We're going to have a hard-working, intelligent, nasty football team." Nasty? Did new Head Football Coach Charlie Weis really say that? Some university administrators were on the brink of a brain hemorrhage when he used the word. But Weis was right. Notre Dame was sadly losing the toughness and mystique that once made its opponents tremble. He seemed determined to rectify that. Perhaps he was the "one" who would bring balance to the force.

I remember one cold January morning at the Joyce Center where Weis held a meeting with over 100 students (including me) at six in the morning. As a reward for our senseless dedication, Weis shared his coming-of-age story and expectations for Notre Dame football. I couldn't resist the gravitation of my eyes to his ridiculously large Super Bowl ring. Show some restraint coach! Anyways, I left the meeting thinking he was just different. He was direct, intelligent, and surprisingly humorous. Who knew then if he could coach successfully at Notre Dame? But I got the sense he genuinely understood the mystique of this place, something guys named Willingham and Davie for one reason or another simply failed to grasp. Perhaps it helped that Weis went to school here just like the rest of us.

I remember watching the Blue-Gold game on a freakishly cold day in April and leaving thinking the following: Brady Quinn will one day be a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate, and Jeff Samardzija will have a breakout 2005 season. My friends scoffed at me. There was no way a struggling Quinn could win the Heisman, they said. They didn't even know that a guy with a last name they continually crucified was even on the team.

Fortunately Quinn, with his 2005 numbers, will probably need to reserve a ticket to New York in 2006, and Samardzija became an All-American almost overnight. But not even I could foresee that the Irish would break 47 team and individual records this season. Nor did I think Notre Dame would come within six points of a magical undefeated regular season. Watching the offensive renaissance being painted by Weis was quite a sight. Yet the 2005 season is simply a portion of a masterpiece he still has to finish. He has yet to add strokes of speed and experience. Rome wasn't built in a day, was it?

The media that doomed Notre Dame to mediocrity suddenly began praising the old echoes once again. The 9-3 record was unexpected, but Weis will be the first to tell you he's disappointed. He wants to win every game and anything else is unacceptable. Some think that's arrogance, but I think it's excellence. Excellence is Notre Dame, and she deserves nothing less. And lucky for me, I got to see it all happen traveling throughout the country and watching all twelve games of Weis' first season in person. What a wild ride.

Sincerely,

*Michael Kim*

Michael Kim  
Football Review Editor

Football Review Editor  
Michael Kim

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*Disce Quasi Semper Victorius  
Vive Quasi Cras Mortuus*

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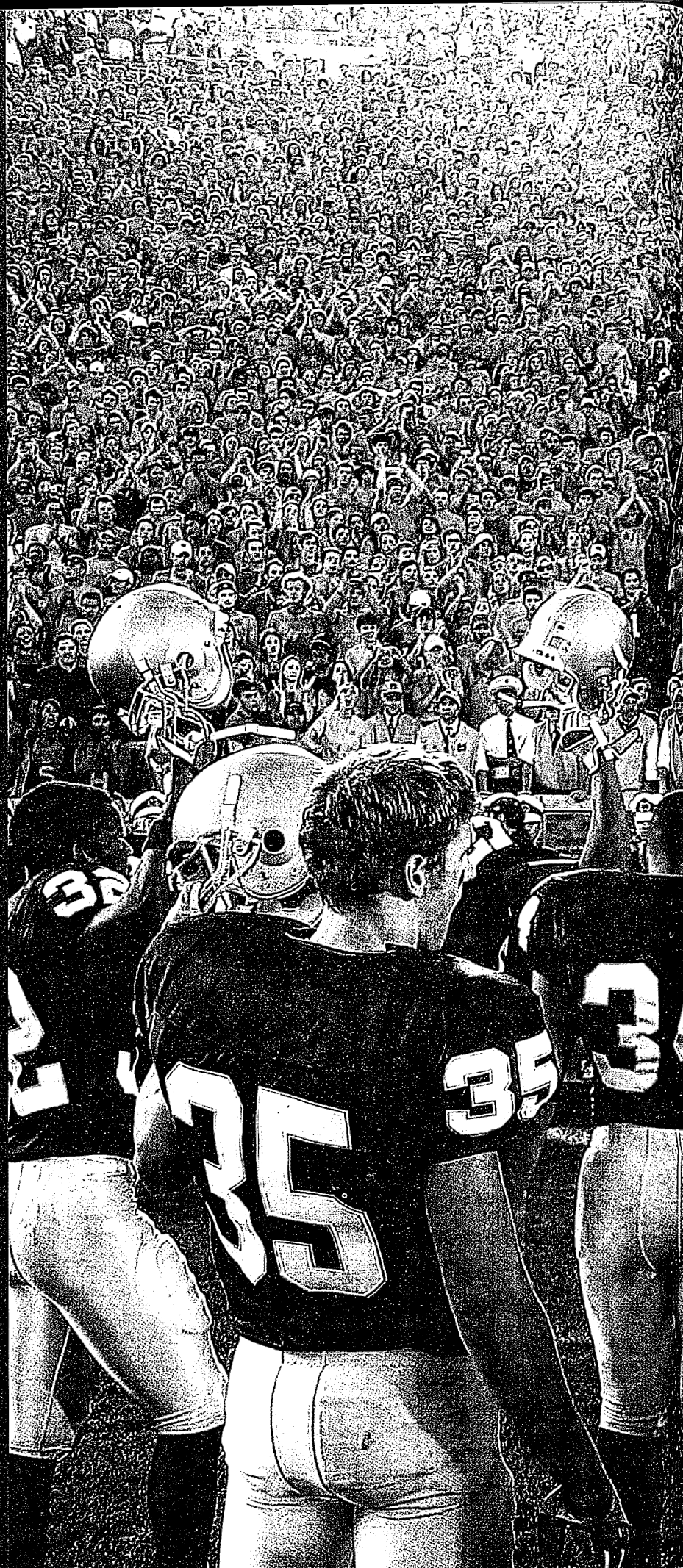
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# SCHOLASTIC

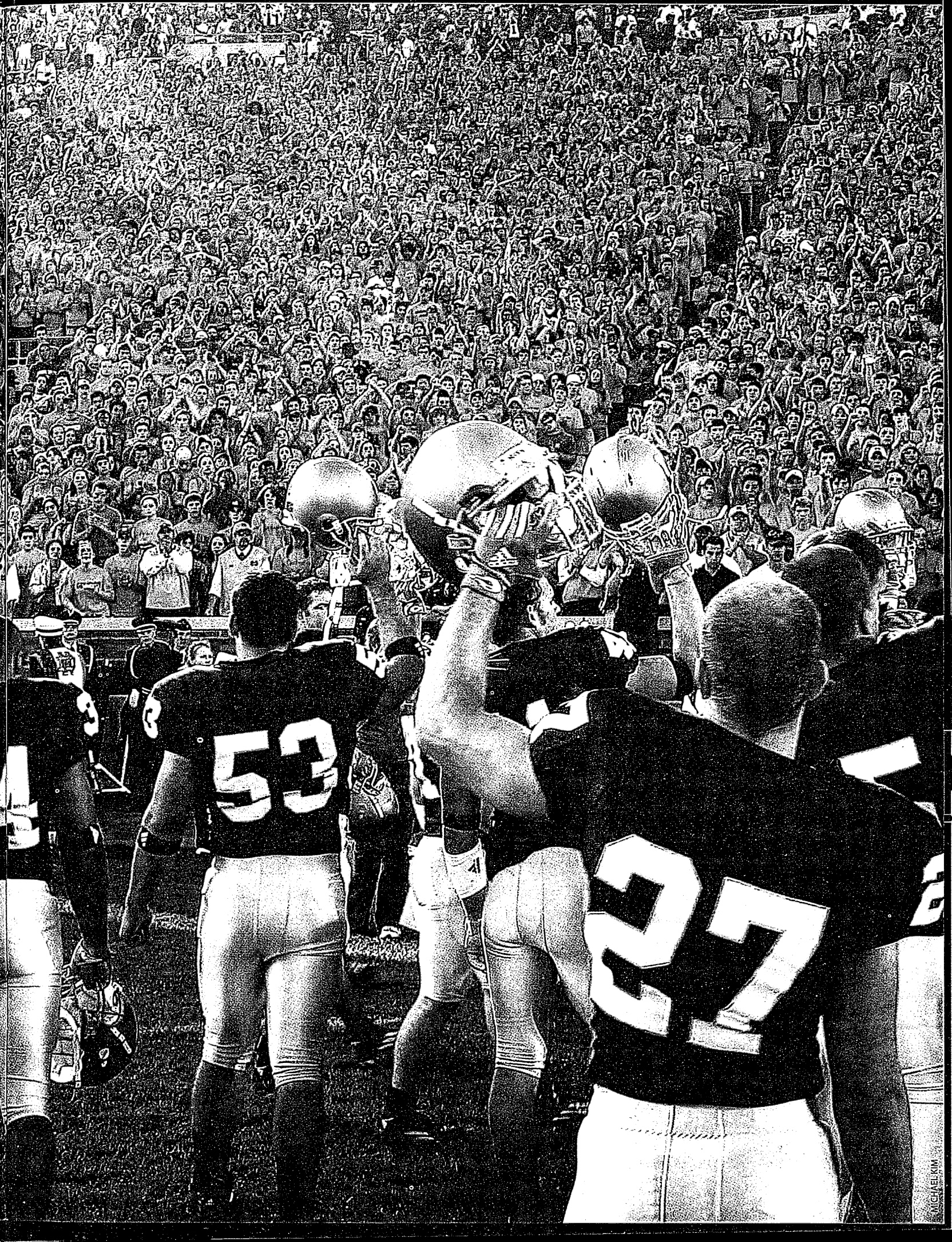
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# By the Numbers

Notre Dame Head Football Coach Charlie Weis ranked **53rd** in *The Sporting News*' "Power 100" list of the most powerful people in sports today. Weis was the highest-ranked individual associated with college athletics, beating NCAA President Myles Brand (No. 63).

The Notre Dame football team finished **No. 9** in the Final 2005 Associated Press Top 25 College Football Poll, marking the Irish's first appearance in the top 10 since 1993. It marked the 35th time that the Irish have finished in the final AP top 10 since the poll began in 1936.



The total attendance for the six 2005 Notre Dame home games was **484,770**.

**11 of 15** true freshmen from the 2005 recruiting class played this year. During the three years of former Irish Head Coach Tyrone Willingham's tenure, only 11 total played as true freshmen.

During the 2005 Notre Dame home football season, **352,113** beverages were sold at Notre Dame Stadium.



Notre Dame scored **440** total points during the 2005 season, more than any team in the history of ND football. The previous record was 426.

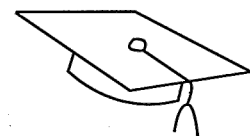


Football expenses for the 2005 season will exceed **\$15,000,000**, an amount which includes such costs as equipment, travel, salaries and recruiting expenses. Expenses for the 2004 season totaled \$15,092,475.

A brutal schedule? Notre Dame started the 2005 season with what looked like one of the toughest schedules in the country, as **5** Irish opponents were ranked, with three of them falling in the preseason top 10. But Notre Dame ended up having one of the easiest schedules — on paper, at least. Only three Irish opponents finished with winning records (Michigan, USC, Navy).

According to the NCAA, Notre Dame ranked No. 2 in graduating football players at **96 percent**. Notre Dame's 2005 opponents had the following rates: Navy, 98 percent; Stanford, 92 percent; Washington, 75 percent; Syracuse, 75 percent; Purdue, 70 percent; Michigan, 68 percent; USC, 55 percent; Ohio State, 54 percent; Pittsburgh, 48 percent; Michigan State, 41 percent; and BYU, 40 percent.

The 2006 Fiesta Bowl Telecast on ABC produced a **12.9** Nielsen television rating, the highest for a Notre Dame game during the 2005 season. The Notre Dame-USC game on Oct. 15, 2005, garnered a 6.7, but peaked at 14.2 in the final few minutes.



**45,589** ticket requests were made for the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, the most requests ever received for any postseason game in Irish football history. It took 20 staff members in the Notre Dame ticket office more than 100 hours to process and input every order.

## Judgment Calls

### THE GREEN JERSEYS



They were the right tint of green this time around, unlike the kelly green jerseys worn in 2002. If only we can find a way to win in these things ...

### HIGH-DEFINITION FOR HOME FOOTBALL GAMES ON NBC



Finally, the telecast doesn't look like it was prepared by kindergartners. Alumni and fans get to see the gold helmets shine the way they need to on television.

### THE GUGLIELMINO COMPLEX



Widescreen plasma televisions and video game consoles in the locker room? Is this an athletic facility or a high-class bachelor pad?

### FIESTA BOWL STUDENT TICKET LOTTERY



Looks like the ticket office staff has too much faith in the student body. How could they not foresee that students were going to try to get multiple lottery numbers? They're not all holy.

### FIESTA BOWL TELECAST ON ABC



Laura Quinn actually managed to get more air time than her brother.

### THE SHIRT 2005



Although the highest selling Shirt, it ruined student unity. But worst of all, it made us look like Michigan fans.

# Congregation of Holy Cross



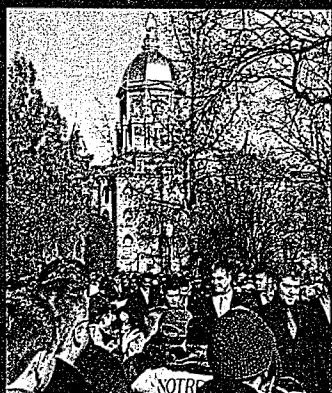
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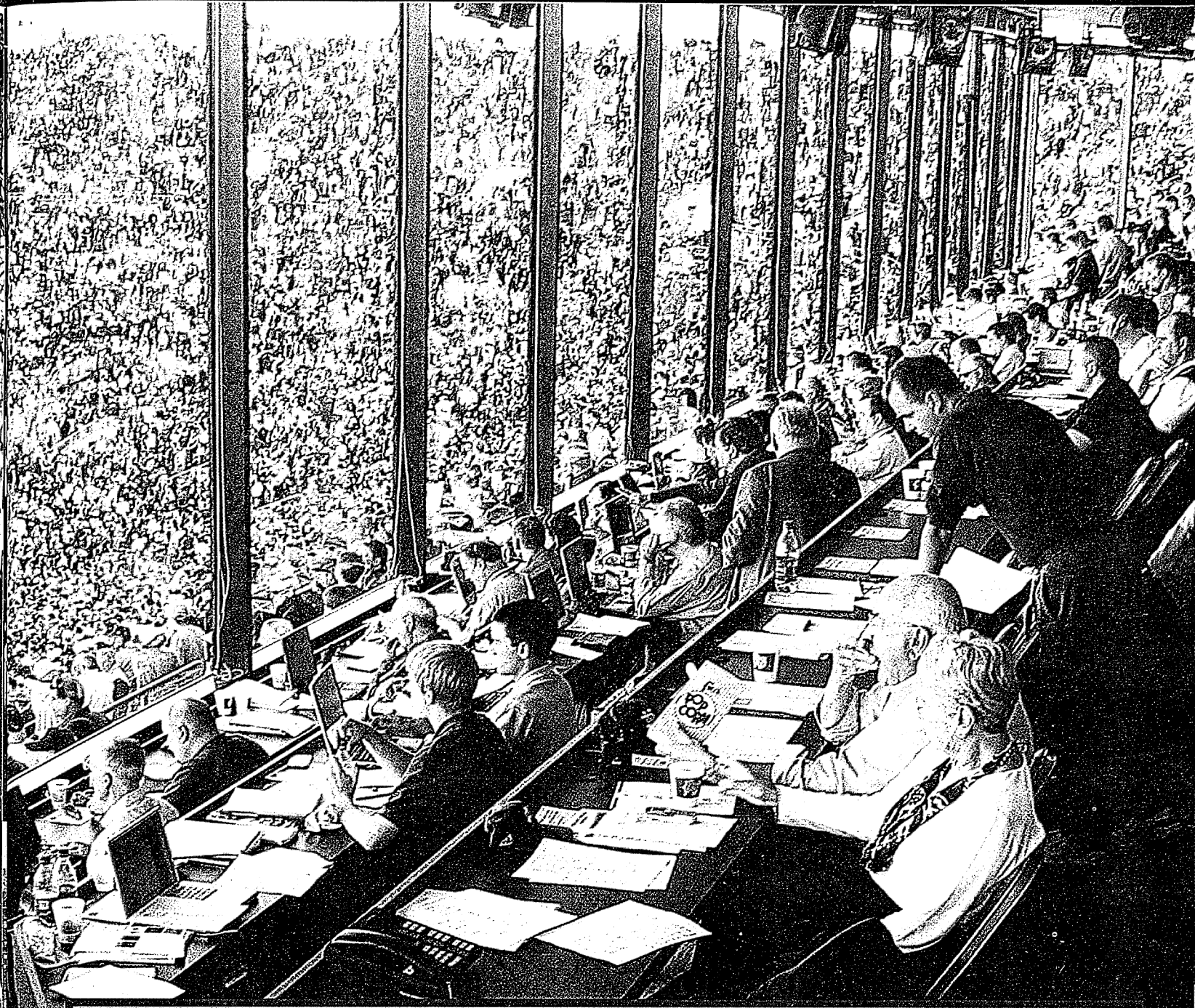




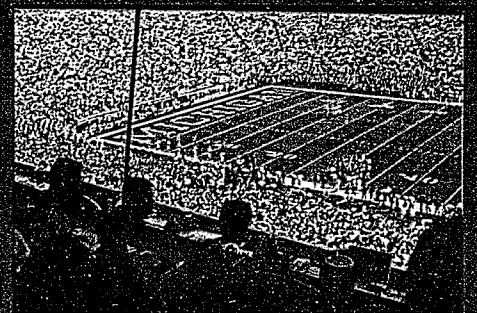
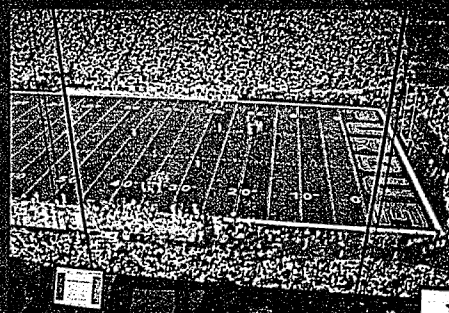
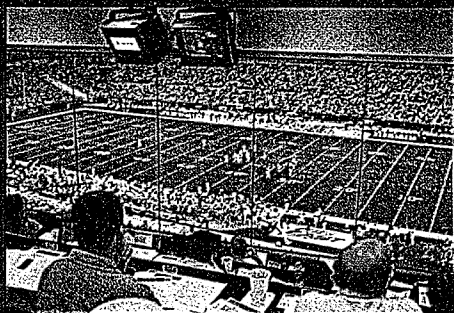
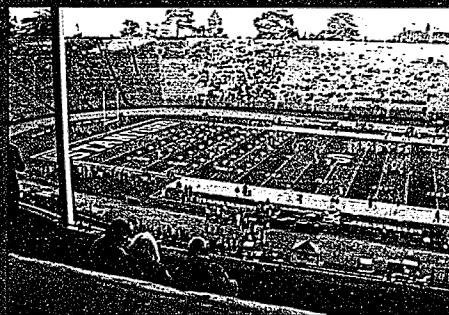
**THE WALK** Tradition is one of Notre Dame's greatest strengths. Approximately two hours before kickoff, Irish players and coaches convene in the Lady Chapel at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for Mass. Afterwards, players like safety Tom Zbikowski, running back Darius Walker and cornerback Ambrose Wooden are greeted by thousands of cheering fans who create a path from Main Quad all the way to the Notre Dame Stadium gate. (Inset: Players get a glimpse of the Golden Dome as they walk towards Notre Dame Stadium)

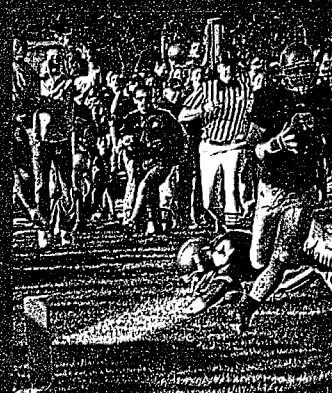
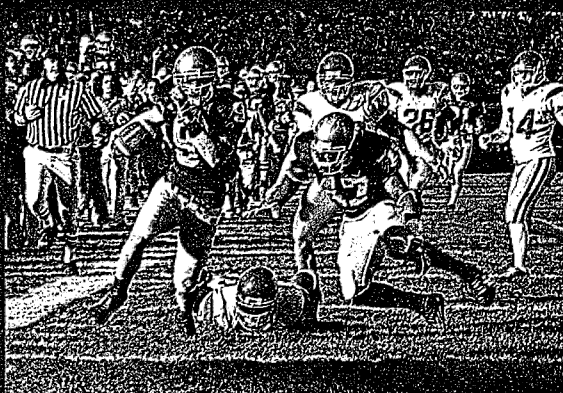
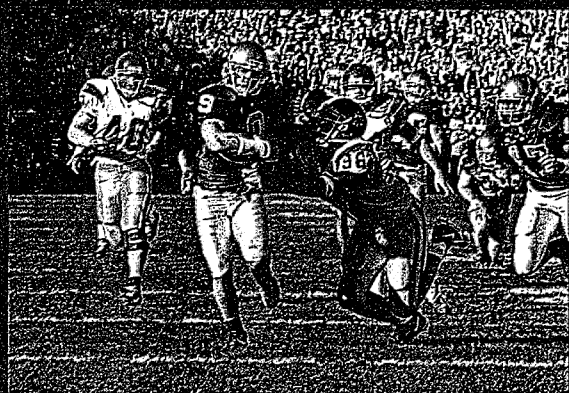
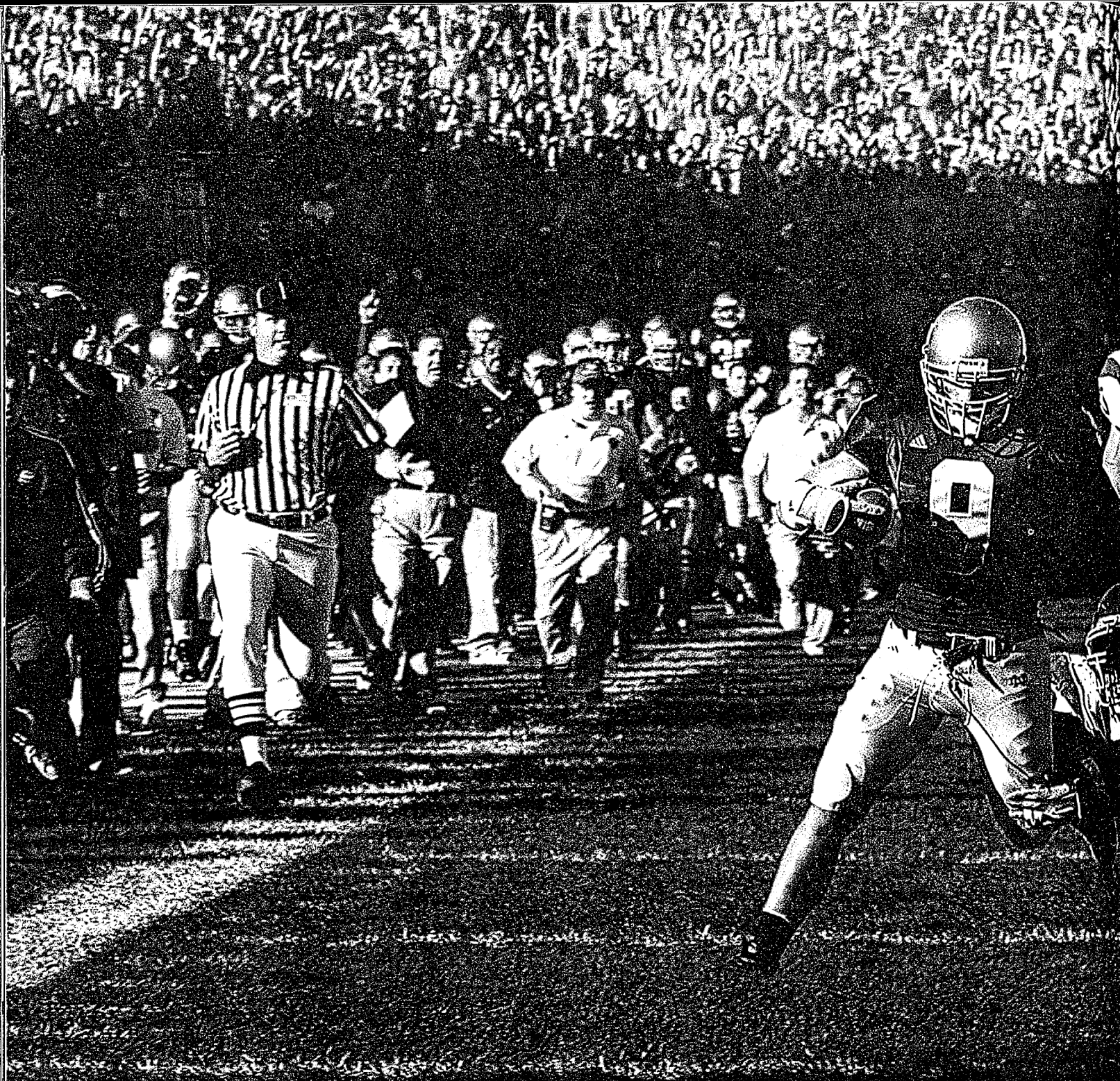
*Photos by Michael Kim*



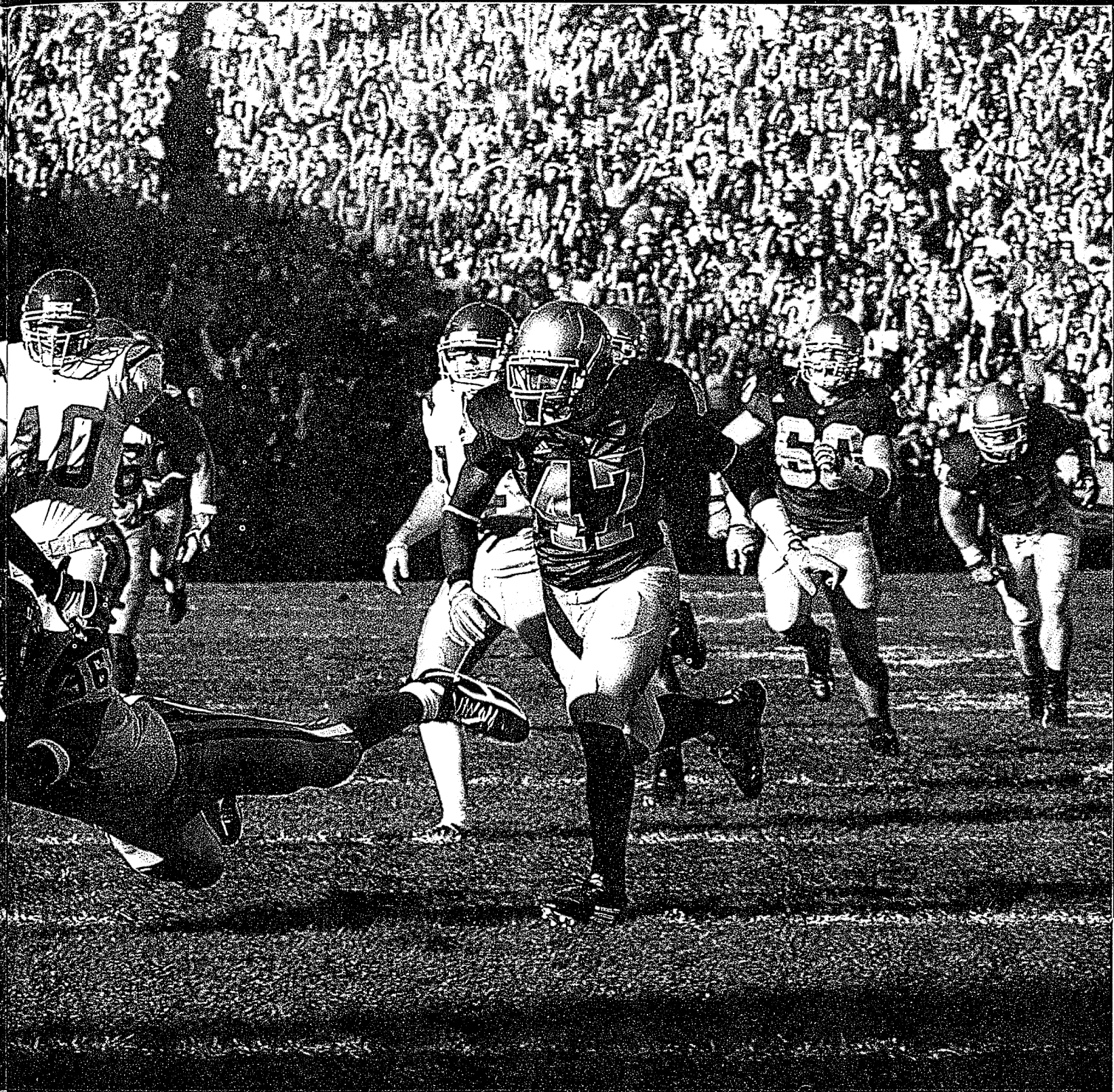


**INSIDE THE PRESS BOX** Over 300 media members pack Level Three of the Notre Dame Stadium press box, simultaneously watching and writing stories on the game. (Inset: 2005 opponent press boxes; clockwise from right: Stanford, Washington, Michigan, Purdue and Pittsburgh) *Photos by Michael Kim*

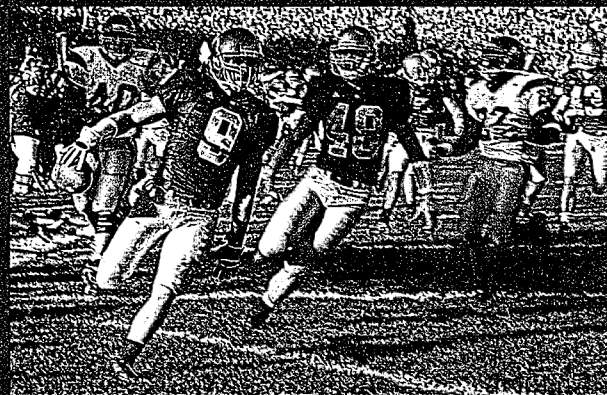








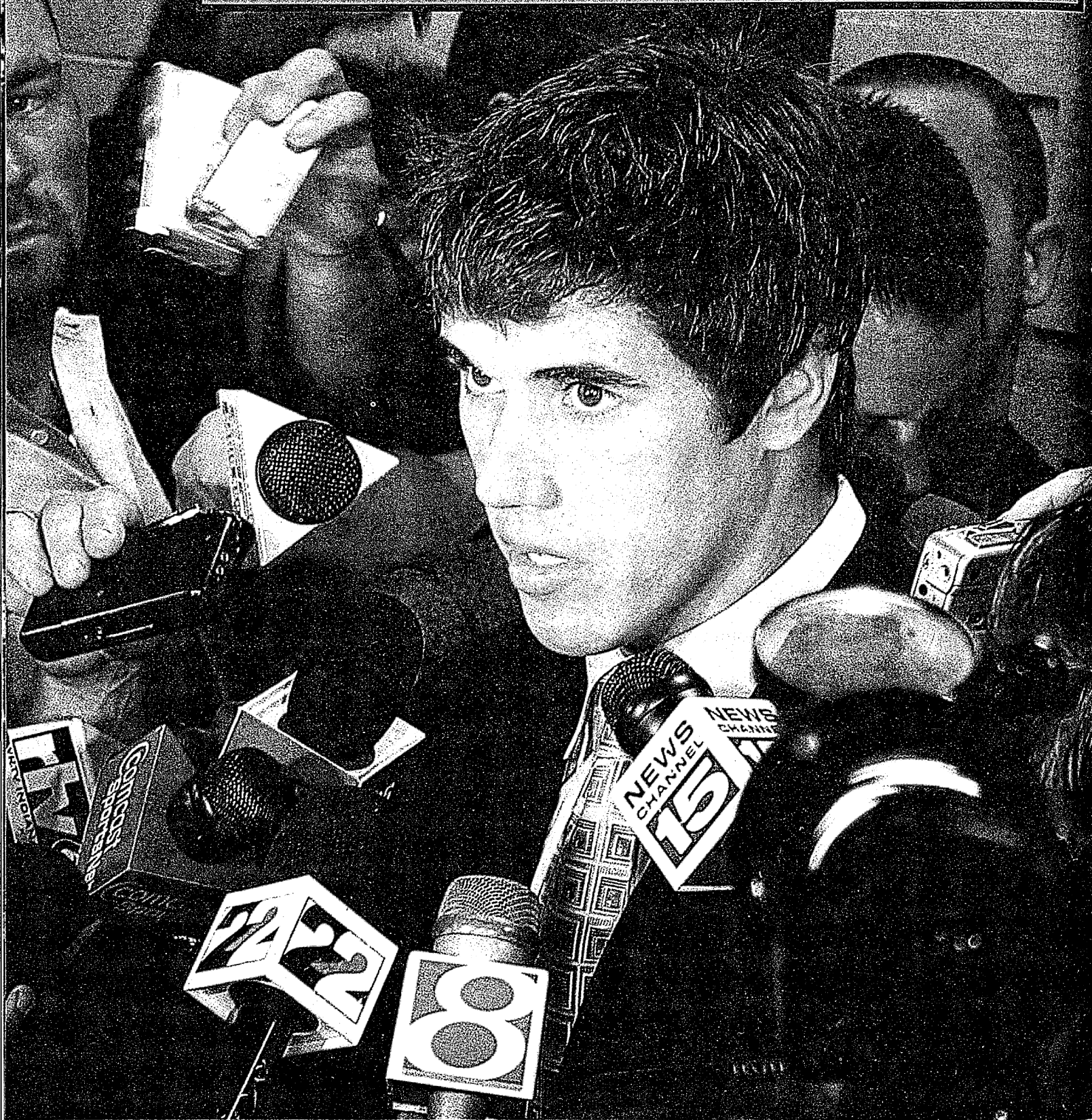
**REAWAKENING THE ECHOES** Tied 14-14 in the second quarter against USC, safety Tom Zbikowski received a 41-yard punt from Trojan punter Tom Malone. From his own 40-yard line, Zbikowski, who Notre Dame defensive coordinator Rick Minter once said had the look of "a kamikaze pilot," fought off a pack of USC defenders for a 60-yard punt return touchdown to give Notre Dame a 21-14 lead. Notre Dame Stadium erupted as Irish fans shook down the thunder and woke up the old echoes of Notre Dame lore. (Inset: sequence of Zbikowski punt)  
*Photos by Brenna Mannion*

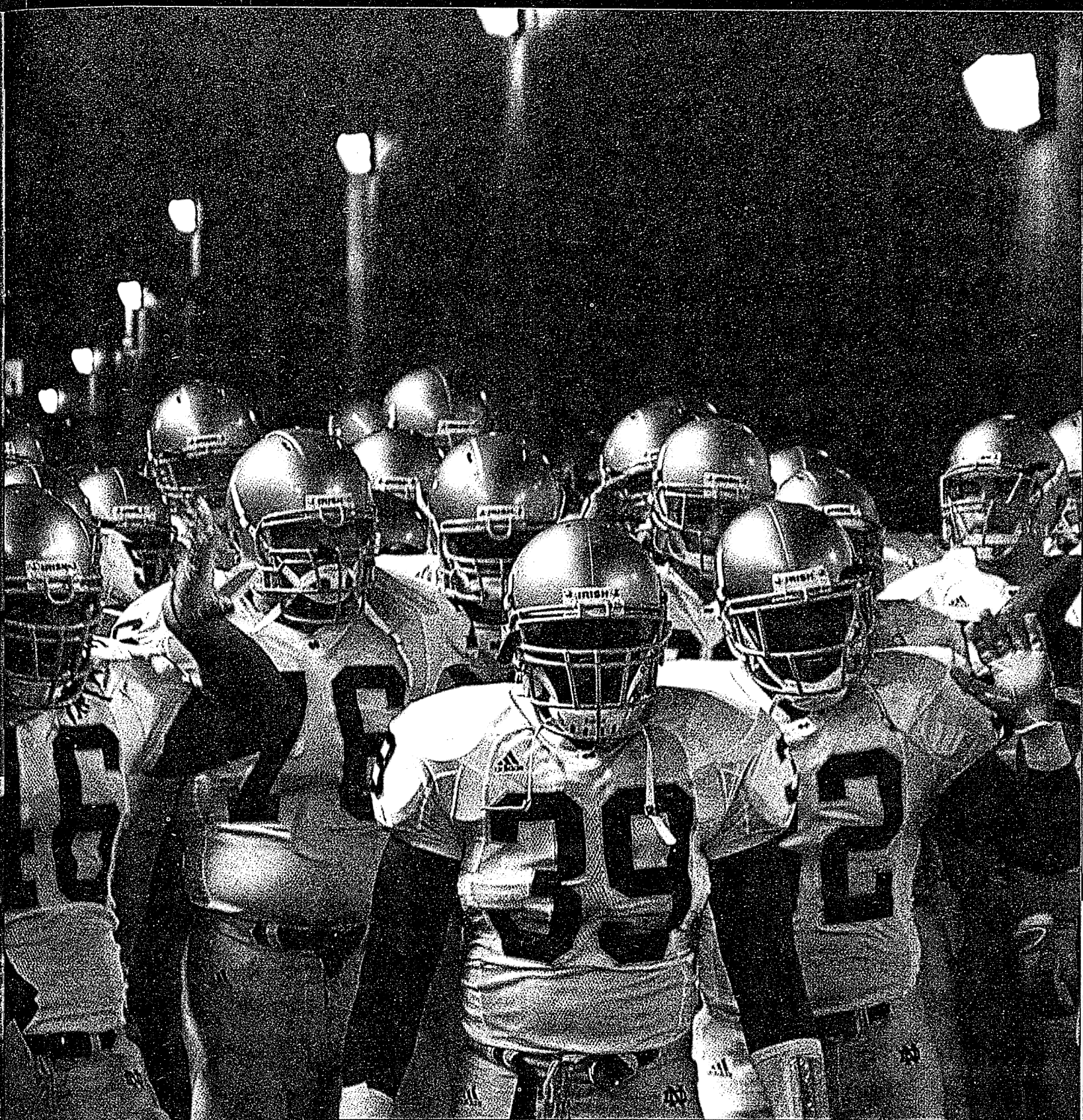






**IN THE SPOTLIGHT** The glory of wearing the gold and blue at Notre Dame also has its burdens, as players are under constant scrutiny and the media pressure is relentless. Quarterback Brady Quinn answers questions after the USC game. (Inset: wide receiver Jeff Samardzija is interviewed after the Purdue game and linebacker Brandon Hoyte after the Michigan game) Photos by Michael Kim

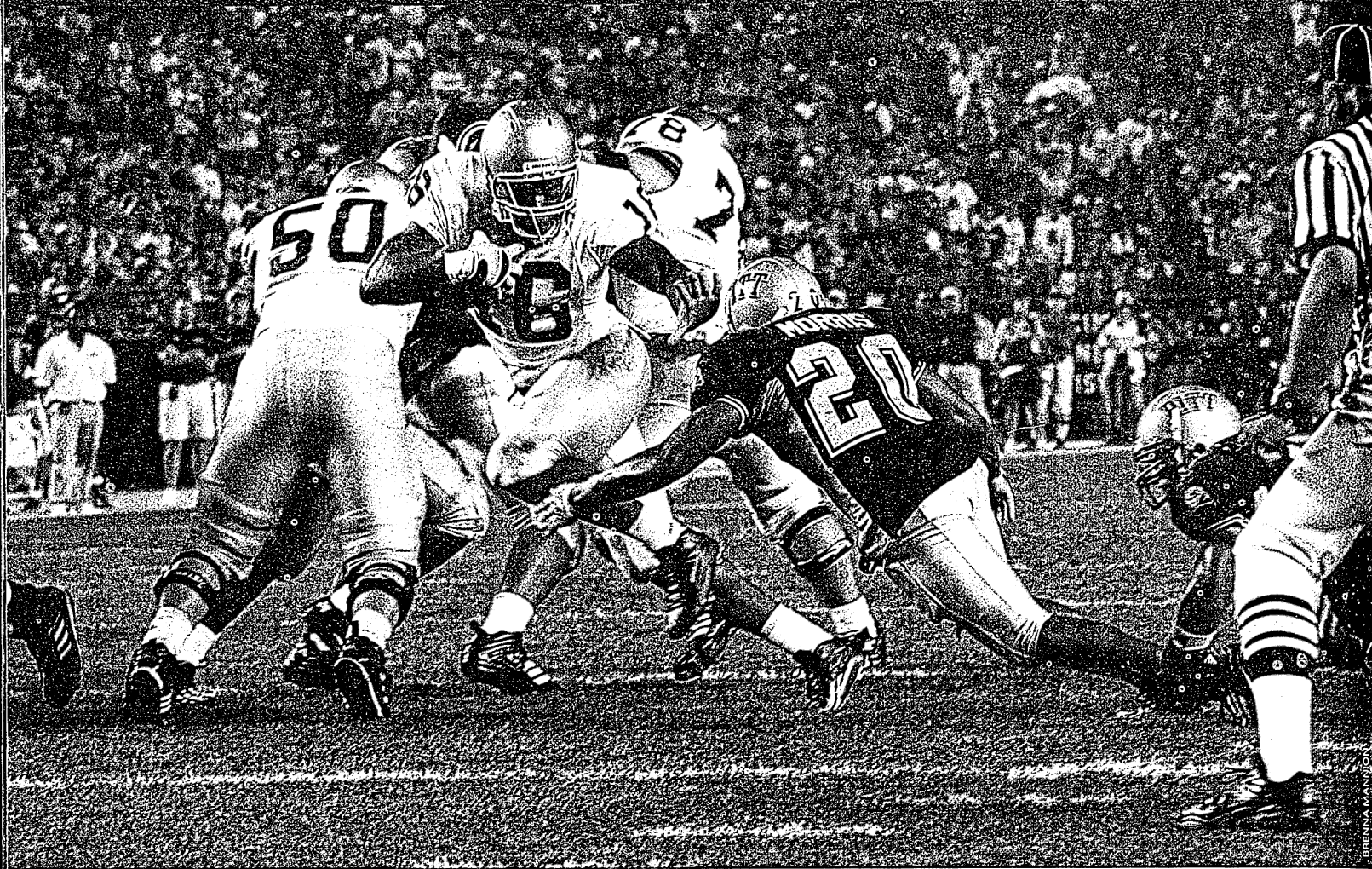




**ROAD GLORY** Linebacker and defensive team captain Brandon Hoyte prepares his Notre Dame teammates at the tunnel of Heinz Field to open the 2005 season on the road against Pittsburgh. The Irish went undefeated on the road during the regular season, the first time that has happened since the 1993 season. (Inset: on the road at Husky Field against Washington) *Photos by Brenna Mannion and Michael Kim*



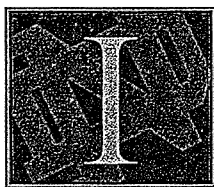




**POWERING THROUGH** Fullback Rashon Powers-Neal bursts through Pittsburgh defenders. Powers-Neal had three rushing touchdowns.

# The Weis Era Begins

*Notre Dame 42 Pittsburgh 21*



Michael Kim

n his last visit to Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Penn., on Jan. 23, 2005,

Charlie Weis, then-offensive coordinator of the Patriots, masterfully orchestrated a potent New England offense to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC Championship, 41-27. And while the pressure of a potential Super Bowl berth was not hanging in the balance on Weis' next visit to Heinz Field eight months later on Sept. 3, 2005, he faced the weight of debuting as Notre Dame's 28th head coach against the then-No. 23 Pittsburgh Panthers.

Many Irish fans were optimistic about Weis' hire, but at the outset of the Notre



**THE DEBUT** Head Coach Charlie Weis greets his players during warmups.

Dame-Pittsburgh game, the Weis era did not look so promising. Only four minutes into the first quarter, Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko connected with wide receiver Greg Lee to give the Panthers an early 7-0 lead.

Disgusted with the way his defense was playing, Weis went over to defensive coordinator Rick Minter and said angrily, "[They] better start playing better or I will put in the second string." His stern message resonated among the Notre Dame bench. The Irish responded to Weis' threat by scoring on their own opening drive, with running back Darius Walker taking a screen pass from quarterback Brady Quinn 51 yards to the end zone. It was the longest reception of Walker's young career.

While the Panthers closed out the first quarter with a field goal, putting them ahead of the Irish by three, the second quarter saw a Notre Dame offensive outburst with the Irish scoring 28 unanswered points. Walker led the offensive barrage with a 2-yard touch-



## Heinz Field

Attendance: 66,451  
All-Time Series: 44-18-1

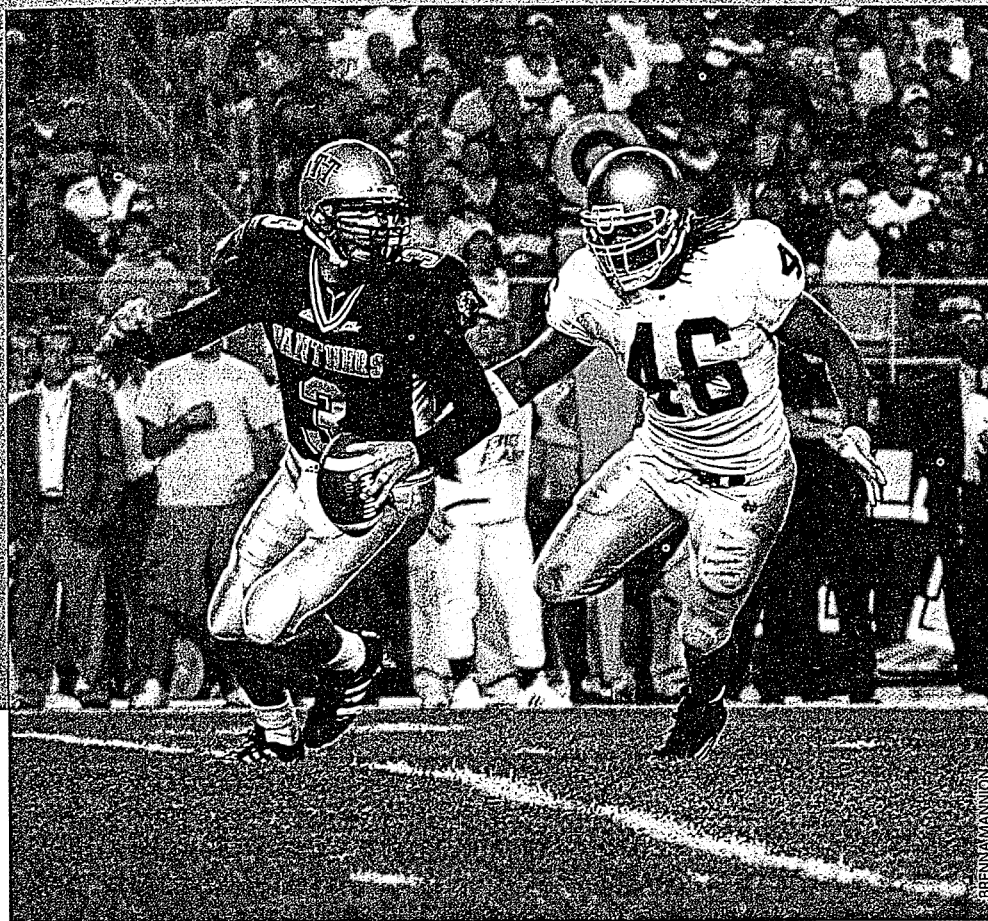
	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	7	28	7	0	42
PITT	10	3	0	8	21

## KEY STATS

	ND	PITT
First Downs	33	20
Total Offense Yards	502	323
Total Offense Plays	77	66
Average Gain Per Play	6.5	4.9
Third-Down Conversions	10/15	4/14

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 20 Carries, 100 Yards  
Brady Quinn: 18-27, 226 Yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT  
Rashon Powers-Neal: 8 Carries, 41 Yards, 3 TDs  
Ambrose Wooden: 12 Tackles  
Brandon Hoyte: 9 Tackles, 2 Sacks



**THE MAYS EXPRESS** Linebacker Corey Mays chases after Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko. Palko was sacked five times by the Irish.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



Before the game, ESPN GameDay analyst Lee Corso predicted the Irish would go 0-6 to start the season.

Perhaps ABC play-by-play announcer Keith Jackson should consider retirement. Calling the game with color analyst Dan Fouts, Jackson said, "It's kind of fun to say things that don't mean anything."

The University of Pittsburgh commemorated the hiring of new Head Coach Dave Wannstedt by inviting former Pittsburgh greats Tony Dorsett, Dan Marino and Mike Ditka to the game. When Pittsburgh fell behind 35-10 at halftime, a disgruntled Pitt fan yelled to Wannstedt, "Put Marino in!"

down run, followed by a spectacular, acrobatic, 19-yard catch by wide receiver Jeff Samardzija, the first of his career. Running back Rashon Powers-Neal also added two powerful touch-down runs.

Pittsburgh and Notre Dame fans were stunned — the former by their home team being pummeled after such high expectations and the latter by seeing the beginnings of a long-awaited offensive renaissance. Weis recalled at halftime that his "players started to realize they're better than they thought they were," and the scoreboard certainly proved it, with Notre Dame dominating 35-13 at the half. The Irish tallied 319 total offensive yards in the first half, enough to surpass the total of five full games from the 2004 season.

In the third quarter Notre Dame continued its newfound mastery of ball-possession offense — reminiscent of Weis' former Patriots teams — with a 20-play drive that milked seven minutes off the clock. Powers-Neal capped off the marathon drive with his third touchdown run of the night. In the fourth quarter, Pittsburgh added a touchdown with a two-point conversion, but this did little to change the game. Notre Dame won impressively with a final score of 42-21. Quinn, leading the new Weis-installed offense for the first time, went 18-27 for 227 yards with two touchdown throws and one interception. Walker finished with 20 rushes for 100 yards.

Although the victory was a tremendous success for Notre Dame, some

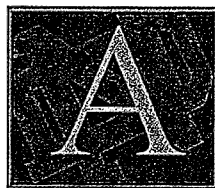
growing pains were evident throughout the game. The Irish committed 10 penalties for a loss of 94 yards, and at one point in the game, Samardzija forgot his holding duties for an extra point, forcing the Irish to burn a timeout and infuriating Weis. Defensive end Ronald Talley made a foolish late hit on one of the Pittsburgh players, and Weis gave Talley a mouthful of unpleasant words on national television. Even Weis had some trouble adjusting to being the head coach, especially with the headphones that allowed him to speak to his assistants in the coaches' booth. "I'm hammering someone on offense, and they'll say 'You're [talking] to the defense, coach.'" **©**



**TURNING THE CORNER** Running back Darius Walker runs by Michigan linebacker Shawn Crable. Walker had 104 rushing yards against the Wolverines.

# Hail to the Irish Victors

*Notre Dame 17 Michigan 10*



Michael Kim

Although it had been almost two years since the Irish's last visit to Michigan Stadium in 2003 — which resulted in a 38-0 loss — and a hefty 12 years since they had topped the Wolverines in the “Big House,” Notre Dame was fueled by still fresh memories of past defeats when the Irish arrived in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sept. 10, 2005, for their second game of the season. Conversely, Michigan was looking to avenge its 28-20 upset by the Irish at Notre Dame Stadium in 2004. Both sides had something to prove and the Irish were hungry to beat the then third-ranked Wolverines.

Notre Dame came out on its opening drive using a no-huddle offense to throw

the Michigan defense off-balance. The Irish marched 76 yards down the field with relative ease, never facing a third down, and ended the impressive drive with a 5-yard pass from quarterback Brady Quinn to wide receiver Rhema McKnight for his first touchdown reception of the season.

The game proved to be a fierce defensive grind. Injuries plagued both sides, with Irish linebacker Corey Mays making a booming hit on Michigan running back Michael Hart that resulted in a game-ending hamstring injury for Hart. Notre Dame, on the other hand, lost McKnight, who severely twisted his knee when he was sandwiched between two Michigan defenders.

The stagnant Wolverine offense showed signs of life late in the first quarter when wide receiver Steve Breaston

gained 30 yards on a reverse that made the Irish defense look flat-footed, but Michigan only gained a field goal from the effort.

Notre Dame struck back by earning every grueling yard against an inspired Michigan defense. The Irish capitalized on a 5-yard play-action pass from Quinn, who threw into a swarm of Michigan defenders. The ball was tipped but caught by wide receiver Jeff Samardzija for a touchdown, putting Notre Dame up 14-3 at halftime.

Michigan attempted to dismantle the Irish in the second half, especially with a third quarter drive that put the Wolverines on the Irish 12-yard line. But the Irish defense stepped up, as safety Tom Zbikowski intercepted the ensuing pass on the 1-yard line to avert any danger. The Wolverines kept pressing but con-



## Michigan Stadium

Attendance: 111,386

All-time series: 14-18-1

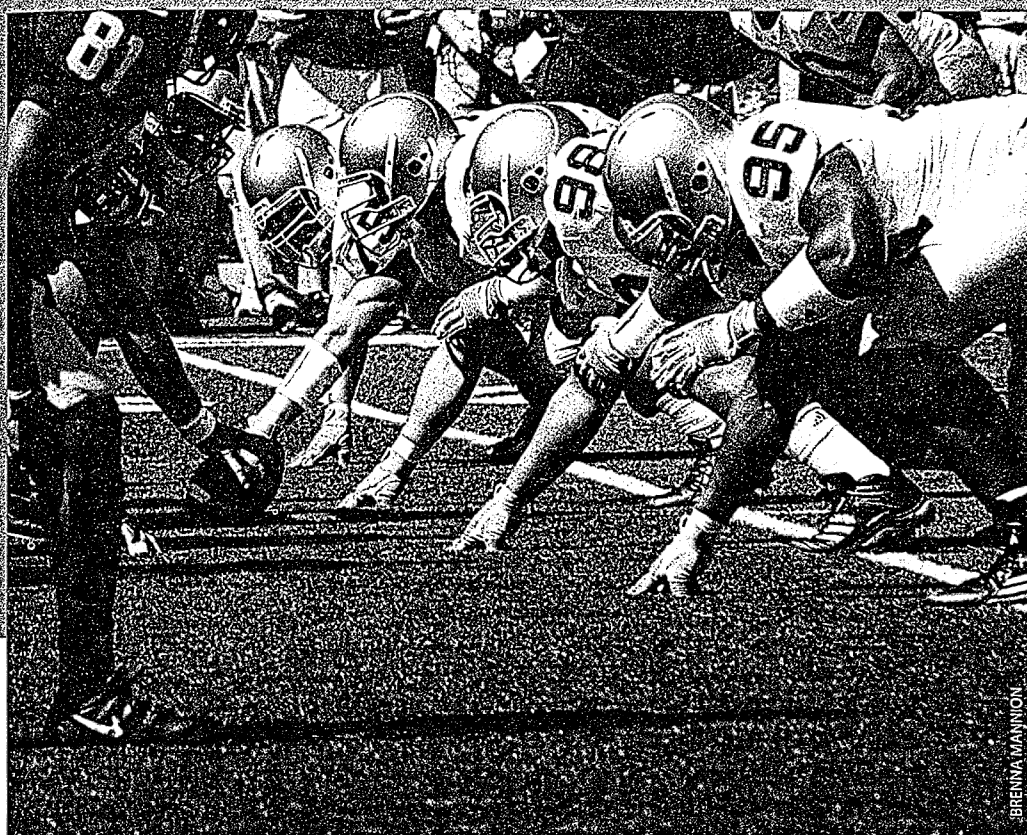
	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	7	7	0	3	17
UM	0	3	0	7	10

## KEY STATS

	ND	UM
First Downs	17	15
Total Offense Yards	244	337
Punts-Yards	9-371	8-330
Possession Time	30:56	29:04
Third-Down Conversions	4/15	5/18
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	0-3
Sacks By Number-Yards	2-5	3-16

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 26 Carries, 104 Yards  
 DJ Fitzpatrick: 9 Punts (60 Long), 371 Yards, 41.2 AVG  
 Brandon Hoyte: 12 Tackles, 1 Sack  
 Tom Zbikowski: 9 Tackles, 1 INT  
 Corey Mays: 8 Tackles  
 Ambrose Wooden: 5 Tackles



**HOLDING THE LINE** The Irish defense gave up only 10 points despite surrendering 337 yards.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



Head Coach Charlie Weis and his former protege New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady still

keep in touch and made a friendly wager. Brady, a Michigan graduate, agreed to wear a Notre Dame hat to his next press conference if the Irish upset his Wolverines. When Notre Dame defeated Michigan 17-10, Brady fulfilled his end of the bargain and unwillingly wore a Notre Dame cap to a press conference. Brady was quoted as saying "this one's for Charlie" as media members groaned at his predicament. Although he technically lived up to his word, Brady wore the hat backwards.

tinued to squander their chances with failed fourth down conversions and turnovers. "We just made too many mistakes in the red zone," Michigan Head Coach Lloyd Carr said. "You can't get the football down there and give it away like we did."

Instant replay became the story of the game in the fourth quarter. Michigan quarterback Chad Henne was ruled down on an attempted quarterback sneak at the Irish 1-yard line. But "indisputable evidence" showed that he had fumbled the ball and that safety Chinedum Ndukwe recovered in the end zone for a touchdown. The Michigan student section began throwing water bottles onto the field in disgust and hit several of their own recruits in the process. Instant replay stung Michigan again when it showed that a Quinn fumble occurred after his knee

touched the ground.

Michigan would add a touchdown with 3:47 left to get within reach of the Irish, but they failed to put together a serious drive to tie the game. Notre Dame ran the clock out to seal the 17-10 upset victory.

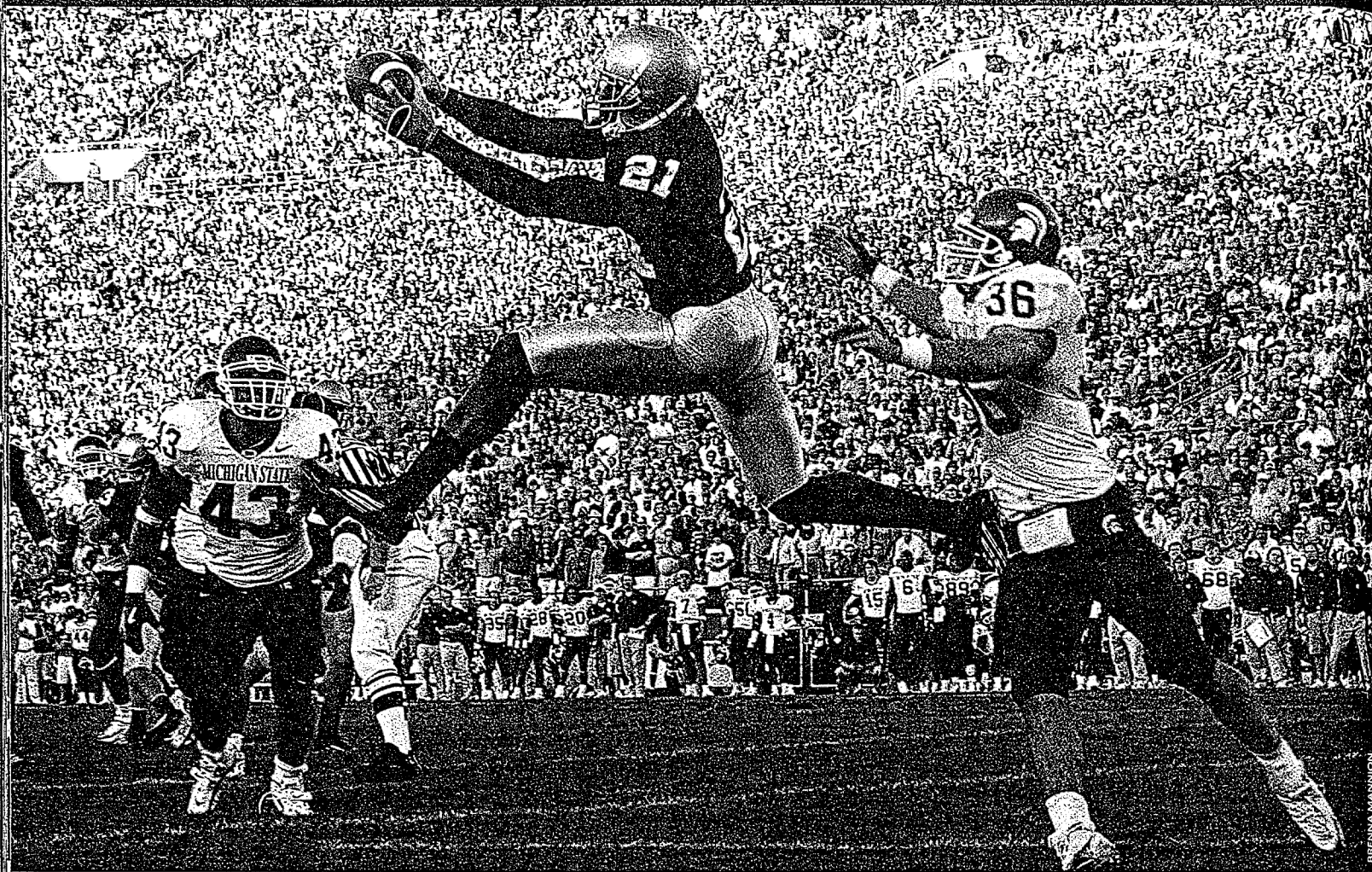


**WEIS GUY** Charlie Weis became the first Irish Head Coach since Knute Rockne to win his first two games on the road.

"Coming into the Big House and getting a win can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Irish defensive end Victor Abiamiri said. "You want to do everything you can to let it sink in." The win snapped Michigan's 16-game home winning streak and handed the Wolverines their first loss at home to a non-conference team since 1998.

Weis became the first Notre Dame coach to win his first two games on the road since Knute Rockne in 1918. Weis was asked if he sensed the historical significance of the win. "If I answered by dignifying that, [Bill] Parcells and [Bill] Belichick would humiliate me," Weis said, referring to his coaching mentors. "I've just coached two games and they've played two games. Let's come back and revisit that in about 10 years."

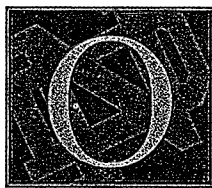




**A BIT OF A STRETCH** Wide receiver Maurice Stovall scores a touchdown in Notre Dame's unsuccessful bid for a comeback victory.

# The One That Got Away

*Michigan State 44 Notre Dame 41*



Christopher Meskill

One stop — that's all it takes to swing the outcome of a game and even a season.

On Sept. 17, 2005, one stop would have given Notre Dame the opportunity to defeat the Michigan State Spartans after the most improbable of comebacks — a 21-point second-half resurgence led by Irish quarterback Brady Quinn. But on first and 15 in overtime, when they lined up to stop Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton, the Irish would come up short. Running back Jason Teague punctuated the loss for Notre Dame on a pitch from Stanton that resulted in a 19-yard Spartan touchdown run. Michigan State improved to 3-0, defeating the previously unbeaten Irish, 44-41.

For Head Coach Charlie Weis, it was his first loss at the collegiate level. Weis voiced his disappointment during the post-game press conference. "I told them that they don't give out medals for trying," Weis said. "They shouldn't feel good about themselves for coming back."

While the loss was disheartening for the Notre Dame faithful, several Irish players demonstrated their potential for improvement during the loss. Quinn arrived on the Heisman radar following his 487-yard, five-touchdown performance. Quinn's target, wide receiver Jeff Samardzija, also made his case for being the best wide receiver in the nation with his three touchdowns and near 100-yard performance. Meanwhile, wide receiver Maurice Stovall made eight receptions for 178 yards.

The first half was riddled with momentum swings. After both teams failed to capitalize on their opening drives, the offensive showdown got underway, and Notre Dame and Michigan State exchanged scoring drives until late in the second quarter.

Then, with the game knotted at 17 apiece and halftime approaching, Michigan State took control of the game. Teague rushed for 18 yards on the opening play of the drive, leaving less than a minute on the clock. Michigan State Head Coach John L. Smith called a timeout and gave Stanton the go-ahead to throw the ball deep. After missing on his first throw and being forced out of the pocket on second down, Stanton came up strong, throwing 45 yards to wide receiver Terry Love, who was forced out of bounds at the Notre Dame 2-yard line.

## Notre Dame Stadium

Attendance: 80,795

All-time series: 43-25-1

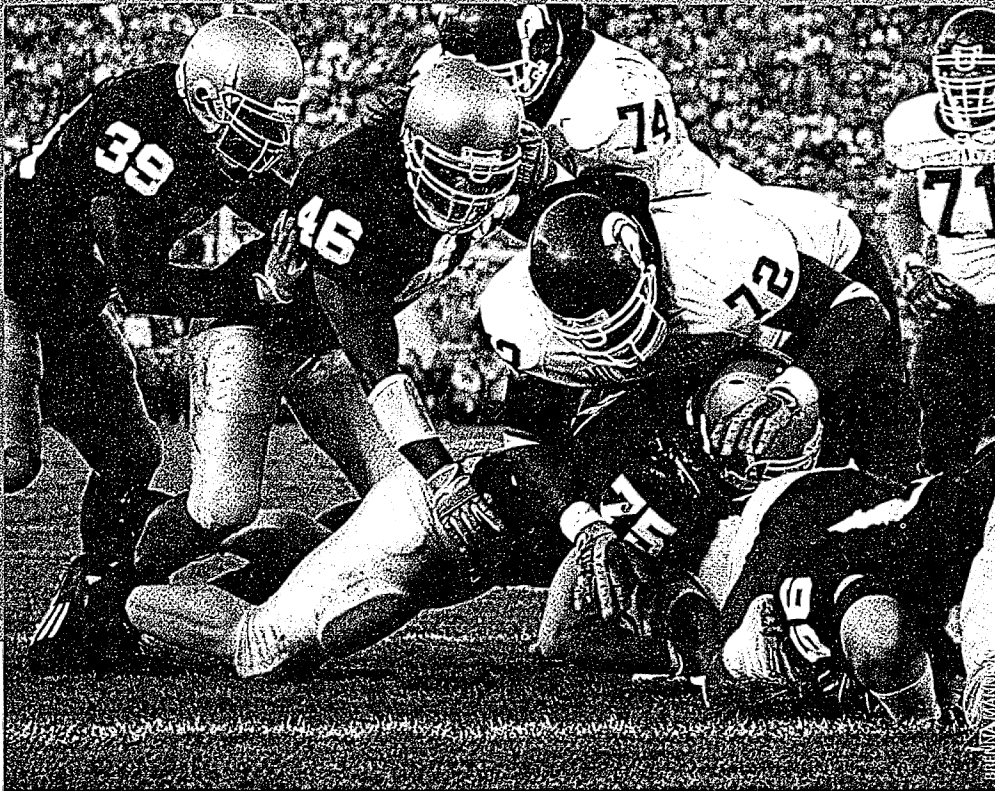
	1	2	3	4	OT	FINAL
MSU	14	10	14	0	6	44
ND	7	10	7	14	3	41

## KEY STATS

	MSU	ND
Total Offense Yards	488	594
Average Gain Per Play	7.7	6.1
Fumbles: Number-Lost	4-2	1-1
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-30-1	1-14-0
Fourth-Down Conversions	0/1	3/4
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	5-5	4-5

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 26 Carries, 116 Yards  
 Maurice Stovall: 8 Receptions, 176 Yards, 1 TD  
 Jeff Samardzija: 6 Receptions, 96 Yards, 3 TDs  
 Brady Quinn: 33-60, 487 Yards, 5 TDs  
 Brandon Hoyte: 8 Tackles  
 Mike Richardson: 5 Tackles, 1 Sack



**SO CLOSE, BUT YET SO FAR** Notre Dame defense tackles Michigan State running back Jason Teague and almost ended the game in regulation with a safety.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



When Michigan State beat the Irish on Sept. 17, 2005, it was their fifth consecutive win at Notre Dame Stadium. Michigan State now has 12 wins at

Notre Dame, the most by any Irish opponent. The Spartans also joined Purdue as the only other opponent to win five straight games at Notre Dame Stadium (1954-62).

By compiling 487 passing yards in one game against the Spartans, quarterback Brady Quinn ranks second all-time behind former Irish quarterback Joe Theismann (1968-70) in most passing yards in one game. Theismann accumulated 526 passing yards against USC in 1970.

by Irish safety Tom Zbikowski. Stanton then carried the ball into the end zone to put the Spartans up 24-17 going into the locker room.

With momentum on their side, the Spartans continued to bombard the Irish in the second half. On the opening drive for the Irish, Quinn threw two ill-advised passes, one resulting in an incompleteness and the other in an interception, which was returned 30 yards for a touchdown by Michigan State defensive back Sirdarian Adams. The turnover gave the Spartans a comfortable 14-point lead.

The Spartans continued to play tenacious defense throughout the third quarter, forcing the Irish to punt on their next two possessions. With six minutes remaining in the third quarter, Stanton once again went to the air with a pair of passes to wide receiver Matt Trannon for 27 and 65 yards and another touchdown.

With limited time and a substantial deficit mounted against the Irish, Quinn took the reigns of the offense. Quinn would throw the ball on the next nine downs, completing eight passes in a row for a late third-quarter touchdown. The Irish entered the last quarter of play down 38-24.

As the Notre Dame defense held strong, Quinn continued to open up the field on offense with a pair of passes to Stovall, the first for 50 yards and the second for seven yards and a touchdown that put the Irish within seven of the Spartans. Quinn would lead another miraculous drive later in the fourth quarter, hitting Samardzija for a 4-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 38-38.

With time winding down, Michigan State was pinned deep in their own territory. Beginning from their own 4-yard line, the Spartans were pushed back 3

yards by the Notre Dame defense. Stuck in his own end zone and unable to kneel out the clock, Stanton needed to kill the time without yielding a safety. With Irish linemen Derek Landri and Trevor Laws bearing down on Stanton, the Spartan quarterback managed to scramble out for a 1-yard gain and a chance at overtime — a chance that Michigan State would capitalize on.

With Teague's 18-yard touchdown run in overtime, Notre Dame's hopes of an undefeated season came crashing to the ground. In postgame celebration, the Spartans planted their flag at midfield, much to the ire of the Irish faithful. With five straight wins at Notre Dame Stadium including this overtime thriller, the Spartans certainly have claimed their territory.

9

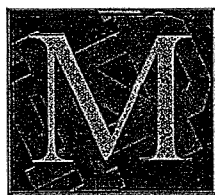




**FLIPSIDE** Quarterback Brady Quinn lines up against a Washington team led by his former coach Tyrone Willingham.

# A Ty Bowl Victory

*Notre Dame 36 Washington 17*



Michael Kim

edia members circled Sept. 24, 2005, on their calendars when they heard that former Notre

Dame Head Coach Tyrone Willingham was hired by the University of Washington. On that day, Willingham would lead his Huskies against the Irish less than 10 months after his dismissal from Notre Dame as head coach. Head Coach Charlie Weis knew the distraction this presented for his players, who were still dealing with the fallout of Willingham's controversial firing. Weis refused to comment on Willingham's firing since the day the former New England Patriots

offensive coordinator was hired and continued to do so leading up to the game he coined the "Ty Bowl." Weis and his team focused solely on football, leaving emotion at home as they headed to Seattle, Wash., to play the struggling Washington Huskies.

Washington came out fast and furious on its opening drive; it was evident that they had the urgency to win one for Willingham. However, their opening drive quickly unraveled when wide receiver Craig Chambers fumbled the ball to the Irish on the Notre Dame 1-yard line. The play foreshadowed the rest of the day for the Huskies, as they committed costly turnovers at inopportune moments.

Although Chambers' fumble forced the Irish to begin their first offensive drive on their own 1-yard line, on the first offensive play of the game for Notre Dame, quarterback Brady Quinn questionably rolled to the right in his own end zone and connected with tight end Anthony Fasano, who then acrobatically leapt over a Washington defender for a gain of 13 yards and a first down. However, as Irish fans would later discover, Weis' first call of the game was deliberate; he had promised Montana Mazurkiewicz, a 10-year-old boy who was dying of an inoperable brain tumor, to call the "pass right" play as the first play of the game. Mazurkiewicz sadly died before he could see the play that he asked Weis to call.

## Husky Stadium

Attendance: 71,473

All-Time Series: 6-0-0

## KEY STATS

	ND	UW
First Downs	31	20
Total Offensive Yards	560	449
Possession Time	36:56	23:04
Third-Down Conversions	6/13	2/10

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 21 Carries, 128 Yards, 1 TD

Travis Thomas: 7 Carries, 52 Yards, 1 TD

Brady Quinn: 25-37, 327 Yards, 1 TD

Jeff Samardzija: 8 Receptions, 164 Yards, 1 TD

Ambrose Wooden: 9 Tackles, 1 INT

## 1 2 3 4 FINAL

ND	3	9	7	17	36
UW	0	3	0	14	17



**SHARK ATTACK** Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija beats Washington cornerback Roy Lewis to score a 52-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter to give Notre Dame a 29-3 lead.

Despite the effectiveness of Mazurkiewicz's "pass right" play, the Notre Dame offense started off sluggishly, and the only bright spot for the Irish in the first half was a 17-yard touchdown run by running back Darius Walker, who would finish the game with 128 rushing yards, making him the first Notre Dame running back to rush for 100 yards in four consecutive games. Kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick added two field goals for the Irish in the first half, and the Irish went into the locker room at halftime ahead 12-3.

Washington had its chance to take control of the game in the third quarter when Huskies quarterback Isaiah Stanback threw a career-long pass of 69 yards to wide receiver Marlon Wood. But the

Huskies wasted the effort when, two plays later, Stanback carelessly threw into the end zone and Irish cornerback Ambrose Wooden intercepted the pass.

Notre Dame began to surge late in the third quarter when fullback Rashon Powers-Neal bulldozed his way into the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown run. The Irish put the game out of reach when Quinn threw a 52-yard bomb to wide receiver Jeff Samardzija, who waltzed in for a touchdown, providing his team with a 29-3 lead. Running back Travis Thomas later added an 11-yard run in the fourth quarter for his first touchdown of the season. Despite the two touchdowns scored by Washington in the fourth quarter to make the score closer, ultimately, Notre

FROM THE  
PRESS BOX

Head Coach Charlie Weis visited 10-year-old Montana Mazurkiewicz in his Mishawaka, Ind., home days before the Washington game. Weis offered words of encouragement to the boy dying of an

inoperable brain tumor. Weis also agreed to let Montana, named after legendary Irish quarterback Joe Montana, to call the first play of the game. Montana called "pass right," but sadly died the Friday before the game.

Keeping his promise to Montana, Weis called "pass right" on Notre Dame's first play against the Huskies. The risky call moved Notre Dame from their own 1-yard line and resulted in an Irish first down. "It's almost like Montana was willing him to beat that defender and take it to the house," Weis said.

After the 36-17 victory, Weis delivered the game ball signed by the entire team to the Mazurkiewicz household. Mazurkiewicz's mother, Cathy, said, "I just thanked him for using that play, no matter the circumstances."

Dame easily defeated Washington 36-17. There would be no last laugh for Willingham.

As the clock wound down, dozens of photographers raced to the center of the field to get a shot of Weis and Willingham shaking hands. Many of the Notre Dame players that Willingham recruited greeted him warmly, wishing him luck. Weis was relieved that the game was over. "I think, psychologically for the players, this will be a good thing to have behind them and move on to the next game," he said.





# Revisiting Ty

**SPORTING NEW COLORS** Tyrone Willingham roams the sideline in his new Washington purple while facing his former team.



Michael Kim

hen former Notre Dame Head Coach Tyrone Willingham was fired by the university on Nov. 30,

2004 — just three years into his six-year contract — after compiling a 21-15 overall record, it caused a seismic uproar in the college football world. Willingham became the first non-interim head coach in 70 years to be released from Notre Dame before the allotted time on his contract. Controversy engulfed Notre Dame; vocal media members accused the school of being racist and selling out its high standards to become just another football factory. A media firestorm was brewing, and it would only gather strength when Willingham, as the new head coach at Washington, would face his former team just 10 months after his dismissal.

Willingham deflected questions about his tenure at Notre Dame in the days leading up to Washington's game against the Irish. He gave eloquent but empty answers to media members that were trying to sensationalize the story into one of personal vengeance. Refusing to

budge, Willingham continually said that the game would be just "two teams competing." However, his own Washington players sensed their coach's unflappable image was merely a facade for the emotions that were driving this game.

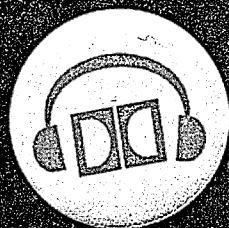
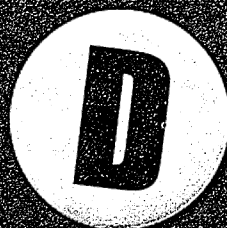
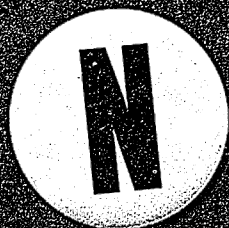
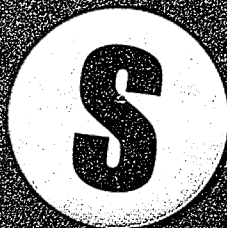
"There was a difference at practice [that] week," Washington cornerback Josh Okoebor said. "We knew he wanted this game bad. He's intense every week, but you could tell he had that extra oomph for this one." Perhaps that extra "oomph" was demonstrated when Willingham looked more fiery and vocal on the Washington sideline, getting into the faces of his players for every wrong move. It was different than what Notre Dame fans grew accustomed to when he used to roam the Irish sideline with his calm demeanor, crossed arms and steely-eyed stare.

The Huskies surely had their chances to upset the Irish, but costly turnovers would prove to be their downfall. The inconsistency was eerily similar to the West Coast offense Willingham tried to install at Notre Dame — one with flashes of brilliance, but one with head-scratching unproductiveness. When the final seconds ticked away, Willingham would

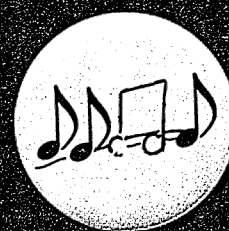
not get the last laugh, as Notre Dame handed him a 36-17 loss.

Willingham put his disappointment aside for the time being and greeted his former players, whose homes he visited when he recruited them. "It's still the same; I have a great respect for the [Notre Dame] program," Willingham said. "I have great respect for the young men left in the program, great respect for many of the administrators there." After the game, Notre Dame Head Coach Charlie Weis was relieved that the game was over and downplayed the media circus. "Our coaching staff and our players have the utmost respect for Willingham, his staff, his players and the University of Washington," Weis said. "At this point, the game is over. I'll move on, and I hope they move on."

Notre Dame could finally distance itself from the backlash it faced during the Willingham affair. Coaches have come to and gone from Notre Dame, and it was finally time for Willingham to fade into the history books. He can move on with his life as he tries to rebuild a once-proud Washington program, while Notre Dame can try to recapture its glory days. **9**



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**JAW DROPPER** Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija makes a one-handed grab to set up the first touchdown for Notre Dame.

# Irish Bury Boilermakers

*Notre Dame 49 Purdue 28*



Jim Ryan

After a Darius Walker touchdown put Notre Dame up 28-0 over Purdue with just under three minutes remaining in the first half, ESPN's cameras caught Purdue defensive coordinator Brock Spack throwing a hand up in disgust with a look of bewilderment across his face. The Purdue defense had no answer for a Notre Dame offense that came out firing on all cylinders at Ross-Ade Stadium on Oct. 1, 2005.

The Irish scored touchdowns on five

of their first seven possessions. Quarterback Brady Quinn was near perfect in the first half, completing 20 of his 23 pass attempts for 283 yards and one touchdown. He finished the game 29-36 with 440 yards and three touchdowns, and the Irish won 49-28.

The result was better than Quinn's previous game at Ross-Ade Stadium two years prior, where he made his first collegiate start as a freshman in 2003. In that game, Quinn threw four interceptions and was battered by the Purdue defense in a 23-10 loss. "I wasn't thinking about revenge coming into this game," Quinn said. "What enabled us to win was the ex-

ecution of our game plan." Head Coach Charlie Weis praised his quarterback following the game. "Brady is performing like the leader we need him to be, and I look for him to continue to progress in upcoming games," he said. Weis was particularly pleased with Quinn's ability to complete short, quick throws to receivers and allow them to gain yards after the catch. "Brady picked them apart," Weis said. "We were taking 3-yard passes and turning them into 15-, 20-yard gains."

Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija was the recipient of several of these quick passes, and after most of them was able to use his size and speed to beat Purdue's iso-

## Ross-Ade Stadium

Attendance: 65,491

All-time Series: 50-25-2

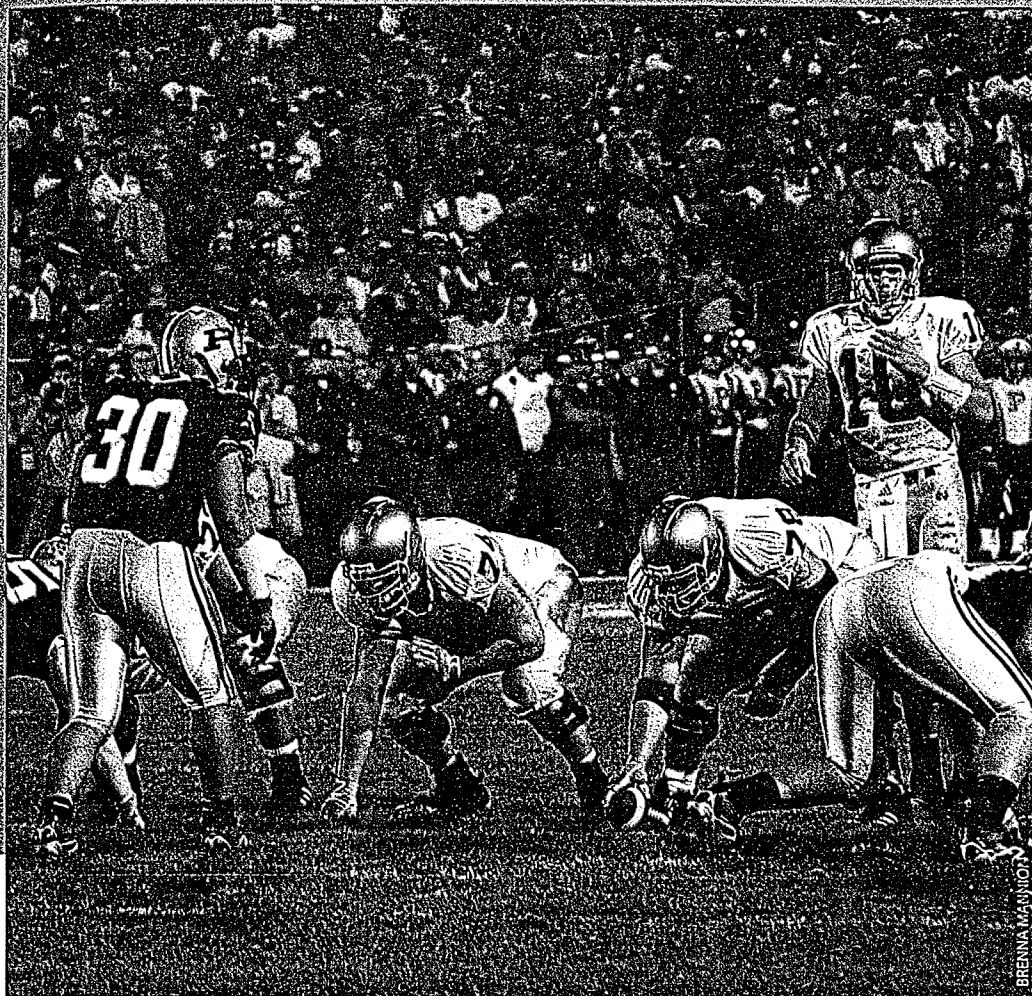
	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	7	21	7	14	49
PUR	0	0	14	8	28

## KEY STATS

	ND	PUR
Net Yards Passing	468	350
Total Offense Yards	621	514
Possession Time	36:03	23:57
Third-Down Conversions	10/16	6/13
Field Goals	0-0	0-1

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Brady Quinn: 29-36, 440 Yards, 1 INT, 3 TDs  
 Maurice Stovall: 8 Receptions, 134 Yards  
 Jeff Samardzija: 7 Receptions, 153 Yards, 2 TDs  
 Mike Richardson: 9 Tackles, 1 INT  
 Trevor Laws: 2 Tackles, 1 Blocked Field Goal



**LICKING HIS CHOPS** Quarterback Brady Quinn torched the Purdue defense for 440 yards and three touchdowns.

FROM THE  
PRESS BOX

Purdue defensive coordinator Brock Spack didn't know what to think as the Irish rolled up 49 points on his defense, which was considered by analysts to be one of the best in the nation. After running back Darius Walker ran into the end zone untouched to put the Irish up 28-0, Spack puts his hands up in frustration as if he had no clue what Notre Dame's sophisticated offense was going to do. ESPN sideline reporter Holly Rowe mentioned late in the fourth quarter that the Purdue defense had "not given up" and that "you've got to respect Brock Spack for coaching his kids down to the last minute." ESPN play-by-play announcer Ron Franklin replied, "Holly, it's not giving up. It's 49-21, sweetheart."

lated cornerbacks for long gains. But Samardzija's best reception — and the most impressive play of the game — came on a deep ball. Early in the first quarter, Samardzija took off down the middle of the field and made a diving, one-handed grab at the Purdue 1-yard line. The 41-yard reception set up Notre Dame's first score, a 1-yard run by running back Rashon Powers-Neal, who had two touchdowns on the game.

Other Irish scorers included Samardzija, who also had two touchdowns, running backs Walker and Travis Thomas and tight end John Carlson, who scored his first collegiate touchdown. And though

he did not find the end zone, wide receiver Maurice Stovall finished the game with eight receptions and 134 yards.

The defense and special teams made big plays as well. On Purdue's second possession of the game, running back Jerod Void looked to be headed for the end zone on a long run, but cornerback Ambrose Wooden saved a touchdown by knocking Void out of bounds at the 1-yard line. On the next play, linebacker Brandon Hoyte forced a Void fumble that was recovered by cornerback Mike Richardson. Then, in the second quarter, defensive tackle Trevor Laws blocked a Purdue field goal attempt.

The loss was the second in a row for the Boilermakers, who many predicted would win the Big Ten Conference and who entered the game ranked No. 22. Their defense, which returned 11 starters from 2004, seemed nonexistent against the Irish, and their offense did not get going until the second half, during which they moved the ball well and scored 28 points. But with Notre Dame's sizeable lead, it was too little, too late.

Weis was happy with his team's performance after the game. "Sooner or later we were going to play a complete game, which this was," he said. **9**

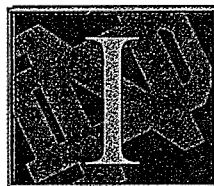




**WHERE THE GREEN GRASS GROWS** The Notre Dame Stadium grass was left extra-long to negate USC's speed on offense.

# Game of the Year

USC 34 Notre Dame 31



Michael Kim

In 1988, a newly regilded Golden Dome welcomed the No. 1 Miami Hurricanes as they rolled onto campus boasting a 36-game regular season winning streak. The Irish ended up beating Miami 31-30 on that glorious October day. Seventeen years later and with a Dome that had been regilded once again the summer prior, Notre Dame's campus saw a similarly unstoppable No. 1 USC team with a 27-game winning streak step onto its grounds. Notre Dame looked to repeat history.

In the most hyped game in recent Irish history, Notre Dame looked as if it had a chance against the Trojans, un-



**LIGHTNING STRIKES!** USC running back Reggie Bush scored three touchdowns against the Irish.

like in their previous three meetings, in each of which the Irish lost by 31 points. But with a rejuvenated confidence and a 4-1 record, Head Coach Charlie Weis sensed the opportunity to make history.

His team warmed up in their traditional blue home jerseys, but Weis surprised the crowd when the Irish burst out of the tunnel sporting green jerseys. Weis was a student in the stands when he saw the first "Green Jersey" game in 1977, when Notre Dame crushed USC 49-19, and he hoped to bring back the magic of the jerseys to inspire not only his players but also the Notre Dame crowd.

The Irish ran into some bad luck early in the game when quarterback Brady Quinn's flea flicker pass in the first quarter was deflected and intercepted by USC linebacker Keith Rivers. The Trojans capitalized on the turnover in only 34 seconds, as running back Reggie Bush broke through Irish defenders, storming 36 yards for a touchdown. Not even the purposefully uncut, five-inch grass on

## Notre Dame Stadium

Attendance: 80,795

All-Time Series: 42-30-5

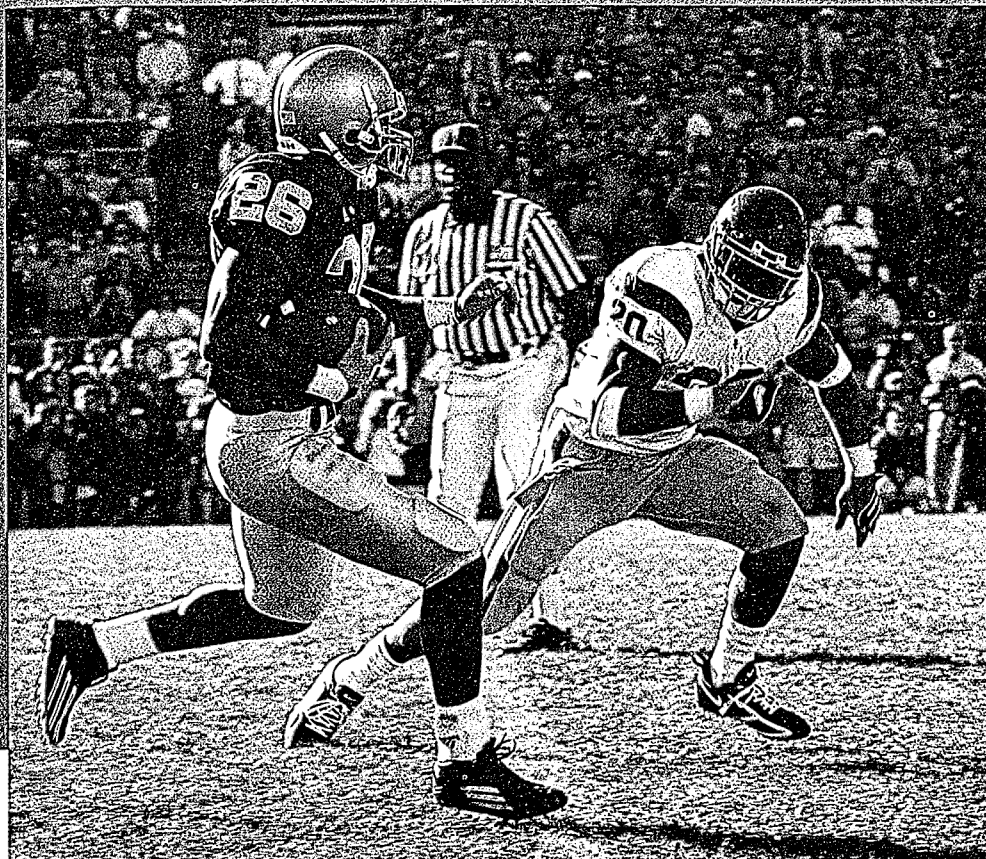
## KEY STATS

	USC	ND
First Downs	20	28
Total Offense Yards	476	417
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-14-0	2-13-0
Possession Time	21:20	38:40
Third-Down Conversions	5/13	10/19

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

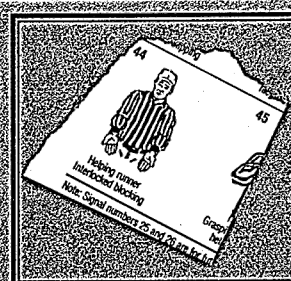
Brady Quinn: 19-35, 264 Yards, 1 INT, 2 TDs  
 Jeff Samardzija: 6 Receptions, 99 Yards, 1 TD  
 Tom Zbikowski: 9 Tackles, 1 Punt Return TD  
 Mike Richardson: 6 Tackles, 1 INT  
 Chinedum Ndukwe: 3 Tackles, 1 INT

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
USC	14	0	7	13	34
ND	7	14	0	10	31



**ONE ON ONE** Running back Travis Thomas avoids USC safety Darnell Bing on his way to score the first touchdown for the Irish.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



Was the "Bush Push" illegal? According to Rule 9, Section 3, Article 2b in the NCAA Football Rulebook, it is.

It explicitly states, "The runner shall not grasp a teammate and no other player of his team shall grasp, push, lift or charge into him to assist him in forward progress." The rulebook proscribes a five-yard penalty, and the clock must run once the ball is set.

Weis later acknowledged that the play was illegal, but a heads-up play. "I would hope that my running back, with the game on the line, would take that risk too," Weis said. "Because what's the worst thing that happens, there's a penalty and you get to kick the field goal?"

the field was enough to negate the speed of the Trojans.

The Irish remained undeterred and converted on a risky fourth-and-one play to keep their second drive of the game alive. With the help of USC penalties that moved the chains on multiple plays, running back Travis Thomas broke key tackles and sprinted 16 yards into the end zone to tie the game, 7-7. The Trojans, however immediately would answer the Irish drive when they marched down the field in just over a minute to score a 2-yard rushing touchdown by running back LenDale White. The Trojan drive that put the Irish behind by seven was exactly what Weis had warned his Irish defense about; he knew that Notre Dame would have to keep the ball away from the potent Trojan offense as long as pos-

sible and play a ball-possession game for the Irish to come out on top. He hoped to "shorten the game" by relying heavily on running the ball and slowly but surely moving the chains. But even Weis' offensive strategy was not enough to defeat the mighty Trojans; while Notre Dame won the possession battle convincingly, holding the ball for over 38 minutes compared to USC's 21 minutes, the Irish eventually would fall to the Trojans.

The second quarter was a turning point for Notre Dame. Quinn looked down the field and connected with wide receiver Jeff Samardzija for a 32-yard touchdown to tie the game, 14-14. The Irish then delivered the biggest blow to the Trojans when safety Tom Zbikowski returned a punt 60 yards for a touchdown, sending the crowd into a frenzy. It

was the first punt return for a touchdown by Notre Dame since 2002 when Vontez Duff returned the ball against Maryland for an Irish score. USC looked to answer again, but quarterback Matt Leinart's pass was deflected and intercepted by safety Chinedum Ndukwe in the end zone for a touchback. Notre Dame players and Weis went into the locker room up 21-14, knowing they had a chance to pull the upset. Yet they were well-aware that USC was notorious as a second-half team having a knack for overcoming deficits.

In the third quarter, the Trojans lived up to their billing as a second-half team when Bush struck with a 45-yard run for his second touchdown to tie the game, 21-21. The Trojans looked to do more damage until Leinart threw another rare



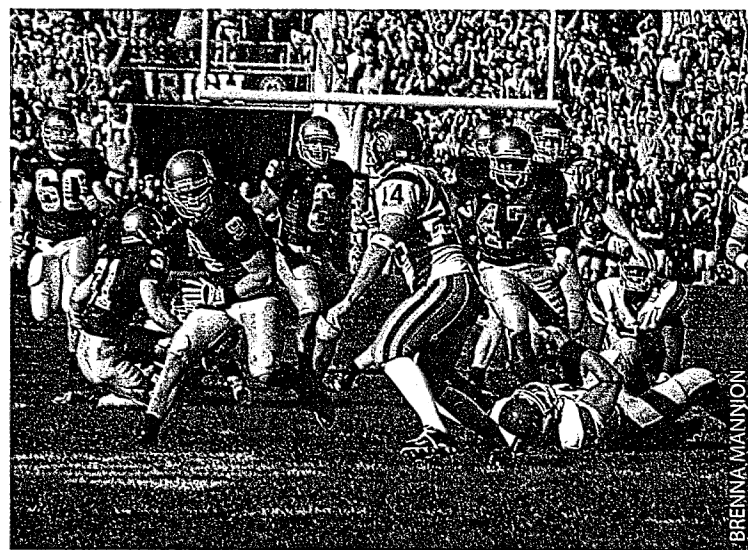
# The USC Pep Rally

After thousands of fans were turned away from the Michigan State pep rally in the Joyce Center earlier in the year, Head Coach Charlie Weis decided to move the pep rally for the USC game to Notre Dame Stadium. "I think [if] the fans want to be going to the pep rally, they should have a venue to be able to go," Weis said. "We just felt it was the best thing for the fans was to give them the opportunity to be a part of the experience." The last time the pep rally was moved to the stadium was in 2000 for the Nebraska game.

An excess of 50,000 fans came to the pep rally to cheer on the Irish. Fans were greeted by a large wooden Trojan horse, similar to the one in the 1977 USC pep rally before the famous "Green Jersey" game when Notre Dame upset the Trojans, 49-19. Weis invited former legendary Notre Dame players to speak and help motivate his players and the crowd. Joe Montana, Daniel "Rudy" Ruettinger, Chris Zorich, and Tim Brown were all in attendance. Weis challenged the fans to be loud for the game and create a hostile atmosphere for the Trojans to increase the home-field advantage. Irish fans did indeed follow Weis' request, and although Notre Dame did not come out victorious, the hyped-up fans contributed to making the game go down as one of the best in college football history.



**PRAISE THEE, NOTRE DAME** Brady Quinn and Brandon Hoyte sing the Notre Dame Alma Mater with Head Coach Charlie Weis, former Irish players Joe Montana, Tim Brown, Chris Zorich, and Rudy Ruettinger at the conclusion of the USC pep rally.



**IRISH EVASION** Safety Tom Zbikowski cuts past kicker Tom Malone during a 60-yard punt return that gave Notre Dame a 21-14 lead over USC.

interception right into the hands of cornerback Mike Richardson.

In the fourth quarter, kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick gave the Irish back the lead with a 32-yard field goal. However, Bush, making a case for the 2005 Heisman Trophy on this national stage, eluded Irish defenders and scored his third touchdown of the game. With just over five minutes left, the Irish found themselves with one last scoring opportunity. They marched down the field with authority as Quinn

a fourth-and-nine where one defensive stop would seal the game for the Irish. However, Leinart, the 2004 Heisman Trophy winner, lived up to his reputation by changing the play at the line of scrimmage amidst a screaming Notre Dame student section and connecting with wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett for a 61-yard gain that brought the ball to the Irish 13-yard line.

The Irish crowd was stunned, but the

completed three passes and then capped off the drive by lunging into the end zone for his first rushing touchdown of the season. Notre Dame claimed a 31-28 lead with 2:02 left. Irish fans could feel the upset, especially when defensive tackle Trevor Laws sacked Leinart for a loss. Notre Dame forced the Trojans to

Trojans still had to score. Leinart tried to run the ball to the corner of the end zone, but after a hard hit the ball came loose and flew out of bounds. The clock kept ticking. Weis and the crowd thought the game was over; Notre Dame had won. Students charged the field, but it proved to be a premature celebration as the officials put seven seconds back on the clock and spotted the ball at the 1-yard line. USC Head Coach Pete Carroll looked like he was signaling Leinart to spike the ball so they could stop the clock and kick a field goal to go to overtime. Instead, Leinart went for the quarterback sneak. Although initially denied, he scored after being aided by Bush, who pushed him into the end zone for the touchdown. USC was up 34-31 after missing the extra point with three seconds left. Notre Dame hoped they could return the kickoff, but all hopes were squashed when Zbikowski was tackled. The game was over, and USC kept their national championship hopes alive.

After the game, Weis went into the USC locker room to commend the Trojans for a hard-fought game and wished them luck for the rest of the season. Even with the loss, Notre Dame captivated the nation and reawakened the echoes in this epic game.

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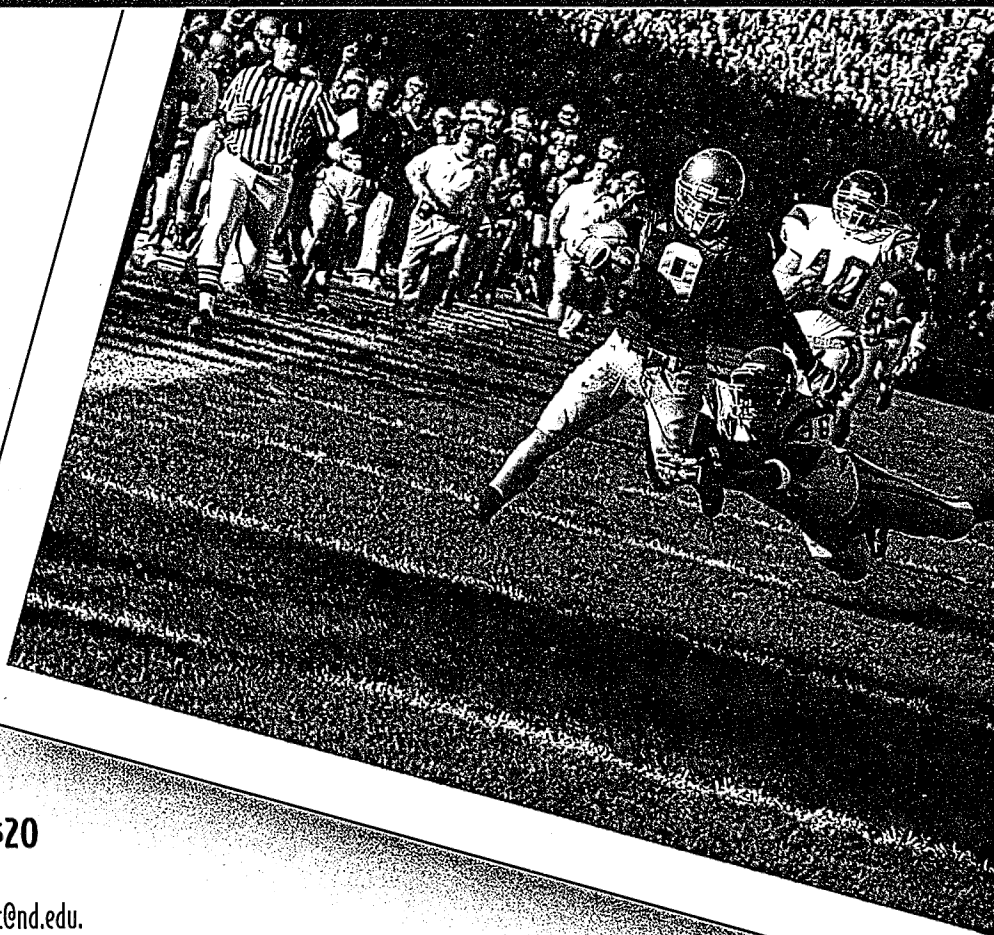


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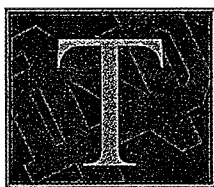




**AIR RAID** Wide receiver Maurice Stovall overpowers BYU cornerback Dustin Gabriel for his record-breaking fourth touchdown in one game.

# An Aerial Assault

*Notre Dame 49    BYU 23*



Michael Kim

o help his players get over their emotional loss to USC at home on Oct. 15, 2005, Head Coach

Charlie Weis said that the Irish's slate was wiped clean and that the BYU game would be the start of their "second season." But this "second season" presented a challenge to the Irish, who had not won a home game since Oct. 9, 2004, when they defeated Stanford 23-15. The Irish offensive would have to adapt to BYU's unique 3-3-5 defense, which had confused the Irish the previous year in a surprising 20-17 loss to the Cougars in

Provo, Utah. But Notre Dame was determined to rid itself of its woes in front of a home crowd missing students still on fall break. For students who were in attendance, they witnessed an aerial assault show never seen before at Notre Dame Stadium.

Despite falling behind by three points only five minutes into the first quarter after a BYU field goal, Notre Dame gained offensive momentum when quarterback Brady Quinn fought off a sack and hit wide receiver Maurice Stovall in the back of the end zone for a 10-yard touchdown. BYU answered with an end-of-quarter touchdown, putting the Cougars ahead 10-7. However, the Irish were able to

continue their trend of aerial dominance in the second quarter, racking up touchdowns when Quinn delivered a 14-yard pass to wide receiver Jeff Samardzija and then again to Stovall with a 15-yard strike. Samardzija became the first Notre Dame receiver to have touchdown receptions in seven consecutive games, breaking the record set by Malcolm Johnson in 1998.

Although Notre Dame was leading 21-10 at halftime, the Irish were woefully lacking in rushing yards, but Weis had no problem with the imbalance of the running and passing game. His game plan was to neutralize the 3-3-5 BYU defense by excessively throwing the ball to negate

## Notre Dame Stadium

Attendance: 80,795

All-Time Series: 4-2-0

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	7	14	21	7	49
BYU	10	0	13	0	23

## KEY STATS

	BYU	UND
Net Yards Rushing	75	44
Net Yards Passing	317	467
Average Per Attempt	7.0	11.4
Total Offense Yards	392	511
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	2-86-1

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Brady Quinn: 32-41, 467 Yards, 6 TDs  
 Maurice Stovall: 14 Receptions, 207 Yards, 4 TDs  
 Jeff Samardzija: 10 Receptions, 152 Yards, 2 TDs  
 Tom Zbikowski: 8 Tackles, 1 INT, 1 TD  
 Trevor Laws: 9 Tackles



**PASSING A RECORD** Quarterback Brady Quinn had a record-breaking passing performance against the Cougars when he threw for six touchdowns.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



During halftime, NBC sideline reporter Lewis Johnson asked Head Coach Charlie Weis if he was concerned at all the lack of a rushing game by Notre Dame.

"Not if they're going to bring seven or eight [players] on every play," said Weis. "If they want to bring seven or eight on every play, we'll throw it on every play."

In his post game press conference, Weis mentioned how amused he was by Johnson's remarks. "[Lewis Johnson] is looking at me as if I'm stupid," Weis said after the Irish scored six passing touchdowns. "I'm looking at him like he's stupid too. I don't know who's right and who's wrong, but football doesn't have to be as complicated as people make it out to be sometimes."

their blitzes and having an empty backfield with five wide receivers. BYU Head Coach Bronco Mendenhall admitted after the game that he was surprised Notre Dame chose such formations. "Notre Dame's passing game was better than our coverage in every instance today," Mendenhall said.

The game seemed out of reach for BYU in the third quarter when Samardzija grabbed his second touchdown reception of the game — a 21-yard pass from Quinn. However, BYU continued to grind with two touchdowns of their own, cutting the Notre Dame lead to five points, 28-23. Notre Dame distanced themselves when Quinn pump-faked a

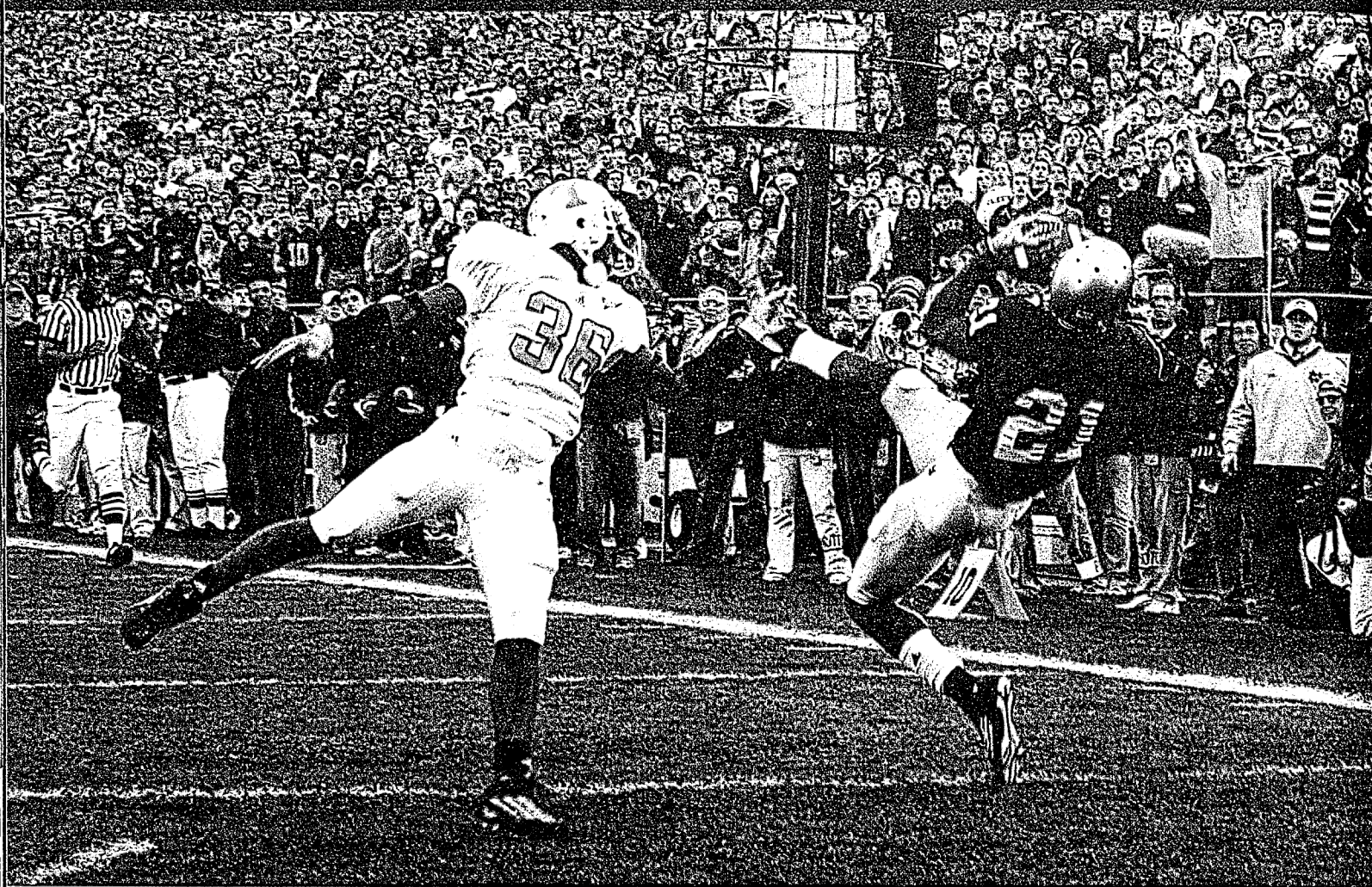
screen pass, fooling the BYU defense and leaving Stovall wide open in the end zone for his third touchdown reception of the game. Weis later called the pump fake "a thing of beauty." Stovall would add a fourth touchdown when he took a screen pass from Quinn and used his six-foot-five-inch frame to overpower a smaller BYU defender. Stovall became the first Notre Dame receiver to have four touchdown receptions in a game. He teamed with Samardzija to become the first Irish receiving tandem to both have at least 10 catches in one game.

In the fourth quarter, the game was put away when safety Tom Zbikowski intercepted BYU quarterback John Beck's

pass and ran 83 yards for a touchdown. The final seconds ticked away, and Notre Dame finally claimed a home win with a 49-23 rout. "It feels so good to see the clock run out and have a winning score," Quinn said.

Quinn went 32-41 for 467 yards, giving him three 400-yard passing games on the season. He also threw an Irish record of six touchdown passes in one game against the Cougars, breaking his own record set earlier in the year against Michigan State. The game was also significant for Weis, as it was his first win at Notre Dame Stadium.

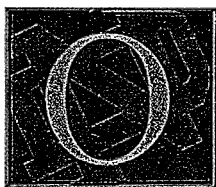




**HANGING ON** Wide receiver Maurice Stovall hauls in a 35-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter against Tennessee.

# Rocky Topping Tennessee

*Notre Dame 41 Tennessee 21*



*Christopher Meskill*

On Nov. 5, 2005, Notre Dame and Tennessee entered Notre Dame Stadium with their programs heading in different directions. One team was BCS-bound while the other was undergoing a rebuilding season — but which team was which was a surprise. The Volunteers, ranked No. 3 in the preseason, were the ones who suffered a horrendous start, while the Fighting Irish, unranked in the preseason, had their eyes on a coveted BCS game. In this topsy-turvy season for these two storied football programs, nothing could be predicted or taken for granted. There was a chill in the air on that Saturday morning when both sides knew that the game could redefine the

season for either team.

Earlier in the week prior to the Notre Dame-Tennessee game, Head Coach Charlie Weis identified Tennessee's defense as a possible roadblock to an Irish victory. The Notre Dame offense, however, simply overpowered the Volunteer defense early. The Irish scored two touchdowns within a minute of each other in the first quarter.

The first came after a string of completed passes by quarterback Brady Quinn, including the 43-yard pass to tight end Anthony Fasano for the score. On the ensuing kickoff, Irish cornerback Mike Richardson forced the ball out of the hands of Tennessee's Lucas Taylor for a fumble, which was recovered by the Irish. Beginning deep in Volunteer territory, Quinn completed a pass to wide

receiver Maurice Stovall for another touchdown. With the bat of an eye, Notre Dame went up 14-0 on the highly touted, yet seemingly hapless Tennessee defense.

Although Volunteer kicker James Wilhoit tacked on a field goal before the first quarter expired, the Tennessee offense continued to struggle in the game. On its first possession of the second quarter, Tennessee was forced to punt. Safety Tom Zbikowski returned the ball 78 yards for a touchdown to put the Irish up 21-3.

Just as the Notre Dame fans were becoming comfortable with the Irish lead over the Volunteers, Tennessee's defense started to own up to the reputation that Weis had cited earlier in the week. Notre Dame's highly potent offense was shut out for the next 25 minutes of

## Notre Dame Stadium

Attendance: 80,795

All-Time Series: 4-4-0

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	14	7	0	20	41
UT	3	7	11	0	21

## KEY STATS

	ND	UT
Total Offense Yards	343	296
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-118-1	3-14-0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-74-1	0-0-0
Possession Time	32:12	27:48
Third-Down Conversions	7/16	8/18

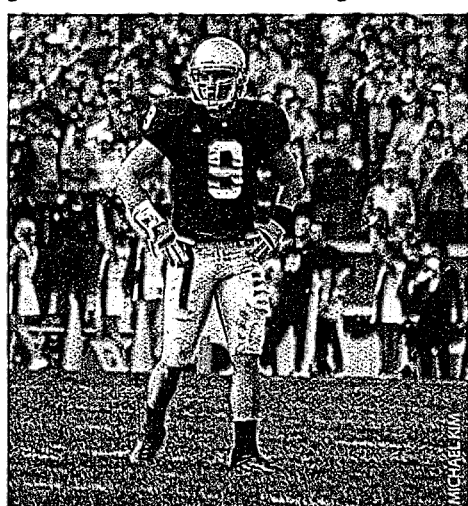
## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Brady Quinn: 20-33, 295 Yards, 3 TDs  
 Jeff Samardzija: 7 Receptions, 127 Yards, 1 TD  
 Anthony Fasano: 4 Receptions, 78 Yards, 1 TD  
 Tom Zbikowski: 9 Tackles, 1 INT, 2 TDs



**IT'S A CELEBRATION** Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija gives fellow receiver Maurice Stovall a high-five after Stovall's first quarter touchdown catch.

play. Meanwhile, the Tennessee offense gained momentum following a fumble



**OFFENSIVELY DEFENSIVE** Safety Tom Zbikowski returned a 78-yard punt and a 33-yard interception for touchdowns.

by wide receiver Jeff Samardzija. Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge and running back Adrian Foster managed three successful drives against the Irish, resulting in a field goal, two touchdowns and a two-point conversion. The Tennessee offense had posted 18 unanswered points to even the game, 21-21.

Once again, the Irish found themselves in need of a big fourth quarter in order to secure a victory. Opening the last quarter of play on the Tennessee 2-yard line, the Irish seemed to be in a perfect position to take the lead back. Quinn managed to give the Irish nation a good scare, fumbling the ball on the 4-yard line, only to have it recovered by Notre Dame lineman Dan Santucci. Following the near-turnover, Quinn hit Samardzija, who carried the ball into the end zone for the tie-breaking touchdown.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



Before the game, the Volunteers' offensive coordinator Randy Sanders resigned due to pressure from impatient Tennessee fans critical of their underachieving Volunteers. Rumored replacements included former Notre Dame quarterbacks coach David Cutcliffe, who was initially hired by Weis before having to resign in March due to health reasons. Cutcliffe also was the former offensive coordinator at Tennessee from 1993-1998.

The day after the Tennessee game, Weis was asked if he saw anything interesting from the game tape. "Yeah, I saw Trevor Laws and Justin Brown with a bucket behind me," Weis said, sarcastically describing the two players dumping ice-cold water on him during the final seconds of the game. "I've done my research, and we will address that later this afternoon."

The Irish never looked back. The defense held tight, shutting the Volunteers out in the fourth quarter, while kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick tacked on a pair of field goals. Down 34-21 with only three minutes remaining in the game, Ainge threw into tight coverage and was picked off by Zbikowski, who returned the ball 33 yards for the score — the final nail in the coffin for the Volunteers. After one more unsuccessful drive by Tennessee, Notre Dame was able to kneel out the clock and celebrate its victory over one of the biggest obstacles on its schedule.

After losing to the Irish for the second time in as many years, Tennessee Head Coach Philip Fulmer could only congratulate Notre Dame on its win. "They really have improved in a year," he said. "Our hats go off to them for how they played against us."

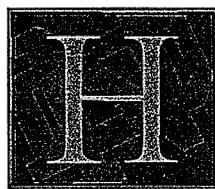




**A NAUTICAL TRAVIS-TY** Running back Travis Thomas stretches the Navy defense for his fourth rushing touchdown of the season.

# Honor and Class

*Notre Dame 42 Navy 21*



Brittany Lash

onor. Courage. Commitment. These three words, the motto of the United States

Naval Academy, say everything worth knowing about the battle on Nov. 12, 2005, between the Irish and the Navy Midshipmen. While the Midshipmen haven't always garnered the success of more celebrated Irish opponents, the Mids had a burning desire to break a 42-year-old, NCAA-record losing streak to the Irish. That, combined with Navy's own five-game winning streak coming into the game and the possibility of overconfidence by the Irish after demolishing Tennessee, caused this showdown to have



**MEN IN UNIFORM** Navy students pack Notre Dame Stadium to cheer on their Midshipmen.

"upset special" written all over it.

But in his typical fashion, Head Coach Charlie Weis kept his troops focused all week, and the Irish came out sharp. After winning the opening toss, Notre Dame elected to receive. The ensuing drive

was a Weis classic that culminated in an eye-popping 31-yard reception by wide receiver Maurice Stovall for the first touchdown.

All signs pointed to a steamrolling of the Mids, but mobile quarterback Lamar Owens rushed eight times in Navy's opening drive, opting for the pass only once in an attempt that fell incomplete. The Irish defense had no answer for the rushing onslaught brought by the triple option offense of Navy Head Coach Paul Johnson, letting Navy tie the game.

The Mids knew that the best way to conquer the potent Irish offense was to control the clock, much like the Irish did against USC four weeks earlier. Momentum appeared to be swinging the way of the Midshipmen as the Irish lost posses-

## Notre Dame Stadium

Attendance: 80,795

All-Time Series: 69-9-1

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	7	21	7	7	42
NAVY	7	0	7	7	21

## KEY STATS

	NAVY	ND
First Downs	21	29
Total Offensive Yards	314	505
Possession Time	31:35	28:25
Third-Down Conversions	9/14	8/12
Fourth-Down Conversions	2/3	1/2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	5-5

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 19 Carries, 118 Yards, 1 TD  
 Travis Thomas: 11 Carries, 60 Yards, 1 TD  
 Brady Quinn: 22-31, 284 Yards, 1 INT, 4 TDs  
 Maurice Stovall: 8 Receptions, 130 Yards, 3 TDs  
 Corey Mays: 14 Tackles



**HONORING WHAT'S IMPORTANT** Defeated players of Navy gather their composure and proudly listen to their alma mater after the game.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, many Notre Dame students were drafted into military service, leaving the university with a severe cutback in enrollment. Facing a fiscal crisis and closure due to a lack of students, Notre Dame's president, the Rev. J. Hugh O'Donnell, C.S.C., asked the Naval Department for willing bodies to fill the campus.

In 1944, roughly 70 percent of the Notre Dame student body was affiliated with the Navy. Notre Dame still today has one of the largest Naval ROTC programs in the nation. With the influx of students, Notre Dame was able to avoid closure and is forever grateful to the Navy. They repay their gratitude by adding the Midshipmen annually to their football schedule. Notre Dame and Navy own the longest intersectional college football rivalry at 79 years. Notre Dame and Navy agreed to continue to play each other through 2016 with the 2012 game being played in Ireland.

sion on downs, and the subsequent Navy drive featured the first pass completion of the game for Owens, a 14-yard toss that eluded defensive back Mike Richardson. But Owens was stopped short of a first down on four consecutive rushes, and the Mids turned the ball over on downs.

From there, the Irish never looked back with Quinn throwing consecutive 16- and 22-yard passes to Stovall, capping off the drive with a 12-yard touchdown rush by running back Travis Thomas. On the next drive, Irish linebacker Corey Mays recovered a fumble by Owens at the Navy 49-yard line. The turnover set up the second Irish touchdown of the quarter. Walker ran the ball 13 yards for the score, and he finished the game with 118 yards, his first 100-yard game since

he began the season with four in a row. Navy followed this with a quick turnover on downs, and the Irish responded with tight end Anthony Fasano's 8-yard touchdown catch. It gave the Irish two touchdowns in 88 seconds and wrapped up the first half at 28-7.

Navy came out hot in the second half, beginning it with a touchdown set up by a 34-yard catch by running back Reggie Campbell. The Irish responded quickly with an 82-yard drive that culminated in Stovall scoring his second touchdown of the game — a 16-yard reception that put the Irish up 35-14.

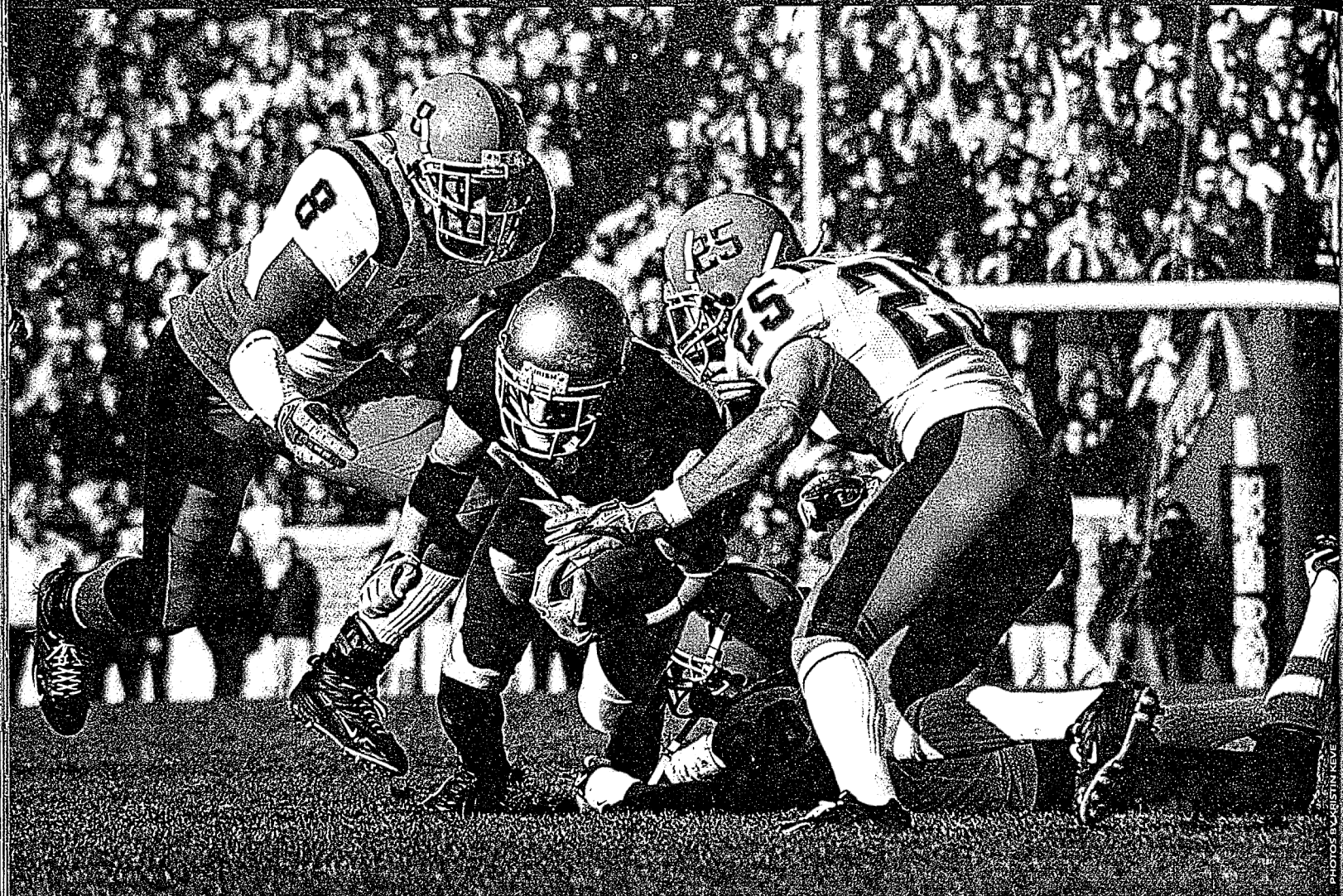
The Mids and the Irish then traded interceptions. A Navy punt set up Stovall's third touchdown reception on a fade route. Navy would go on to score one

more touchdown against the Irish second string, but the difference was insurmountable. Notre Dame won convincingly, 42-21.

It was a historic game for Quinn, who broke Jarius Jackson's single-season passing mark of 2,753 yards. Quinn also set the school record for most passes without an interception, 130. He finished the day 22-31 for 284 yards with one interception and four touchdowns.

Also of note was a classy gesture by Weis following the game. He led his Irish to the Navy corner to honor Navy by respectfully listening to "Navy Blue and Gold," their alma mater. It was one of the more memorable moments of the 2005 season.

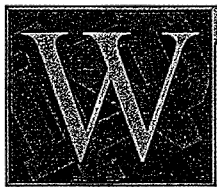




**ORANGE ALERT** Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija tries to elude the grasp of three Syracuse defenders.

# Crushing Orange on Senior Day

*Notre Dame 34 Syracuse 10*



**Christopher Meskill**

With the Irish ranked No. 6 in the nation with a 7-2 record, the Notre Dame campus was already alive with chatter of the Fiesta Bowl and a new year in Tempe, Ariz. As a result, the tension among the players and the anxiety in the student section was much expected when the Orange took an early 3-0 lead. But Head Coach Charlie Weis stressed the importance of the task at hand — defeating a 1-8 Syracuse team that was looking for a highpoint to their abysmal season — before looking towards the likely BCS berth. Weis realized what expectations were placed on his Fighting Irish and the pressure that accompanied

it. His remedy for the early game woes was simply, “Relax, just gain your composure.” With quarterback Brady Quinn at ease, the game unfolded as would be expected — the Irish came out strong in the second quarter and never looked back, winning convincingly, 34-10.

As final home game of the season, the



**SENIOR NIGHT** 34 seniors played their final game at Notre Dame Stadium.

Notre Dame-Syracuse game was the last time the seniors would play at Notre Dame Stadium. During the postgame press conference, lineman Dan Stevenson addressed the win. “We are all proud of each other,” he said. “Syracuse came out and played a great game, but fortunately we were able to send our seniors out the right way.”

While wide receivers Maurice Stovall and Matt Shelton were the most successful seniors on the day, the most celebrated play was the 16-yard pass by backup quarterback Marty Mooney to wide receiver Michael O’Hara, a fellow walk-on. Even Weis identified the pass as his favorite play of the game. Kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick also had a respectable day, hitting two of four field-goal attempts.

## Notre Dame Stadium

Attendance: 80,795

All-Time Series: 3-2-0

## KEY STATS

SU ND

Total Offensive Yards	221	420
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	1-16-1
Possession Time	27:47	32:13
Fourth-Down Conversions	2/3	2/3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	2-5

## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 26 Carries, 123 Yards, 1 TD  
 Brady Quinn: 21-37, 270 Yards, 2 TDs  
 Jeff Samardzija: 7 Receptions, 80 Yards, 1 TD  
 Maurice Stovall: 3 Receptions, 91 Yards, 1 TD  
 Corey Mays: 10 Tackles, 2 Sacks

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	0	14	10	10	34
SU	3	0	0	7	10



**AHEAD OF THE PACK** Wide receiver Maurice Stovall led all receivers with 91 yards.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



Notre Dame's senior players made a victory lap after the Syracuse game, which culminated their tumultuous careers at Notre Dame of having three head coaches and losing tough games under their tenure. "It was nothing that I had ever seen done in the past but I thought it was a good idea," senior lineman Dan Stevenson said. "Running an extra lap on the football field is not a lineman's fantasy, but it was a great way to go out."

Also notable in the Syracuse game was when senior walk-on Marty Mooney completed his first and only pass for 16 yards to fellow walk-on Michael O'Hara. Weis called it his "favorite play of the game."

Also notable in the Syracuse game was when senior walk-on Marty Mooney completed his first and only pass for 16 yards to fellow walk-on Michael O'Hara. Weis called it his "favorite play of the game."

Although it was the senior game, the underclassmen mostly were responsible for the victory. Sophomore running back Darius Walker had a big game, rushing for 123 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries, while Quinn, a junior, turned in his usual solid performance of 270 yards passing and two touchdowns.

Both of Quinn's touchdowns came in the second quarter, marking the turning point in the game. Stovall was the recipient of the first touchdown pass from 25 yards out, while wide receiver Jeff Samardzija pulled in a 28-yard pass for the second touchdown, putting the Irish up 14-3 heading into the second half.

The Irish gained momentum in the second half, when cornerback Leo Ferrine intercepted Orange quarterback

Perry Patterson on the most unlikely of plays. The ball dangled in the air after hitting off a diving receiver's fingers. In the short time that the ball remained airborne, Ferrine came in, scooped it up and returned it for a 16-yard touchdown to give the Irish a 21-3 lead.

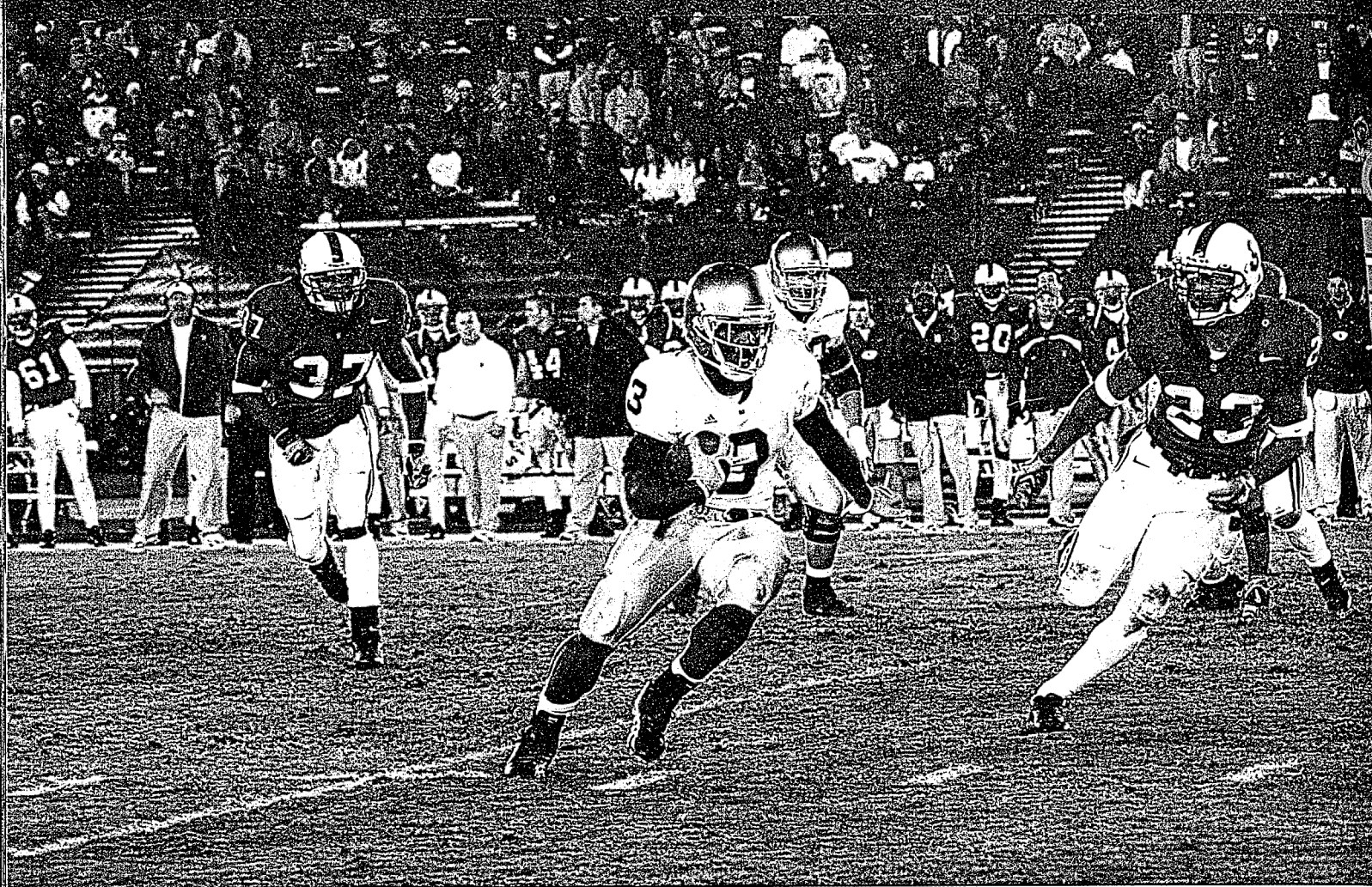
With the game well in hand, Fitzpatrick hit a pair of field goals at the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth quarter to give the Irish an additional six points. Later in the fourth quarter, Notre Dame and Syracuse exchanged meaningless touchdowns on two long drives, eating up over nine minutes of clock.

At the end of the game, Weis pulled his starters and gave his seniors a chance to play one last time in front of their class-

mates. Players like Mooney and O'Hara got a chance to register their first time in blue and gold. Defensive back Rich Whitney also saw some playing time, breaking up passes by Patterson, and running back Jeff Jenkins got four carries on the final drive.

As the clock ran out at Notre Dame Stadium, the seniors' time as members of the Fighting Irish drew to a close. The team jogged around the stadium to the cheering of their faithful fans. They also sang the Notre Dame alma mater with their arms around their fellow teammates on the field with the rest of the student section. And for one last time, the seniors raised their golden helmets to their fellow students in the stands.

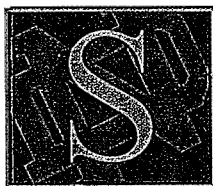




**GOLD RUSH** Running back Darius Walker turns upfield against Stanford. Walker rushed for a career-high 186 yards on 35 carries.

# A \$14 Million Dollar Game

*Notre Dame 38 Stanford 31*



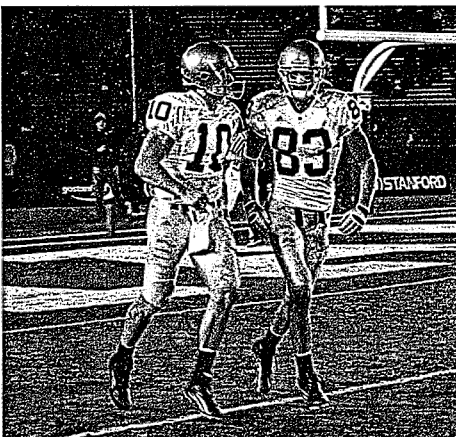
Michael Kim

Seeking to prove its worthiness for a Bowl Championship Series bid and a ninth win

to become eligible for selection, Notre Dame traveled to Palo Alto, Calif., on Nov. 26, 2005, to face the last obstacle of its regular season — a motivated Stanford team playing its final game in the 84-year-old Stanford Stadium.

After 15 seconds of play, quarterback Brady Quinn connected with teammate Jeff Samardzija over the middle for an 80-yard touchdown on just the second play of the game. But the Cardinal remained poised under first-year Head Coach Walt Harris, who had defeated Notre Dame 41-38 at Notre Dame Stadium in 2004 when he was the head coach of Pittsburgh. Using a clever passing game to give the Irish secondary difficulty,

Stanford tied the game 7-7 when wide receiver Mark Bradford caught a 27-yard pass from quarterback Trent Edwards. The Cardinal, too, had an incentive to play well; they also needed a win to be bowl-eligible.



**QUINN AND SHARK** Quarterback Brady Quinn celebrates with Jeff Samardzija after their second touchdown.

Notre Dame began showing weakness in its offense when Quinn threw two interceptions in the first half, but the Irish still had their chances to score; with 7:48 left in the first quarter, Quinn once again found a wide-open Samardzija in the end zone on a 7-yard play-action pass that gave the Irish a 14-7 lead. But Stanford continued to hurt Notre Dame with the deep pass, and seven minutes into the second quarter Cardinal wide receiver Justin McCullum caught a 38-yard pass from Edwards to tie the game. Neither the Cardinal nor the Irish could put together an effective scoring drive during the remainder of the second quarter, and the teams left the field at halftime knotted up with a score of 14-14.

The third quarter saw little scoring, save for a 10-yard touchdown reception by wide receiver Maurice Stovall, after which kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick uncharacteristically missed the extra point.

## Stanford Stadium

Attendance: 56,057

All-Time Series: 14-6-0

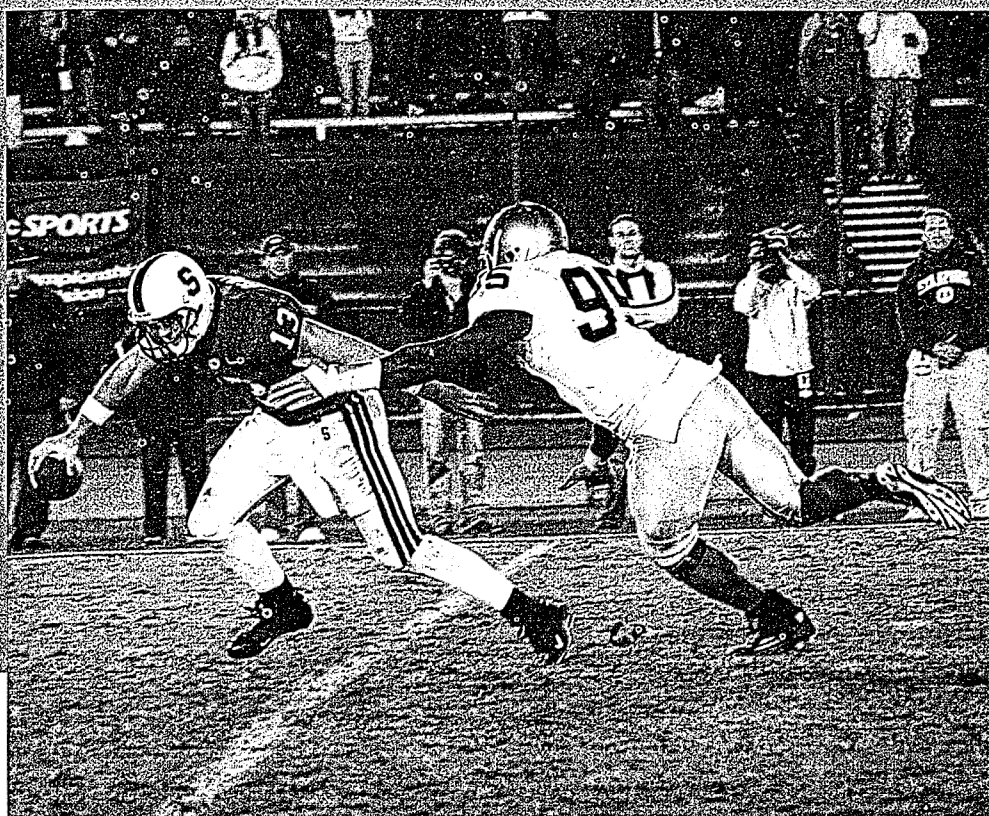
	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	14	0	6	18	38
STAN	7	7	0	17	31

## KEY STATS

	ND	STAN
Net Yards Rushing	231	-11
Total Offensive Yards	663	336
Possession Time	34:35	25:25
Third-Down Conversions	8/15	1/11
Field Goals	1-3	1-1

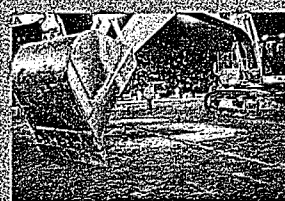
## KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 35 Carries, 186 Yards, 1 INT  
 Brady Quinn: 25-38, 432 Yards, 2 INTs, 3 TDs  
 Jeff Samardzija: 8 Receptions, 191 Yards, 2 TDs  
 Maurice Stovall: 7 Receptions, 136 Yards, 1 TD  
 Victor Abiamiri: 10 Tackles, 4 Sacks



**WRAPPED UP** Defensive end Victor Abiamiri seals the Irish victory with his fourth sack.

## FROM THE PRESS BOX



As the final seconds ticked away, bulldozers immediately came onto the field at

Stanford Stadium to begin a \$90-million renovation of the 84-year-old stadium. Built in 1921, it was the largest privately owned stadium in the United States and hosted Super Bowl XIX in 1985. The new Stanford Stadium is set to open in the fall of 2006. No wonder they started so quickly.

Quarterback Brady Quinn attempted his first punt of his career against Stanford and it was a good one. His lone punt made him the NCAA Division I-A leader in yards-per-punt at 48 yards. Quinn was ahead of Arizona's Danny Baugher (47.5).

Fitzpatrick, who had injured his kicking leg the week before against Syracuse, later missed a 42-yard field goal attempt. However, scoring picked up in the fourth quarter, starting with a 29-yard field goal converted by Irish backup kicker Carl Gioia. On the ensuing kickoff, Stanford gave Notre Dame a devastating blow when cornerback T.J. Rushing took the ball 87 yards for a touchdown to put the Cardinal within two points of the Irish. But running back Travis Thomas would temporarily soothe the jitters of nervous Irish fans on an 8-yard stretch play that was his fifth rushing touchdown of the season and put Notre Dame up 30-21.

The Irish had their chances to put the game away throughout the fourth quarter, but repeatedly came up short on scoring opportunities. Head Coach Charlie Weis decided to put a battle-tested Fitzpatrick back into the game to kick a 29-yard field goal, but his kicking woes continued as

he missed again to the left. Stanford capitalized on the blunder, marching down the field and scoring a touchdown with only 1:46 remaining in the game.

Irish fans were shocked that the team's BCS hopes were in jeopardy, but panic was nowhere to be found on the Notre Dame sideline. With relative ease, the Irish moved up the field in 51 seconds and capped off the drive when running back Darius Walker barely broke into the end zone to give Notre Dame the lead. Weis decided to go for the two-point conversion with a trick play from his old New England Patriots playbook. The ball was directly snapped to Walker, who went right up the middle of an unsuspecting Stanford defense to put the Irish up 38-31.

With 51 seconds left in the game, Notre Dame ended any chance of a Stanford comeback when defensive end Victor Abiamiri wrapped up backup

quarterback T.C. Ostrander for a loss and claimed his fourth sack of the game. The Irish limited Stanford to -11 rushing yards the entire game. Notre Dame breathed a sigh of relief and clinched its all-important ninth win of the season. "I didn't know if they understood how to win games like this," Weis said. But the Irish dug deep and learned to pull out a victory in a close game when in the past they have let so many slip away. The win propelled the Irish to a No. 6 BCS ranking, which assured them an automatic spot in a BCS bowl.

Notre Dame compiled 663 yards of total offense, their fifth highest total since compiling 720 yards against Navy in 1969. Walker had a career-high 186 yards on 35 carries, while Samardzija and Stovall became the third and fourth receivers to have over 1,000 receiving yards in a single season for Notre Dame. **6**



# Offensive Renaissance

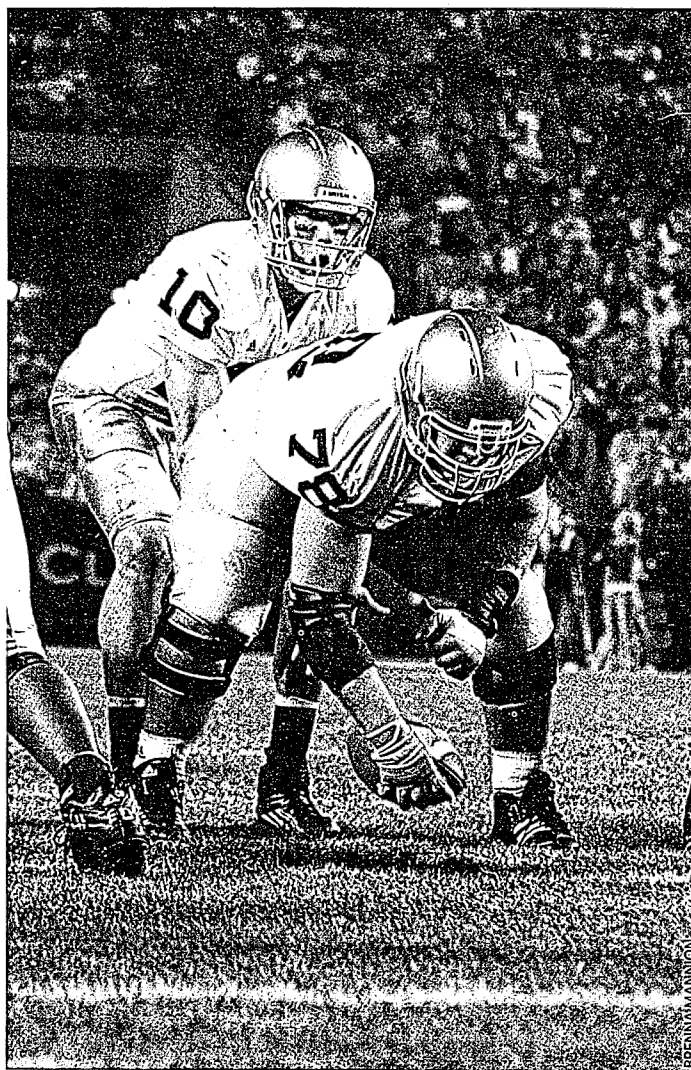
Mike Laskey

It was the first drive of the year, and Notre Dame was already in a hole. Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko had just found wide receiver Greg Lee for a 39-yard touchdown pass, executed with a seamless ease that conjured up memories of the last time these teams met and the Panthers snuck by to defeat the Irish at home. But things were different this time around, as less than three minutes later Brady Quinn flipped the ball to Darius Walker in the flat, who found a shield of blockers and ran 51 yards to the end zone. Walker's scamper set the tone for the game and the season, as it quickly became clear that Notre Dame football was back, led by Head Coach Charlie Weis' new-look offense with Quinn at the helm.

After a disappointing 2004 season in which the Irish finished just 81st in the nation in total offense, the 2005 squad put up some of the best offensive numbers in the program's history. Notre Dame set 47 individual and team offensive records while averaging almost 37 points per game, Notre Dame's second-highest average ever.

Quinn led the way in the rewriting of the Irish record books, setting individual season records for touchdown passes (32), passing yardage (3,919) and completion percentage (64.9 percent), among many others.

As the numbers and All-American honors show, the quarterback had no trouble getting used to Weis' offensive system, despite Quinn's two years as starting quarterback under former Irish Head Coach Tyrone Willingham. "[Adjusting to the new system] wasn't too hard," Quinn said at a Dec. 19, 2005, press conference. "I think once you get game experience, it becomes a little bit easier. You get to work through other situations you go through in practice and finally put



**SUCCESS IN A SNAP** Quarterback Brady Quinn seemed to have little trouble adjusting to Charlie Weis' new offense.

them on the field. After having a couple shots at doing that in a game scenario, you feel much more comfortable going into the next week."

Weis was impressed with Quinn's adaptability from the start. "First of all, he had all the inherent traits to already be a great quarterback. He had played for two years and played a lot of football and been hardened. He is tough and smart. All we did was put in this system, which is a quarterback-friendly system. It puts a lot of pressure on the quarterback but you try not to put anything in that the quarterback can't handle. Because he has

been able to handle a lot, we have been able to do a lot," Weis said at a Dec. 10, 2005, press conference. "I think the success of our offense can be pinpointed to the progress of Brady."

Quinn's great season was made possible in part by a pair of six-foot-five-inch targets who had breakout years of their own in 2005. Wide receivers Jeff Samardzija and Maurice Stovall caught a combined 26 of Quinn's 32 touchdown passes and posted 2,213 yards of receiving between them.

Samardzija, who set the Notre Dame single-season touchdown-reception record with 15, had never seen the end zone before this season, playing mainly on special teams during his first two seasons. His most impressive athletic statistic at Notre Dame prior to the 2005 football campaign was arguably his 8-1 record as a pitcher for the baseball team last spring.

After snagging one touchdown catch against Pittsburgh and another against Michigan, Samardzija moved into the starting lineup when Rhema McKnight went down with a season-ending knee injury in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"It really started off with that catch against Pittsburgh, and that really just opened things up," Quinn said of Samardzija during a Dec. 19, 2005, press conference. "He's had a tremendous season. Looking at the plays he's made, he's been such a huge factor in every game. In the Tennessee game, he had that big play on the third down conversion to kind of turn the tide in that game," Quinn said.

He added, "All season, he's come up with big plays, big blocks, he's done everything the coaches have asked of him. He's truly been the prototype of a team player and what that all includes. Being there to lay a block out for [Walker] or catch a big pass when we need it; he's just made great strides from last season to this season."

Samardzija credits his quarterback for helping him develop so quickly. "You just sort of follow someone who does what Brady has done on the field," Samardzija told the East Valley Tribune (Arizona). "It's a ripple effect. One guy makes a play, and the next guy is going to want to do the same thing. When you feed off each other like that, then maybe that's where the term leadership comes from."


Lining up across the field from Samardzija was Stovall, who had seen a good deal of playing time over his first three seasons, but was coming off a disappointing junior year during which he scored only once.

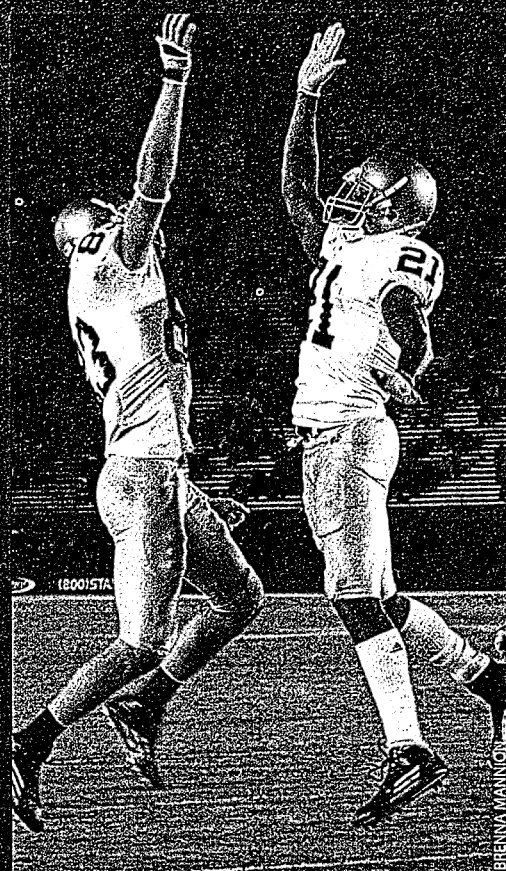
In a striking turnaround, Stovall scored 11 touchdowns in 2005, more

than twice as many as he scored in his previous three seasons. He grabbed the attention of NFL scouts with a full highlight reel of acrobatic, leaping receptions over helpless defensive backs.

"[Stovall] has what I call 'pluckability,'" Weis said at a Nov. 20, 2005, press conference. "Pluckability" is when that ball is up for grabs and they seem to pluck it out of the air." In addition, Weis added, "He blocks, he gets off the line of scrimmage, he runs well. He's really had a really good year for us. He's got a very bright future in this game."

While Stovall will not be returning next season as he enters the NFL Draft, Quinn and Samardzija will both be back, with a new swagger and loftier goals.

"I want to win a national championship," Quinn told the Associated Press, "and I think our team has the ability without a doubt to win it, especially with the people we have coming back on offense and defense." 

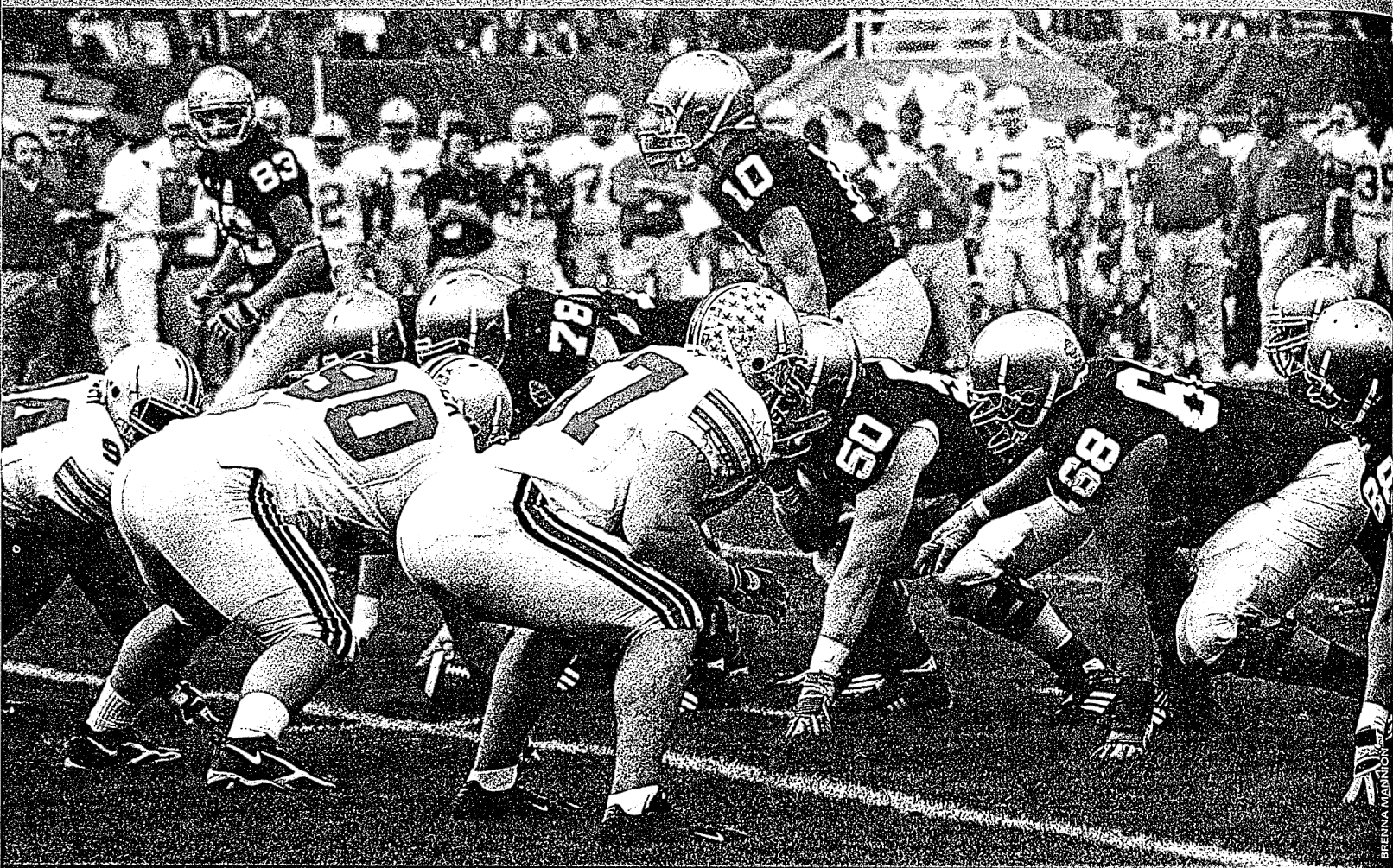


**RIISING HIGH** Wide receivers Jeff Samardzija and Maurice Stovall combined for 26 touchdown receptions on the season.



**BIG NUMBERS FOR THE LITTLE MAN** Running back Darius Walker rushed for 1,274 yards on the season.





**D-NIED** The vaunted Ohio State defense was too much for the Irish offense in the Fiesta Bowl.

# A Fiesta Gone Awry

*Ohio State 34 Notre Dame 20*

**M**

Michael Kim

aking their first Bowl Championship Series appearance since the 2001 Fiesta Bowl, Notre Dame faced an opponent for whom the game was an old hat—the Ohio State Buckeyes, who had played in Tempe, Ariz., three of the past four years. These two storied programs, rich with history and tradition, were only meeting each other for the fifth time. The Irish hoped to end their mediocre bowl run with a win to cap off the season.

Notre Dame moved the chains efficiently on their opening drive. On the sixth play from scrimmage, running back Darius Walker found a hole and ran 20 yards for a touchdown, giving his team a 7-0 lead. It appeared that a month of

preparation was paying off for Head Coach Charlie Weis.

But Ohio State Head Coach Jim Tressel also had a month to prepare for the Irish. He said that while studying game films of Notre Dame, he noticed a trend that the Irish were vulnerable with the deep pass. Tressel made it a point-of-emphasis to quarterback Troy Smith not to overthrow the deep ball like so many of Notre Dame's 2005 opponents had done. Smith took the advice to heart when he completed a 56-yard pass to Ted Ginn to answer the quick Irish score.

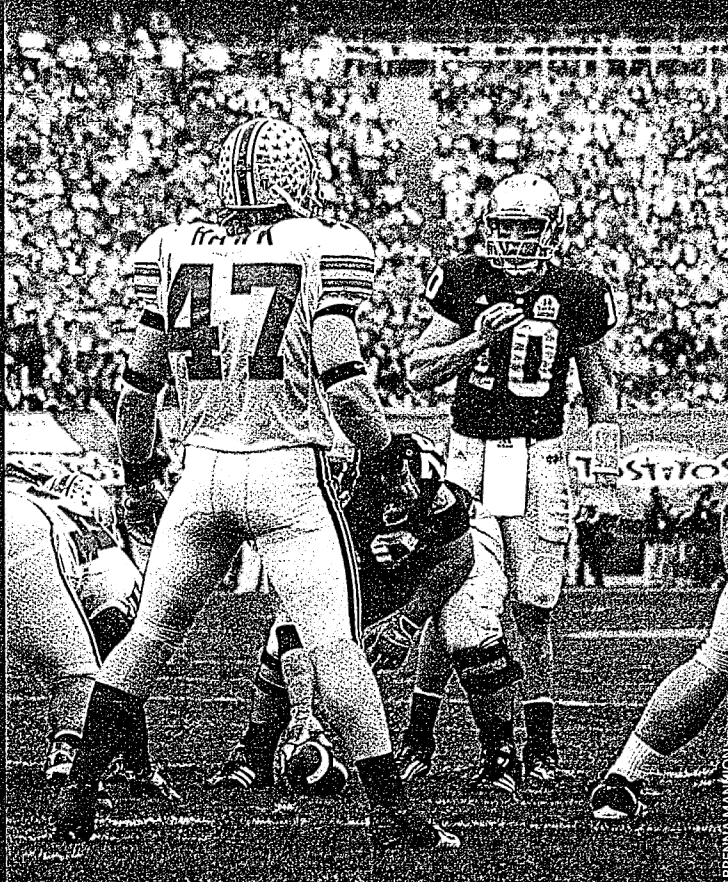
On the next drive, Weis went for it on fourth-and-two at the Ohio State 6-yard line instead of kicking a field goal. The call backfired for the Irish, as quarterback Brady Quinn was sacked by linebacker A.J. Hawk, the boyfriend of Quinn's older sister Laura. Not only did the Irish

give up the ball on downs, they also gave up momentum to the Buckeyes.

Although Ohio State made costly turnovers—Smith fumbled the ball twice—the Buckeyes made up for it with their stellar defense, ranked fourth in the country. With the defense holding the potent Irish offense in check, Ginn struck again with his blazing speed. He zig-zagged across the field on a reverse, leaving Notre Dame defensive backs in his wake and giving Ohio State the go-ahead touchdown. Smith added another touchdown when he connected with wide receiver Santonio Holmes for 85 yards to blow the game open, 21-7. Notre Dame went into halftime with its biggest deficit of the season, although they were fortunate to be down only two touchdowns after blocking a field goal attempt by Ohio State.

The pivotal play of the game was when wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez fumbled immediately after appearing to make a catch. Safety Tom Zbikowski recovered the ball and ran 88 yards for an apparent touchdown. An illegal block would have brought the ball back, but the play was reviewed and the pass ruled incomplete, nullifying Zbikowski's fumble recovery. "That was the play," Weis said. "What I said to the official on the field is I hope your guy upstairs was right because that changed the whole complexion of the game." Notre Dame failed to find a spark on offense against a first-class Buckeye defense that sacked Quinn five times. It also held the Notre Dame receiving corps in check as wide receiver Jeff Samardzija looked tentative throughout the game with dropped passes.

With the Irish offense on life support, it received a jolt late in the third quarter when Walker broke through the stern defensive line of the Buckeyes to score his second touchdown of the game with a 10-yard rush. Kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick missed the extra point.



**FACE-OFF** Columbus natives A.J. Hawk and Brady Quinn lined up across from one another in the Fiesta Bowl.

Ohio State kicker Josh Huston added two field goals to put the Buckeyes up 27-13. Time was becoming a nemesis for the Irish, but Walker continued to carry the Irish offense as he ran a 3-yard stretch run to score his third touchdown

of the game. Now only down 27-20 with 5:27 left, the Irish still had a chance if they could make a key defensive stop.

But the elusive and versatile Smith consistently avoided the Irish pass rush and demoralized the Notre Dame defense with third-down conversions. Running back Antonio Pittman sealed the deal when he found a seam and ran the ball 60 yards to the end-zone to give Ohio State a healthy two-touchdown lead. Notre Dame failed to mount a comeback, and Ohio State went on to win its third Fiesta bowl in four years.

Notre Dame continued its bowl skid and fell to 13-14 overall in bowl games. Speed and big plays ended up being the killer for the Irish as the Buckeyes racked up 617 total offensive yards. It was the most Notre Dame had given up in its history. Although Notre Dame was six points away from an undefeated season, this game showed them they still were missing vital pieces to win a major bowl game. **S**

### Sun Devil Stadium

Attendance: 76,196

All-Time Series: 2-3-0



## FIESTA BOWL

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
ND	7	0	6	7	20
OSU	7	14	3	10	34



KEY STATS	OSU	ND
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	617	348
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-2	1-0
Third-Down Conversions	8/12	9/17
Fourth-Down Conversions	0/0	1/2
Field Goals	2-4	0-0

### KEY PERFORMANCES:

Darius Walker: 16 Carries, 90 Yards, 3 TDs  
 Brady Quinn: 29-45, 286 Yards  
 Corey Mays: 12 Tackles  
 Brandon Hoyte: 10 Tackles  
 Tom Zbikowski: 9 Tackles

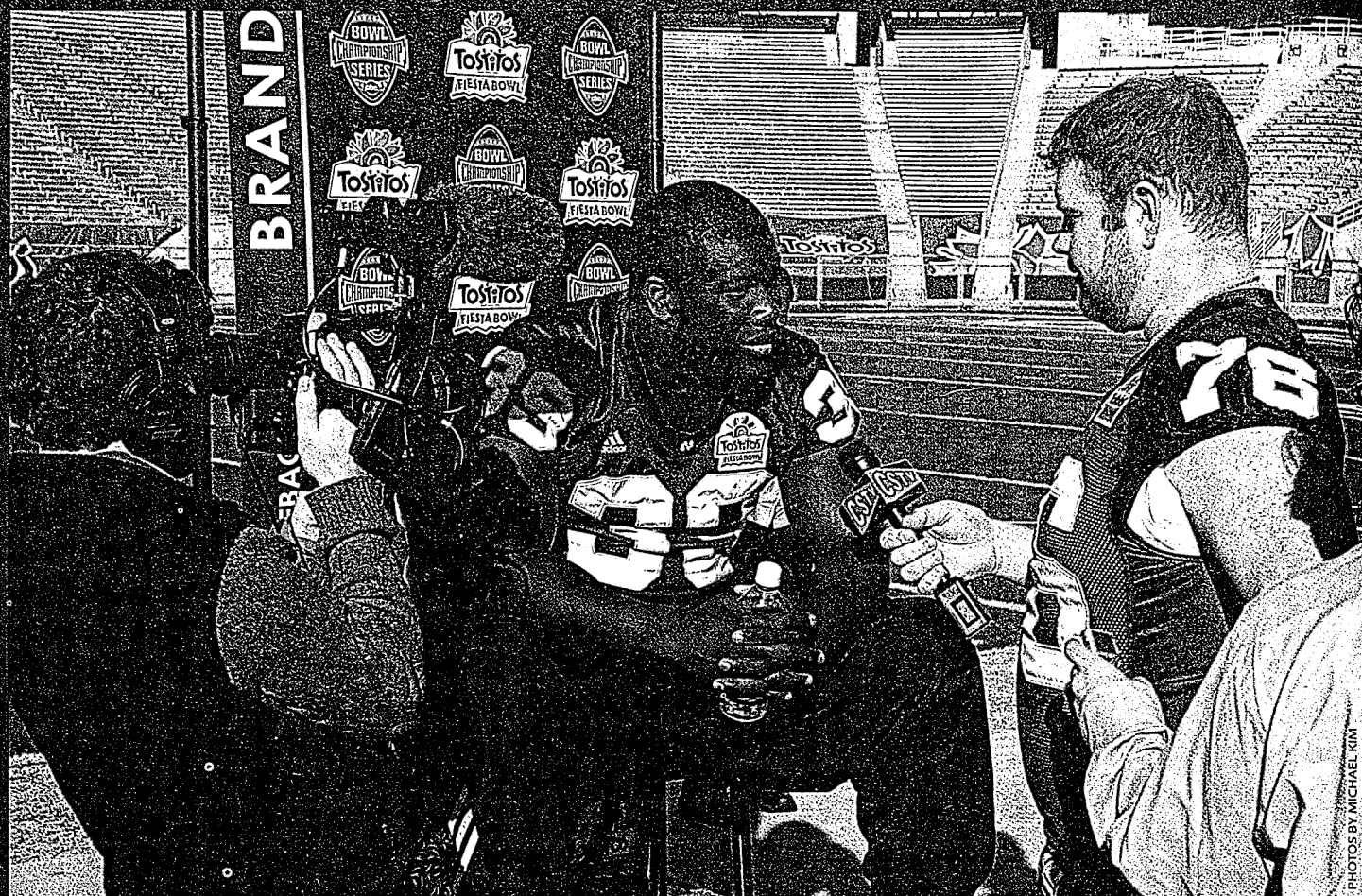
## FROM THE PRESS BOX

Players of the Notre Dame football team each received a gift package for their participation in the Fiesta Bowl. Each gift package consisted of a Sony PSP, a Bulova watch, a Fiesta Bowl commemorative football, a dartboard, and a snack-filled duffel bag of Datto-Lay products. The estimated value of each gift package was \$500.

Unlike at other institutions where bowl-game revenue funds solely goes to the athletic department, the estimated \$14.5 million share Notre Dame earned for its BCS bid went to three academic priorities: undergraduate and graduate financial aid, library acquisitions, and scientific instruments for the Jordan Hall of Science, which will open in the summer of 2006.



# Inside the Fiesta Bowl



**T**

Michael Kim

he Notre Dame football team arrived in Phoenix, Ariz., right after Christmas to begin preparations for the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Practices were held at Scottsdale Community College in Scottsdale, Ariz., where the fields were painted with diagonal white stripes in the end zone in a manner similar to the end zone design in Notre Dame Stadium. The 70-degree weather and the Arizona mountains ris-

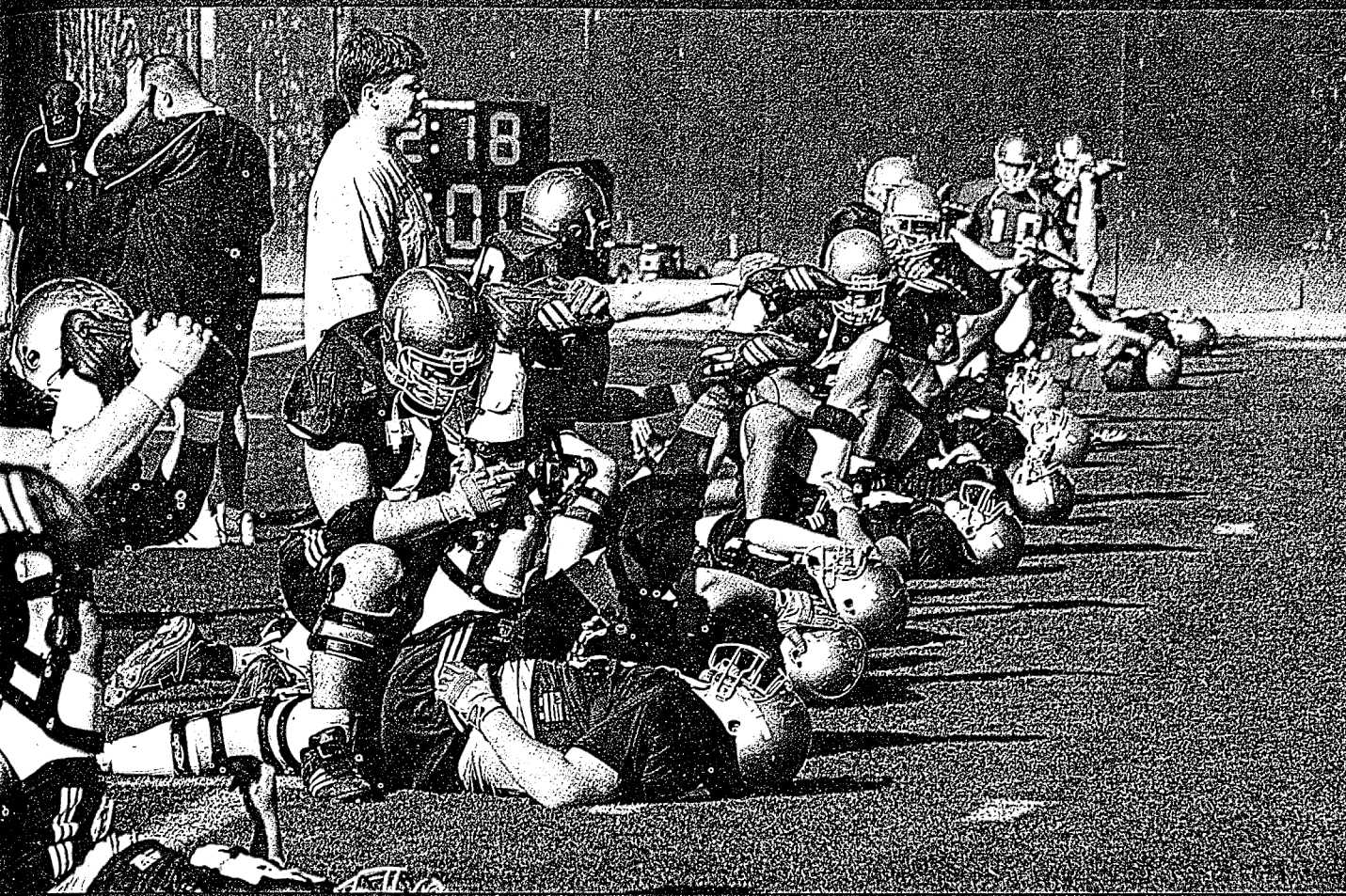
ing in the background made Scottsdale an ideal place for the Irish to prepare for the Ohio State Buckeyes.

The players saw Sun Devil Stadium — where the Fiesta Bowl would be played — for the first time on Media Day. Hundreds of media members from across the country received 30 minutes with each team to ask questions. While waiting for the standout players of each team to be interviewed, some of the players who were spared the media onslaught took the liberty to humor themselves. Notre Dame lineman Bob Morton played the

role of the inquisitive sports reporter and interviewed teammate linebacker Brandon Hoyte for College Sports Television.

The one who stole the show on Media Day, however, was Laura Quinn, the older sister of Irish quarterback Brady Quinn. A student at California State University at Los Angeles and an aspiring sportscaster, Laura took advantage of the television face time to hone her interviewing skills with various media outlets ranging from ESPN to local affiliates. She even managed to interview





her younger brother. When she asked Brady what his biggest distraction of the week was, he simply answered, "You." Laura also interviewed Ohio State linebacker A.J. Hawk, who happens to be her boyfriend of four months. When pressed by Laura, Hawk didn't know if he could promise to go easy on Brady during the game simply because it was his girlfriend's little brother. "You want my parents to approve, don't you?" Laura joked, much to the chagrin of Hawk.

On New Year's Day, Notre Dame Head Coach Charlie Weis and Ohio

State Head Coach Jim Tressel gave their official press conferences at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn in Scottsdale. Media members were on hand to ask their final pre-game questions. Also, they got to see Weis accept the Eddie Robinson Award, which is presented annually to the nation's best college coach as voted on by the Football Writers Association of America.

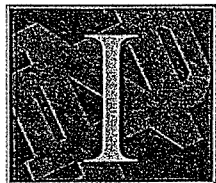
Media members also were treated to a special VIP tour of the yet-to-be-completed Glendale Stadium in suburban Phoenix, which will host the 2007 Fiesta

Bowl as well as the 2007 BCS National Championship game. This state-of-the-art facility even boasts an impressive retractable field in addition to its retractable roof. The entire football field of natural grass will be attached to an elaborate rail system that can be rolled into and out of the stadium for maintenance purposes. If the Irish are fortunate enough to run the table on the competition next year and finish in the top two of the BCS rankings, they will find themselves in the completed stadium on January 8, 2007, to play for the national championship. **G**



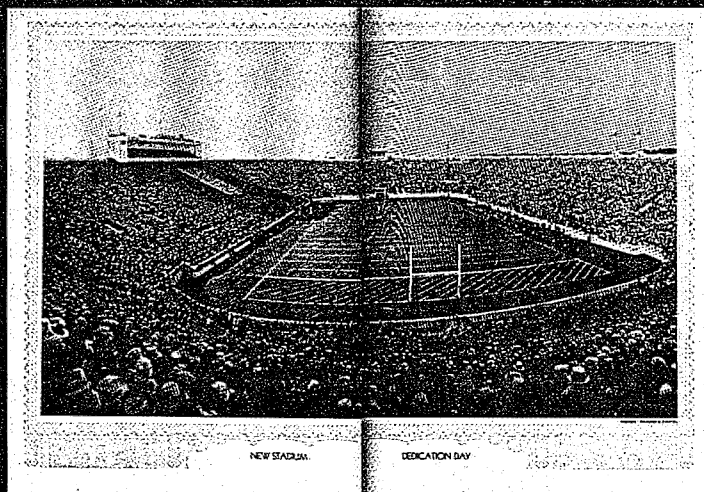
# Foundations in History

Dave Poell



In addition to a new coach and a return to the top 10 of the Associated Press college football poll for the first time since 1993, the Fighting Irish's 2005 football season also marked another major landmark for the university — the 75th anniversary of the hallowed Notre Dame Stadium. Dedicated on Oct. 11, 1930, before a crowd of 40,593 spectators, the first sets of eyes ever to witness a game in Notre Dame Stadium saw former Head Coach Knute Rockne's undefeated squad annihilate the

Navy Midshipmen by a score of 26-2. And the excitement housed within the stadium has only grown since then, with 139 first team All-Americans, 11 national championship teams, seven Heisman Trophy winners and five national championship coaches calling the house that Rockne built home.



**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** A photo of the Notre Dame-Navy game in 1930 from the 1930-1931 *Dome Yearbook*.

Fans and visitors to the stadium this past year were greeted by banners hanging from the stadium's rafters in commemoration of the storied history of the Irish football program. Notre Dame Stadium has seen its share of leg-

endary pigskin play in its 75 years. There have been so many memorable games on Irish soil, in fact, that the university's official Web site, [www.und.com](http://www.und.com), asked Irish fans across the country this past August to vote on the top 20 games played at the university. According to the survey, fans deem the period between 1988 and 1993 as the greatest period in the history of the stadium, with seven of the top 10 games coming from this era. The top 10 list also is littered with some of Notre Dame's fiercest archrivals, including three games against both USC and Michigan, two games against Miami and a game apiece against Florida State and Penn State. *Scholastic* has its own preferences for the five most exciting games ever to be played in the stadium:

## 1. No. 1 Miami vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, Oct. 15, 1988

The most heated college football rivalry of the late 1980s, this game saw the Irish snap the hated Hurricanes' 36-game regular season winning streak. Free safety Pat Terrell batted down a Miami two-point conversion attempt with 45 seconds remaining. ND 31, Miami 30.

## 2. No. 1 Florida State vs. No. 2 Notre Dame, Nov. 13, 1993

Notre Dame triumphed over Florida State Head Coach Bobby Bowden's Seminoles with a ground assault against FSU's staunch run defense. The Irish rushed for 239 yards and four touchdowns against a Seminole team that had given up only four touchdowns on the ground the entire season entering the game. A last-second Hail Mary pass by FSU quarterback and eventual Heisman recipient Charlie Ward fell incomplete. ND 31, FSU 24.

## 3. No. 1 USC vs. No. 9 Notre Dame, Oct. 15, 2005

Ranked by ESPN.com as the greatest college football game of the last 35 years and, oddly enough, 17 years to the day after the aforementioned glorious victory over Miami, the Trojans brought a 27-game winning streak to South Bend. USC escaped an upset defeat to the Irish after Trojan quarterback Matt Leinart completed a 61-yard pass to wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett on a fourth and nine and then benefited from the infamous "Bush Push" on the next play to reach the end zone on a quarterback sneak with three seconds remaining. Heartbreaking. USC 34, ND 31.

## 4. No. 2 Miami vs. No. 6 Notre Dame, Oct. 20, 1990

In the final installment of the Catholics vs. Convicts series, the Irish — aided by kicker Craig Hentrich's five field goals and a 94-yard kick return by the

explosive wide receiver Rocket Ishmail — dashed the Hurricanes' remaining national championship hopes. The Irish racked up 276 rushing yards against Miami's No. 2 defense on their way to a nine-point win and a 9-2 regular season record. ND 29, Miami 20.

## 5. No. 5 USC vs. No. 11 Notre Dame, Oct. 22, 1977

Now deemed the "Green Jersey Game," this match marked the beginning of a remarkable streak of Irish dominance during the final seven games of the season — games in which Notre Dame outscored its opponents by a margin of 317-80. Although warming up in their traditional home blue jerseys, the Irish returned from the locker rooms sporting bright green jerseys en route to a 30-point routing of the Trojans, their worst loss since falling 51-0 to Notre Dame in 1966. ND 49, USC 19.

# HUDDLE



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# SEASON STATISTICS

	NOTRE DAME	OPPONENTS
<b>SCORING</b>	440	294
Points Per Game	36.7	24.5
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	314	239
Rushing	126	82
Passing	169	137
Penalty	19	20
<b>RUSHING YARDAGE</b>	1765	1588
Yards Gained Rushing	2079	1931
Yards Lost Rushing	314	343
Rushing Attempts	491	403
Average Per Rush	3.6	3.9
Average Per Game	147.1	132.3
TDs Rushing	21	17
<b>PASSING YARDAGE</b>	3963	3175
Att-Comp-Int	454-294-8	410-218-13
Average Per Pass	8.7	7.7
Average Per Catch	13.5	14.6
Average Per Game	330.2	264.6
TDs Passing	32	18
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	5728	4763
Total Plays	945	813
Average Per Play	6.1	5.9
Average Per Game	477.3	396.9
<b>KICK RETURNS-YARDS</b>	34-646	65-1379
<b>PUNT RETURNS-YARDS</b>	28-396	27-174
<b>INT RETURNS-YARDS</b>	13-223	8-103
<b>KICK RETURN AVERAGE</b>	19.0	21.2
<b>PUNT RETURN AVERAGE</b>	14.1	6.4
<b>INT RETURN AVERAGE</b>	17.2	12.9
<b>FUMBLES-LOST</b>	17-6	20-11
<b>PENALTIES-YARDS</b>	77-667	71-554
Average Per Game	55.6	46.2
<b>PUNTS-YARDS</b>	47-1873	61-2503
Average Per Punt	39.9	41.0
Net Punt Average	36.1	34.5
<b>TIME OF POSSESSION/</b>	32:51	27:09
<b>GAME</b>		
<b>3RD-DOWN</b>	90/184	58/165
<b>CONVERSIONS</b>		
3rd-Down Pct	49%	35%
<b>4TH-DOWN</b>	9/18	14/27
<b>CONVERSIONS</b>		
4th-Down Pct	50%	52%
<b>SACKS BY-YARDS</b>	31-216	21-135
<b>MISC. YARDS</b>	0	4
<b>TOUCHDOWNS SCORED</b>	58	37
<b>FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS</b>	12-18	12-17
<b>PAT-ATTEMPTS</b>	54-57	32-33
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	484,770	370,858
Games/Avg Per Game	6/80,795	5/74,172

RUSHING	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Walker, Darius	253	1196	4.7	9	38	99.7
Thomas, Travis	63	248	3.9	5	16	20.7
Powers-Neal, Rashon	31	100	3.2	6	10	20.0
Quinn, Brady	70	90	1.3	1	16	7.5
Schwapp, Asaph	27	67	2.5	0	7	5.6
Jenkins, Jeff	19	56	2.9	0	0	5.1
Wolke, David	1	22	22.0	0	22	3.7
Samardzija, Jeff	9	13	1.4	0	9	1.1
Grimes, David	2	8	4.0	0	8	0.7
McConnell, Ashley	1	8	4.0	0	8	1.0
Stovall, Maurice	2	1	0.5	0	1	0.1
Hoskins, Justin	2	-1	-0.5	0	0	-0.2
McKnight, Rhema	1	-7	-7.0	0	0	-2.3
TEAM	10	-31	-3.1	0	0	-5.2
Total	491	1765	3.6	21	38	147.1
Opponents	403	1588	3.9	17	68	132.3

PASSING	Effic	Att	Cmp	Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Lng
Quinn, Brady	158.40	450	292	7	64.9	3919	32	80
Wolke, David	45.07	3	1	1	33.3	28	0	28
Mooney, Marty	234.40	1	1	0	100.0	16	0	16
Samardzija, Jeff	0.00	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Total	157.82	454	294	8	64.8	3963	32	80
Opponents	126.37	410	218	13	53.2	3175	18	85

RECEIVING	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Samardzija, Jeff	77	1249	16.2	15	80
Stovall, Maurice	69	1149	16.7	11	50
Fasano, Anthony	47	576	12.3	2	43
Walker, Darius	43	351	8.2	2	51
Shelton, Matt	28	329	11.8	0	33
Powers-Neal, Rashon	9	90	10.0	0	18
Carlson, John	7	56	8.0	1	22
McKnight, Rhema	5	69	13.8	1	27
Schwapp, Asaph	3	22	7.3	0	12
Grimes, David	2	19	9.5	0	11
Thomas, Travis	2	9	4.5	0	8
Woods, Rob	1	28	28.0	0	28
O'Hara, Michael	1	16	16.0	0	16
Total	294	3963	13.5	32	80
Opponents	218	3175	14.6	18	85

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	Pct	Lg	Blk
Fitzpatrick, D.J.	11	17	64.7	48	1
Gioia, Carl	1	1	100.0	29	0

SCORE BY QRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Notre Dame	87	145	78	127	3	440
Opponents	75	47	69	97	6	294

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Zbikowski, Tom	5	136	27.2	2	83
Richardson, Mike	3	16	5.3	0	13
Wooden, Ambrose	2	41	20.5	0	41
Ndukwe, Chinedum	2	14	7.0	0	14
Ferrine, Leo	1	16	16.0	1	16
Total	13	223	17.2	3	83
Opponents	8	103	12.9	1	30

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In-20	Blkd
Fitzpatrick, D.J.	45	1815	40.3	60	12	1
TEAM	1	10	10.0	10	0	0
Quinn, Brady	1	48	48.0	48	0	0
Total	47	1873	39.9	60	12	1
Opponents	61	2503	41.0	64	14	3

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Zbikowski, Tom	27	379	14.0	2	78
Grimes, David	1	17	17.0	0	17
Total	28	396	14.1	2	78
Opponents	27	174	6.4	0	22

KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Grimes, David	15	338	22.5	0	40
Hord, D.J.	7	123	17.6	0	36
Hoskins, Justin	5	105	21.0	0	24
Harris, Brandon	3	53	17.7	0	22
Wooden, Ambrose	1	13	13.0	0	13
Schwapp, Asaph	1	10	10.0	0	10
Zbikowski, Tom	1	-10	-10.0	0	0
Total	34	646	19.0	0	40
Opponents	65	1379	21.2	1	87

KICKOFFS	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	OB
Fitzpatrick, D.J.	61	3690	60.5	8	1
Gioia, Carl	20	1115	55.8	2	1
Total	81	4805	59.3	10	2
Opponents	58	3499	60.3	21	2

FUMBLE RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	1	4	4.0	0	4

\*\*\*DENOTES RECORD

DEFENSIVE LEADERS	Tackles				Sacks		Pass Defense		Fumbles		
	GP	Solo	Asst	Total	TFL/Yds	No-Yds	Int-Yds	PBU	Recv-Yds	FF	Saf
Hoyte, Brandon	12	53	39	92	16.5-45	6.0-23	0-0	3	0-0	2	0
Mays, Corey	12	43	37	80	12.5-48	5.0-35	0-0	2	3-0	3	0
Wooden, Ambrose	12	61	13	74	0-0	0-0	2-41	5	1-0	0	0
Zbikowski, Tom	12	42	29	71	1.0-10	1.0-10	5-136	4	0-0	1	0
Richardson, Mike	12	50	16	66	5.0-26	3.0-22	3-16	7	1-0	2	0
Crum Jr., Maurice	12	32	25	57	3.5-5	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	1	0
Ndukwe, Chinedum	12	31	21	52	2.5-5	0-0	2-14	5	4-0	1	0
Abiamiri, Victor	12	34	14	48	15.0-92	8.0-78	0-0	2	0-0	1	0
Landri, Derek	12	16	27	43	8.0-26	3.0-14	0-0	2	0-0	0	0
Laws, Trevor	12	8	25	33	3.0-17	1.5-13	0-0	1	0-0	0	0
Talley, Ronald	11	9	14	23	1.5-8	1.0-7	0-0	2	1-0	0	0
Ferrine, Leo	12	17	5	22	2.0-6	0-0	1-16	0	1-0	0	0
Beidatsch, Brian	12	5	9	14	2.0-5	1.0-4	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Bruton, David	11	10	4	14	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0
Carlson, John	12	9	4	13	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	1	0
Brown, Justin	12	9	3	12	1.0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Brockington, Joe	11	4	5	9	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Salvador, Anthony	12	2	7	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Lambert, Terrail	12	7	1	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0
Cullen, Casey	12	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	2	0
Anastasio, Chase	11	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Thomas, Travis	12	5	2	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Frome, Chris	6	3	3	6	1.0-1	1.0-10	0-0	3	0-0	0	0
Carney, Jake	6	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Borsetti, Nick	6	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Herring, Ray	8	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Fitzpatrick, D.J.	12	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Kuntz, Pat	8	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Quinn, Steve	10	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Vernaglia, Anthony	5	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Freeman, Marcus	12	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Fasano, Anthony	12	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Smith, Scott	8	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Jansen, J.J.	7	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Chervanick, Dan	4	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Harris, Brandon	8	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Harris, Ryan	12	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Duncan, Paul	6	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
LeVoi, Mark	12	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Santucci, Dan	12	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Thomas, Mitchell	5	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Hedgemon II, LaBrose	3	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
McKnight, Rhema	3	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Stovall, Maurice	12	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Gioia, Carl	6	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Schiccatano, Nate	2	1	0	1	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Hoskins, Justin	5	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Samardzija, Jeff	12	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0
Bonelli, James	5	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0
Whitney III, Rich	4	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0
Total	12	495	335	830	76-307	31-216	13-223	41	11-0	14	0
Opponents	12	664	329	993	73-293	21-135	8-103	35	6-4	11	0

ALL PURPOSE	G	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	IR	Tot	Avg/G
Walker, Darius	12	1196	351	0	0	0	1547	128.9
Samardzija, Jeff	12	13	1249	0	0	0	1262	105.2
Stovall, Maurice	12	1	1149	0	0	0	1150	95.8
Fasano, Anthony	12	0	576	0	0	0	576	48.0
Zbikowski, Tom	12	0	0	379	-10	136	505	42.1
Grimes, David	11	8	19	17	338	0	382	34.7
Shelton, Matt	12	0	329	0	0	0	329	27.4
Thomas, Travis	12	248	9	0	0	0	257	21.4
Powers-Neal, Rashon	5	100	90	0	0	0	190	38.0
Hord, D.J.	6	0	0	0	123	0	123	20.5
Hoskins, Justin	5	-1	0	0	105	0	104	20.8
Schwapp, Asaph	12	67	22	0	10	0	99	8.2
Quinn, Brady	12	90	0	0	0	0	90	7.5
Carlson, John	12	0	56	0	14	0	70	5.8
McKnight, Rhema	3	-7	69	0	0	0	62	20.7
Jenkins, Jeff	11	56	0	0	0	0	56	5.1
Wooden, Ambrose	12	0	0	0	13	41	54	4.5
Harris, Brandon	8	0	0	0	53	0	53	6.6
Woods, Rob	11	0	28	0	0	0	28	2.5
Wolke, David	6	22	0	0	0	0	22	3.7
Ferrine, Leo	12	0	0	0	0	16	16	1.3
O'Hara, Michael	2	0	16	0	0	0	16	8.0
Richardson, Mike	12	0	0	0	0	16	16	1.3
Ndukwe, Chinedum	12	0	0	0	0	14	14	1.2
McConnell, Ashley	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.0
TEAM	6	-31	0	0	0	0	-31	-5.2
Total	12	1765	3963	396	646	223	6993	582.8
Opponents	12	1588	3175	174	1379	103	6419	534.9



**THE RECORD BREAKERS** The Notre Dame football team broke 47 individual and team records in the 2005 season.

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
Quinn, Brady	12	520	90	3919	4009	334.1
Walker, Darius	12	253	1196	0	1196	99.7
Thomas, Travis	12	63	248	0	248	20.7
Powers-Neal, Rashon	5	31	100	0	100	20.0
Schwapp, Asaph	12	27	67	0	67	5.6
Jenkins, Jeff	11	19	56	0	56	5.1
Wolke, David	6	4	22	28	50	8.3
Mooney, Marty	2	1	0	16	16	8.0
Samardzija, Jeff	12	9	13	0	13	1.1
Grimes, David	11	2	8	0	8	0.7
McConnell, Ashley	3	1	3	0	3	1.0
Stovall, Maurice	12	2	1	0	1	0.1
Hoskins, Justin	5	2	-1	0	-1	-0.2
McKnight, Rhema	3	1	-7	0	-7	-2.3
TEAM	6	10	-31	0	-31	-5.2
Total	12	945	1765	3963	5728	477.3
Opponents	12	813	1588	3175	4763	396.9

#### 2005 Schedule and Results

September 3	at Pittsburgh	W	42-21
September 10	at Michigan	W	17-10
September 17	MICHIGAN STATE	L	41-44
September 24	at Washington	W	36-17
October 1	at Purdue	W	49-23
October 15	USC	L	31-34
October 22	BYU	W	49-23
November 5	TENNESSEE	W	41-21
November 12	NAVY	W	42-21
November 19	SYRACUSE	W	34-10
November 26	at Stanford	W	38-31
January 2	vs Ohio State	L	20-34

#### 2006 Schedule

September 2	at Georgia Tech	
September 9	PENN STATE	
September 16	MICHIGAN	
September 23	at Michigan State	
September 30	PURDUE	
October 7	STANFORD	
October 21	UCLA	
October 28	at Navy (Baltimore, Md.)	
November 4	NORTH CAROLINA	
November 11	at Air Force	
November 18	ARMY	
November 25	at USC	



# FINAL WORD

by John Heisler

Who exactly is this Charlie Weis anyway?

That's the question Notre Dame football fans found themselves asking about a year ago when Weis arrived on the campus for good as the new Irish head coach.

Though Weis had been featured in *Notre Dame Magazine*, the university's alumni magazine, a few years back, he remained something of a comparative unknown to Irish fans, even as a 1978 Notre Dame graduate, simply because he had not played or coached for the Irish.

While Weis may not have been a household name to Irish fans — though his profile was heightened by three Super Bowl wins in four years with the New England Patriots — Notre Dame Athletic Director Kevin White found no lack of respect when he did his homework on the Patriots' offensive coordinator.

A handful of both players (Mark Bavaro, Marc Edwards, David Givens, Rick Miren) and coaches (Mike Stock) with Notre Dame connections helped provide background on the Trenton, N.J., product. So did Joe Theismann, who had seen Weis work many times in Theismann's position as an ESPN analyst. The ultimate compliment came from one of the Patriots' noteworthy adversaries,

Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian, who pleaded with White, "Get him out of the league!"

Irish fans came to see a picture of a tough, confident if not brash, blue-collar Jersey guy who had developed something of a mad scientist reputation as a play-caller. And it didn't take long for Weis' play-calling expertise to manifest itself at Notre Dame, culminating in a slew of offensive records by the time the season ended.

Away from the technical aspects of football, Irish fans found their coach had a feel for how to handle the other aspects of his job.

After spring football ended, Weis journeyed to

New York and lunched with NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol, whose son had been killed in a plane crash a few months earlier. Ebersol suggested to Weis that the seasons to come would be chances in a lifetime for the Weis family — and that Charlie ought to consider the prospect of having 12-year-old son Charlie with him on the sidelines. Weis admitted he took the advice to heart.

After the win at Pittsburgh, the two Charlies left the field side by side, and the elder Weis seemed to enjoy casting his son as one of his tougher critics. The scene lent a human side to the Irish coach who had been portrayed as a hard-boiled, tough guy.

Having dealt with his own daughter Hannah and her global developmental delays, Weis had a special feeling for anyone facing personal obstacles. Irish fans learned that later in the month based on an invitation to meet a Mishawaka, Ind., resident battling terminal brain cancer.

Weis visited 10-year-old Montana Mazurkiewicz the Wednesday before the Washington game. He asked the boy if he wanted to call a play in the game Saturday, and Montana responded by asking for a pass to the right.

Montana passed away Thursday night so, by Saturday, Weis' promise took on a new light. Washington's opening possession ended with an Irish fumble recovery at their own one. Weis stuck with his promise, called a pass to the right side, and Brady Quinn made it work by hitting Anthony Fasano, who hurdled a Husky defender for 13 yards.

Three weeks later, Weis took his son along on a postgame visit to a surprised USC locker room to congratulate the visitors on their victory. A month later, Weis brought his team postgame to stand respectfully alongside the Navy players while the Naval Academy pep band played its alma mater.

While an invitation to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, a national coach-of-the-year award, and a 9-3 mark (including a pair of three-point, regular-season losses that went down to the final plays) lent instant credibility to the Notre Dame program, Irish fans learned their new head coach could warm — and earn — their hearts in more ways than one.

*John Heisler, senior associate athletics director, is in his 28th year as a member of the Notre Dame athletic administration. His primary responsibilities include scheduling football teams for the Irish and coordinating media relations with outlets ranging from Sports Illustrated to NBC. He has seen six Notre Dame head coaches come through and experienced two national championships. He has been closely involved throughout the 2005 football season, watching every game and every move of Head Coach Charlie Weis.*

# Chapter 6

Award Winning A Capella Group



Live in Concert

LaFortune Ballroom

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9PM

"Immensely  
talented...extremely  
cool...have a  
seriously bright  
future."



-Dave Koz  
Grammy  
Nominated  
Jazz  
Saxophonist



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## DPAC PRESENTS: THE 2005-2006 SEASON



- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>9/2 A <i>cappella</i> quintet <b>TOXIC AUDIO</b>, described in rave reviews as "the audio equivalent of STOMP." You won't believe your ears! 8 pm</p> <p>9/9 Classical musicians <b>ENSEMBLE GALILEI</b> and NPR's "Talk of the Nation" Host <b>NEAL CONAN</b> in a multimedia performance that includes images from the Hubble Space Telescope; 8 pm</p> <p>9/16 An evening with <b>BRUCE HORNSBY</b>, former Grateful Dead band member and versatile rock pianist; 9 pm</p> <p>9/30 Legendary Irish musician, the "Bard of Armagh" <b>TOMMY MAKEM</b> in concert with his sons, <b>THE MAKEM BROTHERS</b>; 8 pm</p> <p>10/6 <b>OPERA VERDI EUROPA GALA NIGHT</b>: An evening of opera's greatest hits; 7:30 pm</p> <p>10/13 Traditional jazz with the world-famous <b>PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND</b>; 9 pm</p> <p>10/14 Academy Award-winning composer and conductor <b>MARVIN HAMLISCH</b>; 9 pm</p> <p>10/21 A celebration of Gypsy song and traditional Spanish dance with <b>BALLET FLAMENCO JOSÉ PORCEL</b>; 9 pm</p> <p>10/27 Atlanta's 7 Stages Theatre performs Athol Fugard's ground-breaking play about apartheid "<b>MASTER HAROLD</b>"... <b>AND THE BOYS</b>; 7:30 pm</p> <p>10/29 Internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano <b>DAWN UPSHAW</b> and contemporary ensemble <b>EIGHTH BLACKBIRD</b> perform Osvaldo Golijov's "Ayre"; 8 pm</p> | <p>11/1-11/2 Modern dance with the renowned <b>MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY</b>; 7:30 pm (both nights)</p> <p>11/6 Grammy Award-winning Senegalese pop musician <b>YOUSSOU N'DOUR</b>—"The Voice of Africa"—in concert; 7 pm</p> <p>11/8 Contemporary jazz from Mexico with the <b>ETHOS TRIO</b>; 7:30 pm</p> <p>11/9 Classical pianist <b>KRYSTIAN ZIMERMAN</b> in concert; 7:30 pm</p> <p>11/27 Austria's world-famous <b>VIENNA CHOIR BOYS</b> in concert; 3 pm</p> <p>12/1 The <b>PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</b>, conducted by Hans Graf with violinist Sarah Chang; 7:30 pm</p> <p>12/9 Classical guitar virtuoso <b>CHRISTOPHER PARKENING</b> and bass-baritone <b>JUBILANT SYKES</b> perform a special Christmas show; 8 pm</p> <p>12/11 Enjoy a traditional Celtic Christmas with award-winning performers <b>CHERISH THE LADIES</b>; 7 pm</p> <p>2/4 Arab composer, violinist, and oud master <b>SIMON SHAHEEN</b> in concert with <b>QANTARA</b>; 8 pm</p> <p>2/10 Grammy-winning violinist <b>MARK O'CONNOR'S HOT SWING</b> in concert; 8 pm</p> <p>2/14 Canadian classical pianist <b>ANGELA HEWITT</b> in concert; 7:30 pm</p> | <p>2/18 <b>THE SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR</b>, world-famous African inspirational musicians, in concert; 8 pm</p> <p>2/26 Premiere classical flautist <b>SIR JAMES GALWAY</b>, <b>LADY JEANNE GALWAY</b>, and the <b>POLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA</b> in concert; 7 pm</p> <p>3/2 Ireland's most recognized name in traditional music <b>THE CHIEFTAINS</b> in concert; 7:30 pm</p> <p>3/4 Classical guitarist <b>ROBERT BLUESTONE</b> in <b>WOVEN HARMONY</b>, a multimedia concert featuring the textile art of <b>REBECCA BLUESTONE</b>; 8 pm</p> <p>3/9 Grammy-award winning musician <b>EDGAR MEYER</b> (standup bass) and <b>MIKE MARSHALL</b> (mandolin, guitar) perform bluegrass with classical influences; 7:30 pm</p> <p>3/21 <b>POMERIUM</b> in concert, performing a <i>cappella</i> sacred music of the Renaissance; 7:30 pm</p> <p>3/23 One of Russia's best-known classical ensembles, the <b>KIROV ORCHESTRA</b>, directed by Valery Gergiev; 7:30 pm</p> <p>3/25 Contemporary Irish instrumental band <b>FLOOK</b>; 8 pm</p> <p>4/1 Britain's leading period-instrument orchestra, the <b>ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC</b>; 8 pm</p> <p>4/21 <b>BILL CHARLAP TRIO</b> in concert, built around the phenomenal jazz piano of Bill Charlapp; 8 pm</p> |
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