

IRISH INSIDER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2012

READING HIS KEYS

*EVERETT GOLSON STRIKES THE
RIGHT NOTE AT QUARTERBACK*

THE OBSERVER

Photo Illustration by Suzanna Pratt and Brandon Keelean

COMMENTARY

Irish can learn from other teams



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor

2012 is a fresh start. A turned page.

After a potential Bowl Championship Series season was cast aside in 2011 because of a bumbling Irish offense that failed to consistently protect the football, this season represents a new opportunity.

A new identity.

Sure, all-everything receiver Michael Floyd has departed, but there are enough playmaking threats on the unit to turn some heads.

The only question is how to maximize the current crop of talent, and who to emulate with the 2012 personnel.

Stanford's three tight ends

Because of Notre Dame's talent pool at tight end — even after the loss of junior tight end Alex Welch to a season-ending ACL tear — it only makes sense to trot out a pair of tight ends in most packages.

Look at the effectiveness of that strategy with last year's Stanford team that finished 11-2 with a Fiesta Bowl appearance. Three tight ends combined for more than 1,300 yards and 20 receiving touchdowns, led by Coby Fleener's 10.

The personnel not only aided the Cardinal passing attack, but also enhanced the ground game. With an extra tight end on the field, Stanford essentially carried an added offensive line-man on most plays, helping Stepfan Taylor rush for 1,330 yards and 10 touchdowns.

With senior Tyler Eifert and physical specimen sophomore Troy Niklas, Kelly should take advantage of the position's depth and center the game plan around the pair and sophomore Ben Koyack. The Irish rushing attack should even exceed the output of Stanford's, because Notre Dame possesses four legitimate starting threats at the position.

"[Stanford] did a great job of utilizing them," Kelly said. "We had better do a good job of utilizing them as well."

USC's stable of backs

Another blueprint the Irish might consider belongs to (gasp!) their archrivals from sunny Southern California.

USC has been 'Running Back U' during the past decade, developing talents from Reggie Bush and LenDale White to Joe McKnight and now Silas Redd. While the program's quarterbacks

haven't been too shabby, either, it's been the depth of the ground game that has been so impressive.

When one blue-chip player graduates or is lost to injury, you can bet there is a five-star replacement ready to take his place.

Sophomore Amir Carlisle, currently hampered by an ankle injury, transferred to Notre Dame from Running Back U last spring. Even with Redd's transfer to the Trojans, the Irish appear to have more depth at the position than their West Coast counterpart for the first time in ages.

Although it's the quarterbacks who are typically the centerpiece of a Brian Kelly offense, the Irish should play to their strengths and take advantage of a versatile and deep cadre of running backs.

Communication is key

Regardless of the form the offense embraces, it appears clear the unit has upgraded in some key aspects.

When former offensive coordinator Charley Molnar landed a head coaching gig at Massachusetts, Kelly chose communication and trust above all else with his selection of Chuck Martin to fill the position.

So far, so good.

"I think we're effectively communicating in some of the areas we've wanted to improve on from last year — we've carried that over," Kelly said. "The dynamics are really good in that we're on the same page the whole game."

What Kelly needed out of the coordinator role more than anything else is what he's gotten: communication. More important than Martin's pre-Notre Dame offensive background was the way the two coaches click. Combine that with Kelly's newfound approach as team CEO, and the unit might coalesce nicely.

Perhaps the brightest feather in Notre Dame's cap is a change at quarterback. Out with Tommy Rees; in with Everett Golson, a player, as you'll read on the next page, poised enough to usher in a new-look Irish offense, whatever it resembles.

In the end, maybe the Irish don't need to emulate Stanford. Or USC. Running the Notre Dame offense might just do the trick.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

RECRUITING

Smith, Bivin headline weekend visits

By **CHRIS ALLEN**
Sports Editor

As the Irish return to Notre Dame Stadium for the first time since Nov. 16, do not look for a throng of eager recruits trailing the current team on the traditional player walk. Instead, look for the faces that have made up the list of commitments for the growing recruiting class of 2013 so far.

The Irish coaching staff will return a number of commitments from future classes to campus for this weekend's home opener and hope to further sell them on Notre Dame.

"Right now, the visit list for this weekend is looking a lot like a bunch of the 2013 commitments, and there will certainly be some 2014 commitments as well," Irish recruiting expert Mike Frank said. "[Offensive linemen] Hunter Bivin, Steven Elmer, [outside linebacker] Jaylon Smith and [receiver] Justin Brent are all guys who are expected to be in town."

With 19 commitments already secured in the 2013 class, the Irish recruiting staff can now focus in on targeting specific needs, including bringing in some top talents in the defensive backfield. Frank said the Irish will host several

top cornerbacks in a marquee recruiting weekend Sept. 22 against Michigan.

"I think if there is any specific place that the staff is looking where they still need to do some work, it is in the defensive backfield at the cornerback position," said Frank, who runs the ESPN-affiliated Irish Sports Daily. "They will be hosting some of the better cornerbacks in the country on Michigan weekend when [corners] Priest Willis and Cole Luke take their visits. If there's any other spots beyond that they are looking to pick up commitments, it'll be at pass rusher and probably a speed receiver."

One evolving aspect of the Irish program that will be on display for young recruits this season is a group of modern initiatives embraced by Notre Dame for the first time. The public address system will institute more widespread music throughout the stadium, the team will play its first full season with enhanced gold helmets and the program has unveiled ultra-modern uniforms for the Oct. 6 Shamrock Series contest against Miami in Chicago.

Irish coach Brian Kelly has also floated talk of a future JumboTron and FieldTurf in

Notre Dame Stadium — to the chagrin of many alumni. Frank said these elements are becoming necessary to attract top talent in the college game.

"While I think kids do value the tradition of Notre Dame, it is also one of the programs in the country where you will get the most exposure," Frank said. "I think kids view this as ... the bigger and brighter the lights, the better it gets. There's a reason you see new and different uniforms for the Shamrock Series, and it's certainly not for adidas to pump money into it. It's to attract the younger generation.

"It's for the kids. I can't tell you how many times during a football game I've seen a bunch of recruits just sitting on their hands. You want to see smiles on their faces, and the bigger the stage, the more you'll see them smile. That's why even though the alums may not like it, I think you'll see a JumboTron."

For more on Notre Dame recruiting, check out Mike Frank's irishsportsdaily.com Email Mike at mikefrank18@sbcglobal.net and tell him The Observer sent you.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

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Sessions will be held on Sunday, September 9th and Sunday, September 16th, at 7:00pm in Geddes Hall (CSC Building) in B001 Andrews Auditorium.

The sessions will last approximately 45 minutes.

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PLAYING IT BY EAR

SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

By **ANDREW GASTELUM**
Associate Sports Editor

As a quarterback, on the field with white laces at his fingertips, he has to trust his keys.

As a musician, on the stage with black and white ivory at his fingertips, he has to trust his keys.

But Notre Dame's key performer, sophomore quarterback Everett Golson, doesn't want the attention.

"To be honest I don't like the spotlight, but it doesn't get to me either," Golson said with a twist of irony.

The new star of the Notre Dame offense prefers his free time private, his day run on his own time. But it always finds its way to end on a high note at the keys that serve a special meaning to the South Carolina native.

"There is a lot of relaxation in [playing the piano] for me," the sophomore said. "Many times

I'll come to the dorm after a long day and just get on the keyboard and just relax.

"When I was a kid, all my family played [piano]. That part of my family is just really musical. I actually started by playing the drums and went to the keyboard and started tinkering around with the piano. I just sort of picked it up and loved it."

The art and the science

Golson had the art under control, as seen in his well-documented appearance at the Champs Sports Bowl talent show in December. Improvisation came easy when gliding across the keys of a grand piano, as did relying on instinct.

"Yeah I think there's an art and a science to [the piano], but I honestly think I don't have the science to that. I play it all by ear. So I can really do most of the stuff like that and give it my all. But it's me mostly improvising

and playing what I feel," Golson said. "I think that is what translates over to the field also. Being able to improvise allows me to be out there as a guy just trying to make a play."

But relying on the art of playing quarterback could only get him so far, though it did help him rack up 11,634 passing yards and 151 touchdowns during his high school career in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Since day one at Notre Dame, Irish coach Brian Kelly stressed to Golson that he would have to work on the science to succeed.

"I would just stay in the film room [in the offseason]. Like Coach Kelly said in the spring game, I really had the art of it but not the science," Golson said in an Aug. 23 press conference. "I kept going back to that. I think that was really what I devoted most of my time to, just being in the film room and getting comfortable reading defenses."

Asked what he did in the offseason to compete for the starting job, Golson replied with one simple word critical to his time as a musician, and even more so to his future as a college quarterback.

"Repetition," he said. "Just knowing what I had to do and continuing to do that allowed me to grow and get better along the way."

The announcement

Golson's Notre Dame career began as an early enrollee in the 2010 spring semester; he hoped to get an early start on college life and the Irish offense. The dual-threat quarterback sat the season out, but traveled with the team and gained valuable experience behind the scenes of the offense he hoped to someday run.

At the beginning of the 2012 quarterback battle, junior Tommy Rees had a 12-4 record as a starter on his resume, junior Andrew Hendrix had seen time as a backup quarterback in 2011 and incoming freshman Gunner Kiel was the top-rated high-school quarterback in the nation.

Then there was Golson, whose biggest accomplishment in an Irish uniform was a 120-yard, two-touchdown performance in the 2012 Blue-Gold Game.

But he still believed in himself. "You've got to. If you can't see it, it probably won't happen," Golson said. "I had to have that vision. It was nothing granted,

but I just took it as if I see it, I have to work towards it and not stop until I get it."

Then on Aug. 22, the O'Neill resident found a visor on his helmet in the locker room and knew immediately what that meant.

"There's a funny story about that," Golson said. "Coach Kelly and I had this so-called deal. When I came in I actually wanted a visor right off. And so I asked Coach Kelly: 'I'm ready for the vi-

"Playing the quarterback position at Notre Dame is more than just what you do on the field."

Brian Kelly
Irish coach

sor, can I get a visor?' And what he told me was, 'You won't get the visor until you start here.'" From my perspective it was a little monumental of me just to get the visor ... It kind of just showed up on my helmet.

"The visor is a good story to tell but more so, it's about what it represented and me just coming from where I was to where I am now."

The announcement was made to the public the very next day. Golson had gone from underdog to top dog in a matter of months.

"It definitely means a lot. I know that with this comes a lot of responsibility, so I am not going to rejoice in it [too much]," Golson said at the Aug. 23 press conference. "Like I said, I am happy about it, but I also understand that it is time to go to work right now."

Time to go to work

Last week, Golson boarded the team plane as he had done all last season. He was the same person as before, but now with a new load placed solely on the 19-year-old. He was off to Dublin at the helm of the Irish offense for the first time. But what most thought would be a burden to a young quarterback turned out to be a transatlantic blessing in disguise.

"I have to admit, [going away to Dublin] helped, since we really had no clue about what was going to happen over there playing

in front of 51,000 people or whatever it was," Golson said of his first start. "It wasn't really nerve-racking. For the most part I was calm, but who helped the most were the veteran teammates."

In his first collegiate start, Golson eased into his role with nearly-symphonic finesse, throwing for an efficient 144 yards and a touchdown on 12-for-18 passing. While an ill-advised interception showed the sophomore's inexperience, Kelly said Golson's mentality showed the poise of a maestro in the making.

"This is a process for Everett," Kelly said Tuesday. "This will be a continuation week-to-week of growing as a quarterback. I guess what I like the most in the big picture sense was his comfortable place out on the field. He did not seem overwhelmed at any time. He was extremely communicative when he got to the sideline. He could tell me what was going on. Those are all big picture, good things, after game one."

Kelly's role as head coach changed immensely this season, with a major focus on working with the quarterbacks. But Kelly had a vision for his young protégé, especially when Golson asked how he could improve.

"What I talked about was that playing the quarterback position at Notre Dame is more than just what you do on the field," Kelly said. "And I used [former Baylor quarterback] Robert Griffin as a great example as an ambassador of college football, and I said, listen, all you have to do is take a look at his Heisman acceptance speech and how he was able to articulate his experience and how it was more than just playing the game."

For Golson, it had become more than just playing the game. It was about finding something within himself: something that might not be attributed to an art or a science, a piano or a pig-skin, but simply to grabbing hold of the will to persevere when counted out.

"[Being the Notre Dame quarterback] means a lot. It really does," Golson said with quiet humility.

"Honestly, it goes a long way to show what hard work and dedication can do. I think it was just about me and [those around me] pushing me to be the best that I can be."

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SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Sophomore quarterback Everett Golson, pictured during Notre Dame's 50-10 win over Navy, will make his first home start Saturday.



Observer File Photo



Observer File Photo

PURDUE PASSING

Fifth-year senior Caleb TerBush returns from his one-game suspension for violating team rules and will certainly look to make an impression in one of the Boilermakers’ biggest games. TerBush poses more of a rushing threat than sixth-year senior Robert Marve. Last season, TerBush threw for 101 yards and a touchdown on 10-for-15 passing and poses a much bigger running threat than Marve, who started in last week’s 48-6 romp over Eastern Kentucky.

Meanwhile, Purdue is young at the wide receiver position, but returns junior receiver Antavian Edison, who totaled 584 yards and three touchdowns last year. The Irish will also have to wary of the dynamic playmaking abilities of sophomore receiver Raheem Mostert. Last week, two Boilermaker receivers set career highs in receptions as Purdue threw for 392 yards.

The young Irish secondary gave up 192 yards to a pass-wary Navy last week. Senior safeties Zeke Motta and Jamoris Slaughter constantly appeared out of position while freshman KeiVarae Russell is still looking to find his bearings after Saturday. TerBush could have an opportunity to put up some big passing numbers if the Irish don’t get to him fast enough.

EDGE: PURDUE

PURDUE RUSHING

In last year’s meeting between the two teams, the Irish held Purdue to 84 rushing yards in the 34-17 Notre Dame victory in West Lafayette, Ind. Starting at running back for the Boilermakers is senior Akeem Shavers, who earned Little Caesar’s Pizza Bowl MVP honors after a 149-yard rushing performance in Purdue’s 37-32 win over Western Michigan on Dec. 27.

The Boilermakers also return three starters on the offensive line, combining for 48 starts in their respective collegiate careers. With TerBush’s return, however, Purdue may continue to focus on its aerial attack.

Last week, Notre Dame shut down the Navy triple option, holding the

Midshipmen to their lowest rushing total (149 yards) in almost two years. Led by senior linebacker Manti Te’o, the Irish defense forced five fumbles and will try to shut down the running game early as it did last year in order to put the focus on TerBush and the passing attack.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

PURDUE OFFENSIVE COACHING

Boilermakers coach Danny Hope has his squad healthy and will look to push the passing game, especially against inexperienced Irish corners. Last week, against Eastern Kentucky, Purdue distributed the ball to near-perfection, as 10 different rushers carried the ball and 12 different receivers recorded receptions. And seven different players scored a touchdown.

It likely won’t be the same this week, as Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco has the opportunity to show off his real defense after adjusting to the triple option against Navy.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

PURDUE SPECIAL TEAMS

The Boilermakers kicking game is a bit of a scramble right now, as it looks to replace the most accurate kicker in school history, Carson Wiggs. Purdue is distributing playing time across the board to two true freshmen and one redshirt freshman.

As a freshman last year, sophomore receiver Raheem Mostert averaged just under 34 yards per kick return, only good enough to lead the nation.

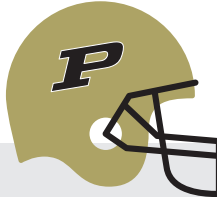
EDGE: PURDUE

PURDUE SCHEDULE

- Sept. 1 vs. Eastern Kentucky (W 48-6)
- Sept. 8 @ Notre Dame
- Sept. 15 Eastern Michigan
- Sept. 29 Marshall
- Oct. 6 Michigan
- Oct. 13 Wisconsin
- Oct. 20 @ Ohio State
- Oct. 27 @ Minnesota
- Nov. 3 Penn State
- Nov. 10 @ Iowa
- Nov. 17 @ Illinois
- Nov. 24 Indiana

HEAD T

PURDUE



(Jr.) **O.J. Ross** **4** WR
(R-Fr.) Shane Mikesky 87

(Jr.) **Kevin Pamphile** **64** LT
(Jr.) Justin Kitchens 51

(R-Sr.) **Peters Drey** **67** LG
(Jr.) Cody Davis 59

(Sr.) **Rick Schmeig** **76** C
(R-Fr.) Robert Kugler 57

(Jr.) **Devin Smith** **71** RG
(Jr.) Cody Davis 59

(Jr.) **Trevor Foy** **78** RT
(Jr.) Justin Kitchens 51

(Jr.) **Gabe Holmes** **86** TE
(R-Sr.) Crosby Wright 82

(Sr.) **Antavian Edison** **13** WR
(So.) Raheem Mostert 8

(Jr.) **Gary Bush** **6** WR
(Fr.) Cameron Posey 18

(Jr.) **Ricardo Allen** **21** CB
(R-Fr.) Frankie Williams 2

(R-Sr.) **Robert Maci** **58** SLB
(R-Sr.) Nnamdi Ezenwa 18

(So.) **Ryan Russell** **99** DE
(Jr.) Greg Latta 91

(R-Sr.) **Kawaan Short** **93** DT
(R-Fr.) Michael Rouse 97

(Jr.) **Bruce Gaston** **90** DT
(Jr.) Brandon Taylor 55

(Jr.) **Ryan Isaac** **61** DE
(So.) Jalani Phillips 89

(Jr.) **Will Lucas** **45** WLB
(Jr.) Ruben Ibarra 47

(Sr.) **Josh Johnson** **28** CB
(Jr.) Normando Harris 1

(R-Fr.) **Sam McCartney** **43** PK
(Fr.) Paul Griggs 37

(Jr.) **Cody Webster** **42** P
(Fr.) Thomas Meadows 30

(Sr.) **Josh Johnson** **28** PR
(R-Fr.) Frankie Williams 2

(R-Fr.) **Thomas Meadows** **18** KO
(R-Fr.) Sam McCartney 82

(So.) **Raheem Mostert** **8** KR
(So.) Akeem Hunt 11

(So.) **Jesse Schmitt** **50** LS
(Fr.) John Bednar 53



Allan Joseph
Editor-in-Chief



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor



Chris Allen
Sports Editor

Sure, the Boilermakers have Kawann Short. And apparently Caleb TerBush is better than last year. But come on. You can’t seriously think the team Notre Dame pummeled less than 12 months ago is going to make this even close — especially considering that contest was a home night game for the Boilermakers.

Notre Dame is a better team than it was last year, even with Michael Floyd gone to graduation. Purdue is better too, but they had so much ground to make up that it doesn’t really matter. I’ll be concerned about the effects of the Ireland trip and a brutal first month a few weeks down the road, but not this week. The Irish are going to be thrilled to open their home slate. Who wouldn’t be, given the romp this one should be?

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 42, Purdue 17

Amidst a logistical nightmare, last week’s excursion to Dublin could not have gone much better for the Irish. A rousing rushing attack and a focused front seven led Notre Dame to a blowout win in the season opener. This week, it’s the home opener and Purdue makes the trek up U.S. Route 31.

The Boilermakers run a pass-heavy attack, which will pose problems for an Irish secondary as green as Ireland’s terrain. Athleticism is not an issue, but the unit simply needs game action to improve. Stephon Tuitt and the pass rush need to pressure Caleb TerBush early and often to relieve the pressure on an inexperienced Irish offense. Everett Golson will manage the game well and benefit from another strong ground game.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 37, Purdue 28

The last time the Irish played a competitive game in Notre Dame Stadium, they stumbled to eke out a win over an inferior team on Senior Day against Boston College. Since then, we’ve seen the line play on both sides of the ball elevate to the next level to avoid those kinds of letdowns.

Make no mistake: the Irish are a better team both on paper and on the field than Purdue. This is going to be the year Kelly’s team wins all the games it should win on paper. Facing a quarterback making his season debut in TerBush, the defense will do just enough to contain Purdue, and the offensive line will get a push to keep the running game in top form, even against sure first-round NFL draft pick Kawann Short.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38, Purdue 30

0 HEAD



NO. 22 NOTRE DAME

CB 6 KeiVarae Russell (Fr.)

43 Josh Atkinson (So.)

OLB 30 Ben Councell (So.)

45 Romeo Okwara (Fr.)

DE 89 Kapron Lewis-Moore (Gr.)

91 Sheldon Day (Fr.)

NT 9 Louis Nix (Jr.)

96 Kona Schwenke (Jr.)

DE 7 Stephon Tuitt (So.)

50 Chase Hounshell (So.)

OLB 55 Prince Shembo (Jr.)

11 Ishaq Williams (So.)

CB 2 Bennett Jackson (Jr.)

21 Jalen Brown (So.)

WR 7 T.J. Jones (Jr.)

16 DaVaris Daniels (So.)

WR 9 Robby Toma (Sr.)

19 Davonte' Neal (Fr.)

RT 74 Christian Lombard (Jr.)

72 Nick Martin (So.)

RG 57 Mike Golic Jr. (Gr.)

65 Conor Hanratty (So.)

C 52 Braxton Cave (Gr.)

57 Mike Golic Jr. (Gr.)

LG 66 Chris Watt (Sr.)

65 Conor Hanratty (So.)

LT 70 Zack Martin (Sr.)

78 Ronnie Stanley (Fr.)

TE 80 Tyler Eifert (Sr.)

18 Beh Koyack (So.)

WR 81 John Goodman (Gr.)

87 Daniel Smith (Jr.)

KO 27 Kyle Brindza (So.)

40 Nick Tausch (Sr.)

KR 4 George Atkinson (So.)

6 Theo Riddick (Sr.)

LS 60 Jordan Cowart (Sr.)

61 Scott Daly (Fr.)

PK 40 Nick Tausch (Sr.)

27 Kyle Brindza (So.)

P 35 Ben Turk (Sr.)

27 Kyle Brindza (So.)

PR 19 Davonte' Neal (Fr.)

81 John Goodman (Gr.)



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

IRISH PASSING

We really didn't get to see too much from the Irish passing attack last week due to the prowess of the rushing game. But Everett Golson still threw for 144 yards with a touchdown and an interception on 12-for-18 passing before getting a rest in the third quarter.

Senior tight end Tyler Eifert remains the focal point of the passing game, as Boilermakers coach Danny Hope has emphasized this week. Meanwhile, look for the Irish to try to throw the ball downfield, possibly to sophomore DaVaris Daniels and junior T.J. Jones against two young safeties.

The offensive line will try to keep Golson on his feet, especially after last week's scary blindside hit. Senior captain and preseason All-American selection Kawaan Short will have something to say about that from the defensive tackle position after recording 6.5 sacks last season.

Purdue returns both its starting cornerbacks from last year: junior captain Ricardo Allen and senior Josh Johnson. The experienced corners will lead the way for the Purdue secondary and take some of the pressure off the two sophomore safeties. Last week against Eastern Kentucky, redshirt freshman corner Frankie Williams led the Boilermakers with six tackles, earning him Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors.

EDGE: EVEN

IRISH RUSHING

The secret's out: the Irish can really run the ball.

Notre Dame rushed for 293 yards and five touchdowns against Navy, Led by senior Theo Riddick's 107-yard, two-touchdown performance, the Irish completely controlled the tempo and eased its way to a victory. Sophomore George Atkinson saw plenty of action as well, racking up 99 yards on only 11 carries, which included an impressive 56-yard run. The Irish accomplished all this without the services of injured sophomore Amir Carlisle and senior starter Cierre Wood, who will finish out his two-game suspension against

the Boilermakers.

Two Irish running backs recorded two touchdowns each against the Midshipmen for the second-straight year, giving Irish coach Brian Kelly a welcome wrinkle to the spread offense.

Led by Short and junior defensive tackle Bruce Gaston, the middle of the Purdue defensive line will pose a major threat to the Irish running game. It will be up to the veteran offensive line to push back the Purdue duo that combined for 24 tackles for loss just a season ago.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH OFFENSIVE COACHING

Purdue defensive coordinator Tim Tibesar will almost certainly have his hands full with the suddenly versatile Kelly offense. It will take a solid gameplan and a few bounces to go the Boilermakers' way to slow the Irish offense.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior kicker Nick Tausch missed an extra point against Navy while the Irish also botched another. The kicking game cannot afford to get in the way of putting points on the board, especially when top-ranked teams show up on the schedule.

The Irish will also have to look out for the dominant presence of Short on field goals, as the preseason All-Big Ten selection blocked a field goal and extra point in the second quarter alone last week.

EDGE: PURDUE

IRISH SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 **vs. Navy (W 50-10)**
Sept. 8 **Purdue**
Sept. 15 **@ Michigan St.**
Sept. 22 **Michigan**
Oct. 6 **vs. Miami**
Oct. 13 **Stanford**
Oct. 20 **BYU**
Oct. 27 **@ Oklahoma**
Nov. 3 **Pittsburgh**
Nov. 10 **@ Boston College**
Nov. 17 **Wake Forest**
Nov. 24 **@ USC**



Andrew Gastelum
Associate Sports Editor



Matthew DeFranks
Associate Sports Editor

The distraction is over. The Irish are home, back into the normal routine. Now it's just about playing football. Irish coach Brian Kelly won't let his team be caught looking ahead and if the jetlag didn't affect them in Dublin, there shouldn't be too much of an effect tomorrow.

This week, Everett Golson shows the nation what he can do, especially against an inexperienced pair of safeties. The Irish running attack should continue to be a major force as well while the Irish defense will have to get to Caleb TerBush to avoid putting pressure on the secondary.

Purdue thinks this game is a rivalry, and the Boilermakers are looking for their first win at Notre Dame since 2004. But it won't be this year. The Irish will dominate to start the season 2-0 for the first time in the Kelly era.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 31, Purdue 7

Do you remember last season's game against Purdue? The one when Boilermaker quarterback Caleb TerBush threw an interception on the very first play? The one when Notre Dame ran roughshod over, around and through the Purdue defense? The one when the first Purdue touchdown came in the closing moments against the second-string Irish defense?

Yeah, well, nothing much has changed on Purdue's part since then. Simply put, they are not very good.

Last week, I was unsure of how the Irish offense would perform. But now, after watching the veteran offensive line control the line of scrimmage, the points should come as no problem despite facing All-American defensive tackle Kawann Short.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38, Purdue 13

NR

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Purdue vs. Notre Dame

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Maturity helps Williams stand out vs. Navy



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish sophomore linebacker Ishaq Williams, right, dives at Navy quarterback Trey Miller during Notre Dame's 50-10 victory over the Midshipmen on Saturday. Williams finished the game with four tackles, including three solo, one tackle for loss and a forced fumble.

By **MATTHEW DeFRANKS**
Associate Sports Editor

Sophomore linebacker Ishaq Williams ran down the field pumping his fist and clapping his hands as sophomore defensive end Stephon Tuitt rumbled towards the endzone — and he had a reason to.

Williams had caused the fumble that Tuitt was returning for an Irish score during Notre Dame's 50-10 win over Navy on Saturday. He was finally having fun.

The Brooklyn, N.Y., native said it was the most fun he had playing football since he was a little kid. Williams racked up four total tackles (including three solo), a tackle for loss and a forced fumble. His performance caught the eye of Irish coach Brian Kelly, who called Williams' performance his best.

"There's a maturity that just comes with being here and getting older and growing up and hearing the same message," Kelly said. "I will say this, the expectations have been high and he is starting to meet those. He is nowhere near he needs to be. It has to be a consistent thing

for him but he's making good progress.

"His development has been such that it's already put him in a position to be on the field and pass rush in situations but we saw that this spring. The Navy game did not bring that to our attention."

The six-foot-five, 255-pound linebacker was recruited to Notre Dame as a defensive end out of Lincoln High School before being moved to outside linebacker.

"I'm not satisfied, I just have to keep on getting better," Williams said. "As far as expectations, I feel like I'm my toughest critic."

While Williams said he still has work to do at linebacker, graduate student defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore said he has improved.

"He's a really good pass rusher and he's really matured as well," graduate student defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore said.

"He's starting to know his role. He's starting to lead more by example."

Lewis-Moore said the front seven does not place specific expectations for Williams from week to week but have an overarching goal.

"We expect to dominate. We want to play hard, we want to play fast, we want to play aggressive," Lewis-Moore said. "We expect that out of Ishaq and Ishaq expects that out of us."

Kelly attributed Williams' jump in production to defensive coordinator Bob Diaco's work with the linebacker.

"I think Coach Diaco has done a great job of mentoring him, as well. I think there's a great relationship there of trust, and I think Coach has done a great job of bringing him up along the way. It's what you expect from young guys. You want to see them take that next step. I think

we are seeing him take that next step," Kelly said.

While Williams' performance in the opener was an eye-opener for many Irish fans, Lewis-Moore said it was a sign of things to come.

"Ishaq has evolved in this game and I can't wait to see where it goes from now," Lewis-Moore said.

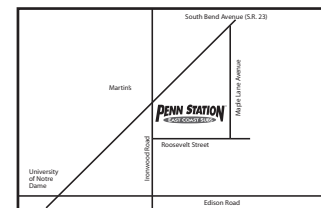
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This week's story features Gary Godsey.

Short to challenge Irish offense, special teams

By **ALLAN JOSEPH**
Editor-in-Chief

It won't be difficult for Irish sophomore quarterback Everett Golson to spot his biggest challenge in Saturday's home opener against Purdue. It'll be lined up right in front of him in the form of Boilermaker defensive tackle Kawann Short.

"Short's going to come off the ball really fast," Irish senior guard Chris Watt said. "He's going to get after it and get after us."

Short, a senior captain and preseason All-America selection, leads the Boilermaker defense by virtue of the experience he has accrued in starting all 38 games in his Purdue career. A physical presence on the line of scrimmage, he burst onto the national scene after Purdue's 2011 victory over Ohio State with a three-sack performance that garnered him National Defensive Player of the Week accolades. The 2011 All-Big Ten selection is joined in the middle of the defensive front by junior defensive tackle Bruce Gaston.

Irish coach Brian Kelly said his experienced offensive line will have its hands full with the duo.

"Obviously Short and Gaston

are two very, very good defensive linemen — as good as we are going to see during the year," Kelly said.

Although the Irish offensive line knows they will have their hands full with Short, junior offensive lineman Christian Lombard says going up against a strong Notre Dame defensive line in practice has helped him prepare.

"He's a long-armed guy, very fast off the ball," Lombard said. "He's a great player ... going against guys like [sophomore defensive lineman Stephon] Tuitt and anyone else on our team has me prepared for him, but he's definitely a great player too."

Short and Gaston anchor an aggressive Boilermaker defense, but they may make their biggest impact on special teams, where they form the core of the Purdue kick-block team. Short has blocked four field goals and two extra points in his career, including one of each kind in Purdue's season-opening 48-6 win over Eastern Kentucky. Gaston sent last year's Ohio State win to overtime by blocking an extra point. Short said his success blocking kicks relies on his fellow linemates, including

Gaston.

"The guys beside me really help me out by getting a push," Short said after the season opener. "Once we get the push, I basically just get my jump and try to knock it down."

Purdue coach Danny Hope said it was more than that.

"I think Kawann has great hand-eye coordination," he said. "That's a big part of him not only getting some push against the opponent's [extra point] and field goal teams, but also be able to time it up and get his big paw up at the right time and bat the ball down out of the air."

As the Irish offense looks to continue its momentum in the rushing game from last week's romp over Navy, Watt said the offensive line will have its hands full with the preseason All-American.

"We're always working to get better individually and as a unit, so we know what we need to do," he said. "In the back of your mind, he's a big guy. There's definitely times when we're going to have to be heavier on him than any other guy."

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AP

Purdue defensive tackle Kawann Short, pictured against Michigan last October, will pose a problem for the Irish.

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SATURDAY SCHOLAR SERIES

A different game plan for autumn weekends from the College of Arts and Letters

You are invited to join in discussion with some of Notre Dame's most engaging faculty in the Saturday Scholar Series on "home game" Saturdays. Each lecture and Q&A, sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, is presented in the Snite Museum's Annenberg Auditorium at 12 noon, unless otherwise noted. No tickets required.

"Gregori and Washington Hall"

Mark Pilkinton

Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre

12 Noon

Saturday, September 8, 2012

Snite Museum's Annenberg Auditorium

At the heart of our campus, in the interiors of the Basilica and the Main Building, Luigi Gregori's designs are a familiar and iconic part of Notre Dame. Mark Pilkinton, author of a new history of Washington Hall, explores new information about Gregori's contribution to the interior of Washington Hall in 1894, unseen since his images were painted over in 1956.

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 **9.8.12 (vs. Purdue University)**

"Gregori and Washington Hall"

Mark Pilkinton, Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre

 **9.22.12 (vs. University of Michigan)** 7:30 p.m. game; 4 p.m. lecture

"Caesar's Legacy at Butrint: Archaeological Discoveries From Current Excavations in the Heart of the Ancient City"

David Hernandez, Assistant Professor, Director of the Butrint Archaeological Research Project, Department of Classics

 **10.13.12 (vs. Stanford University)**

"Presidential Campaign Commercials From 'I Like Ike' to Today"

Susan C. Ohmer, The William T. and Helen Kuhn Carey Associate Professor of Modern Communication, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre; Director of Digital ND

 **10.20.12 (vs. Brigham Young University)**

"Sleep on It! There's More to It Than Just the Old Adage"

Jessica Payne, Assistant Professor, Nancy O'Neill Collegiate Chair in Psychology, Director of the Sleep, Stress and Memory Lab, Department of Psychology

 **11.3.12 (vs. University of Pittsburgh)**

"The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society"

Brad S. Gregory, Professor, Department of History

 **11.17.12 (vs. Wake Forest University)**

"What's So Funny About a Joke?"

Mark W. Roche, Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C.
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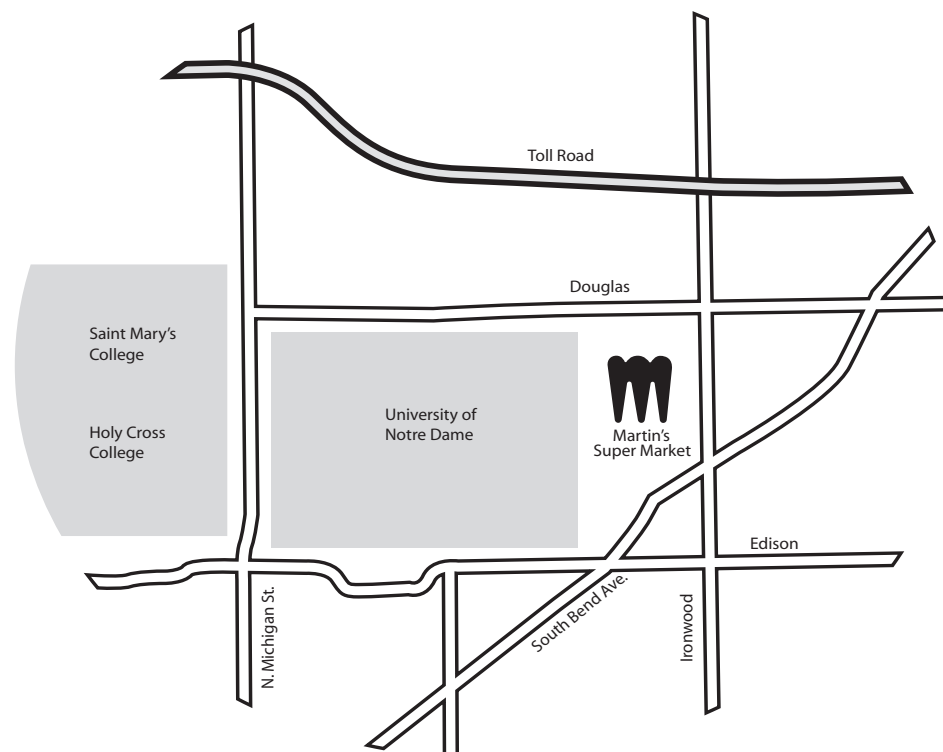
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