

IRISH INSIDER

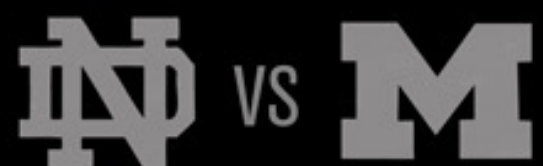
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

One more.



THE OBSERVER

Photo Illustration by Wei Lin and Keri O'Mara



THE HISTORY of a RIVALRY

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

With the lights shining down Saturday night inside an overflowing Notre Dame Stadium, the Irish will align on the west sideline, the Wolverines on the east strip. One-hundred and sixty feet will separate Notre Dame and Michigan.

But the two schools are inextricably linked — somewhere along the 150-mile stretch of Midwest roads from Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor to Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend.

Just six ten-thousandths separate the programs in all-time winning percentage for the best mark in NCAA history.

Both schools feature blue and a yellow-based second color in their logos and uniforms, a rivalry typified somewhere between maize and gold, with the color-wheel balance seemingly swinging each year.

Two teams so close.

But when the Stadium rocks and the whistle blares around 7:42 p.m., Notre Dame and Michigan will collide for the final scheduled time.

Until they meet again.

The Beginnings

Notre Dame and Michigan are meeting for the 42nd time, making the series just the eighth-longest in Irish history.

But Notre Dame's history with Michigan dates all the way back to 1887, when the Wolverines topped the yet-to-be-named Irish, 8-0, in South Bend in something that was more tutorial than full-fledged contest, according to football historian John Kryk.

"Michigan literally taught Notre Dame how to play in 1887," said Kryk, who wrote "Natural Enemies: The Notre Dame-Michigan Football Feud." "A couple of former Notre Dame students had gone off to Michigan, and they were keeping in touch with buddies at Notre Dame, especially with sports-minded Brother Paul, and they arranged that first game."

From there, Kryk said, Notre Dame ramped up its desire to play this new game, one that would eventually become a key component of the institution. But the teams were at completely different junctures, with Michigan already a Midwest power, Notre Dame not yet even its fledgling punching bag.

"They suddenly wanted to be what Michigan was, a power at that time," said Kryk, who is a national NFL columnist for the Toronto Sun.

The eager Irish met with the Wolverines six times over the

next five years after their inaugural clash in 1887. Not once did Notre Dame win. Michigan outscored its local foe by a combined score of 121-16 through the first eight meetings.

But in 1909, Notre Dame claimed an 11-3 victory, earning the first of its 16 wins in the series. The two teams, however, would not meet again until 1942.

Kryk said that, for Michigan,

snubbing them."

Notre Dame rose to national prominence in the 1920s under Rockne — without Michigan and its conference cohorts. But the Irish still made one last-gasp effort at joining its regional counterparts, making an unsuccessful last push in 1926, according to Kryk.

"That's when Notre Dame went, 'Alright then, we're going

Ohio State. After lying dormant since 1943, talks between Notre Dame and Michigan started up again in the late 1960s.

Notre Dame athletic director Edward "Moose" Krause and Canham, looking for a way to fill his university's then-101,000-seat stadium, agreed in January 1969 to a four-game series that would begin in September 1978.

Notre Dame kicker Chuck Male said.

"It was pandemonium; the fans were going crazy," he said. "It was just really exciting to be part of that, and it was really exciting for college football to have that rivalry reignited."

The following September, Notre Dame and Michigan met at Michigan Stadium for the first time since 1943. As in the year before, the Irish entered the game, their season opener, as the underdog.

Male ended up providing all the scoring for an Irish offense that was in the process of replacing Montana. The walk-on booted four field goals to give Notre Dame a 12-10 lead. Still, Male's efforts would have been for naught if not for a block by Irish linebacker Bob Crable on Michigan kicker Bryan Virgil's last-second, game-winning field goal attempt.

Crable's field-goal block didn't come in the traditional form, however, as he made the block by leaping on the back of Michigan center Mike Trgovac and stopping the ball with his hip.

"Literally when [Trgovac] snapped the ball, his two hands went on the ground, so [he] acted as a step, and as the guards leaned in to take care of what was coming over the top, they pushed me up as well," Crable said. "... [The ball] hit me in the hip, and the worst part of it became the landing. When I was up there, the ball hit, and I was projected out. ... My feet were on the center, but my body was out in front, and I came down right on my head. Luckily, I didn't break my neck."

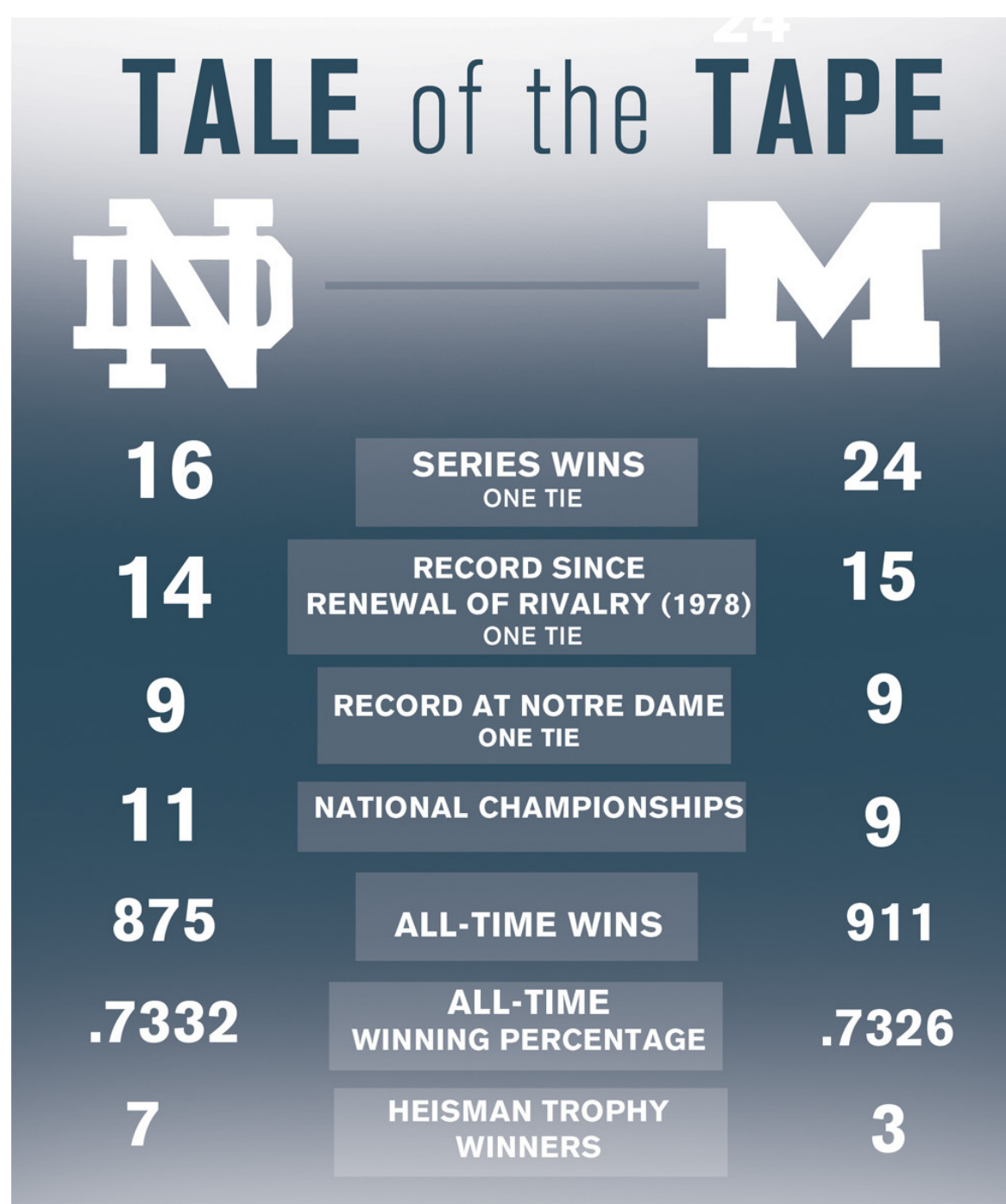
Although Notre Dame and Michigan hadn't played for a few decades preceding the "Reunion game," Male said the Irish players of the late 1970s recognized the Wolverines as a top rival.

"When you looked at the schedule, it was one of our target games, the Michigan game," he said.

The intensity of the Michigan series was further fueled by the geographic closeness of both teams, Male said.

"You had a situation where we didn't even fly, took a bus to the game, it was that close," he said. "You mixed in a fanbase with lots of fans that were loyal and liked both teams because of the geographic proximity, and it really made for an interesting rivalry."

While the atmosphere surrounding the resumption of the Notre Dame-Michigan series was lively on both sides, the scene at Michigan Stadium provided some unique challenges for the Irish, Crable said.



there was no glory in playing Notre Dame at that point. Michigan and its conference partners essentially decided to "blow Notre Dame off the course" by not playing them, Kryk said.

Stuck in northern Indiana and craving football, Notre Dame had to venture outside the Midwest to fill its schedule.

"That's why Notre Dame became the national school because they had to go outside the Midwest in the teens and then in the early 20s of [former Irish coach Knute] Rockne to find anyone worth playing," Kryk said. "And it was because Michigan and their Big Ten partners were

to be an independent. We're going to embrace it," Kryk said.

Feuding Over Football

Following Notre Dame's victory in 1909 and before the renewal in 1978, the two teams met just twice — in 1942 and 1943.

Feuds between Rockne and Fielding Yost, Frank Leahy and Fritz Crisler extended the hiatus until Don Canham headed the Michigan athletic department in 1968.

Michigan's attendance at football games was dwindling — relatively speaking, of course — according to Kryk, to about 65,000 for games against teams not named Michigan State and

A Rivalry Resumed

The two programs reconvened their series at Notre Dame Stadium on Sept. 23, 1978 in a matchup between the No. 5 Wolverines and No. 14 Irish, the defending national champions. With quarterback Joe Montana at the helm, Notre Dame jumped to a 14-7 halftime lead, but Michigan added three unanswered touchdowns in the second half to cruise to a 28-14 victory.

While it wasn't as close as many matchups in series history, the atmosphere surrounding the 1978 matchup, known as the "Reunion Game," showed that the rivalry was back, former

NOTRE DAME & MICHIGAN

“Wherever you go, you’ve got those situations where you’ve got the crowds, you’ve got obnoxious people, you’ve got drunk people, you’ve got all different characters that exist in the stadium,” he said. “But at Michigan, it seems like it was exaggerated — everything was exaggerated.”

The Holtz Years

Lou Holtz took over the Notre Dame program in 1986 and steered the Irish for 11 seasons, the first nine of which featured dates with Michigan.

Both teams were ranked in eight of the matchups. On five occasions, both teams were slotted in the top 10.

“I didn’t know what I was getting into,” Holtz said. “Our schedule was the toughest I’ve ever seen. Every year we went to 100,000 people. I was an executive in this business. The crowd was unruly. The Irish were against Notre Dame.”

“We called it the ‘Holtz quarter,’” Holtz said. “I threw a touchdown, came back to Notre Dame, the field was a mess, but we fired a zone for Williams’ backline

pass was ruled incomplete. Irish kicker John Carney missed a field goal on the last play of the game, and the Wolverines won 24-23.

“That was devastating to lose that game,” Holtz said. “I remember so much about that game. ... If they had replay then, we win the game.”

Two years later, back at Notre Dame Stadium, the Irish waltzed into the season as the No. 13 team in the nation set to face the No. 9 Wolverines under the lights — portable lights hauled in for the occasion.

In order to win, Holtz and the Irish had to rely on the unlikely — a 5-foot-5 walk-on

squib kick,” Holtz recalled. “Gee, he kicked a perfect kick. Rocket caught it all on the run and we went on to win that game.”

When the teams met two years later in Ann Arbor, it was Michigan’s own dynamic receiver and return man, Desmond Howard, with the highlight play. In the fourth quarter, the No. 3 Wolverines clung to a 17-14 advantage. But Michigan faced 4th-and-1.

“Fourth-and-six-inches,” Holtz corrects himself.

The rest is, well, history. Howard snagged the touchdown in the back of the end zone.

“They didn’t have enough con-

praise for the rivalry.

“They were always great games,” Holtz said. “I loved [Michigan head coach] Bo Schembechler. And Michigan and Notre Dame were so similar, we recruited the same caliber of people.”

Stacking Up the Rivalries

There’s a duality in the Michigan-Notre Dame rivalry. The teams first met in 1887. But they also have only played 41 times. Still, there’s an impressive power to the rivalry.

“Nationally it was at the time, until the mid-90s ... one of the most important college foot-

balling him to travel around the country, sampling a smattering of the sport’s best rivalry.

How does Michigan-Notre Dame stack up?

“I think it’s an older rivalry,” Davie said, pausing to explain himself.

“The stadiums were older, and it just reeked of tradition,” said Davie, slowly enunciating each syllable for effect, as if he smells it again.

“Just the smell in Notre Dame Stadium, the grass, the grass of what it smelled like — that may sound corny to some people — but that’s the thing I miss most about Notre Dame, just the old- of it, how old it all seemed,” said.

Friday’s game, though, will be first played on FieldTurf at Notre Dame Stadium, heralding a new chapter of the rivalry’s story — for now, at least.

Future of the Rivalry

Following Saturday’s tilt, Notre Dame and Michigan don’t have a scheduled game on the calendar. A request to speak with Notre Dame Director of Athletics Swarbrick was not returned. “Everybody knows how big the rivalry is,” Michigan graduate student quarterback Devin Funchess said Monday. “It sucks to have to go and it’s not appreciated by everybody.”

Notre Dame announced its 2015 and 2016 schedules in December, debuting the first two of a five-game ACC commitment, one that has tight scheduling available permutations in Notre Dame’s schedule.

“We have really limited inventory going forward,” Swarbrick told The Observer in December. “We’ve tried to protect enough inventory so we can still do an SEC

TIMELINE of HISTORY

1887

NOTRE DAME AND MICHIGAN MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE WOLVERINES WIN 8-0.

1898

MICHIGAN DEFEATS NOTRE DAME, 23-0, STARTING A STREAK OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE SHUTOUTS AGAINST THE IRISH.

1909

AFTER EIGHT STRAIGHT LOSSES, NOTRE DAME DEFEATS MICHIGAN, 11-3.

1910

THE SERIES GOES ON HIATUS WHEN MICHIGAN COACH FIELDING YOST CANCELS THE SCHEDULED MEETING.

1942

THE SERIES RESUMES, WITH MICHIGAN TOPPING NOTRE DAME, 32-20.

1943

NO. 1 NOTRE DAME BEATS NO. 2 MICHIGAN, 35-12, AT MICHIGAN STADIUM.

1978

MICHIGAN DEFEATS NOTRE DAME, 28-14, IN THE “REUNION GAME” OF THE SERIES.

1979

NOTRE DAME LINEBACKER BOB CRABLE BLOCKS A LAST-SECOND FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE A 12-10 IRISH VICTORY.

1981

MICHIGAN THRASHES NO. 1 NOTRE DAME, 25-7.

1982

NOTRE DAME BESTS MICHIGAN, 23-17, IN THE FIRST NIGHT GAME IN NOTRE DAME STADIUM HISTORY.

1986

O. 3 MICHIGAN SURVIVES A CHALLENGE FROM UNRANKED NOTRE DAME AFTER JOHN CARNEY MISSES A FIELD GOAL WITH 18 SECONDS LEFT.

2003

MICHIGAN EARNS THE FIRST SHUTOUT IN THE SERIES SINCE 1902 WITH A 38-0 VICTORY.

2011

IN THE FIRST NIGHT GAME AT MICHIGAN STADIUM, THE WOLVERINES RECOVER FROM A 24-7 DEFICIT TO BEAT NOTRE DAME, 35-31.

2013

MICHIGAN DEFEATS NOTRE DAME, 41-30, IN THE SERIES’ LAST SCHEDULED GAME AT MICHIGAN STADIUM.

2014

THE TWO PROGRAMS WILL MEET SATURDAY AT NOTRE DAME STADIUM IN THE LAST SCHEDULED GAME OF THE SERIES.



Photo courtesy of Blue & Gold Illustrated, 247Sports

Class of 2015 offensive lineman Jerry Tillery is scheduled to visit Notre Dame this weekend, according to Blue and Gold Illustrated's Tom Loy.

2015 COMMITS

TRISTEN HOGE	OC
SHAUN CRAWFORD	CB
JERRY TILLERY	OT
JOSH BARAJAS	ILB
MILES BOYKIN	WR
ELIJAH TAYLOR	DT
C.J. SANDERS	WR
JOSH ADAMS	RB
PRENTICE MCKINNEY	S
BRANDON TIASSUM	DT
JALEN GUYTON	WR
TREVOR RUHLAND	OG
ASHTON WHITE	ATH
MICAH DEW-TREADWAY	SDE
NICK COLEMAN	CB
NICCO FERTITTA	S
JUSTIN YOON	K

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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.

"The Empty Chair by the Hearth: Archaeological Insights into Irish-America"

Ian Kuijt

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies,
Department of Anthropology

19th century Irish immigration pulled apart island families and communities, and simultaneously created the foundation for new lives in North America. Drawing upon archaeological and video ethnographic research on Inishark, County Galway, this talk will explore the pathways of trans-Atlantic emigration, the foundation of new American communities, and the means by which memory among islanders is connected to the sea, home and hearth.

4 p.m.
Saturday, September 6, 2014

Snite Museum's Annenberg Auditorium

Lecture and Q&A free and open to the public. No tickets required.

 UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
College of Arts and Letters

☞ 8.30.14 (vs. Rice)

Jerusalem's Future: Peace or Apocalypse?

Atalia Omer, Associate Professor of Religion, Conflict and Peace Studies,
Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; Department of Sociology

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

The Empty Chair by the Hearth: Archaeological Insights into Irish-America

Ian Kuijt, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Anthropology

☞ 10.4.14 (vs. Stanford University)

Online Learning and the Future of Higher Education

Elliott Visconsi, Chief Academic Digital Officer, Office of the Provost;
Associate Professor, Department of English; Concurrent Associate Professor of Law

☞ 10.11.14 (vs. North Carolina)

Evolution, Humans and Other Animals: Theology and Anthropology in Dialogue

Celia Deane-Drummond, Professor, Department of Theology

☞ 11.15.14 (vs. Northwestern)

What's All the Fuss about Digital Humanities?

Matt Wilkens, Assistant Professor, Department of English

☞ 11.22.14 (vs. Louisville)

Beyond Civility: Addressing the Crisis in American Public Discourse

John Duffy, The O'Malley Director of the University Writing Program;
Associate Professor, Department of English

To view the entire Saturday Scholars Series visit: saturdayscholar.nd.edu

RECRUITING

Irish host slew of nation's top prospects

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

As if Notre Dame wasn't going to be crowded enough this weekend for the primetime matchup between two rivals playing their final scheduled meeting, the Irish are set to host roughly 24 recruits over the weekend.

Notre Dame will welcome mostly a combination of class of 2015 commitments, class of 2015 targets and class of 2016 targets. The expected group could swell to ___ members, replete with "big names," according to Irish recruiting analyst Tom Loy.

Loy, who covers Notre Dame recruiting for Blue and Gold Illustrated, part of the 247Sports network, said none of the names really get much bigger than Plano, Texas, native Soso Jamabo, a four-star running back and the No. 45 overall player in the nation, per 247Sports' Composite Rankings.

"He's been the top guy for a very long time for running backs coach Tony Alford," Loy said. "For a while he didn't seem like a realistic shot as the relationship was developing between Jamabo, Alford and [Irish defensive backs coach and Texas specialist] Kerry Cooks. [Then] things started really heating up."

Loy said there's a chance Jamabo could make a decision this weekend, but he expects the running back's recruitment to stretch to October.

As for someone who could pledge to Notre Dame this weekend, Loy said he would not be surprised if linebacker Tevon

Coney left this week as commitment No. 18 in Notre Dame's class of 2015.

Meanwhile, linebacker/defensive end Porter Gustin became one of the most recent additions to the mass of visitors. Loy described the No. 67 overall prospect in the class of 2015 — per 247Sports — as a "freak athlete."

"Right now he's definitely favoring USC," Loy said. "USC is the school he grew up cheering for, grew up watching. He's been to campus, been to the games. This is Notre Dame's one shot to blow him away"

With all the hype surrounding the rivalry weekend, Loy agreed there is an opportunity to blow away recruits — to an extent.

"I don't think it sways kids as much as they like to believe, as fans like to believe," Loy said. "But you get a victory, a wild locker room, you get a crazy campus, all the fans going crazy, it can definitely do a lot to help their chances. But in the end these kids are smart."

Loy said many of the prospects will still look beyond one rivalry win or loss, or one night on a fervent campus.

"They do look at it, but it's not as important as basically looking at the pros and cons of actually being a student-athlete at Notre Dame," Loy said. "And that's where Notre Dame really sells itself."

But at the same time, Loy argued, the recruits do enjoy being blown away. It's a challenge for the staff to balance all the various recruits in one weekend, Loy said, and avoid having



Photo courtesy of Blue & Gold Illustrated, 247Sports

Class of 2015 running back Soso Jamabo is scheduled to visit Notre Dame this weekend, according to Blue and Gold Illustrated's Tom Loy.

certain prospects leave feeling discounted. For instance, the top two quarterbacks — Malik Henry and Shea Patterson — on Notre Dame's class of 2016

board, according to Loy, will both be visiting South Bend this weekend. Loy said it's important to actively recruit both, even though it could eventually

be a "first-come, first-served" scenario.

"If you let a top guy leave without showing him enough love, that's a problem," Loy said. "But in the end, this is Notre Dame, and they're recruiting a certain type of kid. ... If you're looking for a kid that's looking for the right thing, there's no way they're going to leave this weekend without being pretty impressed by Notre Dame."

For more on Notre Dame recruiting, check out BlueAndGold.com. Email Andrew Owens at aowens@blueandgold.com and tell him *The Observer* sent you.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

VISITORS for SATURDAY'S GAME

LB Tevon Coney **offered**
LB/DE Porter Gustin **offered**
RB Soso Jamabo **offered**
LB Bo Wallace **offered**
OL Jerry Tillery **commit**
WR Miles Boykin **commit**
DT Elijah Taylor **commit**
CB Nick Coleman **commit**
DE Micah Dew-Treadway **commit**
DB Nicco Fertitta **commit**
WR Jalen Guyton **commit**
OL Tristen Hoge **commit**

DB Prentice McKinney **commit**
DT Brandon Tiasum **commit**
PK Justin Yoon **commit**
OT Ben Bredeson **offered (2016)**
TE Jake Hausmann **offered (2016)**
QB Malik Henry **offered (2016)**
OL Tommy Kraemer **offered (2016)**
WR Austin Mack **offered (2016)**
QB Shea Patterson **offered (2016)**
DE Auston Robertson
LB Ethan Tucky **offered (2016)**
DE Corey Malone-Hatcher **interested (2017)**

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COMMENTARY

Rivalry game will test Notre Dame's mettle



Samantha Zuba
Assistant Managing Editor

Notre Dame won't waste much time getting into the big games on its schedule this season.

Have you recovered from tailgating and the win over Rice last weekend yet? You have mere hours to gear up for Michigan and the night game. From there, the schedule will have little mercy on the Irish (1-0).

Make this game day count because there is no set date for the rivalry with Michigan (1-0) to resume. Come Saturday, the players all will try to make this one count, even if the official line is that this game is another one on the schedule, just as

important as Rice.

That's nonsense.

Beating a rival does matter. There is a special atmosphere on campus and in Notre Dame Stadium when a rival comes to town. Fans definitely feel it. And players know it's there, whether they will acknowledge it in an interview or not.

The Michigan game matters more than the matchup against talented, up-and-coming Rice.

Rice is a good team, so this has little to do with whether or not unranked Michigan is better than the Owls, although a win against Michigan likely means more in the polls.

That's not the most important factor in the Notre Dame-Michigan game.

A win against the Wolverines

proves the Irish can deal with distractions and win.

The extra energy and pressure that comes with a rivalry game can wither even a talented team. Players sometimes try too hard and play out of control. They may take unnecessary risks trying to make the big play or, on the other hand, shy away from the chance, cracking under the pressure to be heroes and beat the rival.

A good team finds a way to harness rivalry energy, focus and win. If Notre Dame wants to be a contender, it has to show it's that kind of team.

When the stadium rocks Saturday and the lights come on, the Irish have to show up and play calm, even if they're amped up. Especially if they're amped

up.

Over the last few seasons, there has been no shortage of distractions, some due to unfortunate circumstances, others due to unfortunate judgment. This season is no different, with five players being held out due to an investigation into suspected academic dishonesty.

But Notre Dame has to rise above that. The Irish got a good start against Rice, with Everett Golson returning from his suspension to throw two touchdowns and rush for three. He came into the game under a lot of pressure to play like the "ProdiGolson" in his return, and he coolly delivered a great performance.

Take that example and run with it, Notre Dame.

As the Irish move forward, they will have to continue answering questions about off-the-field issues until they are resolved. While they wait, they have to play — against challenging opponents.

They will deal with the hype of rivalry games and a looming matchup with No. 1 Florida State. If they climb in the polls, they will face higher expectations and doubts about whether they deserve their ranking. If they inch closer to the playoffs, they will have to answer questions about whether they are ready to be a championship team.

Notre Dame can start answering those questions Saturday when it takes the field against the Wolverines.

Last season, the No. 14 Irish lost to No. 17 Michigan, 41-30, at the Big House.

It was the beginning of an unraveling that culminated in a sloppy 28-21 loss to Pittsburgh in November.

If Notre Dame wants to play in a meaningful bowl game, it needs to make a different statement this year against the Wolverines. Like last season, the Irish play Michigan in the second game of the season after beating a team nicknamed the Owls — last year Temple, this year Rice.

Saturday's game gives Notre Dame the chance to put last season in the past and prove it has more mettle this time around.

This game matters.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

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

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WOLVERINES PASSING

Wolverines graduate student quarterback Devin Gardner teams up with junior receiver Devin Funchess to form what Irish head coach Brian Kelly calls a "dynamic" duo. Funchess tallied seven receptions for 95 yards and three touchdowns in Michigan's season-opening 52-14 dismantling of Appalachian State.

The competition wasn't impressive, but Funchess' ability is. The 6-foot-5 former tight end is a matchup problem for the Irish. Cornerbacks Cole Luke (5-foot-11) and Cody Riggs (5-foot-9) don't stack up size-wise.

Beyond Funchess, the Wolverines don't have too many proven pass-catchers. But that didn't matter much for Rice, who exploited breakdowns in Notre Dame's secondary for passing plays of 53, 30, 26 and 26 yards, respectively.

The Irish safeties will have to shore things up quickly to ensure there isn't a repeat of the 2013 game, when Gardner shredded Notre Dame for 294 yards and four touchdowns through the air. Former Wolverines receiver Jeremy Gallon racked up 184 receiving yards and three scores in last year's matchup.

EDGE: MICHIGAN

WOLVERINES RUSHING

Michigan running backs Derrick Green (170 yards against Appalachian State) and De'Veon Smith (115) ran wild in the season opener, but, again, that was not against Irish-esque competition. Michigan head coach Brady Hoke slowed things down, somewhat, saying, "we just played one football game."

Michigan's offensive line is inexperienced. Its tackles, Mason Cole and Ben Braden, made their first career starts Saturday, and the other three projected starters enter the weekend with just a combined 15 career starts.

Kelly was pleased with how Notre Dame's front four held the line and played physically, but will that young group duplicate its performance against better backs?

How will undersized linebackers like Joe Schmidt and James Onwualu hold up when the 220-pound Green is barreling toward them?

EDGE: EVEN

WOLVERINES OFFENSIVE COACHING

Once again, it's a matchup of new coordinators on both sides of the ball, with Michigan offensive coordinator Doug Nussmeier opposing Irish defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder.

These two met in 2012, when Nussmeier's Alabama squad rolled to a 49-0 victory over VanGorder's Auburn defense. This week, Kelly praised Nussmeier's offenses, lauding their strong concepts, and this year's group on the offensive line.

Nussmeier's track record likely speaks louder than that of VanGorder, but anything can happen Saturday.

EDGE: MICHIGAN

WOLVERINES SPECIAL TEAMS

Kelly specifically made note of Wolverines punter Will Hagerup this week, praising the redshirt senior, who averaged 45.03 yards per punt in 2012, the best single-season average in Michigan history.

Senior kicker Matt Wile is relatively inexperienced, having only attempted 10 field goals (with six makes).

Junior return man Dennis Norfleet is already slotted second in Michigan history with 1,801 kick return yards, including the 36 he picked up on one jaunt Saturday against Appalachian State.

Until Notre Dame proves — on a consistent basis — it has shored up its special-teams play, the Wolverines possess the advantage.

EDGE: MICHIGAN

WOLVERINES SCHEDULE (0-0)

Aug. 30 **Appalachian State (W 52-14)**
 Sept. 6 **@ Notre Dame**
 Sept. 13 **Miami (Ohio)**
 Sept. 20 **Utah**
 Sept. 27 **Minnesota**
 Oct. 4 **@ Rutgers**
 Oct. 11 **Penn State**
 Oct. 25 **@ Michigan State**
 Nov. 1 **Indiana**
 Nov. 8 **@ Northwestern**
 Nov. 22 **Maryland**
 Nov. 29 **@ Ohio State**

HEAD T

7:30 P.M.

NOTRE DAME STADIUM

MICHIGAN



M

(Jr.) Devin Funchess **87** WR
(R-So.) Amara Darboh **82**(Jr.) A.J. Williams **84** TE
(R-Fr.) Khalid Hill **80**(Fr.) Mason Cole **52** LT
(R-So.) Erik Magnuson **78**(So.) Derrick Green **27** RB
(So.) De'Veon Smith **4**(R-So.) Erik Magnuson **78** LG
(So.) Kyle Bosch **65**(Gr.) Devin Gardner **98** QB
(So.) Shane Morris **7**(R-Jr.) Jack Miller **60** C
(R-Fr.) Patrick Kugler **57**(R-Sr.) Joey Burzynski **56** RG
(So.) Kyle Bosch **65**(R-So.) Ben Braden **71** RT
(R-Fr.) Logan Tuley-Tillman **72**(Jr.) Dennis Norfleet **23** WR
(R-So.) Bo Dever **3**(R-So.) Jehu Chesson **86** WR
(Fr.) Freddy Canteen **17**

M

(Sr.) Raymon Taylor **6** LCB
(So.) Jourdan Lewis **26**(r.) Royce Jenkins-Stone **52** SLB
(Jr.) James Ross III **15**(R-So.) Jeremy Clark **34** S
(So.) Dymonte Thomas **25**(Sr.) Frank Clark **57** DE
(Jr.) Mario Ojemudia **53**(R-Sr.) Jake Ryan **47** MLB
(Sr.) Desmond Morgan **48**(R-So.) Willie Henry **69** DT
(R-So.) Matthew Godin **99**(R-So.) Ryan Glasgow **96** DT
(Fr.) Bryan Mone **90**(Jr.) Jarrod Wilson **22** S
(R-So.) AJ Pearson **18**(Sr.) Brennen Beyer **97** DE
(So.) Taco Charlton **33**(Jr.) Joe Bolden **35** WLB
(Sr.) Desmond Morgan **48**(R-Jr.) Blake Countess **2** RCB
(R-So.) Terry Richardson **13**

M

(Sr.) Matt Wile **45** PK
(R-So.) Kenny Allen **91**(R-So.) Kenny Allen **91** H
(So.) Shane Morris **7**(R-Sr.) Will Hagerup **40** P
(Sr.) Matt Wile **45**(Jr.) Dennis Norfleet **23** KR
(R-Jr.) Justice Hayes **5**(Fr.) Jabrill Peppers **5** PR
(Jr.) Dennis Norfleet **23**(R-Fr.) Scott Sypniewski **43** LS
(Fr.) Andrew Robinson **49**

Mike Monaco
Senior Sports Writer



Brian Hartnett
Managing Editor



Samantha Zuba
Assistant Managing Editor

Both teams rolled in their season openers. Got it.

But what do we glean from the respective thumpings?

For Michigan, Devin Funchess is a monster matchup nightmare on the perimeter, but the interior of the Wolverines' defensive front struggled at times. For Notre Dame, Everett Golson looked dominant. The secondary, in particular the safeties, wavered with communication and allowed four explosive plays.

So what gives Saturday? Well, if we've learned anything from this rivalry, it's that the rivalry game will be close down the stretch.

But in the end, Notre Dame's offense looks to have the upper hand — thanks in part to its line — and a raucous home crowd will do enough to aid the youthful Irish defense.

FINAL SCORE : Notre Dame 35, Michigan 28

Michigan and Notre Dame both easily dispatched non-power conference opponents last weekend. Now, it's time for their last meeting in the foreseeable future, a game that will have even more meaning than their usual intense matchups.

Like those past games, there's no reason to think this one won't be close. Both teams are coming off disappointing seasons and have holes to fill before they can return to college football's elite.

The two Devins, Gardner and Funchess, will give Notre Dame trouble, while Everett Golson and Greg Bryant, among others, will challenge the Wolverines.

I think the game will come down to defense, and Notre Dame's front seven will be able to generate just enough pressure against Michigan's inexperienced offensive line and vulnerable ground game.

FINAL SCORE : Notre Dame 27, Michigan 24

Notre Dame proved it could score in a big way when it put up 48 points against Rice, with Everett Golson looking sharp. Michigan proved it could score in a big way when it beat Appalachian State, 52-14.

This game will come down to whichever defense can make timely stops of the other high-powered offense.

The Irish defense made mistakes early in the first half against Rice but settled down. It will need to lock in against Devin Gardner, who threw for 173 yards, efficiently completing 13 of 14 passes against Appalachian State. The Wolverines also rushed for a combined 350 yards. Notre Dame's defense has the edge over Michigan's offensive line and will prevent Michigan from activating its rushing attack.

FINAL SCORE : Notre Dame 35, Michigan 24

O HEAD

ON NBC

NO. 16 NOTRE DAME



KEVIN SONG | The Observer



Observer File Photo

CB **2** **Cody Riggs** (Gr.)
19 Nick Watkins (Fr.)

WLB **9** **Jaylon Smith** (So.)
48 Greg Martini (Fr.)

DE **45** **Romeo Okwara** (Jr.)
98 Andrew Trumbetti (Fr.)

S **22** **Elijah Shumate** (Jr.)
23 Drue Tranquill (Fr.)

DT **91** **Sheldon Day** (Jr.)
53 Justin Utupo (Gr.)

ILB **38** **Joe Schmidt** (Sr.)
5 Nyles Morgan (Fr.)

DT **94** **Jarron Jones** (Jr.)
75 Daniel Cage (Fr.)

S **10** **Max Redfield** (So.)
41 Matthias Farley (Sr.)

DE **90** **Isaac Rochell** (So.)
92 Grant Blankenship (Fr.)

SLB **17** **James Onwualu** (So.)
31 John Turner (Jr.)

CB **36** **Cole Luke** (So.)
12 Devin Butler (So.)

WR **2** **Chris Brown** (Jr.)
7 Will Fuller (So.)

WR **3** **Amir Carlisle** (Sr.)
20 C.J. Prosisie (Jr.)

RT **79** **Steve Elmer** (So.)
70 Hunter Bivin (So.)

RG **74** **Christian Lombard** (Gr.) **RB** **33** **Cam McDaniel** (Sr.)
75 Mark Harrell (Jr.) 25 Tarean Folston (So.)
1 Greg Bryant (So.)

C **72** **Nick Martin** (Sr.)
75 Mark Harrell (Jr.)

QB **5** **Everett Golson** (Sr.)
8 Malik Zaire (So.)

LG **65** **Conor Hanratty** (Sr.)
77 Matt Hegarty (Sr.)

LT **78** **Ronnie Stanley** (Jr.)
68 Mike McGlinchey (So.)

TE **18** **Ben Koyack** (Sr.)
80 Durham Smythe (So.)

WR **88** **Corey Robinson** (So.)
11 Justin Brent (Fr.)

KO **27** **Kyle Brindza** (Sr.)

PK **27** **Kyle Brindza** (Sr.)
85 Tyler Newsome (Fr.)

KR **3** **Amir Carlisle** (Sr.)
33 Cam McDaniel (Sr.)

P **27** **Kyle Brindza** (Sr.)
85 Tyler Newsome (Fr.)

LS **61** **Scott Daly** (Jr.)

PR **2** **Cody Riggs** (Gr.)
1 Greg Bryant (So.)

IRISH PASSING

Everett Golson only completed 14 passes in Saturday's season opener against Rice, but Golson and the Irish provided enough fireworks to stay more than efficient.

If Golson performs anywhere close to the level at which he played against the Owls, the Irish passing attack should be potent. Notre Dame benefits from a variety of options in the receiving game, even though there isn't one proven, bona fide pass-catcher.

On the other side, the Wolverines boast experienced cornerbacks in senior Raymon Taylor and redshirt junior Blake Countess. Countess nabbed a pair of interceptions last year against the Irish, spurring his six-interception campaign that culminated with a first-team All-Big Ten selection. Taylor snagged four interceptions of his own in 2013.

Highly touted freshman cornerback Jabrill Peppers, who is slated as the starting nickel back, missed the second half Saturday with an ankle injury. Hoke, however, said Monday he doesn't think Peppers will be a question mark. "I think he will be ready to play," Hoke said to reporters in Ann Arbor, Mich.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH RUSHING

For the first time since November 1996, Notre Dame had five different players — Golson, sophomore quarterback Malik Zaire, sophomore runningbacks Greg Bryant and Tarean Folston and senior running back Cam McDaniel — amass at least 40 rushing yards Saturday.

Notre Dame sliced up the Rice defense to the tune of 281 rushing yards and effectively made Owls standout defensive tackle Christian Covington a non-factor.

Expect the Irish to turn to the running game again against the Wolverines, especially with some self-professed issues along the interior of the Michigan defensive front, according to Hoke. Wolverines defensive tackles Willie Henry (seven) and Ryan Glasgow (one) have a combined eight career starts, and neither interior lineman cracks 300 pounds.

Between McDaniel, Bryant and Folston, the Irish should find success on the ground.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH OFFENSIVE COACHING

Notre Dame's offense looked explosive Saturday, but how will defenses begin to adjust as they see more film of Golson and the Irish? Then, in turn, how will Notre Dame adapt?

Here, Notre Dame's depth and variety works in its favor, as the Irish have a wealth of ways to move the chains. It's up to Irish offensive coordinator Mike Denbrock and Kelly to push the right buttons against Michigan's veteran defensive coordinator Greg Mattison.

Kelly said Notre Dame will need to do an especially good job of protecting Golson, as Mattison and the Wolverines prefer to attack and bring pressure defensively.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH SPECIAL TEAMS

Well, Notre Dame fans certainly saw a different Irish squad when it came to special teams Saturday. The return game was finally just that — a return game.

But Kelly said Tuesday the Irish are probably "getting a little too much credit for it and probably took a little too much in defending it in years past." The head coach did praise his team's effort, something he naturally hopes continues throughout the season. Riggs and Bryant will continue to handle punt-return duties.

The early returns looked positive. But more data points are needed before we dub this area a strength of the Irish.

EDGE: NOTRE DAME

IRISH SCHEDULE (1-0)

Aug. 30 **Rice** (W 48-17)

Sept. 6 **Michigan**

Sept. 13 **vs. Purdue**

Sept. 27 **Syracuse**

Oct. 4 **Stanford**

Oct. 11 **North Carolina**

Oct. 18 **@ Florida State**

Nov. 1 **vs. Navy**

Nov. 8 **@ Arizona State**

Nov. 15 **Northwestern**

Nov. 22 **Louisville**

Nov. 29 **@ USC**



Isaac Lorton

Assistant Managing Editor



Mary Green

Sports Editor

Although Notre Dame defeated Rice, 48-17, there were some major issues of concern in the Irish secondary. Yes, graduate student safety Austin Collinsworth was injured the Thursday prior to the game, but Michigan is no Rice, and Notre Dame will not be able to get by on athleticism alone.

The Wolverines will not drop passes like Rice did.

Michigan receiver Devin Funchess is a deep threat at all times, and quarterback Devin Gardner will run all over the Irish if he is left with too much space.

Both offenses will produce, and the outcome of the game will come down to which defense steps up and makes crucial stops. In this huge home matchup, the Irish defense will step up and the Irish will come out on top.

FINAL SCORE : Notre Dame 31, Michigan 28

Everett Golson's return to the field for the Irish was impressive and so were Notre Dame's Week One offensive numbers — 48 points, 576 total yards.

But Michigan's numbers — 52 points, 560 total yards — were just as noteworthy in its win against Appalachian State. Lucky for the Irish, the Wolverines primarily used their running game to put those numbers up. That will be key for a home-team win.

Notre Dame's secondary struggled at times to stop deep passes, but the linebackers, led by Joe Schmidt and Jaylon Smith, were able to contain the Owls' rushing attack.

That defensive strategy — along with a rowdy crowd at Notre Dame Stadium that's ready to close the series out with a win — will fuel the Irish to a win Saturday.

FINAL SCORE : Notre Dame 31, Michigan 27

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NOTRE DAME SECONDARY

Young group responds to calls to communicate

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Managing Editor

For many in Notre Dame's clubhouse, there was little to worry about following the team's 48-17 win over Rice on Saturday.

Behind senior quarterback Everett Golson's five touchdowns, the Irish offense racked up 576 total yards.

Notre Dame's young front seven held Rice's offense to an average of 3.5 yards per play on the ground.

Even the Irish special teams recorded 80 yards in punt returns and 49 yards in kickoff returns.

With such successes in multiple facets of the game, most of the worry shifted to the Notre Dame secondary, which allowed 226 yards and four plays of more than 25 yards.

"There's things we've got

importance of communication in his Tuesday press conference.

"Without giving too much away, suffice it to say we have to be more demonstrative and take more control [in the secondary]," he said.

Sophomore cornerback Cole Luke said Wednesday that better communication has been emphasized throughout practices since the Rice game.

"Coaches have [talked about it], and that's also something we have to take accountability for from the back four," he said. "We've been trying to stress it a lot ourselves, hand signals and whatnot, but that's something we're working on."

Notre Dame's secondary may have an excuse for its communication struggles — lack of familiarity. The eight players listed in Notre

"I don't know about everybody else, but for me, it's after the first play, everything's gone, and I'm kind of loose after that."

Cole Luke

Irish sophomore cornerback



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior safety Elijah Shumate, right, celebrates with teammates during Notre Dame's 48-17 win over Rice on Saturday. Shumate started in place of injured graduate student safety Austin Collinsworth.

to get better at, obviously," Irish head coach Brian Kelly said in his postgame press conference Saturday. "Our communication in the back end of the defense was at times a problem, which resulted in some big plays."

Kelly reiterated the

Dame's two-deep at the cornerback and safety positions made a combined 13 starts last season.

The team's most experienced player in the secondary, senior cornerback Matthias Farley, switched positions after making eight

starts at safety last season. Farley notched an interception in the second quarter of Saturday's win.

"Matthias is a guy that can do a lot of jobs for us," Kelly said in his Sunday teleconference. "He's a valuable player for us."

Farley, however, didn't receive the start Saturday, as he was slotted behind sophomore safety Max Redfield. Starting opposite Redfield at the safety spot was junior Elijah Shumate, who was forced into action two days before the Rice game when graduate student safety and captain Austin Collinsworth tore his MCL.

Although Kelly singled out Shumate and Redfield as players who need to improve their communication in his Sunday teleconference, graduate student cornerback Cody Riggs said he was impressed with the performance of the two new starters.

"I think they did a really good job," Riggs said following Saturday's game. "Elijah and Max played really well, which is what I expected. They had really great camps. They played exactly to their abilities."

Riggs has 27 collegiate starts under his belt, albeit just one with the Irish. He appeared in 40 games for Florida over four seasons. Luke said he has picked up

several techniques from the former SEC starter.

"Cody's been a big help," he said. "Obviously coming from the SEC, playing against a lot of great receivers, he's a great guy, but he's added another dynamic to our defense, plays fast, shifty."

Luke rounds out the secondary starters, as he made his first start against Rice. Kelly singled out Luke's poise in his Sunday teleconference.

"[Cole] didn't seem to be affected by his first start," he said. "I thought he played with confidence. Really just liked his demeanor."

Luke said he will try to carry over that cool demeanor to Notre Dame's matchup against Michigan on Saturday.

"I don't know about everybody else, but for me, it's after the first play, everything's gone, and I'm kind of loose after that," Luke said. "... Someone has to step up, and it's my time to step up."

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu



EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

Irish sophomore cornerback Cole Luke blocks a Rice player during Notre Dame's 48-17 victory over the Owls on Saturday. Luke made his first collegiate start in the win over Rice.

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WEI LIN | The Observer

Notre Dame and Michigan will square off for the 42nd time in series history Saturday at Notre Dame Stadium. In games at the Stadium, each team has tallied nine wins. Notre Dame and Michigan have tied once at Notre Dame Stadium.

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WR Funchess presents matchup problem



Observer File Photo

Wolverines junior receiver Devin Funchess, pictured here against Notre Dame in Michigan's 41-30 win in 2013 at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Mich., notched seven receptions for 95 yards and three touchdowns in Michigan's season-opening win over Appalachian State.

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

On Saturday at Michigan Stadium, Devin Funchess showed his play matches the No. 1 jersey he now wears. The Wolverines junior receiver totaled seven catches for 95 yards and three touchdowns, earning himself a spot resting on the bench as Michigan finished rolling over Appalachian State 52-14. He amassed these numbers all before halftime and set a Michigan record for most touchdown receptions in a season opener.

Two days later, Michigan graduate student quarterback Devin Gardner said Funchess has the talent to position himself

in the upper echelons of historic Michigan wide receivers with the likes of Desmond Howard, Braylon Edwards and Anthony Carter, who all wore No. 1.

"He can probably be the best receiver ever to play here," Gardner said.

Last season's Big Ten tight end of the year, Funchess had 49 receptions for 748 yards and six touchdowns, playing both tight end and wide out. This season, now solely a wideout, Funchess already is making a splash.

Irish coach Brian Kelly said the Irish defense must be wary of Funchess and have spent time this week focusing on how to defend against his connection with Gardner.

"We're playing an offense

with Gardner and Funchess, a 1-2 combination that is very dynamic," Kelly said. "We will have to find ways obviously to slow [Funchess] down, and he's going to be difficult, and Gardner has

he will be a matchup problem for everybody he plays this year," Kelly said.

Despite being double-teamed in the Appalachian State game, Funchess caught a jump ball

will play me differently because they saw what I did in the first game."

Although Funchess plays offense the majority of the game and is called upon as a downfield threat, he still has the energy to be part of the punt return team.

Wolverine coach Brady Hoke said he will not hold Funchess or any starter off of special teams for fear of injury because they could get injured at any time anyway, and Funchess wants to be on the field as much as possible.

"I took [Funchess] off the punt return because I thought, well, he's doing enough," Hoke said. "He got mad at me, so I put him back on. We made a decision that if you aren't good enough to start on offense and defense, you aren't good enough to start on special teams."

Funchess will attempt to demonstrate his impact as a starter on special teams and offense this Saturday against Notre Dame, but more importantly, he will try to prove again — this time against a historic rival — that he is worthy to wear the No. 1 Michigan jersey.

"He can probably be the best receiver ever to play here."

Devin Gardner
Wolverines graduate student quarterback

played great against us."

The 6-foot-5 Funchess proved too difficult to cover for Appalachian State, and Kelly said Funchess has the talent to challenge any team.

"Funchess being on the perimeter is a matchup problem, and

over two Mountaineer defenders in the back of the endzone for one of his touchdowns. Funchess acknowledged his size advantage but added Notre Dame will aim to minimize it.

"I do see the size matchup," Funchess said. "But I think they

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Kelly: 'No update' on five withheld players



DE KENESEY | The Observer

Irish junior cornerback KeiVarae Russell, pictured here against Purdue on Sept. 14, 2013 at Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette, Ind., is one of five Notre Dame players being held out of practice and competition.

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

Irish head coach Brian Kelly said he did not have any updates on the five players being held out of practice and competition following Notre Dame's investigation into "suspected academic dishonesty" at his weekly press conference Tuesday.

Kelly said the players have not been made a part of meetings and said everything is status quo.

"We haven't made that change [with their involvement in meetings] because I haven't got any updates relative to where we are in the process and the timing of that," Kelly said.

Kelly said Thursday he has been informed that Notre Dame's investigation has been closed. The University announced Aug. 15 that junior cornerback KeiVarae Russell, senior receiver DaVaris Daniels, senior defensive end Ishaq Williams and graduate student linebacker Kendall Moore were being kept out of practice and competition. Notre Dame announced Thursday a fifth player is also being held out, and a University official later confirmed the player is senior safety Eilar Hardy.

Meeting with Michigan

When Notre Dame and Michigan kick off under the lights at Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday night, the two historic programs will be meeting for the 42nd time. Since the teams squared off in 1978, the Irish and the Wolverines have played every year except 1983, 1984, 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2001.

"I think we all know the kind of game we're gonna play here with this opponent," Kelly said. "Each team knows each other very well. Certainly they've been great games."

Kelly highlighted Wolverines graduate student quarterback Devin Gardner, who the head coach said "has played great against us," and junior receiver Devin Funchess.

"[That's] a one-two combination that is very dynamic," Kelly said. "Funchess now being on the perimeter is a matchup problem, and he'll be a matchup problem for everybody that he plays this year."

As for the rivalry talk surrounding a series that doesn't have another meeting currently scheduled, Kelly steered clear of anything controversial, even asking, "How did I do?" after one rivalry-themed question.

Notre Dame (.7332) ranks first in all-time winning percentage, while Michigan (.7326) checks in

fractionally behind. The winner of Saturday's tilt will claim first place.

"It's something, certainly, that we talk about in recruiting, in terms of the elite programs and the tradition of our program," Kelly said of the elite winning percentage. "It doesn't help us right now, but certainly it's something that when you're talking about the great programs of all time it's something that we're very proud of."

Of the last 29 games between the two programs, the contest has been decided by seven points or fewer 18 times. The Wolverines have outscored the Irish, 110-98, combined in Kelly's four seasons in South Bend.

Why so many close games?

"I think two programs that have such great pride that they're going to battle and fight to the very end," Kelly said. "There is an immense amount of pride, both teams want to win this football

game and that's why regardless of what the teams' records are and what the personnel looks like, there is just great pride in both programs."

Personnel Updates

Sophomore receiver Torii Hunter Jr. (groin) has made good progress, according to Kelly, and was scheduled to partake in individual drills Tuesday as he remains ahead of schedule.

"If things go well, we will continue to progress him through the week, and if he has a great week he could be in a situation where potentially he could play next week," Kelly said.

Senior linebacker Jarrett Grace (leg) continues to make significant progress in his movement and other body mechanics, Kelly said, but he's still "a few weeks away" from being 100 percent.

"He's not at 100 percent, but he's getting better each and every day," Kelly said.

Sophomore receiver Corey Robinson (thumb) is a little bit sore after playing Saturday against Rice, according to Kelly, but "everything looked great after the game."

"He's one of those kids that thought that was a great challenge in his life that he wanted to undertake," Kelly said. "He was going to play and find a way to succeed."

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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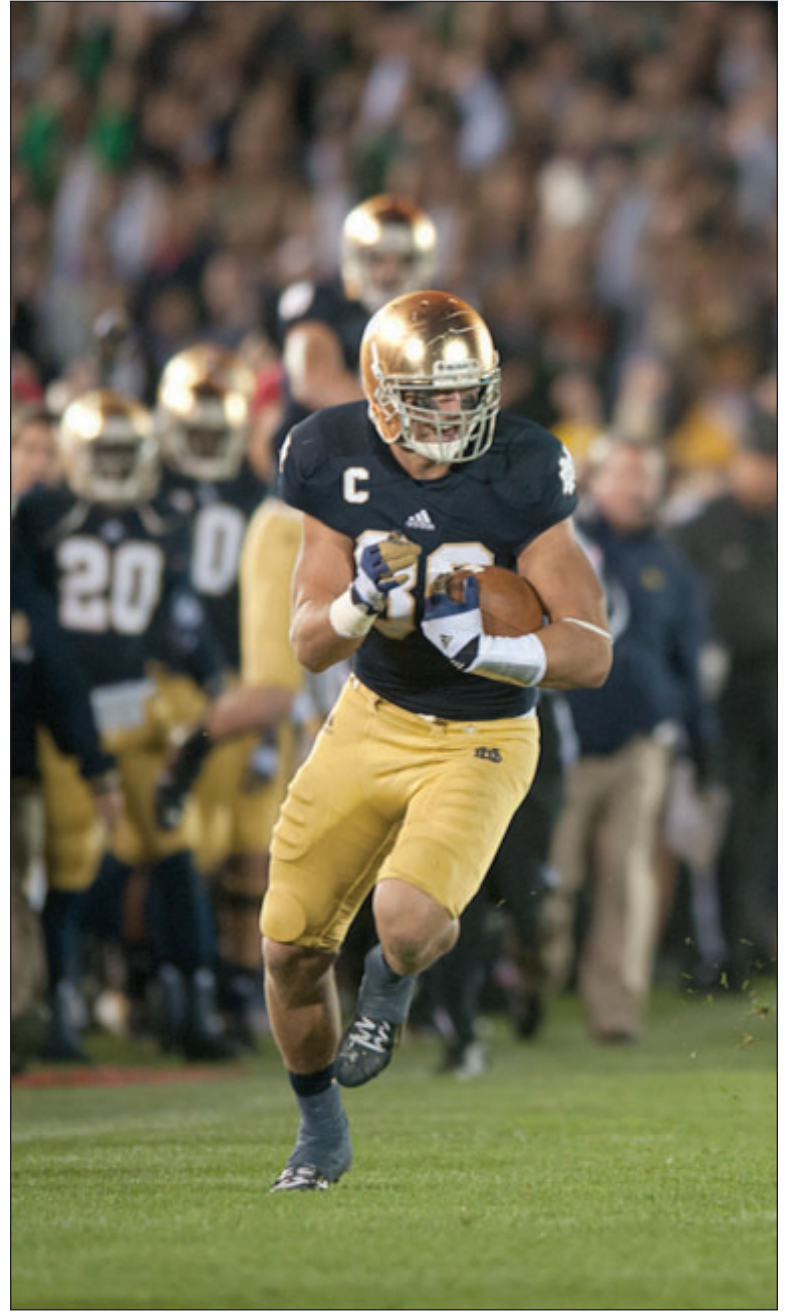
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KARLA MORENO | The Observer

Irish senior quarterback Everett Golson drops back to pass in Notre Dame's 13-6 win over Michigan on Sept. 22, 2012. Golson and the Irish will face the Wolverines on Saturday.



KARLA MORENO | The Observer

Former Irish tight end Tyler Eifert aims to gain yards after a catch in Notre Dame's 13-6 victory over Michigan on Sept. 22, 2012.

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