

IRISH INSIDER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012

'KAP'

GRADUATE STUDENT KAPRON LEWIS-MOORE
LEADS A DOMINANT IRISH DEFENSIVE LINE

THE OBSERVER

Photo Illustration by Sarah O'Connor and Brandon Keelean

COMMENTARY

Breaking down ND's road success



Andrew Gastelum
Associate Sports Editor

Road sweet road.

It just doesn't have the same ring to it. But to this Irish team, road trips seem to be met with the same enthusiasm as field trips for a bunch of elementary school kids.

For good reason, these numbers don't lie.

At Notre Dame Stadium, the Irish have been survivors. Count the four total overtimes, the inability to break 20 points in four quarters of play and the late-game-heroic wins against Purdue, BYU and Pittsburgh.

At [insert anywhere away from South Bend], the Irish have been conquerors. Count the two total touchdowns given up all season, ability to score 43 fourth-quarter points and two wins over top-10 teams — the Irish snapped then-No.10 Michigan State's 15-game home winning streak while then-No. 8 Oklahoma had only lost four times in Norman since 1999.

At Notre Dame Stadium, the Irish have outscored their opponents 99-76, with an average margin of victory of less than a touchdown: 4.6 points.

Away from South Bend, the Irish have outscored their opponents 50-10. Wait. Sorry, that was just the Navy "game" in Dublin. The real figure is a whopping 141-29, with an average margin of victory of four touchdowns: 28 points.

With the way the Irish have been putting up points this year, 141 points sounds more like Mike Brey's territory than that of Brian Kelly's.

Turnovers killed the Irish last year (how's that for an understatement?). This year, the Irish have been incredibly efficient: only one of the Notre Dame's 11 turnovers have occurred away from the hallowed, Jumbotron-less grounds of the House that Rockne Built. That came from Everett Golson in Dublin when the game was already over, which means after the first quarter.

And now for the stat-heavy portion of today's column.

At home, the Irish average 19.8 points per game, 3.9 yards per rush, 372 yards per game, have four rushing touchdowns and score touchdowns in just 36 percent of their red zone trips.

Deep breath.

On the road, the Irish average 35.2 points per game, 5.9 yards per rush, 445 yards per game, have 11 rushing touchdowns and score touchdowns in 57 percent of their red zone trips.

Just oggle those numbers for a second. Compare, contrast, shock and awe.

Maybe Notre Dame is too welcoming. We know that Notre Dame is one of the friendlier places for opposing fans, but maybe the memo was accidentally sent to the players as well.

In search of an answer, I put in my Sherlock Holmes pipe and went to work on the Notre Dame veteran minds that have been there, done that and seen it all.

"Search me, I wish I knew," graduate student guard Mike Golic Jr. said.

So I asked the right guard whether the Irish simply liked to wear the white road jerseys.

"To be honest, especially with the big guys, the white makes us look fatter. We are not really partial with the white jerseys. Granted the new TechFit is tight in all the right places, but white is not flattering for the big guys."

So the quest moved to another Viking-bearded fifth-year senior: captain Kapron Lewis-Moore.

"Golic's right, you do want to look good on the road," he said.

Maybe the hotel beds are comfier?

"Nah it's all the same. I just don't know what it is. There are not as many distractions," Lewis-Moore said.

Moving down the line, I found junior defensive tackle and team funnyman Louis "Irish Chocolate" Nix, but all I got was a more-than-personal response.

"One guy at Oklahoma called me fat," Nix said. "He was fat himself. I didn't like that. I was thinking in my mind that we should stick together."

Then, finally, an answer (sort of) from senior offensive tackle and captain Zack Martin.

"The nap midday," Martin said in reference to Northwestern. "All the away games are at night, so we get to nap a little bit. That's it."

Makes sense, but surely, senior all-everything linebacker Manti Te'o would have the truth wrapped up like the Heisman Trophy.

"I want to experience something new," the captain said. "So it's: 'How do you guys make your prime rib' and 'are your mashed potatoes good?' But no, it's about the ranch. Michigan State makes the best ranch. If the Michigan State hotel can call me, please tell me what ranch that is. It's the ranch!"

So in summary, the road warriors are self-conscious in white, undistracted, motivated by fat jokes, sleepy and hungry.

But all jokes aside, this Notre Dame team is far from one when faced with adversity. The point is, no one really knows why. There is just something special about going into another team's building and sticking it to them against all odds.

Each of the three Irish captains ended their light-hearted monologues with the same words, and maybe the real answer to their success on the road: "It's us against the world."

Somehow, someway. Against the world, against all odds.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastel1@nd.edu

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

RECRUITING

Cornerback Luke commits, Anzalone still Irish

By **CHRIS ALLEN**
Sports Editor

Despite the Irish having one of the top 2013 recruiting classes in the country for several months, it was widely speculated by recruiting analysts that Notre Dame needed to pull in a commitment from another cornerback to round out the class. That commitment came Nov. 1, as four-star cornerback Cole Luke from Chandler, Ariz., became the newest member of Notre Dame's 2013 class.

Luke, the No. 34 cornerback in the 2013 class according to ESPN, joins Rashad Kinlaw and Devin Butler as the newest additions to the Notre Dame cornerback corps. Irish

from Arizona to Notre Dame. 2012 No. 8 overall recruit and current Irish wide receiver Davonte' Neal, is from Scottsdale, Ariz.

"Notre Dame's idea is to recruit nationally, and get the best players it can get. A lot of the best skill players come from the West and South regions," Frank said. "Right now, USC has its issues with the NCAA and Oregon is really the only dominant team in the West. So that area is ripe for the picking."

Anzalone reaffirms commitment

The 2013 Irish class received a boost Monday when four-star linebacker commitment Alex Anzalone reaffirmed his commitment to Notre Dame on Twitter. Anzalone had recently been

his commitment the next day. Frank said meeting with the coaches and recruiting staff helped reaffirm the linebacker's commitment to the Irish.

"I think Alex just wanted to be where he was most comfortable with the coaches who were going to coach him," Frank said. "It's tough for an 18-year old kid. I think after his commitment, Florida really came in and turned up the heat. I think they put some doubt in his mind."

With Luke and Anzalone securely in the fold, Frank said the Irish are going to focus on three players to finish up the 2013 class: cornerback and No. 5 overall prospect Mackensie Alexander, safety and No. 36 overall prospect Max Redfield and defensive end and No. 95 overall prospect Alquadin Muhammad. Frank said the focus on top defensive recruits is the continuation of a trend in Irish coach Brian Kelly's recruiting plan.

"You look at guys who are making plays now — Stephon Tuitt, Louis Nix and Manti Te'o — and they were all top recruits," he said. "The reason you go after five-star or high four-star guys is they usually end up playing to that level."

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

"I think Alex just wanted to be where he was most comfortable with the coaches who were going to coach him ... It's tough for an 18-year old kid. I think after his commitment, Florida really came in and turned up the heat. I think they put some doubt in his mind."

Mike Frank
recruiting expert
Irish Sports Daily

recruiting analyst Mike Frank said Luke fits the mold of what Notre Dame is looking for in a corner.

"He fits the mold they are looking for in terms of corners," said Frank, who runs the ESPN-affiliated Irish Sports Daily. "At six feet tall, he's a taller corner. He's not overly big at this point, but he has the frame to add weight. He's just a skinny kid right now. Once he gets the opportunity to add weight and size, he'll be able to use that size against the receivers he'll face."

Frank said Luke would arrive on campus as the most advanced technical cornerback in Notre Dame's 2013 class.

"He's probably the best prepared in the class. He really plays defensive back and focuses on that, it's where he excels," Frank said. "Kinlaw plays quarterback too and plays on the offensive side of the ball. Butler also plays both ways. I would say Cole is more technically sound, and I think he has a lot of potential."

Luke's commitment continues a recent pipeline of top skill players

rumored to be wavering in his commitment to the Irish after a successful visit to Florida. The 6-foot-3, 231-pound recruit from Wyomissing, Pa., visited Notre Dame the day after the Pittsburgh game due to a conflict and reaffirmed

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ONLY 3 MINUTES FROM CAMPUS

Little Caesars®

HOT-N-READY

LARGE PIZZA

\$5

CHEESE OR PEPPERONI

•Original Round •Carry out •Plus tax

HICKORY CROSSING PLAZA
3601 Edison Road at Hickory • 243-4680

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Lewis-Moore keeps things loose for the Irish in his fifth year.

By **MATTHEW DeFRANKS**
Associate Sports Editor

Kapron Lewis-Moore is all about having a good time. From his trademark smile to his booming laugh and his goofy faces, the graduate student defensive end loves to have fun.

So when last year's basketball season rolled around, the decision was simple for the Weatherford, Texas, native — wear a floppy Safari hat to the games and stand in the front row of the student section.

"It's just something I like to wear," Lewis-Moore said. "At that point in time in basketball season, I kind of wore it everywhere. I think that's how I got noticed for it."

In his five years at Notre Dame, though, Lewis-Moore has been noticed for more than his headgear. The 6-foot-4, 306-pound lineman has been a stalwart for the Irish defensive line, racking up 140 tackles and six sacks in his three seasons before 2012.

After graduating in May with a marketing degree, Lewis-Moore returned for his fifth

season with the Irish.

Captaining a team

Before the season, Irish coach Brian Kelly named Lewis-Moore one of Notre Dame's four captains, along with seniors Manti Te'o, Tyler Eifert and Zack Martin.

"It's been awesome," Lewis-Moore said. "I'm very honored and fortunate to be in this leadership position and it's pretty exciting. I just want to keep my energy, keep my effort and enthusiasm, try to keep that contagious to the team."

During a team meeting in August, Kelly announced the four captains for the first time, before he told the captains.

"He called my name last and I wasn't really expecting it because we have a lot of guys on the team that are worthy of being captains," Lewis-Moore said. "To hear my name called was really something special."

"It was kind of like 'Whoa' and I got a little teary-eyed. I knew this season was going to be special but to be captain is just something I can't really explain. It's speechless."

During games, Lewis-Moore has given pep talks to younger players on the sideline after a mistake or will congratulate them after a big play — offense or defense, it doesn't matter.

"If they make a mistake or if they don't make a mistake, you have to have fun, you have to go on to the next play," Lewis-Moore said. "You can't let one bad play hurt you all game because your mistakes will build up. If you make a good play, we're going to be there to celebrate with you."

Lewis-Moore said the support goes both ways on sidelines.

"We feed off of each other, offense and defense," he said. "Sometimes in the heat of the battle or the moment of the game, you might go up to a guy and go 'Hey, keep it up' or 'Guys, don't worry about it, we have your back.' If the defense makes a mistake, you'll have [junior quarterback Tommy Rees] or Eifert or Martin come up and say 'Don't worry D, we're going to put it in the end zone.'"

Kelly said Lewis-Moore's impact on the team extends past the box score.

"It's night and day in my eyes outside of the statistics as to his impact last year as to this year," Kelly said. "Now he was a junior last year and he's a senior this year, too. But he's one of the reasons why we're 9-0."

Mentoring the line

On the defensive line, Lewis-Moore is the elder statesman of a rotation that features two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman who all contribute significantly.

Entering this season, Lewis-Moore had almost three times as many starts as juniors Louis Nix and Kona Schwenke, sophomores Stephon Tuitt and Tony Springmann and freshman Sheldon Day combined.

"It's fun watching them grow," Lewis-Moore said. "I've seen Tuitt grow. I've seen Lou grow. I've seen Sheldon grow every day. It's really awesome and it's something I take pride in. I'm kind of like the old man of the team. It's different to have that close relationship with your defensive linemen."

Lewis-Moore, who is affectionately known as 'Old Man Kap,' said despite the development of the younger players, there are always opportunities for instruction.

"There's always room for teaching," he said. "[Defensive line coach Mike Elston] is teaching us all really well and we all feed off each other. When one of us makes a big play, we all get excited. We have great communication between the defensive line, coach Elston and the coaching staff. It works really good."

The Irish defensive line has accounted for 19 of Notre Dame's 26 sacks this season but also does the little things. Lewis-Moore said such is the life of a defensive lineman.

"It's a mentality," he said. "I really don't care about personal stats. As long as we're winning games, that's what's really important. I don't care who makes the sack. With the whole defense, you really don't care who makes the play, as long as we're getting three-and-outs and forcing turnovers and playing 100 percent. If we're playing fast and physical, it really doesn't

matter who gets the praise."

After a quiet first five games, Lewis-Moore has come on strong recently, registering three sacks in the last four games.

"He's been a better football player for us this year," Kelly said. "He is an extremely productive player, is playing with a lot energy, and has been a great leader for us."

Returning from injury

During last season's 31-17 loss to USC, Lewis-Moore detached his medial collateral ligament and required season-ending surgery five days later.

"It was awful," Lewis-Moore said. "True senior year and not being able to play is one of the worst feelings in the world. Not being able to do anything about it was really tough. Luckily, I leaned on my close friends and my family and my teammates to help me get through it. I worked hard in rehab and I was able to come back full strength."

Lewis-Moore rehabbed his knee during the offseason and returned for the season-opener against Navy. He said the rehab process was difficult.

"It wasn't really physically tough but mentally, it takes a toll on you," Lewis-Moore said. "You kind of want to rush it to come back but you're not supposed to. Sometimes during rehab, you just want to get out there and run again or lift weights again."

With his reconstructed knee, Lewis-Moore is having arguably his best season to date. He has already registered a career-high in sacks for a season and has also tallied 29 tackles, 4.5 tackles for loss and seven quarterback hurries.

"Obviously, I wanted to have a good year but I think we're having a tremendous year," Lewis-Moore said. "I can't really explain it. I'm just happy to be back. Being fortunate enough to be back for a fifth year, be with my teammates and fight on."

Lewis-Moore has had to fight his knee injury but there is one thing he has no problem doing — having fun.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Irish graduate student defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore pressures the quarterback during Notre Dame's 17-14 win over BYU on Oct. 20. Lewis-Moore has 3.5 sacks and 4.5 tackles for loss this season.

Brindza overcomes misses, hits late kicks

By **CHRIS ALLEN**
Sports Editor

Notre Dame sophomore kicker Kyle Brindza remembers his first collegiate field goal attempt. In the first quarter of this season's home opener against Purdue, Brindza lined up a 40-yard field goal, strode to the ball — and it sailed wide left. In his first season as Notre Dame's full-time kicker, Brindza said he has had to learn to deal with failure.

"I just go out there [on the next kick] and remember what I did wrong," Brindza said. "I go out there and try to make sure that I don't do that, fully make sure I focus on my mechanics, and make sure the ball goes through the uprights."

Since that miss in his first attempt, the sophomore has been a dependable member of the Irish special teams and contributed many clutch kicks at the end of a handful of Notre Dame wins. After his opening miss in his debut against Purdue, Brindza clinched a 20-17 Irish victory with a 27-yard field goal in the waning seconds. Brindza credited Irish coach Brian Kelly for providing him with confidence after a missed field goal.

"He comes up to me [after a miss], tells me what I did wrong, tells me what I need to do right," Brindza said. "Truly, he always gives me a pat on the back and tells me he has confidence in me. It's a quick conversation, but he always instills confidence in me."

In recent weeks, that confidence has been on display in Irish wins over Oklahoma and Pittsburgh. Despite missing a field goal in both games, Brindza helped secure an Irish win against the Sooners with two long field goals from 44 and 46 yards in the fourth quarter. Against the Panthers, Brindza made a 37-yard field goal in the first overtime period that would have ended Notre Dame's unbeaten season had it missed. The sophomore said being able to restore his teammate's trust in late-game situations was important.

"Me being able to go in there [against Oklahoma] and prove to the team that they can rely on me, that was huge," Brindza said. "Them having the confidence in me to throw me back out there, it was just a great blessing to be able to do that."

In addition to kicking field goals for Notre Dame, Brindza serves as the team's kickoff specialist — a role he also performed in 2011 — and has recorded 21 touchbacks on the year. Brindza said serving as the kickoff specialist as a freshman helped him adjust to the college game.

"Just being able to adjust to the speed of the game, and the size of the players really," Brindza said. "I mean, as a kicker you don't really have to

hit many people so I guess you don't have to really worry about the size. But it helped to go out there and kind of get an aspect of where I needed to hit the ball in order to make a field goal."

In his second year, Brindza has overcome early misses and periodic inconsistencies to become a reliable option at his position. The sophomore attributes his growth to the maturity to pay attention to the details of kicking.

"In kicking, just like in the game of golf, there's the littlest things that can drift and cause you to mishit the ball or even miss the ball," he said. "It's just the little things that you need to incorporate, and have the maturity to ... work on the tiniest bits of your form."

Contact Chris Allen at
callen10@nd.edu



ASHLEY DACY | The Observer

Irish sophomore kicker Kyle Brindza kicks off during Notre Dame's 30-13 win over Oklahoma on Oct. 27. Brindza is 17-for-23 on field goals this year after taking over for senior Nick Tausch.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



AN IRISH PERSPECTIVE:

**Doing Business IN A
Global Economy**

Thursday, Nov. 15

5-6 pm, Jordan Auditorium



Featuring Visiting
Irish Dignitary

**MARY
HANAFIN**
Irish Government Minister
2000-2011



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Mendoza College of Business

Jackson thrives as starting cornerback

By **ANDREW OWENS**
Assistant Managing Editor

Bennett Jackson adapts. He adapts to new positions. He adapts until he gets content, which is when it's time to adapt all over again.

A year ago, he was an afterthought on the defensive depth chart after moving from receiver to cornerback. This year, he's the top cornerback on a 9-0 squad anchored by one of the nation's best defenses.

"I'm a lot more comfortable. After the first two games ... you get a grip for everything. Everything starts moving more fluidly," Jackson said of the learning curve. "When you're more confident, you're more comfortable."

So far, the results have been striking. Jackson has solidified what was expected to be a suspect secondary into the 22nd-ranked pass defense. Jackson has led the charge with four interceptions and has tallied 31 solo tackles, the second-most on the team.

"We've done a good job of not giving up blown coverages and letting guys loose," he said. "There's going to be holes in the defense at times in certain spots. You try and hide those spots."

"We all have a good relationship and communicate back and forth."

After the graduation of 2011 starting cornerbacks Gary Gray



OE KENESEY | The Observer

Irish junior cornerback Bennett Jackson, pictured during Notre Dame's 17-14 win over BYU on Oct. 20, has four interceptions this season. This year was his first as a starting cornerback for Notre Dame after playing receiver.

and Robert Blanton, Jackson was slated to start alongside Lo Wood, the most experienced returning cornerback. Wood, however, ruptured his Achilles tendon during fall practice and was shelved for the season, making Jackson the position's senior member.

Jackson, however, has maintained the swagger he exuded as Notre Dame's Special Teams Player of the Year in 2010 and

a valuable member on kickoff coverage in 2011.

"He's definitely one who plays with a lot of emotion and he's not afraid to display that emotion," senior linebacker Manti Te'o said. "I think Bennett's strength is that Bennett hates to lose. He hates to lose, and he especially hates to be the reason why we lost. Now he's never been the reason why we've lost, and he has

always tried to work his hardest to make sure that he's not a liability out there."

Te'o said he thinks Jackson's playing style is well suited for the Irish defense.

"Every player plays a different way. Every player has his own style of playing," Te'o said. "I think on the defensive side, it's just a different mentality. Football is a very physical game, and you just have got to approach this game from a different set of eyes and you have to do a lot of hitting. So I think when you play with emotion, it helps to get yourself in that mindset."

Irish coach Brian Kelly said he issued a challenge to Jackson prior to the Stanford game after Jackson was losing ground to fellow starter KeiVarae Russell, a true freshman.

Jackson intercepted a pass in the end zone to keep the Cardinal from scoring. In the 20-13 overtime victory, Notre Dame's defense denied its opponent a touchdown for the fourth consecutive game.

"We thought this was a step up for him," Kelly said after the win. "We asked him to step his play up. ... Bennett did a great job of stepping up his play and putting himself in a very, very good position to help us."

"So we are really pleased with [the secondary] and the progress they are making each and every week."

And it starts with the receiver-turned-cornerback, who is at the top of his game when he's adapting.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

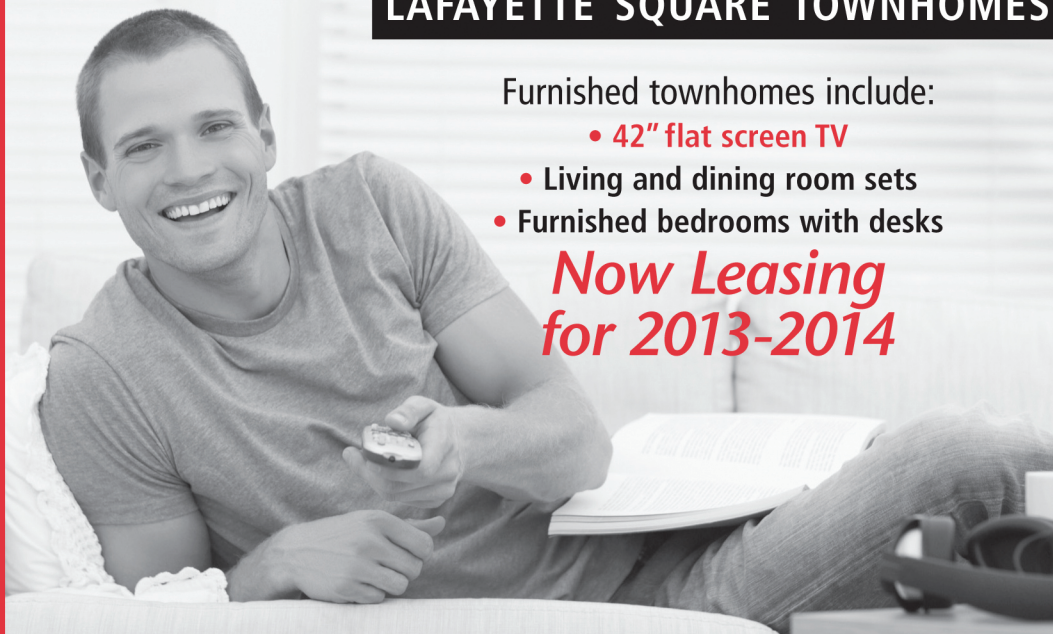
LAFAYETTE SQUARE TOWNHOMES

Furnished townhomes include:

- 42" flat screen TV
- Living and dining room sets
- Furnished bedrooms with desks

**Now Leasing
for 2013-2014**

\$200 Signing Bonus*



Furnished Only \$475 per month per student
Unfurnished Only \$395 per month per student

Choose from spacious 3, 4, or 5 bedroom townhomes
with 1560 - 1860 sq. ft. floorplans

✱ Local Ownership and Management ✱

Call (574)234-2436 to see furnished model

Lafayette Square Townhomes

423 N. Eddy Street

www.kramerhouses.com

*Lease must be signed by December 10, 2012. One signing bonus per lease.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ROOM RESERVES

Want to go to the BCS
National Championship,
but *only* if Notre Dame makes it?

DON'T WAIT!

We lock in your room early!

**You get reservation rights
if Notre Dame makes it!**

www.roomreserves.com



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

EAGLES PASSING

The Eagles come into their biggest game of the year with the 27th-best passing offense in the country, averaging 289.2 passing yards per game. Junior quarterback Chase Rettig, who has thrown for 2,561 yards, 16 touchdowns and eight interceptions, directs the Boston College attack. Rettig averages 284.6 passing yards per game, good enough for third in the ACC and 18th in the nation. Rettig has had three 300-plus yard performances this season, including a career-high 441 passing yards in a 41-32 season-opening loss against Miami on Sept. 1. That performance put him sixth on the Boston College single-game records list and the highest for an Eagles quarterback since 1993. Last season in a 16-14 loss to the Irish on Nov. 19, 2011, Rettig threw for 170 and a touchdown on 18-for-38 passing.

Undisputedly Rettig’s favorite target, junior receiver Alex Amidon has six games of over 100 yards this season. Amidon has already totaled 1,073 receiving yards and six touchdowns on 63 receptions. Amidon is only 76 yards shy of breaking Brian Brennan’s single-season school record of 1,149 receiving yards in 1983. Against Miami, Amidon caught 10 passes for 149 yards and a touchdown.

The Irish are ranked 21st in pass defense, giving up 194 passing yards per game. Senior linebacker Manti Te’o leads the Irish with five interceptions and is second in the country. Sophomore defensive end Stephon Tuitt has 10 sacks, which puts him third in Notre Dame single-season history.

EDGE: EVEN

EAGLES RUSHING

The Eagles only average 74.7 rushing yards per game, placing them 118th in the country. To make matters worse, Boston College will be without its leading rusher, junior running back Andre Williams. Williams has rushed 635 yards and four touchdowns, but was injured in Saturday’s 28-14 loss to Wake Forest. Williams rushed for a season-high 191 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-31 loss to Army on Oct. 6. Williams will be replaced by freshman

receiver-turned-running back David Dudeck, who has rushed for 56 yards this season. Dudeck started the year out of the rotation but was upgraded to Boston College’s third-down back following the Eagles first win against Maine on Sept. 8. Meanwhile, the average height of the Boston College offensive line is 6-foot-5 and average weight is 306 pounds.

The Notre Dame defense has allowed only two rushing touchdowns all year, best in the nation. Both of those touchdowns have come in the last two weeks, to Oklahoma sophomore quarterback Blake Bell and Pittsburgh senior running back Ray Graham. Graham gashed the Irish for 172 rushing yards and a touchdown on 24 carries. The Irish also have the 11th best rushing defense in the country, giving up 100.7 rushing yards per game.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

EAGLES OFFENSIVE COACHING

Defensive coordinator Bob Diaco will have to deal with another pass-heavy defense, but the Eagles lack a solid running game. Notre Dame has had plenty of success when making offenses one-dimensional.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

EAGLES SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior kicker Nate Freese has been consistent this year, hitting 12 of his 14 field goal attempts. Both misses came from 40-plus yards. Boston College leads the country in punt returning, led by sophomore receiver Spiffy Evans’ 31.6 yards per return.

EDGE: BOSTON COLLEGE

EAGLES SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	Miami (FL)	L 41-32
Sept. 8	Maine	W 34-3
Sept. 15	@ Northwestern	L 22-13
Sept. 29	Clemson	L 45-31
Oct. 6	@ Army	L 34-31
Oct. 13	@ Florida State	L 51-7
Oct. 20	@ Georgia Tech	L 37-17
Oct. 27	Maryland	W 20-17
Nov. 3	@ Wake Forest	L 28-14
Nov. 10	Notre Dame	
Nov. 17	Virginia Tech	
Nov. 24	@ NC State	



HEAD T

BOSTON COLLEGE



(Jr.) Alex Amidon ⁸³ (Sr.) Donte Elliott 4	WR
(Jr.) Johnathan Coleman ¹⁴ (Fr.) Dan Crimmins 18	WR
(Sr.) Emmett Cleary ⁷⁷ (R-Fr.) Dan Lembke 71	LT
(Fr.) David Dudeck ²⁶ (Jr.) Rolandan Finch 28	RB
(Jr.) Chase Rettig ¹¹ (So.) Josh Bordner 8	QB
(So.) Bobby Vardaro ⁷⁶ (So.) J Harris Williams 64	LG
(So.) Andy Gallik ⁵⁹ (R-Fr.) Paul Gaughan 69	C
(So.) Seth Betancourt ⁶⁷ (Jr.) Bryan Davis 60	RG
(Sr.) John Wetzel ⁷³ (So.) Aaron Kramer 70	RT
(Sr.) Chris Pantale ⁸¹ (Fr.) Mike Giacone 88	TE
(Jr.) Bobby Swigert ¹⁰ (So.) Spiffy Evans 7	WR
(So.) Manuel Asprilla ²¹ (Fr.) Btyce Jones 17	CB
(Fr.) Justin Simmons ²⁷ (So.) C.J. Jones 6	FS
(Jr.) Steele Divitto ⁴⁹ (Fr.) Tim Joy 33	SLB
(Sr.) Nick Clancy ⁵⁴ (So.) Sean Duggan 34	MLB
(Fr.) Steven Daniels ⁵² (So.) Josh Keyes 25	WLB
(Sr.) Jim Noel ²³ (So.) Spenser Rositano 43	SS
(R-Fr.) Kieran Borcich ⁵⁵ (So.) Mehdi Abdesmad 45	DE
(R-Fr.) Connor Wujciak ⁹⁰ (So.) Max Ricci 98	DT
(Sr.) Bryan Murray ⁹³ (So.) Dominic Appiah 95	DT
(So.) Brian Mihalik ⁹⁹ (Fr.) Kasim Edebeli 91	DE
(So.) Sean Sylvia ¹⁹ (R-Fr.) Ameer Richardson 43	CB
(Jr.) Nate Freese ⁸⁵ (R-Fr.) Alex Howell 42	PK
(Sr.) Gerald Levano ³² (R-Fr.) Alex Howell 42	P
(So.) Spiffy Evans ⁷ (Fr.) Bryce Jones 17	PR
(Jr.) Nate Freese ⁸⁵ (R-Fr.) Alex Howell 42	KO
(So.) Spiffy Evans ⁷ (Fr.) Bryce Jones 17	KR
(Sr.) Sean Flaherty ⁵⁷ (Sr.) Dave Shinskie 15	LS



Allan Joseph
Editor-in-Chief



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor



Chris Allen
Sports Editor

For as tough as BYU was and as scrappy as Pittsburgh was, only one word comes to mind to describe Boston College: bad. It’s a real shame the Eagles aren’t better — remember, the team that knocked off the Irish in 2002 finished 9-3 — but it’s pretty clear that coach Frank Spaziani has not been able to make his mark on the program.

Only one team from a BCS conference has a worse rush defense than Boston College: Miami. Notre Dame ran all over the Hurricanes for nearly 400 yards, and another explosion like that is coming again this weekend. The rotating backfield has helped Cierre Wood, Theo Riddick, George Atkinson and, yes, Cam McDaniel stay fresh late into the season. Never will that be more obvious than Saturday night. Everett Golson won’t have to do nearly as much as last week.

One would think the 29-26 overtime victory over Pittsburgh will be the final scare the Irish face until the Thanksgiving weekend clash in Los Angeles against USC. With a couple of ACC bottom-feeders next on the slate, that’s probably a pretty good bet.

You can never fully count Boston College out when it comes to ruining a perfect Irish season (see 1993 and 2002). But this Eagles team has about as much talent as head coach Frank Spaziani has a chance of keeping his job past this season.

Boston College is the second-worst rush defense Notre Dame has faced this season, and the Irish gashed the other (Miami) for 376 yards. This weekend should result in a similar beatdown as the Irish improve to 10-0.

This year’s Irish team has played its best football away from the friendlier confines of Notre Dame Stadium. This time the host is a lackluster Boston College team that is inferior to the Irish at nearly every position. Still, Notre Dame will have its guard up against a rival that has made a habit of ruining Notre Dame’s perfect seasons. The difference between those upset-minded 1993 and 2002 Eagles teams and this year’s iteration is the coaching.

Both Tom Coughlin — yes, that Tom Coughlin — in 1993 and Tom O’Brien in 2002 had their respective teams ready to compete with top Irish teams. Current Eagles coach Frank Spaziani has the Boston College program at an unfathomable low considering where the Eagles were just a handful of years ago. This is a mismatch all around.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 42, Boston College 10

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38, Boston College 6

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, Boston College 7

O HEAD



NO. 4 NOTRE DAME



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

CB **6** **KeiVarae Russell** (Fr.)

43 Josh Atkinson (So.)

OLB **13** **Danny Spond** (Jr.)

30 Ben Councell (So.)

DE **89** **Kapron Lewis-Moore** (Gr.)

91 Sheldon Day (Fr.)

NG **9** **Louis Nix** (Jr.)

96 Kona Schwenke (Jr.)

DE **7** **Stephon Tuitt** (So.)

69 Tony Springmann (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.)

10 DaVaris Daniels (So.)

WR **9** **Robby Toma** (Sr.)

19 Davonte' Neal (Fr.)

RT **74** **Christian Lombard** (Jr.)

64 Tate Nichols (Jr.)

RG **57** **Mike Golic Jr.** (Gr.)

51 Bruce Heggie (Jr.)

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.)

S **17** **Zeke Motta** (Sr.)

29 Nicky Baratti (Fr.)

ILB **48** **Dan Fox** (Sr.)

44 Carlo Calabrese (Sr.)

ILB **5** **Manti Te'o** (Sr.)

59 Jarrett Grace (So.)

S **41** **Matthias Farley** (So.)

24 Chris Salvi (Sr.)



RB **6** **Theo Riddick** (Sr.)

20 Cierre Wood (Sr.)

QB **5** **Everett Golson** (So.)

11 Tommy Rees (Jr.)



PK **27** **Kyle Brindza** (So.)

40 Nick Tausch (Sr.)

P **35** **Ben Turk** (Sr.)

27 Kyle Brindza (So.)

PR **19** **Davonte' Neal** (Fr.)

81 John Goodman (Gr.)

IRISH PASSING

On Saturday, sophomore quarterback Everett Golson led the Irish in a fourth quarter comeback, facing a 14-point deficit with 14 minutes left in the fourth quarter. The first-year starter threw for 227 yards and two touchdowns on 23-for-42 passing. Both of Golson's touchdown passes came in the fourth quarter, as did an interception in the end zone. Golson is 7-0 as a starter, putting him in a tie for fourth in consecutive wins by a Notre Dame quarterback to start his career.

Sophomore receiver DaVaris Daniels had the best game of his young collegiate career, setting career highs in both receptions and passing yards with seven catches for 86 yards. Daniels' biggest contribution came on a 45-yard catch that set up the game-tying touchdown pass to senior running back Theo Riddick in the fourth quarter. Senior tight end Tyler Eifert recorded a season high six receptions for 62 yards.

The Eagles are in the middle of the pack in terms of passing defense, giving up 245.22 passing yards per game. In a 28-14 loss to Wake Forest on Saturday, Demon Deacons junior quarterback Tanner Price threw for 293 yards, one interception and tied a career high with three touchdowns. Price's 39 completions was a career high for the third-year starter. In the Eagles' 20-17 win over Maryland on Oct. 27, Boston College recorded three interceptions. Sophomore safety Spenser Rositano leads the Eagles with three interceptions, while sophomore cornerback Sean Sylvia is third on the team with 75 tackles.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH RUSHING

Only two Notre Dame teams have averaged over 200 passing and 200 rushing yards in the same season. This Notre Dame team averages 204.1 passing yards and 200.3 rushing yards per game. Notre Dame's 200.3 rushing yards puts the Irish at 30th in the country. Against Pittsburgh, the Irish rushed for 231 yards, part of Notre Dame's 522 total yards Saturday. Riddick led the

Irish with 85 rushing yards on 22 carries. Senior running back Cierre Wood rushed for 70 yards on 13 carries, but fumbled at the goal line in the second overtime that nearly cost the Irish the game. Golson rushed for 74 yards on 15 carries, including the game-winning touchdown on a quarterback sneak in the third overtime. Golson also rushed for the game-tying two-point conversion with 2:11 left in the fourth quarter.

Boston College is ranked 116th in the naiton in rushing defense, giving up 233.33 rushing yards per game. In a 34-31 loss to Army's triple-option offense, the Eagles gave up 516 rushing yards, including three Army rushers with over 100-plus yard rushing performances. Senior linebacker Nick Clancy leads the Eagles with 107 tackles this season.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH OFFENSIVE COACHING

Irish coach Brian Kelly managed Golson well following the sophomore's benching in the second quarter and maneuvered a three-turnover effort. Going against a spotty Boston College rushing defense, the Notre Dame game-plan must be to run the ball.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore kicker Kyle Brindza missed his sixth field goal of the year and also missed an extra point Saturday. The Irish are 115th in the nation punt returning, averaging 2.62 yards per return. Senior punter Ben Turk has averaged 41 yards per punt.

EDGE: EVEN

IRISH SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	vs. Navy	W 50-10
Sept. 8	Purdue	W 20-17
Sept. 15	@ Michigan State	W 20-3
Sept. 22	Michigan	W 13-6
Oct. 6	vs. Miami	W 41-3
Oct. 13	Stanford	W 20-13 (OT)
Oct. 20	BYU	W 17-14
Oct. 27	@ Oklahoma	W 30-13
Nov. 3	Pittsburgh	W 29-26 (3OT)
Nov. 10	@ Boston College	
Nov. 17	Wake Forest	
Nov. 24	@ USC	



Andrew Gastelum
Associate Sports Editor

This isn't 2011. That is apparent in the 9-0 record the Irish sport today.

A year ago, a 3-7 Boston College squad meandered into South Bend and nearly upset the lethargic Irish, who went on to win 16-14.

This time around Notre Dame will be ready. The Irish, for whatever reason, excel away from Notre Dame Stadium. There are less distractions and football just comes easier when everyone wants you to mess up.

Look for Cierre Wood, Theo Riddick, George Atkinson and the recently unleashed Everett Golson to run around this Boston College defense and put up some big numbers in Beantown.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 39, Boston College 8



Matthew DeFranks
Associate Sports Editor

There's no place like the road, huh?

For most teams, that is not even close to the case. But for this year's Irish, that has been the truth. They have out-scored opponents by 24 more points away from Notre Dame Stadium than in cozy South Bend.

So if you're worried about another possible heart-attack, upset scare by an overmatched opponent, you should not be concerned about Boston College. The Eagles gave Notre Dame a good fight last year on Senior Day but bring in a defense that is worse than anything the Irish have faced this season. Before a win over Maryland, Boston College had registered only one other victory — against Maine. Yes, Maine. Look for the running game to dominate as the Irish cruise to 10-0.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 52, Boston College 9

4

NR

Notre Dame vs. Boston College
(9-0) (2-7)

Alumni Stadium • Chesnut Hill, Mass.

on **ABC** at **8:00 p.m. ET**

Kelly caught in another postseason dilemma



MACKENZIE SAIN | The Observer

Irish coach Brian Kelly, pictured during Notre Dame's 29-26 triple-overtime win over Pittsburgh on Saturday, coached an undefeated Cincinnati team in 2009 that failed to make the national title game.

By **ANDREW GASTELUM**
Associate Sports Editor

Just three years ago, then-Bearcats coach Brian Kelly had to fend off BCS hype and keep his 9-0 Cincinnati team focused on the homestretch. In 2012, the Irish coach finds himself in a similar situation with a 9-0 Notre Dame team.

But now, Kelly has experience

on his side.

"I think I've handled it in the same way [as Cincinnati]," Kelly said. "I never went out in the media and tried to defend what we did. All I said was that the schedule was set, here is who we play, and all we can do and all we can control is winning these football games."

At 9-0 for the first time since 1993, the Irish have faced their

fair share of detractors, with many calling attention to the weakened state of the Big Ten and sub-par performances at home. The Irish currently sit behind Alabama, Kansas State and Oregon in the latest BCS Standings, after dropping one spot following Oregon's 62-51 win at No. 17 USC on Saturday.

At Cincinnati in 2009, Kelly's Bearcats held strong at No.

5 in the BCS for much of the season, waiting for an upset of a ranked team. Similar to that Cincinnati team, the Irish enter the lighter part of their schedule waiting for a top-three upset. But Kelly said the rankings at this point in the season is out of his control.

"I knew we couldn't control the ultimate goal," he said. "We couldn't control it in Cincinnati. The way the BCS is set up right now, if you have more than two undefeated teams you can't control it."

"Now, in two years when you have four teams that can play, yeah, now you can control things a little bit more. You may be talking more about your teams. But you can't now. Maybe in two years you'll find me talking a lot more about it."

That Cincinnati team eventually moved up to No. 3 in the BCS by regular season's end, and was nearly in contention for a national championship berth until No. 2 Texas won the Big 12 Championship with a last-second field goal. If Texas would have lost the title game to Nebraska, the Bearcats would have been one of two undefeated teams from a BCS conference going into Bowl Selection Sunday.

"If a field goal goes awry against Nebraska, Texas, it changes things," Kelly said. "It could be the same situation again with Notre Dame three years later. I can't control any

of that. What I can control is to make sure that these guys play better against [Boston College]."

While Notre Dame carries more BCS clout than his former Cincinnati squad, Kelly said he was unsure where the Irish could end up given the number of remaining undefeated teams ahead in the rankings.

"If you told me that Alabama and Oregon were also undefeated as well as Notre Dame, I would say, 'Well, there is a chance,'" Kelly said. "Those are teams that have been here and done that. Notre Dame hasn't done it in a while. Those teams are undefeated, too. I would say, 'Well, there is a chance we may get left out.'"

When asked whether the undefeated season and high BCS ranking meant Notre Dame "is back," Kelly said he will leave it up to everyone else to decide.

"I don't know that we have a measuring stick for it," Kelly said. "I think it's measured by everybody else in terms wins and losses. Our players want to win as well, but I don't think it's something that we really spend much time thinking about relative to we're back or not back. I think we take care of how we play on Saturdays, and then we kind of let other people decide whether that's the case or not."

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell1@nd.edu

BCS OUTLOOK THE ROAD TO MIAMI



NO. 1 ALABAMA (9-0)

Last Week: 21-17 win over No. 5 LSU

Remaining games: No. 15 Texas A&M, Western Carolina, Auburn, SEC Championship



NO. 2 KANSAS STATE (9-0)

Last Week: 44-30 win over No. 24 Oklahoma State

Remaining games: at TCU, at Baylor, No. 17 Texas



NO. 3 OREGON (9-0)

Last Week: 62-51 win over No. 17 USC

Remaining games: at California, No. 14 Stanford, at No. 11 Oregon State, Pac-12 Championship



NO. 4 NOTRE DAME



NO. 5 GEORGIA (8-1)

Last week: 37-10 win over Ole Miss

Remaining games: at Auburn, Georgia Southern, Georgia Tech, SEC Championship




Irish senior running back Cierre Wood breaks a tackle during Notre Dame's 16-14 win over Boston College on Nov. 19, 2011, at Notre Dame Stadium. Wood finished the day with 94 yards on 26 carries.



Irish junior quarterback Tommy Rees surveys the field during Notre Dame's 16-14 win over Boston College on Nov. 19, 2011.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Professional Master's Programs
ESTEEM*, Patent Law & Global Health

*ESTEEM - Engineering, Science, and Technology Entrepreneurship Excellence Master's Program

Open House

Wednesday 11/14/2012

When: 6:00 pm

Where: Innovation Park at Notre Dame
1400 Angela Blvd. Notre Dame, IN 46617

RSVP required.

If you would like to attend this event please contact Christan @ 574-485-2280 or esteem@nd.edu

Food and beverages will be served.

ESTEEM

ESTEEM is an immersive year-long graduate level study of innovation, entrepreneurship and general business designed to augment and make more marketable the scientific, technical and engineering skills of its students. The ESTEEM (Engineering, Science, and Technology Entrepreneurship Excellence Master's) Program is designed to provide Science and Engineering graduates the skills required to take science and/or engineering inventions and translate those inventions into commercial ventures. Read more at: esteem.nd.edu.

Master of Science in Global Health

The University of Notre Dame's one-year Master of Science in Global Health program provides science-centric training involving laboratory research, survey research, and mathematical modeling in the emerging field of global health. The curriculum involves a mixture of classroom and experiential learning where science is understood in the context of its promise to improve the health of those people who are disproportionately affected by disease. Our students graduate with an understanding of the worldwide challenges facing the economically disadvantaged, and the capability to work toward a solution through population-based health care, program planning and design, and translational research. Find out more at: globalhealth.nd.edu.

Master of Science in Patent Law

Increase the value of your science or engineering degree. Notre Dame's new Master of Science in Patent Law will teach you the information that you'll need to pass the USPTO's patent bar, and the skills that you'll need to practice as a patent agent. In the one-year Master of Science in Patent Law program, you'll learn about the newest developments in the patent legal world through a hands-on curriculum. You'll be taught by currently practicing patent attorneys and agents. You'll draft a real, fileable patent application based on a real, Notre Dame-owned invention. Find out more at: patentlaw.nd.edu.



A Boston College defender tackles Irish junior receiver TJ Jones during Notre Dame's 16-14 win over Boston College on Nov. 19, 2011.

Eagles aim to knock off another top Irish team



Eagles coach Frank Spaziani reacts to a play during Boston College's 20-17 win over Maryland on Oct. 27. Boston College only has one win over a Football Bowl Subdivision opponent this year.

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

The story is well-known by now: Notre Dame rises up the rankings, wins high-profile games and protects an undefeated record through most of the season. Then it meets Boston College, and the dream is over. The Eagles (2-7) will try to follow the examples of 1993 and 2002 when they attempt to upend the Irish (9-0) this week-end in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

In 1993, Irish coach Lou Holtz coached his team to a 9-0 record and No. 1 ranking following the "Game of the Century" against then-No. 1 Florida State. One week later, the Eagles came to town and derailed Notre Dame's national title hopes in a 41-39 victory. In 2002, first-year coach Tyrone Willingham led the Irish to an 8-0 start that culminated with a signature win at Florida State. The next week, Willingham gave his players green jerseys in an attempt to keep them motivated, but Boston College forced five turnovers to send Notre Dame into a late-season tailspin. Irish coach Brian Kelly says the past will not have any effect on his squad.

"History will have no effect on how this team plays," Kelly said Sunday. "I really focus strictly on the guys that are in the room and how we prepare them. I do not use history lessons as much as I want them to realize what it takes to win week-in and week-out."

The 1993 Boston College squad finished 9-3, while the 2002 team finished 9-4. This year's Eagles have no such finish ahead of them under embattled coach Frank Spaziani, but they want to pull off the upset nonetheless.

"Obviously we have a very talented and well-coached football team coming into our stadium here," Spaziani said. "They have sights on the national championship. So we've

got our work cut out for us, and we're practicing trying to get ready for them."

Kelly said he had continued to warn his players that the Eagles would try and salvage their season by knocking off the Irish.

"The head of a champion understands that each and every week you're going to get the opposition's very best," he said. "We have to be able to understand that when we play the game on Saturday. ... Our players understand that if they don't play their best they can get beat. [I have] a lot of respect for Boston College and the way they run their program and the way their kids play on a day-to-day basis."

Eagles sophomore receiver Spiffy Evans is having a remarkable year returning punts, averaging nearly 32 yards per return.

"I think we've done a good job on our punt return scheme, Xs and Os, and then I think Spiffy has gotten a little more confidence and he knows where we're going," Spaziani said. "You put it all together, and it leads you to a 31-yard average, which has been a big plus for us."

Though Notre Dame's special-teams units were inconsistent last week against Pittsburgh, Kelly said the bigger-picture view of the return game was more favorable.

"I still keep coming back to Oklahoma, [which] could not return one punt against us, and they've got a dynamic returner," Kelly said. "When you look at it, we've only had six punts returned against us all year."

Last year on Notre Dame's Senior Day, the Irish had to recover a late onside kick to seal a 16-14 victory. Kelly said he has not forgotten that experience.

"[They're] a team that has played us very, very well," he said. "This past year obviously at home we had to make some big stops late to win the football game."

Spaziani, however, said recent history was not a perfect guide.

"Well, you know, certainly positive past experience is good for your psyche. But that's limited," he said. "I mean, this is a different team and different players. ... But yeah, there's some positive carryover. But once again, it is different from year to year. These are totally two different teams."

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu



BOSTON COLLEGE

2-7

SEASON STATISTICS

CATEGORY		NATIONAL RANK
OFFENSE		
Rushing Offense	74.7 yds	118
Passing Offense	289.8 yds	27
Total Offense	364.4 yds	90
Scoring Offense	22.1 pts	96
DEFENSE		
Rushing Defense	233.3 yds	116
Pass Defense	245.2 yds	71
Total Defense	478.6 yds	109
Scoring Defense	30.9 pts	85

BRANDON KEELEAN | Observer Graphic

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ORDER PIZZA ONLINE!
www.papajohns.com



Better Ingredients.
Better Pizza.

Go Irish!
Beat Eagles!

271-1177

Get a Large 1-Topping Pizza, & Taylor Swift's New Album, RED for \$22
Get Any Large Specialty OR Up to 5-Toppings for \$12

PICK THREE LARGE	IRISH LATE NIGHT	THE DOMER
\$9.99 One Large with up to Three Toppings  Online Promo Code: SVM2	\$7.99 One Large One Topping  Valid 9PM-Close Only	\$11.99 One Extra Large One Topping  Online Promo Code: SVM10
IRISH SPECIAL	STUDENT DISCOUNT	SMALL & SIDE
\$13.49 One Large One Topping & Breadsticks  Garlic Parmesan Breadsticks \$1 more 10" Cheesesticks \$2 more	20% OFF Student Discount (with student ID) Discount applies to Regular menu price. Not valid with any other discount or coupons. Not Valid with Munch Money. Not redeemable online. 	\$9.99 One Small One Topping & 10" Cheesesticks  Online Promo Code: SVM4
MEDIUM & SIDE	LUNCH BOX	THE LEPRECHAUN
\$9.99 One Medium One Topping & Garlic Parmesan Breadsticks  Online Promo Code: SVM3	\$5.00 8" One Topping Pizza & 20oz Pepsi Product  Min. purchase of \$8 required for delivery	\$9.99 Two 8" One Topping & Breadsticks  Online Promo Code: SVM7

Unless otherwise indicated offers valid through 11/30/2012 at all South Bend, Mishawaka & Granger Locations. Additional toppings extra. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts or Munch Money. No Double Toppings. Limited delivery area, charges may apply. Customer responsible for all applicable taxes.



Papa Johns South Bend



@PapaJohns_SB

WAKING THE ECHOES | DAVID GORDON

Gordon derails championship run in '93

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS

Associate Sports Editor

When David Gordon got back to Chestnut Hill, Mass., at 1 a.m. on Nov. 21, 1993, he saw something he had never seen before — a mob waiting to greet the Boston College football team.

When he got back to his townhouse, he found something entirely different.

"Some of the students actually dragged the goalposts from [Alumni Stadium] to my backyard where I live, waiting for me to come," Gordon said in a phone interview with The Observer. "It was just a mob of people who just dragged the goalposts about 3,000 feet from the stadium to the back of the yard. My coach wasn't too happy about that because we had to get new goalposts."

Just hours earlier, Gordon dashed Notre Dame's national championship hopes and destroyed its perfect season with a 41-yard game-winning field goal that gave the Eagles a 41-39 win over the then-No. 1 Irish at Notre Dame Stadium.

The year before, Notre Dame pounded Boston College 54-7. Gordon said the Eagles used the bitter taste as motivation.

"They really ran up the score on us [in 1992]," Gordon said. "It's a big game for us because of the rivalry. We kind of dedicate our offseason to prepare for that one game."

In 1993, Notre Dame entered the game at 10-0 and No. 1 in the country after a 31-24 win over then-No. 1 Florida State in a game dubbed the "Game of the Century." The Eagles, meanwhile, came into South Bend riding a seven-game winning streak.

Boston College held a 38-17 lead with 11 minutes in the game before the Irish scored 22 unanswered points to grab a one-point advantage with a little more than a minute remaining.



Photo Courtesy of David Gordon

Former Boston College kicker David Gordon, red sleeves with arms raised, celebrates his game-winning kick over the Irish on Nov. 20, 1993, with his teammates at Notre Dame Stadium. The kick ruined Notre Dame's perfect season and national title hopes.

"I knew in the fourth quarter, I knew Notre Dame was going to come back," Gordon said. "You kind of get that sense of momentum, our defense was starting to get a little tired but our offense really was moving the ball well."

Boston College quarterback Glenn Foley led the Eagles down the field in six plays, setting up a 41-yard attempt, the longest of Gordon's career, with just five ticks left on the clock.

"A lot of my teammates did end up talking to me [during the drive]," Gordon said. "They didn't say a whole lot to me but they came up to me and said 'We know you can make this kick. Don't get too nervous. You deserve to be out here. You've worked hard for this opportunity.' It was all just encouraging words they gave me. They knew I was going in there to win the

game."

Before Gordon got the chance to nail the field goal and Notre Dame's coffin, the lefty kicker received a pep talk from an unlikely source — Eagles coach Tom Coughlin, now a head coach with the New York Giants.

"That was interesting. That was really the first time in the game [that he talked to me]. He really had never said anything to me at any time," Gordon said. "He said 'I know you can make the kick, just make good contact with the ball.' Just all positive talk and I think it really helped me calm down because I was really, really nervous."

The Eagles lined up just inside the left hash mark facing the tunnel and Touchdown Jesus, a landmark Gordon said he was aiming for.

"The sun was setting when I made the kick and back then, they didn't have permanent lights and the lighting was not great. The one thing I could see was the gold on Touchdown Jesus which really helped me," Gordon said.

The kick veered right initially before swerving back to the left and finishing square in the middle of the goalposts with no time remaining. The kick silenced nearly 60,000 spectators at Notre Dame Stadium and stunned a previously undefeated Irish team.

"I knew I hit it really good. I knew I had the distance," Gordon said. "I rushed a little bit and the ball had a little bit of a play in it where it kind of went from right to left. When you hear a thud, you know it was blocked. When I heard it wasn't blocked, I knew I hit it well enough to make the kick."

Amidst heartbroken Notre

Dame players, the Eagles stormed the field and celebrated — and it all centered around Gordon. Within 10 seconds of the game ending, Gordon was buried beneath a pile of jubilant teammates.

"I regret that one," Gordon said. "Everything was moving so quickly and I was just so focused on making the kick. I'm not one of those guys that runs around and makes a big celebration. It was a scary situation because I had a hard time breathing. I thought I was going to suffocate because I was on the bottom of the pile ... If I could do it all over again, I would have ran to the sidelines."

Gordon survived the mish mash of maroon and gold bodies but would he have survived had he missed the kick?

"It probably would have impacted my life significantly," Gordon said. "If I ever have a bad day or any bad thoughts, I think about that game and all my bad thoughts and feelings go away. It's such a turning point in my life. It's such a special moment that I'll never forget it."

The kick opened the door for Florida State to sneak back to No. 1 and Notre Dame was denied its second national title in six years in a controversial finish to the season. It has not won a championship since 1988 and has not been ranked in the top spot since that game.

"To me, I just thought it was a game," Gordon said. "I didn't really see the impact until I started getting all these letters and calls and interviews. I knew it was a big game but I didn't really know the impact of costing the national championship. As time went on, I really

started to appreciate what that game meant."

The win marked the first time the Eagles beat the Irish after losing the previous four; Boston College won again the next year. Notre Dame leads the overall series 12-9 but the Eagles are 2-0 against top-5 Irish squads, including a 14-7 win at Notre Dame Stadium in 2002 when the Irish were 8-0 and coming off an emotional win over Florida State.

Some have credited Gordon with creating a rivalry between the two Catholic schools but he shrugged off the notion.

"One person does not really make or break a game," Gordon said. "I helped contribute in winning the game for us. As far as me personally impacting [the rivalry], I don't believe that was the case. There were so many other plays in that game that if we didn't make, it wouldn't have even mattered at the end."

Gordon still has not returned to Notre Dame since that game but said he runs into Notre Dame fans all the time.

"They can't stand me and they're really upset," Gordon said. "They're like, 'How could you do that?' and they're very upset because they're very passionate about their football. I just say 'Sorry but this was our day that day.' That's all I tell them."

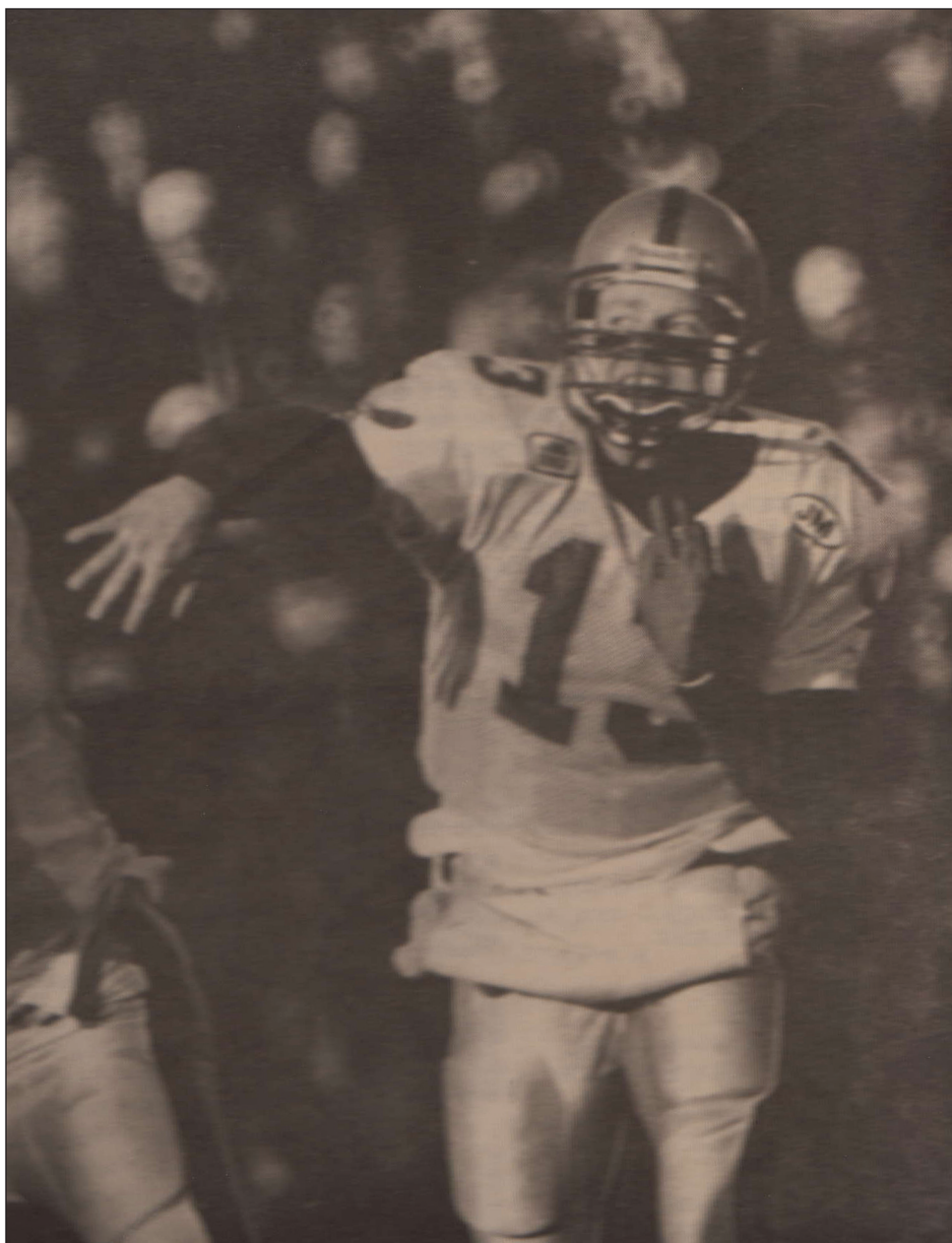
Gordon played in NFL Europe and tried out for some NFL teams before retiring from football. He now runs a home building business in Avon, Connecticut with his wife, Connie. The couple has three kids.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu



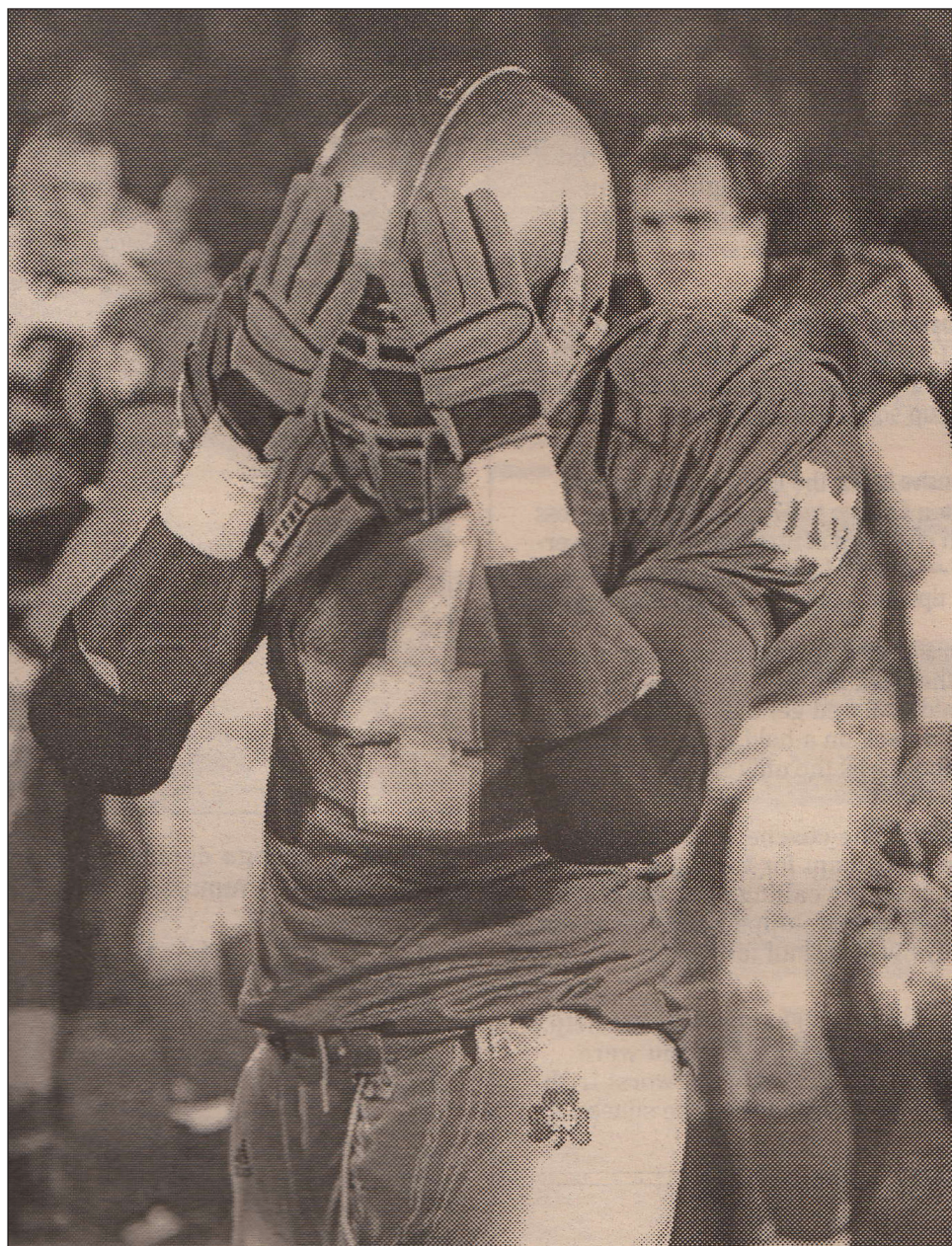
Photo Courtesy of David Gordon

Former Eagles kicker David Gordon follows through after kicking the game-winning field goal in Boston College's 41-39 win in 1993.



Observer File Photo

Former Eagles quarterback Glenn Foley throws a pass during Boston College's 41-39 win over then-No. 1 Notre Dame on Nov. 20, 1993, at Notre Dame Stadium.



Observer File Photo

Former Irish running back Ryan Grant holds his head in disbelief after then-No. 4 Notre Dame's 14-7 loss to Boston College on Nov. 2, 2002, at Notre Dame Stadium.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni of
University of Notre Dame

Special Supplier Pricing
PLUS
ALL Applicable Rebates On All
NEW VEHICLES!



For Details, Please Call Barry Caldwell

www.danhallchrysler.com (877)546-0216