



NOTRE DAME

THE BOWL GAMES

Fullback Jerome Bettis scored two rushing touchdowns and caught a 26-yard pass for a score in Notre Dame's 28-3 win over Texas A&M in the 1993 Cotton Bowl. (photo by Don Stacy)

Bowl Box Scores

Notre Dame Bowl Record Won 13, Lost 12

Season	Bowl	Opponent	W/L	Score
1924	Rose (Jan. 1, 1925)	Stanford	W	27-10
1969	Cotton (Jan. 1, 1970)	Texas	L	17-21
1970	Cotton (Jan. 1, 1971)	Texas	W	24-11
1972	Orange (Jan. 1, 1973)	Nebraska	L	6-40
1973	Sugar (Dec. 31, 1973)	Alabama	W	24-23
1974	Orange (Jan. 1, 1975)	Alabama	W	13-11
1976	Gator (Dec. 27, 1976)	Penn State	W	20-9
1977	Cotton (Jan. 2, 1978)	Texas	W	38-10
1978	Cotton (Jan. 1, 1979)	Houston	W	35-34
1980	Sugar (Jan. 1, 1981)	Georgia	L	10-17
1983	Liberty (Dec. 29, 1983)	Boston College	W	19-18
1984	Aloha (Dec. 29, 1984)	SMU	L	20-27
1987	Cotton (Jan. 1, 1988)	Texas A&M	L	10-35
1988	Fiesta (Jan. 2, 1989)	West Virginia	W	34-21
1989	Orange (Jan. 1, 1990)	Colorado	W	21-6
1990	Orange (Jan. 1, 1991)	Colorado	L	9-10
1991	Sugar (Jan. 1, 1992)	Florida	W	39-28
1992	Cotton (Jan. 1, 1993)	Texas A&M	W	28-3
1993	Cotton (Jan. 1, 1994)	Texas A&M	W	24-21
1994	Fiesta (Jan. 2, 1995)	Colorado	L	24-41
1995	Orange (Jan. 1, 1996)	Florida State	L	26-31
1997	Independence (Dec. 28, 1997)	LSU	L	9-27
1998	Gator (Jan. 1, 1999)	Georgia Tech	L	28-35
2000	Fiesta (Jan. 1, 2001)	Oregon State	L	9-41
2002	Gator (Jan. 1, 2003)	North Carolina St.	L	6-28

1925 ROSE BOWL

Notre Dame 27, Stanford 10

January 1, 1925

Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne and the famed Four Horsemen brought a perfect 9-0 record to the West Coast to take on coach Pop Warner and Ernie Nevers led Stanford. Notre Dame's victory earned the Irish their first-ever national championship and the first of four national crowns to come via bowl wins.

1970 COTTON BOWL

Texas 21, Notre Dame 17

January 1, 1970

Texas came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with a perfect 10-0 record. Notre Dame stood eighth in the AP poll and ninth according to UPI with its 8-1-1 mark. Texas earned the national championship with its victory, but Notre Dame moved up to fifth in the final AP poll taken after the bowl games.

1971 COTTON BOWL

Notre Dame 24, Texas 11

January 1, 1971

Texas again came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with a 10-0 mark and 30-game winning streak. Notre Dame stood 9-1 and was fifth in the UPI poll and sixth according to the AP. The Notre Dame victory dropped Texas to third in the final AP poll after the bowl games, while Notre Dame moved up to second behind Nebraska.

1973 ORANGE BOWL

Nebraska 40, Notre Dame 6

January 1, 1973

Nebraska came in with an 8-2-1 record, ranked ninth according to United Press International. Notre Dame, 8-2, came in ranked 12th in the UPI poll. The Nebraska victory vaulted the Huskers to fourth in the final AP poll after the bowls, while Notre Dame dropped to 14th.

1973 SUGAR BOWL

Notre Dame 24, Alabama 23

December 31, 1973

Alabama came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with an 11-0 record. Notre Dame came in ranked third according to AP and fourth in the UPI poll with a 10-0 record. The Notre Dame victory left the Irish first in the AP poll after the bowls, while Alabama dropped to fourth.

1975 ORANGE BOWL

Notre Dame 13, Alabama 11

January 1, 1975

Alabama came in ranked first in the United Press International poll and second in the Associated Press poll with its 11-0 record. Notre Dame came in standing eighth in the UPI poll and ninth according to AP with its 9-2 record. The Notre Dame victory left Notre Dame sixth and Alabama fifth in the AP poll after the bowls. UPI also took its final tabulation after the bowl games for the first time and rated Alabama second and Notre Dame fourth.

1976 GATOR BOWL

Notre Dame 20, Penn State 9

December 27, 1976

Penn State came in tied for 20th in the polls with a 7-4 record. Notre Dame came in 13th in the United Press International poll and 15th in the Associated Press poll with an 8-3 record. The Notre Dame victory left the Irish 12th in both the final AP and UPI polls after the bowl games.

1978 COTTON BOWL

Notre Dame 38, Texas 10

January 2, 1978

Texas came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with its perfect 11-0 record. Notre Dame came in ranked fifth by both AP and UPI with a 10-1 record. The Notre Dame victory elevated the Irish to first in both the AP and UPI polls taken after the bowls, while Texas dropped to fourth in AP and fifth in UPI.

1979 COTTON BOWL

Notre Dame 35, Houston 34

January 1, 1979

Houston came in ranked ninth according to the Associated Press and 11th according to United Press International with a 9-2 record. Notre Dame came in ranked ninth according to UPI and 10th according to AP with an 8-3 record. The Notre Dame victory left the Irish sixth in UPI and seventh in AP, while Houston dropped to 10th in AP and remained 11th in UPI.

1981 SUGAR BOWL

Georgia 17, Notre Dame 10

January 1, 1981

Georgia came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with a perfect 11-0 record. Notre Dame came in seventh in AP and eighth in UPI with a 9-1-1 record. The Georgia victory kept the Bulldogs first in both polls, while Notre Dame dropped to ninth in AP and 10th in UPI.

1983 LIBERTY BOWL

Notre Dame 19, Boston College 18

December 29, 1983

Boston College came in ranked 12th according to United Press International and 13th according to the Associated Press with a 9-2 record. Notre Dame came in unranked with a 6-5 record. The Notre Dame victory dropped the Eagles to 19th in AP and 20th in UPI, while Notre Dame remained unranked. The Irish, however, did finish 18th in the final New York Times computer rankings.

1984 ALOHA BOWL

SMU 27, Notre Dame 20

December 29, 1984

SMU came in ranked 10th according to both the Associated Press and United Press International with a 9-2 record. Notre Dame came in ranked 17th by AP and 18th by UPI with a 7-4 record. The SMU victory boosted the Mustangs to eighth in both final wire service polls, while Notre Dame dropped out of both polls.

1988 COTTON BOWL

Texas A&M 35, Notre Dame 10

January 1, 1988

Texas A&M came in ranked 13th according to both the Associated Press and United Press International with a 9-2 record. Notre Dame came in ranked 12th by AP and 14th by UPI with an 8-3 record. The Texas A&M victory boosted the Aggies to ninth in the final UPI polls and 10th according to AP. Notre Dame fell to 17th in the final AP poll and dropped out of the UPI rankings completely.

1989 FIESTA BOWL

Notre Dame 34, West Virginia 21

January 2, 1989

West Virginia came in ranked third according to both the Associated Press and United Press International with an 11-0 record. Notre Dame came in ranked first by both AP and UPI with an 11-0 record. The Notre Dame victory left the Irish atop both polls in the final rankings. West Virginia dropped to fifth in both final polls.

1990 ORANGE BOWL

Notre Dame 21, Colorado 6

January 1, 1990

Colorado came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with its perfect 11-0 record. Notre Dame came in ranked fourth in both polls with an 11-1 record. The Notre Dame victory boosted the Irish to second in the final AP poll and third according to UPI. Colorado dropped to fourth in both polls.

1991 ORANGE BOWL

Colorado 10, Notre Dame 9

January 1, 1991

Colorado came in ranked first in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls with its 10-1-1 record. Notre Dame came in ranked fifth by AP and sixth by UPI with a 9-2 record. The Colorado victory left the Buffs first according to AP and second by UPI. Notre Dame finished sixth in both polls.

1992 SUGAR BOWL

Notre Dame 39, Florida 28

January 1, 1992

Florida came in ranked third according to the Associated Press and fourth according to USA Today/CNN with a 10-1 record. Notre Dame came in ranked 18th in both polls with a 9-3 record. The Notre Dame victory left the Gators seventh according to AP and eighth by USA Today/CNN. The Irish finished 12th according to USA Today/CNN and 13th by AP.

1993 COTTON BOWL

Notre Dame 28, Texas A&M 3

January 1, 1993

Texas A&M came in ranked third by USA Today/CNN and fourth by the Associated Press with a 12-0 record. Notre Dame came in ranked fifth in both polls with a 9-1-1 mark. The Irish victory put them fourth in the final polls and placed the Aggies sixth according to USA Today/CNN and seventh by AP.

1994 COTTON BOWL

Notre Dame 24, Texas A&M 21

January 1, 1994

Texas A&M came in ranked sixth by USA Today/CNN and seventh by the Associated Press with a 10-1 record. Notre Dame came in ranked fourth by both Associated Press and USA Today/CNN with a 10-1 mark. The Notre Dame victory pushed the Irish to second in both polls. The Aggies dropped to eighth in both polls.

1995 FIESTA BOWL

Colorado 41, Notre Dame 24

January 2, 1995

Colorado came in ranked fourth by the Associated Press and fifth by USA Today/CNN with a 10-1 record. Notre Dame came in unranked with a 6-4-1 record. The Colorado victory left the Buffs third in both polls, while Notre Dame remained unranked.

1996 ORANGE BOWL

Florida State 31, Notre Dame 26

January 1, 1996

Florida State came in ranked eighth by both the Associated Press and USA Today/CNN with a 9-2 record. Notre Dame came in with a 9-2 mark and was ranked sixth by AP and ninth in USA Today/CNN. The victory by Florida State put the Seminoles fourth in the final AP poll and fifth in USA Today/CNN. Notre Dame finished 11th in AP and 13th in the USA Today/CNN.

1997 INDEPENDENCE BOWL

LSU 27, Notre Dame 9

December 28, 1997

LSU came in ranked 15th by both the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN with an 8-3 record. Notre Dame came into the contest with a 7-5 mark and was unranked. The victory by LSU gave the Tigers a final ranking of 13th in both the AP and USA Today/ESPN poll.

1999 GATOR BOWL

Georgia Tech 35, Notre Dame 28

January 1, 1999

Georgia Tech came in ranked 12th by the Associated Press and 14th by USA Today/ESPN with a 9-2 record. Notre Dame came into the contest with a 9-2 mark and was ranked 17th by the Associated Press and 14th by USA Today/ESPN. The victory by Georgia Tech gave the Yellow Jackets a final ranking of ninth in the AP and 11th in the USA Today/ESPN. Notre Dame was ranked 22nd in both final polls.

2001 TOSTITOS FIESTA BOWL

Oregon State 41, Notre Dame 9

January 1, 2001

Oregon State came in ranked fifth by the Associated Press and sixth by USA Today/ESPN with a 10-1 record. Notre Dame came into the contest with a 9-2 mark and was ranked 10th by both the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN. The victory by Oregon State gave the Beavers a final ranking of fourth in the AP and fifth in the USA Today/ESPN poll. Notre Dame was ranked 15th in the AP poll and 16th in the final USA Today/ESPN poll.

2003 GATOR BOWL

North Carolina State 28, Notre Dame 6

January 1, 2003

North Carolina State came in ranked 17th by both the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN with a 10-3 record. Notre Dame came into the contest with a 10-2 mark and was ranked 11th by the Associated Press and 12th by USA Today/ESPN. The victory by North Carolina State boosted the Wolfpack to a final ranking of 12th in the AP and 11th in the USA Today/ESPN poll. Notre Dame was ranked 17th in both the AP poll and final USA Today/ESPN poll.

Here's how Notre Dame and other schools have fared in postseason bowl competition over the past 35 years (regular seasons of 1969 through 2003, or beginning with the first season the Irish began playing in bowl games on a regular basis).

Bowl Appearances (1969-2003)

	School	No.	W-L
1.	Nebraska	35	(19-16)
2.	Michigan	31	(14-17)
3.	Alabama	29	(17-11-1)
	Penn State	29	(19-10)
	Ohio State	29	(12-17)
	Tennessee	29	(17-12)
7.	Texas	27	(10-17)
	Georgia	27	(14-11-2)
9.	Florida State	26	(17-8-1)
10.	USC	25	(15-10)
	NOTRE DAME	25	(13-12)

Bowl Wins (1969-2003)

	School	Wins
1.	Nebraska	19
	Penn State	19
3.	Alabama	17
	Tennessee	17
	Florida State	17
6.	Oklahoma	15
7.	USC	15
	Georgia	14
	Michigan	14
10.	Auburn	13
	NOTRE DAME	13

STANFORD vs NOTRE DAME



Pasadena Rose Bowl
January 19, 1925

1925 ROSE BOWL

NOTRE DAME 27 – STANFORD 10

PASADENA (Jan. 1, 1925) — With the fabled Four Horsemen making their final appearance together, Notre Dame ventured to the distant West Coast and proved its worth by downing Stanford 27-10 in the 1925 Rose Bowl. The win gave Notre Dame a 10-0 record for the 1924 season and the national championship.

Although Pop Warner's Indians won the battle of the statistics-besting Notre Dame in virtually every offensive category—the Irish, coached by Knute Rockne, capitalized on Stanford miscues and came up on top on the scoreboard.

Stanford opened the scoring in the first quarter as Murray Cuddeback kicked a 27-yard field goal. But that was all the Indians could manage until late in the game when the outcome was almost assured.

Elmer Layden shone as a sparkling jewel in the Notre Dame crown all afternoon. The skinny fullback scored three touchdowns for the Irish, including two on interception returns. He also helped the Notre Dame cause with his punting that forced Stanford into poor field position on many occasions.

Layden's first score, a three-yard plunge across the goal line, capped a 46-yard drive by Notre Dame. Although Jim Crowley's kick failed, Notre Dame owned a 6-3 lead early in the second quarter.

Late in the second period, Layden stunned the capacity crowd of 53,000 in the Rose Bowl by intercepting an Ernie Nevers pass and galloping downfield for 78 yards for another touchdown. This time Crowley, another one of the Horsemen, converted the extra-point attempt.

Even though the stronger, more physical Stanford Indians were controlling the line play, Rockne's swift and crafty Irish kept putting points on the scoreboard.

Late in the third quarter, Stanford fumbled an Elmer Layden punt on its own 20-yard line. A quick-thinking Ed Hunsinger picked up the ball and ran untouched into the end zone for another Notre Dame score. With Crowley's kick, Notre Dame held a commanding 20-3 lead.

Stanford finally staged a late rally and threatened to dash the Irish hopes of a Midwest victory. Nevers, a star on both offense and defense, provided the heroics as he intercepted a Notre Dame pass on the Stanford 20-yard line, thwarting an Irish scoring drive. He then guided the Indians downfield to the Notre Dame seven. Another Stanford back, Ed Walker, passed to Ted Shipkey, a two-way star for the Indians, for the score. Cuddeback's kick brought Stanford back to within 10 points at 20-10.

The Indians moved into scoring territory again in the final stanza. Nevers brought Stanford all the way to the Notre Dame eight-inch line. But an inspired Irish line made a superb defensive stance on Nevers' final plunge, and the Notre Dame advantage stayed intact.

Notre Dame crossed the goal line a final time with only 30 seconds left in the contest that was played in 89-degree heat. Layden again intercepted a Nevers pass and took it 70 yards into the end zone. Crowley added the final touches with his kick.

Layden and Crowley proved the Irish standouts of the afternoon, but the two other Horsemen—Don Miller and quarterback Harry Stuhldreher—also played a big part in the Notre Dame win. Stuhldreher broke an ankle early in the contest but continued to play despite the painful injury. Captain Adam Walsh anchored the line play at center.

The story of the game proved to be Notre Dame's penchant for turning Stanford mistakes into Notre Dame scores.

"It is true that we got the breaks, but we would have won anyway," said Rockne. "It is one thing to get the breaks and another thing to take advantage of them. Stanford played a wonderful game, but we won fairly, playing the ball as it came to us, and we hope to be given credit for that."

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	13	7	7	27
Stanford	3	0	7	0	10
Attendance: 53,000		Weather: Hot, 89 degrees			

Team	Score ND-SU	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Stanford	0-3	1	8:00	Murray Cuddeback 27 FG
Notre Dame	6-3	2	13:30	Elmer Layden 3 run (Jim Crowley kick failed) Drive: 46 yards
Notre Dame	13-3	2	8:00	Elmer Layden 78 interception return (Jim Crowley kick) Big Play: Elmer Layden intercepted an Ernie Nevers pass on the Notre Dame 22-yard line and returned it 78 yards for the touchdown.
Notre Dame	20-3	3	5:00	Ed Hunsinger 20 fumble return (Jim Crowley kick) Big Play: Stanford fumbled an Elmer Layden punt and Ed Hunsinger recovered the ball and ran 20 yards for the score.
Stanford	20-10	3	1:00	Ted Shipkey 7 pass from Ed Walker (Murray Cuddeback kick) Drive: 50 yards
Notre Dame	27-10	4	0:30	Elmer Layden 70 interception return (Jim Crowley kick) Big Play: Elmer Layden intercepted an Ernie Nevers pass on the Notre Dame 30-yard line and returned it for the touchdown.

TEAM STATISTICS

	SU	ND
First Downs	17	7
Yards Rushing	193	137
Yards Lost Rushing	15	7
Net Yards Rushing	178	130
Net Yards Passing	138	56
Passes Attempted	17	7
Passes Completed	12	3
Had Intercepted	5	3
Total Net Yards	316	186
Fumbles Lost	3	1
Penalties-Yards	1-15	4-30
Average Per Punt	42.5	48.5
Interceptions	3-7	5-139





1970 COTTON BOWL

TEXAS 21 — NOTRE DAME 17

DALLAS — After a 45-year absence, Notre Dame reappeared on the bowl scene.

The Irish, who headed into the battle with a respectable 8-1-1 record, drew the unenviable assignment of challenging the nation's number-one team - the unbeaten Longhorns of Texas. With visions of the Four Horsemen dancing in their heads, the Irish almost pulled off the upset. Only a 76-yard drive late in the final period, capped by Billy Dale's one-yard scoring plunge, gave the Longhorns a hard fought 21-17 victory and insured their claim to the national title.

Although Texas won the annual Cotton Bowl Classic on this sundrenched but chilly New Year's Day before a packed house of 73,000, Notre Dame, coached by Ara Parseghian, matched the powerful Longhorns yard for yard until the final gun.

The Irish opened the scoring in the first quarter as Scott Hempel converted a 26-yard field goal. After the opening kickoff junior quarterback Joe Theismann guided the Irish 82 yards downfield, eating up six minutes on the clock, to set the stage for Hempel's kick.

Notre Dame scored again early in the second period as Theismann shocked the Longhorns by tossing a 54-yard touchdown bomb to Tom Gatewood on the first play from scrimmage after a Texas punt. Hempel's kick made it 10-0 for Notre Dame.

The Longhorns first lit the scoreboard in the second quarter as they drove 74 yards in nine plays. Behind the running of Ted Koy and Jim Bertelsen and the passing of James Street, the Longhorns moved into Notre Dame territory and ended the scoring march on Bertelsen's one-yard dash into the end zone. Happy Feller converted the PAT and the Longhorns trailed 10-7.

Neither team crossed the goal line again until the final period.

Texas jumped out in front of the Irish in the fourth quarter on a bruising 77-yard drive. Steve Worster, the game's leading rusher with 155 yards, barreled his way through the Irish defense for long gains of eight, nine and seven yards, while Bertelsen, who finished the afternoon with 81 yards, added carries of five and six yards to the Longhorn effort. Koy took the ball in from the three, and Feller's kick gave Texas a 14-10 lead.

Notre Dame fought right back. With Theismann at the controls, Notre Dame went 80 yards in eight plays to go ahead 17-14. The feisty Theismann put together scampers of 14 and 11 yards and tossed an 11-yard pass to Dennis Allen. The Irish finally scored on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Theismann to Jim Yoder.

With still seven minutes left in the battle, coach Darrell Royal and his Longhorns weren't about to watch their national championship dreams be snuffed out by an upstart group of Irishmen from Notre Dame. Texas made the most of its final surge. Twice the Longhorns needed conversions on fourth down to maintain possession, and the final one dashed Notre Dame's hopes. Street, on fourth and two from the Irish 10-yard line, threw low and wide to end Cotton Speyrer, but the lanky red-head snared it at the two. The Irish defense then halted a pair of Longhorn rushing plays, but on the third try, Dale found the end zone and the Longhorns had their national championship with only 1:08 left on the clock.

Notre Dame tried another comeback attempt with the seconds ticking away. Theismann brought the Irish all the way to the Texas 39, but with 28 seconds left, Tom Campbell intercepted Theismann's final pass.

Worster earned the game's offensive player award, while Notre Dame's captain Bob Olson won the most valuable defensive player honor.

Theismann's efforts established Cotton Bowl records in two categories. His 231 yards passing broke Roger Staubach's previous mark of 228 (1964) and his 279 yards total offense surpassed Duke Carlisle's 267 standard, also set in 1964.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	3	7	0	7	17
Texas	0	7	0	14	21
Attendance: 73,000		Weather: Fair, 48 degrees			

Team	Score ND-UT	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	3-0	1	8:41	Scott Hempel 26 FG
Drive: 82 yards in 16 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:14; Big Plays: Joe Theismann passes to Dennis Allen for 16 yards and Tom Gatewood for 11 yards.				
Notre Dame	10-0	2	14:40	Tom Gatewood 54 pass from Joe Theismann (Scott Hempel kick)
Drive: 54 yards in one play; Time Elapsed: 0:08; Big Play: Taking possession after a Texas punt, quarterback Joe Theismann threw a 54-yard bomb to Tom Gatewood on the first play from scrimmage.				
Texas	10-7	2	11:12	Jim Bertelsen 1 run (Happy Feller kick)
Drive: 74 yards in nine plays; Time Elapsed: 3:22; Big Plays: Quarterback James Street passes to Charles Speyrer for 17 yards and Randy Peschel for 16 yards, Jim Bertelsen run of 17 yards.				
Texas	10-14	4	10:05	Ted Koy 3 run (Happy Feller kick)
Drive: 77 yards in 18 plays; Time Elapsed: 8:10; Big Plays: Steve Worster runs of eight, nine and seven yards, Jim Bertelsen runs of five and six yards.				
Notre Dame	17-14	4	6:52	Jim Yoder 24 pass from Joe Theismann (Scott Hempel kick)
Drive: 80 yards in eight plays; Time Elapsed: 2:56; Big Plays: Joe Theismann runs of 14 and 11 yards, Joe Theismann pass to Dennis Allen for 11 yards and Bill Barz run of 12 yards.				
Texas	21-17	4	1:08	Billy Dale 1 run (Happy Feller kick)
Drive: 76 yards in 17 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:39; Big Play: James Street pass to Charles Speyrer for 17 yards.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	UT	ND
First Downs	25	25
By Rushing	19	13
By Passing	6	12
By Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	67	43
Yards Rushing	333	213
Yards Lost Rushing	2	24
Net Yards Rushing	331	189
Net Yards Passing	107	231
Passes Attempted	11	27
Passes Completed	6	17
Had Intercepted	1	2
Total Offensive Plays	78	70
Total Net Yards	448	420
Average Gain Per Play	5.7	6.0
Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties: No.-Yds.	1-5	2-10
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	2-9	1-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	4-159	7-256
Average Per Punt	39.8	36.5
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	3-24	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	3-31	5-97

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UT: Steve Worster 20-155; Jim Bertelsen 18-81; Ted Koy 12-40; James Street 10-31; Charles Speyrer 1-13; Billy Dale 6-11.

ND: Bill Barz 10-49; Joe Theismann 11-48; Dennis Allan 7-47; Andy Huff 11-39; Jim Yoder 2-4; Mike Crotty 2-2.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

UT: James Street 11-6-1-107.

ND: Joe Theismann 27-17-2-231.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

UT: Charles Speyrer 4-70; Jim Bertelsen 1-21; Randy Peschel 1-16.

ND: Tom Gatewood 6-112; Dennis Allan 3-43; Mike Crotty 3-19; Andy Huff 2-15; Jim Yoder 1-24; Dewey Poskon 1-22; Bill Barz 1-7.

OUTSTANDING DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Bob Olson, Linebacker



1971 COTTON BOWL

NOTRE DAME 24 — TEXAS 11

DALLAS — Notre Dame's defense caused nine Texas fumbles and All-America quarterback Joe Theismann personally accounted for three scores in the first 16 1/2 minutes en route to a 24-11 Irish victory in the 1971 Cotton Bowl Classic.

The victory, Notre Dame's 10th against only one loss during the season, stopped the Longhorns' 30-game winning string and knocked top-ranked Texas out of the race for its second consecutive national championship.

The decisive win was the first bowl victory in 46 years for Notre Dame, who returned to the post-season scene the year before after a 45-year absence.

Both teams displayed their offensive fireworks in the first half as the Irish built up a 24-11 advantage that held up until the final buzzer.

Texas cracked the scoring barrier early in the first period on Happy Feller's 23-yard field goal. On the first play of the Texas possession, quarterback Eddie Phillips rambled 63 yards downfield on an option play. But the Notre Dame defense stiffened its resistance and the Longhorns had to settle for only the three-pointer.

Then, Theismann ignited the Notre Dame charge by rallying the Irish to three touchdowns on their next four possessions. The senior all-star guided the Irish 80 yards in only 10 plays and tossed a 26-yard pass to Tom Gatewood for the touchdown. The scoring march included another Theismann pass to Gatewood (this one for 17 yards) and a Theismann scamper of 12 yards, along with runs of seven, 11 and six yards by John Cieszkowski. Scott Hempel's kick gave the Irish a 7-3 lead, and they never looked back.

Notre Dame increased its lead by seven 2 1/2 minutes later. Tom Eaton recovered a Texas fumble on the kickoff at the Longhorn 13-yard line. Six plays later, Theismann took the ball in himself on a three-yard run. Hempel again converted the PAT.

The Irish scored again on another Theismann run - this one from 15 yards - early in the second period. He helped the Irish march the 53 yards in the drive by tossing a 19-yard pass to Mike Creaney. Ed Gulyas contributed a 12-yard run.

Although the Longhorns had trouble getting their famed Wishbone attack off the ground because of a unique Notre Dame defensive alignment, Texas did manage another score in the second period. Phillips abandoned the run and went to the most rusty weapon in the Longhorn arsenal - the pass. He hit tight end Deryl Comer three times (for eight, 36 and 10 yards) in an 84-yard drive that climaxed on Jim Bertelsen's two-yard run. A Phillips pass to Danny Lester added two points.

The Irish wrapped up the scoring on a 36-yard field goal by Hempel with 24 seconds remaining on the clock before intermission.

The second half turned into a defensive struggle as Notre Dame played it conservatively, and Texas tried to figure out the Irish defensive setup that featured six men on the line of scrimmage - with three across from the Longhorn center.

Neither team mounted much of a scoring threat. However, in the third period, the fired-up Notre Dame defense took the steam out of a promising Longhorn drive. Irish linebacker Jim Musuraca met Bertelsen head-on at the Notre Dame 35-yard line and forced another fumble, one of five recovered by the Irish, that gave the ball and the momentum to Notre Dame.

Texas, who entered the game as the nation's top-ranked rushing team with an average of 374 yards per game, managed only 216 yards against the Irish. Phillips accumulated 164 of those yards. Notre Dame's ground game netted only 146 yards, paced by Cieszkowski's 52.

Phillips, who combined for 363 yards total offense, erased Theismann's standard of 279, set the previous year. He was voted the top offense player, while Notre Dame's Clarence Ellis earned the defensive honor.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	14	10	0	0	24
Texas	3	8	0	0	11
Attendance: 73,000		Weather: Fair, 52 degrees			

Team	Score ND-UT	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Texas	0-3	1	11:28	Happy Feller 23 FG Drive: 67 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 1:33; Big Play: On first play from scrimmage quarterback Eddie Phillips goes 63 yards on option play.
Notre Dame	7-3	1	7:58	Tom Gatewood 26 pass from Joe Theismann (Scott Hempel kick) Drive: 80 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:39; Big Plays: Joe Theismann run of 12 yards, Joe Theismann pass to Tom Gatewood for 17 yards, John Cieszkowski runs of seven, 11 and six yards.
Notre Dame	14-3	1	5:11	Joe Theismann 3 run (Scott Hempel kick) Drive: 13 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 5:11; Big Plays: Tom Eaton recovered Texas fumble on kickoff at Longhorn 13-yard line, John Cieszkowski run of nine yards.
Notre Dame	21-3	2	13:28	Joe Theismann 15 run (Scott Hempel kick) Drive: 53 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 1:37; Big Plays: Joe Theismann pass to Mike Creaney for 19 yards, Ed Gulyas run of 12 yards.
Texas	21-11	2	1:52	Jim Bertelsen 2 run (Danny Lester pass from Eddie Phillips) Drive: 84 yards in 18 plays; Time Elapsed: 7:02; Big Plays: Eddie Phillips passes to Deryl Comer for eight, 36 and 10 yards.
Notre Dame	24-11	2	0:24	Scott Hempel 36 FG Drive: 78 yards in eight plays; Time Elapsed: 1:21; Big Play: Jim Bugler pass to Clarence Ellis for 37 yards.

TEAM STATISTICS

	UT	ND
First Downs	20	16
By Rushing	10	9
By Passing	9	7
By Penalty	1	0
Rushing Attempts	55	43
Yards Rushing	260	192
Yards Lost Rushing	44	46
Net Yards Rushing	216	146
Net Yards Passing	210	213
Passes Attempted	27	19
Passes Completed	10	10
Had Intercepted	1	1
Total Offensive Plays	82	72
Total Net Yards	426	359
Average Gain Per Play	5.2	5.0
Fumbles: No.-Lost	9-5	1-1
Penalties: No.-Yds.	3-33	5-52
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	1-0	1-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	5-163	8-366
Average Per Punt	32.6	45.7
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	4-26	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-41	3-58

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UT: Eddie Phillips 23-164; Steve Worster 16-42; Donnie Wiggington 6-10; Jim Bertelsen 8-5; Billy Dale 1-2; Danny Lester 1-(-7).

ND: John Cieszkowski 13-52; Larry Parker 13-48; Ed Gulyas 9-24; Joe Theismann 18-22.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

UT: Eddie Phillips 17-9-0-199; Donnie Wiggington 10-1-1-11.

ND: Joe Theismann 16-9-1-176; Jim Bulger 2-1-0-37; Pat Steenberge 1-0-0-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

UT: Deryl Comer 4-67; Jim Bertelsen 3-85; Danny Lester 2-17; Billy Dale 1-41.

ND: Jim Yoder 2-96; Tom Gatewood 2-43; John Cieszkowski 2-11; Larry Parker 2-7; Clarence Ellis 1-37; Mike Creaney 1-19.

OUTSTANDING DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Clarence Ellis, Left Halfback



1973 ORANGE BOWL

NEBRASKA 40 — NOTRE DAME 6

MIAMI — Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers proved the award was justified by scoring four touchdowns and passing for another as ninth-ranked Nebraska smashed Notre Dame 40-6 in the 1973 Orange Bowl.

Although he left the game in the third period with 81 yards rushing on 15 carries, Rodgers scored on runs of eight, four and five yards, galloped down the sidelines on a 50-yard touchdown pass play from quarterback David Humm and tossed a 52-yard scoring aerial to Frosty Anderson as the Cornhuskers rolled to their third consecutive Orange Bowl conquest.

The defeat was the worst for the Irish since Ara Parseghian took over the Notre Dame coaching reins in 1964.

Nebraska, a Big Eight power, bolted to a 20-0 halftime lead and added three more touchdowns - all by Rodgers - in the third period before Notre Dame managed a meaningless touchdown in the final quarter. That six-pointer, a five-yard scoring pass from Tom Clements to Pete Demmerle, kept Notre Dame's streak of scoring in 72 straight games alive.

Rodgers scored his first touchdown in the first quarter on an eight-yard run that capped a 76-yard drive. That march also included scampers of 13 and 10 yards by Rodgers as well as runs of 12 and six yards by Dave Goeller. Rick Sanger's kick made it Nebraska 7, Notre Dame 0.

In the second quarter, Gary Dixon helped the Huskers go 80 yards in 11 plays with a 36-yard burst. He then plunged over from the one-yard line and Sanger's kick gave Nebraska a 14-0 lead.

On Nebraska's next possession, Humm lateraled to Rodgers on the first play from scrimmage. Rodgers then heaved his 52-yard pass to Frosty Anderson. That put the Irish in a 20-0 hole, and they never recovered.

Notre Dame's first-half problems resulted mainly from its inability to take advantage of excellent field position. During the first 30 minutes the Irish had first downs at the Nebraska 30, 29 and 25-yard lines but couldn't score. On two other occasions Clements' passes were intercepted, once at the Husker 18 and once at the Nebraska 41.

The Rodgers extravaganza continued after intermission. He scored on runs of four and five yards. He then took a screen pass from Humm and dashed 50 yards down the right sideline for the final Nebraska touchdown, its sixth of the day. Rodgers then retreated to the bench for the rest of the game. The Huskers already had inflicted enough damage on the Irish, who finished the year at 8-3.

Nebraska bested Notre Dame in just about every statistical category. The Huskers rolled up 560 yards total offense to Notre Dame's 207. Nebraska had 300 yards on the ground and 260 through the air, while the Irish had 104 yards rushing and 103 yards passing. Notre Dame managed only 13 first downs to Nebraska's 30.

Humm completed 13 of 19 passes for 185 yards, while his Irish counterpart Tom Clements was successful on nine of 22 attempts for 103.

In addition to his 81 yards rushing, Rodgers caught three passes for 71 yards.

Nebraska ended the year at 9-2-1, losing only to UCLA and Oklahoma and tying Iowa State. The victory proved a fitting end to the 11-year Nebraska career of head coach Bob Devaney.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	0	0	6	6
Nebraska	7	13	20	0	40
Attendance: 80,010	Weather: Fair, 74 degrees				

Team	Score ND-UN	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Nebraska	0-7	1	11:19	Johnny Rodgers 8 run (Rich Sanger kick) Drive: 76 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:41; Big Plays: Johnny Rodgers runs of 13 and 10 yards, Dave Goeller runs of 12 and six yards, David Humm pass to Johnny Rodgers for nine yards.
Nebraska	0-14	2	14:21	Gary Dixon 1 run (Rich Sanger kick) Drive: 80 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:04; Big Plays: Gary Dixon run of 36 yards, David Humm pass to Bob Revelle for 19 yards.
Nebraska	0-20	2	12:20	Frosty Anderson 52 pass from Johnny Rodgers (Rich Sanger kick failed) Drive: 52 yards in one play; Time Elapsed: 0:09.
Nebraska	0-26	3	11:17	Johnny Rodgers 4 run (David Humm pass failed) Drive: 42 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 1:55; Big Plays: David Humm pass to Bob Revelle for 14.
Nebraska	0-33	3	7:33	Johnny Rodgers 5 run (Rich Sander kick) Drive: 80 yards in nine plays; Time Elapsed: 2:52; Big Plays: Gary Dixon run of 12 yards, David Humm passes to Johnny Rodgers for 12 yards and Bob Revelle for 29 yards.
Nebraska	0-40	3	6:00	Johnny Rodgers 50 pass from David Humm (Rich Sanger kick) Drive: 50 yards in one play; Time Elapsed: 0:12.
Notre Dame	6-40	4	13:51	Pete Demmerle 5 pass from Tom Clements (Clements pass failed) Drive: 77 yards in 15 plays; Time Elapsed: 7:03; Big Plays: Tom Clements run of 11 yards, Tom Clements pass to Mike Creaney for 17 yards.

TEAM STATISTICS

	N	ND		N	ND
First Downs	30	13	Total Offensive Plays	90	67
By Rushing	20	6	Total Net Yards	560	207
By Passing	9	5	Average Gain Per Play	6.2	3.1
By Penalty	1	2	Fumbles: No.-Lost	1-1	3-0
Rushing Attempts	64	44	Penalties: No.-Yds.	5-68	1-15
Yards Rushing	328	145	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	3-0	1-0
Yards Lost Rushing	28	41	Punts: No.-Yds.	4-153	6-223
Net Yards Rushing	300	104	Average Per Punt	38.3	37.2
Net Yards Passing	260	103	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-3	2-18
Passes Attempted	26	23	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	2-34	6-84
Passes Completed	17	9			
Had Intercepted	1	3			

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UN: Johnny Rodgers 15-81; Gary Dixon 9-69; Dave Goeller 11-43; Ritch Bahe 6-27; Steve Runty 3-19; Maury Damkroger 3-18; Jeff Moran 4-11; Glen Garson 4-10; Ralph Powell 1-9; David Humm 4-7; Bill Olds 2-5; Don Westbrook 1-1.

ND: Eric Penick 8-48; Andy Huff 11-22; John Cieszkowski 3-21; Darryll Dewan 7-18; Art Best 7-15; Gary Dimmick 1-2; Al Samuel 1-0; Tom Clements 6-(-22).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

UN: David Humm 19-13-0-185; Johnny Rodgers 1-1-0-52; Steve Runty 6-3-1-23.

ND: Tom Clements 22-9-3-103; Darryll Dewan 1-0-0-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

UN: Johnny Rodgers 3-71; Bob Revelle 3-62; Jerry List 3-25; Frosty Anderson 2-67; Glen Garson 2-16; Maury Damkroger 2-13; Brent Longwell 1-4; Dave Goeller 1-2.

ND: Darryll Dewan 3-46; Mike Creaney 2-28; Jim Roelf 1-15; Pete Demmerle 1-5; Gary Diminick 1-5; Andy Huff 1-4.



1973 SUGAR BOWL

NOTRE DAME 24 — ALABAMA 23

NEW ORLEANS — It was to be a dream game.

Two undefeated, highly-ranked teams with long and storied gridiron traditions were set to battle for the national championship. It was billed as a classic confrontation - the game of the century.

The prognosticators' predictions rang true as the 1973 Sugar Bowl saw Notre Dame emerge a 24-23 winner over Alabama in a thriller that saw the lead change hands six times.

Bob Thomas, who had missed two attempts earlier in the game, kicked a 19-yard field goal with 4:26 remaining to give the Fighting Irish and coach Ara Parseghian the one-point upset over top-rated Alabama. The win also clinched the national championship for Notre Dame which finished the season at 11-0.

The record crowd of 85,161 was treated to a pulsating battle that went to the wire. With three minutes to play, Alabama's punting specialist, Greg Gantt, booted a 69-yard punt that backed up the Irish to their own one-yard line. However, Gantt was fouled on the play and Alabama was entitled to keep the ball with fourth down and five yards to go.

But Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant elected to decline the penalty, hoping his defense could force an Irish turnover deep in their own territory. Moments later, Notre Dame quarterback Tom Clements rifled a pass to tight end Robin Weber at the 38 and secured the national championship.

The Irish opened the contest with a superb defensive effort that held the Tide without a yard gained in the first period. Led by Clements, who shot passes of 19, 26 and 14 yards to split end Pete Demmerle, the Irish offense drew first blood in the opening period. Fullback Wayne Bullock capped a 64-yard scoring drive with a six-yard gallop into the end zone.

Alabama's thoroughbred backs made it out of the starting gate in the second period. They produced three long drives that resulted in a pair of scores - the first coming with 7:30 remaining. Randy Billingsley scored on a six-yard run and Bill Davis added the extra point that put Alabama up by one at 7-6.

On the ensuing kickoff, Notre Dame's Al Hunter stunned the crowd with his dazzling 93-yard return, the longest in Sugar Bowl history. The Irish went for two and converted as Clements hit Demmerle in the end zone for a 14-7 Notre Dame lead.

Alabama moved deep into Notre Dame territory late in the second quarter, but had to settle for a 39-yard field goal by Davis.

At the start of the second half, Alabama marched 93 yards and took the lead on Wilbur Jackson's five-yard scoring plunge. Again Notre Dame charged back, but a 54-yard field goal try by Thomas fell by the wayside.

Notre Dame excited the crowd again when linebacker Drew Mahalic recovered a Tide fumble in mid-air and took the ball to the Alabama 12-yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, Eric Penick dashed 12 yards for the score. Thomas' kick gave the Irish a 21-17 lead.

Early in the fourth period, the game took a zany turn with three turnovers in 90 seconds. Alabama took charge and put in its own version of the razzle-dazzle. With the ball on the Notre Dame 25, second-string quarterback Richard Todd handed off to halfback Mike Stock, then raced to the sidelines where he took a return pass from Stock and went in for the score. But Davis missed the conversion try and Bryant's Tide, which hadn't won a bowl game in its last four appearances, hung on to a slim two-point advantage.

Notre Dame then marched 79 yards in 11 plays. Strong runs by Hunter, Penick and Clements and a 30-yard pass from Clements to Dave Casper carried the drive to the Alabama 15-yard line. The Irish got to the three, but couldn't get any closer when the call went to Thomas. This time he didn't miss and the Irish had a 24-23 win.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	6	8	7	3	24
Alabama	0	10	7	6	23
Attendance: 85,161	Weather: Fair, 55 degrees				

Team	Score ND-UA	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	6-0	1	3:19	Wayne Bullock 6 run (Kick failed, bad center snap) Drive: 64 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 2:32; Big Plays: Tom Clements passes to Pete Demmerle for 19, 26 and 14 yards.
Alabama	6-7	2	7:30	Randy Billingsley 6 run (Bill Davis kick) Drive: 52 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 2:40; Big Plays: Gary Rutledge pass to Mike Stock for 15 yards, Gary Rutledge run of 12 yards.
Notre Dame	14-7	2	7:17	Al Hunter 93 kickoff return (Pete Demmerle, pass from Clements) Drive: 93 yards in one play; Time Elapsed: 0:13.
Alabama	14-10	2	0:39	Bill Davis 39 FG Drive: 69 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 2:40; Big Plays: Richard Todd pass to George Pugh for 14 yards, Richard Todd run of 11 yards.
Alabama	14-17	3	11:02	Wilbur Jackson 5 run (Bill Davis kick) Drive: 93 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:57; Big Plays: Gary Rutledge passes to Wilbur Jackson for 21 yards and Wayne Wheeler for 13 yards.
Notre Dame	21-17	3	2:30	Eric Penick 12 run (Bob Thomas kick) Drive: 12 yards in one play; Time Elapsed: 0:07.
Alabama	21-23	4	9:33	Richard Todd 25 pass from Mike Stock (Bill Davis kick failed) Drive: 39 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 2:14.
Notre Dame	24-23	4	4:26	Bob Thomas 19 FG Drive: 79 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:13.

TEAM STATISTICS

	UA	ND
First Downs	23	20
By Rushing	15	12
By Passing	7	6
By Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	52	59
Yards Rushing	233	257
Yards Lost Rushing	43	5
Net Yards Rushing	190	252
Net Yards Passing	127	169
Passes Attempted	15	12
Passes Completed	10	7
Had Intercepted	1	0
Total Offensive Plays	67	71
Total Net Yards	317	421
Average Gain Per Play	4.7	5.9
Fumbles: No.-Lost	5-2	4-3
Penalties: No.-Yds.	3-32	5-45
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	1-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	6-278	7-169
Average Per Punt	46.3	35.8
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-6	1-3
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-59	4-150

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UA: Wilbur Jackson 11-62; Randy Billingsley 7-54; Paul Spivey 11-44; Richard Todd 3-32; Mike Stock 3-13; Ellis Beck 2-5; Calvin Culliver 2-5; Willie Shelby 3-1; Gary Rutledge 10-(-25).

ND: Wayne Bullock 19-79; Tom Clements 15-74; Art Best 12-45; Eric Penick 9-28; Al Hunter 4-26.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

UA: Gary Rutledge 12-7-1-88; Richard Todd 2-2-0-14; Mike Stock 1-1-0-25.

ND: Tom Clements 12-7-0-169.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

UA: George Pugh 2-28; Wilbur Jackson 2-22; Johnny Sharpless 2-22; Richard Todd 1-25; Mike Stock 1-15; Wayne Wheeler 1-13; Randy Billingsley 1-2.

ND: Dave Casper 3-75; Pete Demmerle 3-59; Robin Weber 1-35.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Tom Clements, Quarterback



1975 ORANGE BOWL

NOTRE DAME 13 — ALABAMA 11

MIAMI — Alabama and Notre Dame locked horns again.

Although the stakes weren't as high (only Alabama was ranked number one, undefeated and looking for a national championship), the atmosphere was just as electric and frenzied as the 1973 Sugar Bowl. And this game was to be Ara Parseghian's last as head coach at Notre Dame. After 11 successful seasons and two national championships, he was hanging up his coach's playbook.

The Fighting Irish, though decided underdogs with their 9-2 ledger, gave Parseghian a proper going-away present - a 13-11 victory that denied the Tide the national title for the second straight year and gave Alabama and coach Paul "Bear" Bryant its eighth consecutive non-win in bowl competition.

Notre Dame staked itself to a 13-0 lead midway through the opening half and withstood the Tide's offensive thrust until the final gun sounded. The Irish got their first touchdown in the opening period. Alabama fumbled a Tony Brantley punt and Al Samuel recovered the ball at the Tide's 16-yard line.

Three plays later Notre Dame faced a fourth-and-one call at the seven. Wayne Bullock powered his way over the left side for three yards and a crucial first down. On the next play, he slithered into the end zone on a four-yard jaunt for the first Irish score. Dave Reeve added the extra point.

With 50 seconds left in the first quarter, the Notre Dame offense took control at its own 23-yard line and quarterback Tom Clements engineered another scoring drive - this one encompassing 77 yards in 17 plays and taking 7:21 off the clock. The Irish attempted only one pass in the march, a nine-yard completion to Mark McLane. The running game featured McLane and Samuel working the sweeps and Bullock picking up his yardage up the middle.

The drive almost stalled at the Alabama 28-yard line when the Irish faced a fourth-and-four situation. But an offsides call on the Tide on the Irish field-goal attempt gave Notre Dame new life. The Irish made the most of that resurrection, as McLane took a pitchout and ran 12 yards. Two plays later he twisted loose from the Alabama defense and went nine yards for the score. Reeve's kick was off the mark and Notre Dame had to settle for a 13-0 lead.

The Irish fumbled on their next possession and gave the Tide the football on the Notre Dame 40-yard line. Alabama's game plan was to go to the air, and quarterback Richard Todd hit Ozzie Newsome for 11 yards and Jerry Brown for 12 yards to help the Tide move to the Notre Dame eight-yard mark. But the Irish defense dug in, and Alabama could manage only a 21-yard field goal by Danny Ridgeway.

After a scoreless third quarter in which the Irish held Alabama to just three first downs, all by passing, Notre Dame took over at its own eight. The offense, dormant since the second quarter, surged to life. Samuel picked up 20 yards on a pair of sweeps to get the Irish out of the hole. But the Tide stopped a fourth-down try and immediately went to work.

Again, Alabama, which had averaged only 11 passes a game during the season, went to the air. Todd carried the Tide to the Irish 12-yard line but then delivered an interception to John Dubenetzky, who returned the ball 16 yards to the 26.

The Irish couldn't put together a sustained drive and turned the ball over to Alabama with 4:29 left. On fourth down and five yards to go, Todd let loose a 48-yard touchdown pass to Russ Schamun. The Tide added two points on a conversion pass from Todd to George Pugh.

Alabama got the ball back with just under two minutes remaining. Needing only a field goal to avenge the 24-23 loss in the '73 Sugar Bowl, Todd tossed to Schamun for a 16-yard gain and to Randy Billingsley for an eight-yard reception. But Reggie Barnett intercepted Todd's next throw and sealed the verdict in favor of the Irish.

It proved to be a fitting finale for Parseghian, who downplayed the emotional impact of his last game as Irish head coach.

"I told the players before the game that I'd like to win this last one," he said. "But I told them they didn't owe me anything. They owed it to themselves, and they won it that way. We won as a team and we lost as a team. That's the way I told them to look at the game."

Ara Parseghian went out a winner. Notre Dame wouldn't have had it any other way.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	7	6	0	0	13
Alabama	0	3	0	8	11
Attendance: 71,801	Weather: Fair, 70 degrees				

Team	Score ND-UA	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	7-0	1	6:41	Wayne Bullock 4 run (Dave Reeve kick)
Drive: 16 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 1:30; Big Play: Al Samuel recovered Alabama fumble on 16-yard line after Notre Dame punt.				
Notre Dame	13-0	2	8:29	Mark McLane 9 run (Dave Reeve kick failed)
Drive: 77 yards in 17 plays; Time Elapsed: 7:21; Big Plays: Mark McLane run of 12 yards, Tom Clements run of seven yards and pass to Mark McLane for nine yards. Wayne Bullock run of eight yards.				
Alabama	13-3	2	1:45	Danny Ridgeway 21 FG
Drive: 36 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:01; Big Plays: Richard Todd passes to Ozzie Newsome for 11 yards and Jerry Brown for 12 yards.				
Alabama	13-11	4	3:13	Russ Schamun 48 pass from Richard Todd (George Pugh pass from Richard Todd)
Drive: 53 yards in four plays; Time Elapsed: 1:16; Big Plays: Richard Todd passes to Russ Schamun on fourth down for the 48-yard touchdown.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	UA	ND
First Downs	14	15
By Rushing	3	14
By Passing	11	0
By Penalty	0	1
Rushing Attempts	33	66
Yards Rushing	107	215
Yards Lost Rushing	45	30
Net Yards Rushing	62	185
Net Yards Passing	223	19
Passes Attempted	29	8
Passes Completed	15	4
Had Intercepted	2	2
Total Offensive Plays	62	74
Total Net Yards	285	204
Average Gain Per Play	4.6	2.6
Fumbles: No.-Lost	5-2	1-1
Penalties: No.-Yds.	1-5	1-15
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	2-0	2-26
Punts: No.-Yds.	7-280	6-228
Average Per Punt	40.0	38.0
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	5-34	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	2-32	3-54

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UA: Calvin Culliver 11-60; Willie Shelby 5-25; Richard Todd 9-4; Randy Billingsley 2-3; James Taylor 1-1; George Pugh 1-(-8); Mike Stock 1-(-9); Gary Rutledge 3-(-14).

ND: Wayne Bullock 24-83; Al Samuel 10-39; Mark McLane 8-30; Tom Clements 11-26; Eric Penick 6-15; Tom Parise 3-4; Ron Goodman 1-2; Frank Allocco 3-(-14).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

UA: Richard Todd 24-13-2-194; Gary Rutledge 5-2-0-29.

ND: Tom Clements 7-4-1-19; Ron Goodman 1-0-1-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

UA: Ozzie Newsome 6-68; Russ Schamun 5-126; Randy Billingsley 3-17; Jerry Brown 1-12.

ND: Pete Demmerle 2-12; Mark McLane 1-9; Ron Goodman 1-(-2).

OFFENSIVE MVP

Wayne Bullock, Fullback



1976 GATOR BOWL

NOTRE DAME 20 — PENN STATE 9

JACKSONVILLE — Al Hunter ignited the Notre Dame offense and tallied a pair of first-half touchdowns to spark the Fighting Irish to a 20-9 win over Penn State in the Gator Bowl before a crowd of 67,827.

Hunter, who became the first Notre Dame back to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a single season, scored in each of the initial two periods.

After the Nittany Lions jumped out to a short-lived 3-0 lead on Tony Capozzoli's 26-yard field goal, Terry Eurick helped the Irish effort with a kickoff return of 65 yards. Hunter put together runs of six and nine yards before crossing the goal line on a one-yard dive. Dave Reeve added the extra point and the Irish were ahead for good.

In the second quarter Jim Browner recovered a Penn State fumble at the Nittany Lion 23-yard line. Six plays later, including a 12-yard pass from quarterback Rick Slager to Dan Kelleher, Reeve added three points to the Notre Dame total with a 23-yard field goal.

Notre Dame's offense continued its surge with another touchdown by Hunter. This time the Irish covered 51 yards in 10 plays. Slager tossed a pair of 12-yard passes to tight end Ken MacAfee and a 13-yarder to Hunter to move the Irish downfield. Hunter contributed an 11-yard gallop before scoring on a one-yard run. Reeve's kick made it Notre Dame 17, Penn State 3.

With only two seconds remaining on the clock before halftime, the Irish boosted their lead to 20-3 on another 23-yard field goal by Reeve. That Irish drive was helped by a punt interference call against Penn State, one of six penalties assessed against the Nittany Lions during the game.

Led by linebackers Bob Golic, Doug Becker and Steve Heimkreiter and strong safety Jim Browner, the Irish defense clamped down on Penn State's usually proficient offense. Notre Dame never allowed the Lions beyond their own 32 in the first half after their initial possession.

And despite good yardage totals in the second half, Penn State was unable to score a touchdown until Bruce Clark blocked a punt deep in Notre Dame territory with 9:14 left in the game. Quarterback Chuck Fusina tossed an eight-yard pass to Matt Suhey on the second play from scrimmage for the score. The Nittany Lions' two-point conversion attempt failed.

Penn State edged the Irish in total offense by one yard - gaining 274 yards to 273 for Notre Dame. The Nittany Lions gained 156 yards on the ground compared to the Irish total of 132. But 15th-ranked Notre Dame edged the Lions 141-118 in the passing department.

Hunter was the leading rusher in the game, gaining 102 yards on 26 carries. Bob Torrey paced the Nittany Lions with 63 yards in 12 tries. Suhey added 40.

Slager completed 10 of 19 passes for 141 yards, while Fusina was successful on 14 of 33 attempts. He also threw two interceptions.

MacAfee headed the Irish receiving corps with five catches for 78 yards. Kelleher hauled in three receptions for 46 yards.

The victory, Notre Dame's third consecutive win in postseason competition, gave coach Dan Devine a 9-3 record for the 1975 campaign, his second season with the Irish. Penn State, under the direction of coach Joe Paterno, fell to 7-5.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	7	13	0	0	20
Penn State	3	0	0	6	9
Attendance: 67,827 Weather: Clear, 48 degrees					

Team	Score ND-PSU	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Penn State	0-3	1	7:15	Tony Capozzoli 26 FG Drive: 55 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:44; Big Plays: Jimmy Cefalo run of 15 yards, Bob Torrey run of eight yards.
Notre Dame	7-3	1	2:26	Al Hunter 1 run (Dave Reeve kick) Drive: 35 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:38; Big Plays: Terry Eurick kickoff return of 65 yards, Al Hunter runs of six and nine yards.
Notre Dame	10-3	2	8:49	Dave Reeve 23 FG Drive: 23 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 1:25; Big Plays: Jim Browner recovers Penn State fumble on 23-yard line, Rick Slager pass to Dan Kelleher for 12 yards.
Notre Dame	17-3	2	2:20	Al Hunter 1 run (Dave Reeve kick) Drive: 51 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:45; Big Plays: Rick Slager passes to Ken MacAfee for 12 and 12 yards and Al Hunter for 13, Al Hunter run of 11 yards.
Notre Dame	20-3	2	0:02	Dave Reeve 23 FG Drive: 32 yards in three plays; Time Elapsed: 0:15; Big Play: Rick Slager pass to Dan Kelleher for 26 yards.
Penn State	20-9	4	8:37	Matt Suhey 8 pass from Chuck Fusina (Bob Torrey run failed) Drive: Eight yards in two plays; Time Elapsed: 0:37; Big Plays: Penn State blocked a Notre Dame punt and recovered the ball on the Notre Dame eight-yard line. On the second play from scrimmage, Chuck Fusina tossed eight-yard touchdown pass to Matt Suhey.

TEAM STATISTICS

	PSU	ND
First Downs	16	17
By Rushing	9	9
By Passing	6	6
By Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	40	48
Yards Rushing	180	143
Yards Lost Rushing	24	11
Net Yards Rushing	156	132
Net Yards Passing	118	141
Passes Attempted	33	20
Passes Completed	14	10
Had Intercepted	2	0
Total Offensive Plays	73	68
Total Net Yards	274	273
Average Gain Per Play	3.8	4.0
Fumbles: No.-Lost	4-1	2-0
Penalties: No.-Yds.	6-55	5-62
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	2-32
Punts: No.-Yds.	5-146	5-166
Average Per Punt	29.2	33.2
Punt Returns:		
No.-Yds.	2-21	3-2
Kickoff Returns:		
No.-Yds.	2-28	3-109

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

PS: Bob Torrey 12-63; Matt Suhey 9-40; Steve Geise 12-36; Jimmy Cefalo 3-18; Chuck Fusina 2-1; Mike Guman 2-(-2).

ND: Al Hunter 26-102; Vagas Ferguson 10-22; Willard Browner 3-10; Steve Orsini 3-7; Rick Slager 6-(-9).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

PS: Chuck Fusina 33-14-2-118.

ND: Rick Slager 19-10-0-141; Willard Browner 1-0-0-0.

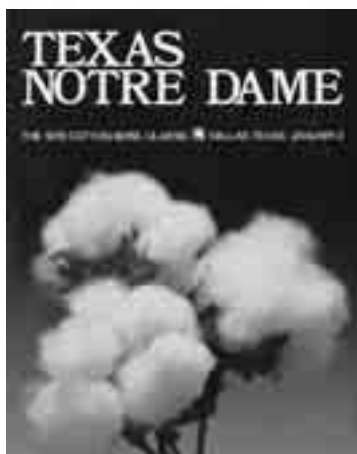
INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

PS: Jimmy Cefalo 5-60; Bob Torrey 3-(-3); Matt Suhey 2-17; Rich Mauti 1-21; Tom Donovan 1-11; Mick Shuler 1-10; Mike Guman 1-2.

ND: Ken MacAfee 5-78; Dan Kelleher 3-46; Al Hunter 1-13; Steve Orsini 1-4.

NOTRE DAME MVP

Al Hunter, Left Halfback



1978 COTTON BOWL

NOTRE DAME 38 — TEXAS 10

DALLAS — And then there were none. Not one unbeaten football team in major college football remained.

Dan Devine's Fighting Irish of Notre Dame took care of the last one, using an unrelenting defense to force six Texas turnovers and an opportunistic offense which capitalized on five of them to rout the previously unbeaten Longhorns 38-10 in the Cotton Bowl and claim the national championship for themselves.

The victory elevated Notre Dame into the top spot in both the AP and UPI final polls. Meanwhile, Texas - which had held the number-one ranking in both polls coming into the game - slipped to fourth in AP and fifth in UPI.

The Irish were devastating, particularly in the trenches, where the Irish defensive line threw a lasso around Texas Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell. Though Campbell did gain 116 yards on 29 carries, they were all tough yards. His longest run from scrimmage was only 18 late in the second quarter.

The Irish also forced the Longhorns into six turnovers, three fumbles and three interceptions, and took advantage of what Texas gave them with an offensive line performance which was awesome.

Backs Jerome Heavens and Vagas Ferguson gained 102 and 100 yards, respectively, by going where the Longhorns weren't. Ferguson, who also scored three touchdowns, won the outstanding offensive player honor.

Defensively, the top honor went to Irish middle linebacker Bob Golic, who made 17 tackles and blocked a field-goal attempt by Russell Erxleben.

After the teams had traded field goals in the first quarter - Notre Dame's Dave Reeve hit a 47-yarder (after a Texas fumble) before Erxleben connected on a 42-yarder into a 12 mph wind - Golic and teammates Mike Calhoun and Doug Becker forced a Ham Jones fumble on a screen pass from Randy McEachern and Jim Browner recovered at the Longhorn 27.

Senior captain Terry Eurick scored on the fifth play after that turnover to give the Irish a 10-3 lead on the first play of the second quarter.

Defensive tackle Ken Dike then got into the act on Texas' next possession, stripping a scrambling McEachern of the ball, which Willie Fry recovered at the Longhorn 35.

Five plays later, Eurick scampered in from the 10 for a 17-3 lead.

An interception by linebacker Becker set up Notre Dame's third touchdown of the period, a 17-yard pass from Joe Montana to Ferguson.

But the Longhorns threw a scare into the Irish late in the quarter when McEachern directed a 68-yard, six-play drive in just 22 seconds to score. The touchdown came on a 13-yard aerial from McEachern to Mike Lockett after Irish safety Jim Browner had been called for interference on the last play of the first half.

The Irish regained the lost momentum when linebacker Steve Heimkreiter intercepted a McEachern pass midway through the third quarter. Ferguson went the final three yards on the 29-yard drive off left tackle to score, making it 31-10.

The loss ended a storybook season for first-year coach Fred Akers whose Longhorns had won 11 straight games. Notre Dame survived an early loss to Mississippi to finish 11-1 with 10 straight victories.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	3	21	7	7	38
Texas	3	7	0	0	10
Attendance: 76,701	Weather: Fair, 35 degrees				

Team	Score ND-UT	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	3-0	1	11:35	Dave Reeve 47 FG
Drive: 32 yards in four plays; Time Elapsed: 0:59.				
Texas	3-3	1	6:07	Russ Erxleben 42 FG
Drive: 80 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:18; Big Plays: Ham Jones runs of 40 and seven yards.				
Notre Dame	10-3	2	14:56	Terry Eurick 6 run (Dave Reeve kick)
Drive: 27 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 1:06; Big Plays: Jim Browner recovered Texas fumble at Texas 27-yard line. Joe Montana pass to Ken MacAfee for 10 yards, Jerome Heavens run of 10 yards.				
Notre Dame	17-3	2	11:37	Terry Eurick 10 run (Dave Reeve kick)
Drive: 35 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 1:32.				
Notre Dame	24-3	2	7:28	Vagas Ferguson 17 pass from Joe Montana (Dave Reeve kick)
Drive: 20 yards in three plays; Time Elapsed: 0:39; Big Plays: Doug Becker intercepted Texas pass and returned it to Texas 17-yard line. On third play from scrimmage Joe Montana passed to Vagas Ferguson for touchdown.				
Texas	24-10	2	0:00	Mike Lockett 13 pass from Randy McEachern (Russ Erxleben kick)
Drive: 68 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 0:20.				
Notre Dame	31-10	3	6:49	Vagas Ferguson 3 run (Dave Reeve kick)
Drive: 29 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 2:20; Big Plays: Steve Heimkreiter intercepted Texas pass on Texas 26-yard line, Joe Montana passes to Dave Waymer for 12 yards and Terry Eurick for 12 yards.				
Notre Dame	38-10	4	9:41	Vagas Ferguson 26 run (Dave Reeve kick)
Drive: 50 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 2:01.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	UT	ND		UT	ND
First Downs	16	26	Total Offensive Plays	74	85
By Rushing	6	15	Total Net Yards	291	399
By Passing	9	11	Average Gain Per Play	3.9	4.7
By Penalty	1	0	Fumbles: No.-Lost	3-3	0-0
Rushing Attempts	50	53	Penalties: No.-Yds.	1-5	4-37
Yards Rushing	190	250	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	1-0	3-20
Yards Lost Rushing	59	7	Punts: No.-Yds.	3-120	5-152
Net Yards Rushing	131	243	Average Per Punt	40.0	30.4
Net Yards Passing	160	156	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	1-1	0-0
Passes Attempted	24	32	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	8-81	1-17
Passes Completed	11	14			
Had Intercepted	3	1			

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UT: Earl Campbell 29-116; Ham Jones 11-63; Paul Thompson 1-2; Johnnie Johnson 1-2; Randy McEachern 8-(-52).

ND: Jerome Heavens 22-101; Vagas Ferguson 21-100; Terry Eurick 4-16; Rusty Lisch 2-16; Jim Stone 2-4; Dave Mitchell 1-3; Joe Montana 1-3.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

UT: Randy McEachern 24-11-3-160.

ND: Joe Montana 25-10-1-111; Rusty Lisch 7-4-0-45.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

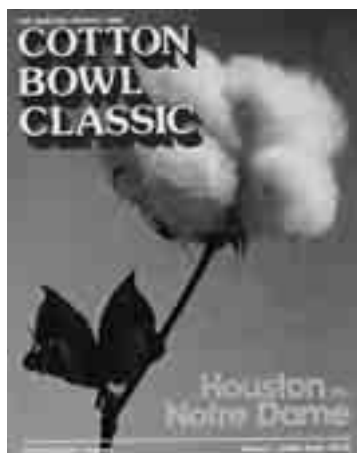
UT: Gil Harris 4-57; Alfred Jackson 3-33; Lam Jones 1-34; Ronnie Miksch 1-18; Mike Lockett 1-13; Ham Jones 1-5.

ND: Ken MacAfee 4-45; Dave Waymer 3-38; Vagas Ferguson 3-23; Kris Haines 2-29; Terry Eurick 1-12; Pete Pallas 1-9.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

Outstanding Offensive Player
Vagas Ferguson, Running Back

Outstanding Defensive Player
Bob Golic, Linebacker



1979 COTTON BOWL

NOTRE DAME 35 — HOUSTON 34

DALLAS — Notre Dame utilized a miracle rally beginning midway through the fourth period to shock Houston 35-34 and capture the 43rd and coldest Cotton Bowl. It featured a comeback that many longtime observers called the greatest in Irish football history.

Quarterback Joe Montana, who missed most of the third quarter because of below-normal body temperature, captained an Irish rescue mission which saw the gold and green put 23 points on the board in the final seven minutes and 37 seconds, erasing a 34-12 Cougar lead in the process.

What happened in the last 7:37 was mind-boggling. For starters, the tide turned when freshman reserve fullback Tony Belden blocked a Jay Wyatt punt and classmate Steve Cichy picked it up in a crowd and rambled 33 yards for an Irish score. Notre Dame, electing to go for two, narrowed the deficit to 34-20 when Montana connected with tailback Vagas Ferguson in the end zone.

After his team had forced another Wyatt punt, Montana shifted into overdrive when the Irish regained possession at their own 39-yard line with 5:40 remaining on the clock.

On three straight plays the senior signal caller connected with freshman tight end Dean Masztak, fullback Jerome Heavens and flanker Pete Holohan for respective gains of 17, 30 and 11 (the last one on pass interference) yards. Two plays later Montana swept left end for two yards and a touchdown. Two points were once again a must for the Irish, who brought the score to 34-28 with a Montana-to-Haines completion.

The once dumbfounded Notre Dame legions suddenly had reason to cheer. Their Irish were rolling, or so it seemed, until all momentum seemed gone with 2:05 left in the game. It was then when Montana fumbled after a 16-yard run to the Houston 20 and Cougar Tommy Ebner recovered.

The Irish defense stiffened, and with a fourth-and-one from the Cougar 29 and 35 seconds left, Yeoman overruled a possible punt to go for the first down that would seal a win for the Southwest Conference champions. But Notre Dame held on a great stop by freshman Joe Gramke and the Irish took over with 28 ticks of the clock left, just 29 yards short of payday.

Montana, who needed a dose of chicken soup to help erase his hypothermic condition, started the last-ditch Irish effort by running for 11 yards and then throwing to Kris Haines for a gain of 10.

On the next play Montana, the same Montana who had earlier thrown four interceptions, wasted little time getting rid of the ball, tossing it quickly to the right corner of the end zone and in the direction of Haines. The pass was incomplete, but Montana's quickness in releasing stopped the clock with two seconds remaining and gave the Irish one last chance.

Montana, calling for the same play twice in a row, then proceeded to hit Hines with the tying touchdown pass.

Joe Unis, a Dallas native, came on to kick the extra point. An illegal procedure penalty nullified the winning point, so Unis had to do it all over. He did, and the miracle was history.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	12	0	0	23	35
Houston	7	13	14	0	34
Attendance: 32,500		Weather: Cold, 20 degrees			

Team	Score ND-UH	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	6-0	1	6:55	Joe Montana 3 run (Joe Unis kick failed) Drive: 66 yards in nine plays; Time Elapsed: 3:41; Big Plays: Joe Montana passes to Jerome Heavens for 27 yards and Dean Masztak for 26 yards.
Notre Dame	12-0	1	4:40	Pete Buchanan 1 run (Joe Montana pass failed) Drive: 25 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 2:15; Big Plays: Bob Crable recovered Houston fumble at Houston 25-yard line, Joe Montana pass to Vagas Ferguson for nine yards.
Houston	12-7	1	0:17	Willis Adams 15 pass from Danny Davis (Kenny Hatfield kick) Drive: 12 yards in three plays; Time Elapsed: 1:14.
Houston	12-14	2	6:27	Randy Love 1 run (Kenny Hatfield kick) Drive: 21 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 2:05; Big Plays: David Hodge recovered Notre Dame fumble at Notre Dame 21-yard line, Emmett King run of 14 yards.
Houston	12-17	2	3:00	Kenny Hatfield 21 FG Drive: 21 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 2:16.
Houston	12-20	2	0:03	Kenny Hatfield 34 FG Drive: 39 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 1:08.
Houston	12-27	3	6:29	Danny Davis 2 run (Kenny Hatfield kick) Drive: 30 yards in eight plays; Time Elapsed: 3:46; Big Plays: Danny Davis passes to Willis Adams for 20 yards and Eric Herring for nine yards, Danny Davis run of 11 yards.
Houston	12-34	3	4:40	Danny Davis 5 run (Kenny Hatfield kick) Drive: 19 yards in three plays; Time Elapsed: 1:18; Big Plays: Harold Fields recovered blocked Notre Dame 19-yard line, Danny Davis run of 12 yards.
Notre Dame	20-34	4	7:25	Steve Cichy 33 blocked punt return (Vagas Ferguson pass from Joe Montana) Drive: 33 yards in one play; Time Elapsed: 0:12.
Notre Dame	28-34	4	4:15	Joe Montana 2 run (Kris Haines pass from Joe Montana) Drive: 61 yards in five plays; Time Elapsed: 1:22; Big Plays: Joe Montana passes to Dean Masztak for 17 yards and Jerome Heavens for 30 yards.
Notre Dame	35-34	4	0:00	Kris Haines 8 pass from Joe Montana (Joe Unis kick) Drive: 29 yards in four plays; Time Elapsed: 0:28; Big Plays: Joe Montana run of 11 yards and pass to Kris Haines for 10 yards.

TEAM STATISTICS

	UH	ND		UH	ND
First Downs	16	13	Total Offensive Plays	76	77
By Rushing	12	4	Total Net Yards	289	294
By Passing	3	7	Average Gain Per Play	3.8	3.8
By Penalty	1	2	Fumbles: No.-Lost	6-3	3-3
Rushing Attempts	63	40	Penalties: No.-Yds.	6-38	8-74
Yards Rushing	253	144	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	4-43	0-0
Yards Lost Rushing	24	13	Punts: No.-Yds.	10-255	7-184
Net Yards Rushing	239	131	Average Per Punt	25.5	26.3
Net Yards Passing	60	163	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-(-2)	5-48
Passes Attempted	13	37	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	2-33	6-136
Passes Completed	4	13			
Had Intercepted	0	4			

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

UH: Danny Davis 19-76; Emmett King 21-74; Randy Love 22-73; Delrick Brown 1-6.
ND: Jerome Heavens 16-71; Joe Montana 7-26; Vagas Ferguson 10-19; Pete Pallas 4-11; Dave Mitchell 1-3; Pete Buchanan 2-1.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

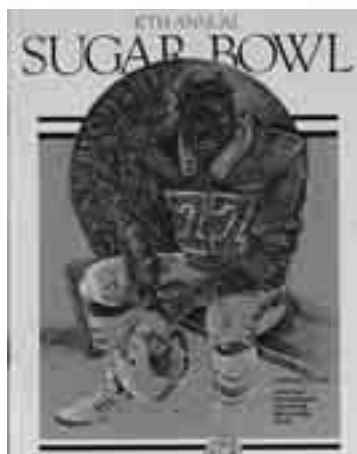
UH: Danny Davis 12-4-0-60; Delrick Brown 1-0-0-0.
ND: Joe Montana 34-13-3-163; Tim Koegel 3-0-0-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

UH: Willis Adams 2-35; Eric Herring 2-25.
ND: Jerome Heavens 4-60; Kris Haines 4-31; Dean Masztak 3-49; Pete Holohan 1-14; Vagas Ferguson 1-9.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Joe Montana, Quarterback



1981 SUGAR BOWL

GEORGIA 17 — NOTRE DAME 10

NEW ORLEANS — The day before Georgia met Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl, Vince Dooley was hoping his football players would spend New Year's Eve night "in their hotel rooms, watching whatever it is they drop in New York, that ball or whatever."

By the time the two teams had played out Georgia's 17-10 win over Notre Dame in the 47th Sugar Bowl, Georgia had watched and claimed everything that fell from the heavens of the Superdome, including its first national championship.

The Bulldogs capitalized on two critical Notre Dame mistakes in the first half for touchdown drives of one and 22 yards, then fought back repeated Notre Dame threats in the second half giving 12-0 Georgia its first unbeaten season since 1946.

After seventh-ranked Notre Dame took a 3-0 lead on the game's first possession, the Irish drove to the Georgia 31 the next time they had the ball. But freshman Terry Hoage shot through the middle to block Harry Oliver's 48-yard field goal attempt. The play did two things. It led to Georgia's first score and warned Notre Dame of the strange perils that lay ahead.

The game's most valuable player, Herschel Walker, ran the ball six times to the Notre Dame 19 before the drive stopped and Rex Robinson kicked a 46-yard field goal to make it 3-3.

Robinson kicked off and drove the ball high and deep. Notre Dame deep backs Jim Stone and Ty Barber drifted away from the ball before it hit near the goal and began bouncing laterally. Stone had called for Barber to take the kick, but the crowd noise drowned out the call. Stone went after the ball but Georgia's Bob Kelly recovered at the one. Two plays later Walker dove over from the one and Georgia was ahead to stay 10-3.

If the 59-yard onsides kick hadn't done enough damage, Notre Dame gave Georgia the eventual game-winning score in the first minute of the second quarter.

Notre Dame fullback John Sweeney's only carry of the game ended in a fumble when he was hit by linebacker Frank Ros at the Notre Dame 20. Chris Welton recovered for Georgia at the 22, the first of four Notre Dame turnovers.

Walker ran off right tackle for 12 yards and quarterback Buck Belue scrambled for seven more to the three. Walker took it over from there, scooting around right end untouched. Georgia had only three first downs and a 17-3 lead.

After Georgia went ahead on Walker's run, Notre Dame drove to the Bulldog 13 but again came away frustrated. Quarterback Mike Courey's lob pass for Pete Holohan was intercepted by Scott Woerner in the end zone. Midway through the third period the game's next serious threat developed when Notre Dame again drove to the Georgia 13. It was stopped when Woerner tipped away a Blair Kiel pass to Holohan in the end zone.

If Georgia's special teams ignited the win, the Bulldog defense fanned the flames in the second half. Belue went almost 58 minutes of the game without a completion and finished one-for-12. Walker, who gained 95 yards on 17 first-half carries managed only 55 on 19 second-half attempts.

As the third period wore on, Notre Dame's size began taking its toll on the smaller Bulldogs. Hanging in became an obvious chore.

With five minutes remaining in the third period Kiel - who quarterbacked the entire second half after Courey broke his right hand just before halftime - drove Notre Dame 57 methodical yards in 10 impressive plays. Phil Carter scored from one yard out and Oliver's kick made it 17-10 with :54 left in the third period.

On its next possession Notre Dame drove from its 46 to the Georgia 27 in five quick plays. But just when it appeared the Irish had the Bulldogs on the ropes, Woerner made another big play. On third and three at the Bulldog 20, the Georgia safety sliced through and dropped Phil Carter for a one-yard loss. Oliver - who had a one-for-four day on field goals - missed a 38-yard attempt.

Georgia defensive coordinator Erk Russell watched the mounting Irish momentum with a degree of concern. Notre Dame's domination - the Irish outgained Georgia 328 yards to 127 and had a 78-65 edge in plays - appeared to be mounting with each possession.

With nine minutes remaining Georgia had an opportunity to put Notre Dame out of reach of a one-touchdown comeback. Kiel's deep sideline pass from Hunter was intercepted by Mike Fisher at the Notre Dame 37. An incomplete long pass and two running plays by Walker gained six yards. Robinson pushed his 48-yard field goal wide to the right.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	3	0	7	0	10
Georgia	10	7	0	0	17
Attendance: 77,895	Weather: Perfect, 72 degrees				

Team	Score ND-GA	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	3-0	1	10:41	Harry Oliver 50 FG
Drive: 48 yards in nine plays; Time Elapsed: 4:19; Big Plays: Blair Kiel passes to Phil Carter for 22 yards and Dean Masztak for 16 yards.				
Georgia	3-3	1	1:45	Rex Robinson 46 FG
Drive: 20 yards in eight plays; Time Elapsed: 3:38; Big Plays: Three Herschel Walker runs for seven yards and one for eight yards.				
Georgia	3-10	1	1:04	Herschel Walker 1 run (Rex Robinson kick)
Drive: 1 yard in two plays; Time Elapsed: 0:41.				
Georgia	3-17	2	13:49	Herschel Walker 3 run (Rex Robinson kick)
Drive: 22 yards in three plays; Time Elapsed: 0:17; Big Play: Herschel Walker run for 12 yards.				
Notre Dame	10-17	3	:54	Phil Carter 1 run (Harry Oliver kick)
Drive: 57 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:25; Big Plays: Blair Kiel pass to Tony Hunter for 16 yards.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	GA
First Downs	17	10
By Rushing	10	8
By Passing	7	1
By Penalty	0	1
Rushing Attempts	50	52
Yards Rushed	206	181
Yards Lost Rushing	16	61
Net Yards Rushing	190	120
Net Yards Passing	138	7
Passes Attempted	28	13
Passes Completed	14	1
Had Intercepted	3	0
Total Offensive Plays	78	65
Total Net Yards	328	127
Average Gain Per Play	4.2	1.9
Fumbles: No.-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties: No.-Yds.	8-69	6-32
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	3-19
Punts: No.-Yds.	5-210	11-424
Average Per Punt	42.0	38.5
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	3-2	3-25
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	2-52	3-55

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

GA: Herschel Walker 36-150; Jimmy Womack 1-2; Carnie Norris 2-2; Buck Belue 13-(-34).
ND: Phil Carter 27-109; Mike Courey 5-40; Blair Kiel 10-27; Jim Stone 6-12; John Sweeney 1-2; Pete Buchanan 1-0.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

GA: Buck Belue 12-1-0-7; Herschel Walker 1-0-0-0.
ND: Blair Kiel 27-14-2-138; Mike Courey 1-0-1-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

GA: Amp Arnold 1-7.
ND: Pete Holohan 4-44; Tony Hunter 3-29; Phil Carter 2-24; Dean Masztak 2-22; Nick Vehr 2-14; Pete Buchanan 1-5.



1983 LIBERTY BOWL

NOTRE DAME 19 — BOSTON COLLEGE 18

MEMPHIS — Notre Dame risked being labeled a "Scrooge" by finally shedding its charitable image in the 1983 Liberty Bowl.

After literally giving away victory and a chance at a major bowl bid to Penn State and Air Force in the waning seconds of the last two games of the regular season, the Irish defense tightened its money clip and emphatically refused Boston College's request for a 10-2 record and residency among the nation's top 10 teams.

With just 1:08 left on the clock and the Irish clinging to a perilously slim 19-18 advantage, Boston College faced a crucial fourth-and-four situation at the Notre Dame 35-yard line. Quarterback Doug Flutie, the Eagles' shifty 5-9 junior who already had completed 16 of 36 passes for 287 yards, was threatening to pull off another magical comeback.

But Flutie's last attempt fell incomplete. The Notre Dame defense blitzed and forced Flutie, who had slipped on the frozen turf, to unload the ball a bit sooner than planned. Freshman cornerback Troy Wilson smothered intended receiver Joe Giacquinto, who dove for Flutie's pass and missed.

The Irish took possession with just a minute left and needed only to run out the clock for the 19-18 victory in Memphis. The Notre Dame defense had clung to its final margin of victory for 22 minutes—an eternity for Irish players, coaches and fans who were shivering with the thought of déjà vu.

Senior quarterback Blair Kiel, who was relegated to relief duties after the first three games of the season, regained the starting nod on the basis of his off-the-bench performance in the last game against Air Force. He responded by completing 11 of 19 passes for 151 yards, including a 14-yard touchdown pass to freshman Alvin Miller.

Kiel's accurate passing complemented Notre Dame's two-pronged running attack which somehow managed to establish a strong footing on the icy field that was slippery between the hash marks and soft on the sides.

Instead of the usual I-formation, fullback Chris Smith and tailback Allen Pinkett shared time behind the huge Irish offensive line. The set-up was new, but the plays were the same. And the wrinkles caused the Eagle defense plenty of problems. Pinkett skated for 111 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 28 carries, while it took Smith 18 tries to gain his personal best of 104 yards.

But despite the offensive displays of Flutie and Kiel and Company and the last-minute heroics of the Irish defense, the difference in the game proved to be Mike Johnston's one successful extra point. His next two attempts were blocked, but he still fared better than the Eagles. Brian Waldron slipped on his only try and both two-point conversion attempts failed.

Flutie's pinpoint passing (three completions for 64 yards) moved Boston College into the end zone in just seven plays after the opening kickoff. Flutie's favorite receiver, Brian Brennan, dove for a 17-yard touchdown catch to put the Eagles on the board.

But the Irish came right back with a 15-play, 87-yard drive that consumed nearly eight minutes. On fourth and one, Pinkett crossed the goal line. Johnston kicked the only successful PAT of the evening and Notre Dame led 7-6.

Holding penalties thwarted Notre Dame's next two scoring opportunities and nearly wiped out a third after Golic blocked a John Mihalik punt and Stacey Toran recovered at the Eagles' six. But on third and 14, Kiel lofted a scoring pass to Miller, who had only caught two the entire season.

On their next possession, the Irish marched 53 yards in six plays as Pinkett scored from the three around right end. Notre Dame moved in front 19-6.

But Flutie got back on track after the ensuing kickoff with a 42-yard pass to fullback Bob Biestek. Three plays later he connected with flanker Gerard Phelan for a 28-yard touchdown.

The Irish opened the second half by driving to the Eagles' 15 but were forced to give up the football when Pinkett was stopped short on fourth and one.

Flutie then directed the Eagles 85 yards downfield and tossed a three-yard scoring pass to tight end Scott Gieselman. But Tony Furjanic, Notre Dame's defensive MVP with seven tackles and an interception, batted Flutie's two-point conversion pass away from Gieselman, and the Irish were still ahead, 19-18.

SCORING SUMMARY

Boston College	6	6	6	0	18
Notre Dame	7	12	0	0	19
Attendance: 47,071		Weather: Cold, 12 degrees			

Team	Score ND-BC	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Boston College	0-6	1	12:07	Brian Brennan 17 pass from Doug Flutie (Doug Waldron kick failed) Drive: 63 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 2:53; Big Play: Doug Flutie pass to Brendan Murphy for 29 yards.
Notre Dame	7-6	1	4:24	Allen Pinkett 1 run (Mike Johnston kick) Drive: 87 yards in 16 plays; Time Elapsed: 7:43; Big Play: Chris Smith run for 17 yards.
Notre Dame	13-6	2	11:49	Alvin Miller 13 pass from Blair Kiel (Mike Johnston kick blocked) Drive: Six yards in four plays; Time Elapsed: 1:02.
Notre Dame	19-6	2	8:19	Allen Pinkett 3 runs (Mike Johnston kick blocked) Drive: 53 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 2:11; Big Play: Blair Kiel pass to Mark Bavaro for 20 yards.
Boston College	19-12	2	7:02	Gerard Phelan 28 pass from Doug Flutie (Doug Flutie pass failed) Drive: 69 yards in four plays; Time Elapsed: 1:08; Big Play: Doug Flutie pass to Bob Biestek for 42 yards.
Boston College	19-18	3	7:20	Scott Gieselman 3 pass from Doug Flutie (Doug Flutie pass failed) Drive: 85 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:00; Big Play: Doug Flutie pass to Brian Brennan for 41 yards.

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	BC
First Downs	19	15
By Rushing	12	6
By Passing	7	9
By Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	54	29
Yards Rushing	253	126
Yards Lost Rushing	28	33
Net Yards Rushing	225	93
Net Yards Passing	151	287
Passes Attempted	19	38
Passes Completed	11	16
Had Intercepted	1	2
Total Offensive Plays	73	67
Total Net Yards	376	380
Average Per Play	5.14	5.66
Return Yards	10	0
Fumbles: No.-Lost	3-1	1-0
Penalties: No.-Yds.	5-47	7-55
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	2-3	1-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	6-17	16-168
Average Per Punt	28.5	28.0
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-7	1-0
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-55	4-83

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

BC: Troy Stradford 16-51, Doug Flutie 5-32; Jim Browne 4-13, Bob Biestek 2-8, Ken Bell 1-3, Team 1-(-14).

ND: Allen Pinkett 28-111, Chris Smith 18-104, Mark Brooks 2-26, Alvin Miller 1-7, Blair Kiel 5-23.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

BC: Doug Flutie 37-16-1-287, Brian Brennan 1-0-0-0.

ND: Blair Kiel 19-11-1-151.

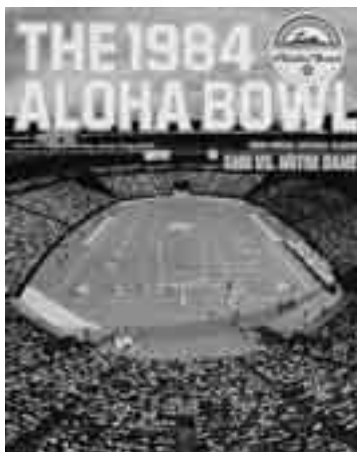
INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

BC: Brian Brennan 4-91, Gerard Phelan 4-52, Scott Gieselman 3-19, Troy Stradford 2-17, Bob Biestek 1-42, Kelvin Martin 1-36, Brendan Murphy 1-30.

ND: Mark Bavaro 5-52, Alvin Miller 3-31, Milt Jackson 2-25, Joe Howard 1-43.

DEFENSIVE MVP

Tony Furjanic, Linebacker



1984 ALOHA BOWL

SMU 27 — NOTRE DAME 20

HONOLULU — It had all the earmarks of a classic Notre Dame comeback. In fact, the Irish already had done it once that day-rebounding from a quick 14-0 deficit to tie the contest at 17 heading into the final period of the Aloha Bowl against SMU. This time, the Ponies had grabbed a 27-17 advantage with 6:13 remaining. With SMU expecting a pass, Notre Dame ran nine straight times in a 2:57 period before John Carney's 31-yard field goal at the 3:15 mark.

The Irish defense then did the job, halting Reggie Dupard on a third-and-four attempt from the SMU 26. Mike Kovaleski stopped him after only a single yard.

After SMU's punt, quarterback Steve Beuerlein went to work from the Irish 23 with 2:42 left on the clock. Beuerlein had thrown only 12 passes to that point in the game. He would throw 11 in the next 2:19, almost enough for a patented Notre Dame finish. But he finished one short.

A second down Beuerlein run for 14 yards gave the Irish a first down at the SMU 17. Mark Bavaro grabbed a first-down pass for one yard and the clock kept moving. On second down, Beuerlein's throw for Joe Howard near the goal line caught Howard leaning the wrong direction. On third down, Beuerlein threw for Tim Brown, only to have the ball tipped into the air and knocked to the ground by SMU safety Tim Green. On fourth down, Beuerlein scrambled out of the pocket to his right and found Milt Jackson open in the end zone.

For the 10th-ranked Mustangs, it marked the moment of their 27-20 victory. Beuerlein's throw was just past the outstretched hands of Jackson with 23 seconds remaining.

SMU took advantage of its quickness to put touchdowns on the board on its initial two possessions. Junior quarterback Don King threw for 24 yards on the first SMU play from scrimmage, then Dupard ran for 11 yards the next down. A sprained ankle quickly put Dupard on the sidelines, but it mattered little. Sophomore Jeff Atkins—who eventually earned the offensive MVP award-caught a key 16-yard pass on third down and eventually scored on a seven-yard run.

The next time they had the ball, the Mustangs drove 80 yards in 14 plays—with King throwing to Cobby Morrison for a 21-yard score. King made the key play of that drive, throwing for 21 yards to Ron Morris on a third-and-18 call from the Irish 29.

Brown returned the SMU kickoff 53 yards to the SMU 47 - and Pinkett went to work. He carried five times down to the Pony 17 before catching a pass from Beuerlein in the end zone for the touchdown. The Irish defense held this time, and Notre Dame again went to work.

Starting from their own 15, the Irish had a 27-yard pass to Alonzo Jefferson nullified by clipping. Still, they came right back with a 15-yarder to Bavaro plus a facemask violation against SMU—then a 28-yard shovel pass to Jefferson. Another key stop of Jefferson on third and two by SMU halted the march—but Carney connected from 51 yards (the longest of his career and an Aloha Bowl record) to make it 14-10. SMU scored the final points of the half on a 47-yard field goal with even seconds remaining to make it 17-10 at the break.

Notre Dame was able to force Mustang punts on the first three possessions of the second half, but the Irish couldn't take advantage until the third try. Pinkett ran off gains of 11 and 13 yards, and Mark Brooks finally took it in from 11 for a 17-17 tie with 2:10 left in the third period.

SMU came right back to take the lead on an agonizingly-long, 19-play drive that took more than seven minutes off the clock. The Ponies did it the hard way, with Dupard twice converting on fourth-down runs after SMU reached the Notre Dame 25. Brandy Brownlee's 30-yard field goal made it 20-17 with 11:47 left in the game.

The Mustangs needed seven running plays to score what appeared to be the clinching touchdown. Atkins took a pitch for 22 yards and Dupard added 11 before Dupard's eventual two-yard scoring run.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	10	7	3	20
SMU	7	10	0	10	27
Attendance: 41,777 Weather: Cloudy, 77 degrees					

Team	Score SMU-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
SMU	7-0	1	6:07	Jeff Atkins 7 run (Brandy Brownlee kick)
Drive: 78 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:08.				
SMU	14-0	2	11:35	Cobby Morrison 12 pass from Don King (Brandy Brownlee kick)
Drive: 80 yards in 14 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:28.				
Notre Dame	14-7	2	8:26	Allen Pinkett 17 pass Steve Beuerlein (John Carney kick)
Drive: 47 yards in seven plays; Elapsed Time: 2:59.				
Notre Dame	14-10	2	4:23	John Carney 51 FG
Drive: 51 yards in seven plays; Elapsed Time: 3:01.				
SMU	17-10	2	:07	Brandy Brownlee 47 FG
Drive: 49 yards in 12 plays; Elapsed Time: 4:16.				
Notre Dame	17-17	3	3:50	Mark Brooks 11 run (John Carney kick)
Drive: 40 yards in five plays; Elapsed Time: 2:10.				
SMU	27-17	4	6:13	Reggie Dupard 2 run (Brandy Brownlee kick)
Drive: 50 yards in seven plays; Elapsed Time: 3:15.				
Notre Dame	27-20	4	3:15	John Carney 31 FG
Drive: 65 yards in nine plays; Elapsed Time: 2:57.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	SMU
First Downs	22	26
By Rushing	12	18
By Passing	9	7
By Penalty	1	1
Yards Rushing	250	280
Yards Lost Rushing	32	54
Net Yards Rushing	218	226
Net Yards Passing	144	153
Passes Attempted	23	17
Passes Completed	11	9
Had Intercepted	0	0
Total Offensive Plays	66	81
Total Net Yards	362	379
Average Gain Per Play	5.5	4.7
Return Yards	42	25
Fumbles: No.-Lost	0-0	4-0
Penalties: No.-Yds.	5-44	5-55
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	0-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	4-166	5-205
Average Per Punt	41.5	41.0
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	4-42	2-25
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-105	2-55

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

SMU: Jeff Atkins 17-112, Reggie Dupard 23-103, Gary Hashaway 8-34, Cobby Morrison 7-26, Ron Morris 1-(-13), Don King 8-(-36).

ND: Allen Pinkett 24-136, Alonzo Jefferson 9-60, Mark Brooks 4-19, Steve Beuerlein 5-7, Tim Brown 1-(-4).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

SMU: Don King 17-9-0-153.

ND: Steve Beuerlein 23-11-0-144.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

SMU: Jeff Atkins 2-31, Gary Hashaway 2-27, Ron Morris 2-27, Reggie Dupard 1-39, Marquis Pleasant 1-17, Cobby Morrison 1-12.

ND: Alonzo Jefferson 2-37, Joe Howard 2-24, Mark Bavaro 2-16, Tim Brown 1-16, Milt Jackson 1-13, Allen Pinkett 1-17, Chris Smith 1-11, Ricky Gray 1-10.



1988 COTTON BOWL

TEXAS A&M 35 — NOTRE DAME 10

DALLAS — For Notre Dame the 1988 Cotton Bowl closely resembled the 1987 season - a good start and a tough luck finish. The Irish, appearing in their first New Year's Day bowl in seven years, played like the team that shut down Michigan and Alabama-for almost a half, anyway.

But Texas A&M made the most of a costly second-period Irish turnover, and the momentum and breaks went the Aggies' direction the rest of the way as the Southwest Conference champions rolled to a 35-10 victory.

After losing the last two games of the regular season, the Irish looked like they were back on track on the opening kickoff, a 37-yard return by Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown, his longest of the season. The next three plays were Anthony Johnson left, Anthony Johnson middle, and Anthony Johnson right to pound out the first down. Then Terry Andrysiak, playing for the first time since breaking his collarbone in October, took to the air with a 29-yard strike to Brown to the Aggie 20. After two runs for short gains, Notre Dame found itself facing a third down and seven. But once again it was Andrysiak to Brown, this time for 17 yards and a touchdown.

Texas A&M missed a field goal on the next possession, but a career long 64-yard punt by Craig Stump late in the quarter put the Irish on their own two-yard line and helped get the ball back to the Aggies in a hurry. Scott Slater managed to put a 26-yarder through the uprights as time expired in the first quarter.

The second quarter started out like the first. Notre Dame scored on its first possession with a 36-yard field goal by Ted Gradel. The Irish defense held the Aggies to 23 yards on their next drive and the Irish again began to march down the field. Andrysiak to Brown for 22. Andrysiak to Brown for 24. Andrysiak to Reggie Ward for 13. The Irish seemed unstoppable as they stood poised on the 18-yard line ready to score again.

Then, with 4:06 on the clock, the bottom fell out. A play-action pass intended to go right went left. Andrysiak's pass to tight end Andy Heck was picked off in the end zone by Alex Morris who made a one-handed catch and barely landed in bounds. The Aggies came alive.

Backup Lance Pavlas, who alternated at quarterback with the game's offensive MVP, Bucky Richardson, directed an 80-yard drive highlighted by a 33-yard pass to Gary Oliver. But it was freshman halfback Darren Lewis who took a pitch, stopped short and hit Tony Thompson for a 24-yard touchdown to tie the game.

The Irish took over on their own 29-yard line, but not for long. Braxton Banks dropped a short pass from Andrysiak and a controversial fumble call gave the Aggies the football. Four plays later Larry Horton drove two yards for an A&M touchdown with 0:26 left in the half. A "swinging gate" play, in which Wally Hartley ran three yards behind a wall of Aggies, gave Texas A&M the two-point conversion and an 18-10 halftime lead.

Texas A&M's momentum continued into the second half as the Aggies drove 80 yards to the Notre Dame one-yard line on their first possession. The Irish had a chance to stem the tide when Wes Pritchett hit Matt Gurley, forcing a fumble. Brandy Wells recovered for Notre Dame in the end zone for the touchback. But on the next play tailback Mark Green fumbled the ball and Dana Batiste recovered for A&M. A defensive pass interference penalty moved the Aggies down to the eight-yard line. Then Richardson ran one yard for the touchdown.

The Aggies continued to dominate the Irish in the fourth quarter, shutting out Brown, keeping Andrysiak to only two completions and holding Notre Dame to only 76 yards in the second half. Kip Corrington stopped Andrysiak on fourth and nine on the Aggie 28-yard line early in the quarter, ending any hopes of an Irish comeback. The Aggies ran at the Irish for 59 yards, setting up a Scott Slater 25-yard field goal with 8:32 on the clock.

Corrington would haunt Andrysiak again, this time with an interception of another pass intended for Heck on the Irish 30-yard line. Texas A&M wasted no time converting the turnover into the final score of the game as Richardson ran eight yards for his second touchdown.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	7	3	0	0	10
Texas A&M	3	15	7	10	35
Attendance: 73,006 Weather: Partly cloudy, dry, 37 degrees					

Team	Score ND-A&M	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	0-7	1	11:25	Tim Brown 17 pass from Terry Andrysiak (Ted Gradel kick)
Drive: 59 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:28.				
Texas A&M	3-7	1	0:00	Scott Slater 26 FG
Drive: 30 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:09.				
Notre Dame	3-10	2	10:52	Ted Gradel 36 FG
Drive: 51 yards in nine plays; Elapsed Time: 4:03.				
Texas A&M	10-10	2	1:42	Tony Thompson 24 pass from Darren Lewis (Scott Slater kick)
Drive: 80 yards in six plays; Elapsed Time: 2:24.				
Texas A&M	18-10	2	0:26	Larry Horton 2 run (Wally Hartley run)
Drive: 21 yards in four plays; Elapsed Time: 1:02.				
Texas A&M	25-10	3	3:35	Bucky Richardson 1 run (Scott Slater kick)
Drive: 23 yards in five plays; Elapsed Time: 1:43.				
Texas A&M	28-10	4	8:32	Scott Slater 25 FG
Drive: 59 yards in nine plays; Elapsed Time: 4:17.				
Texas A&M	35-10	4	5:10	Bucky Richardson 8 run (Scott Slater kick)
Drive: 30 yards in five plays; Elapsed Time: 2:43.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND A&M			ND A&M	
First Downs	16	24	Total Offensive Plays	64	76
By Rushing	5	17	Total Net Yards	277	410
By Passing	10	5	Average Gain Per Play	4.3	5.4
By Penalty	2	2	Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-2	1-1
Rushing Attempts	36	59	Penalties: No.-Yds.	6-64	6-55
Yards Rushing	92	298	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	2-0
Yards Lost Rushing	18	4	Punts: No.-Yds.	5-157	4-169
Net Yards Rushing	74	294	Average Per Punt	31.4	42.2
Net Yards Passing	203	116	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	1-4	2-9
Passes Attempted	28	17	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	8-15	12-33
Passes Completed	15	8			
Had Intercepted	2	0			

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

A&M: Bucky Richardson 13-96, Keith Woodside 17-73, Matt Gurley 15-60, Darren Lewis 7-52, Larry Horton 5-13, Lance Pavlas 1-0, Gary Costar 1-0.

ND: Anthony Johnson 8-20, Terry Andrysiak 11-15, Mark Green 5-14, Braxton Banks 5-9, Kent Graham 2-9, Tony Brooks 3-7, Tony Rice 1-3, Ricky Watters 1-(-3).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

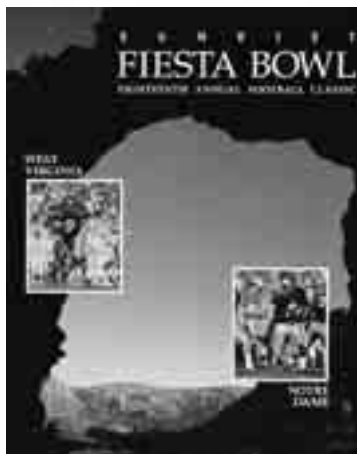
A&M: Lance Pavlas 7-5-0-77, Bucky Richardson 9-2-0-15, Darren Lewis 1-1-0-24.

ND: Terry Andrysiak 25-15-1-203, Tony Rice 3-0-1-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

A&M: Keith Woodside 2-22, Gary Oliver 1-33, Tony Thompson 1-24, Rod Harris 1-19, Sylvester Morgan 1-16, Darren Lewis 1-6, Percy Waddle 1-(-4).

ND: Brown 6-105, Heck 3-28, Ward 2-37, Green 1-24, Watters 1-10, Jefferson 1-7, Banks 1-(-8).



1989 FIESTA BOWL

NOTRE DAME 34 — WEST VIRGINIA 21

TEMPE — Combining a knock-'em-in-the-dirt style of defense with a timely passing game set up by the pounding Irish running attack, Notre Dame did it all in putting the finishing touches on its first national championship since 1977.

The Irish got on the scoreboard early, made life miserable for West Virginia star quarterback Major Harris and methodically dismantled the only other unbeaten team left in the country. The result in this Fiesta Bowl battle of perfect records - the 13th in bowl history - left Notre Dame with a 34-21 victory that actually was more convincing than the score indicated.

Michael Stonebreaker and Jeff Alm bashed Harris' left shoulder into the Sun Devil Stadium turf on the third play of the game and West Virginia's quarterback was never the same.

With Harris' effectiveness - and, thus, West Virginia's - reduced almost from the start, it was Irish quarterback Tony Rice who played like a Heisman Trophy contender. Shrugging off the nagging doubts about his passing ability, Rice first went about establishing Notre Dame's relentless ground game by calling for rushes on 16 of Notre Dame's first 17 plays.

Every time West Virginia was poised to stop the Irish option, Rice took advantage of single coverage in the secondary to throw for big yardage. He attempted only 11 passes, completing seven, but averaged more than 30 yards per completion on his way to the offensive MVP award.

"This is a great football team because nobody proved otherwise," said Holtz.

It took Notre Dame hardly any time at all to prove that to the 74,911 fans in attendance. Sending West Virginia's offense to the sideline after three downs, Rice scampered 31 yards around left end on third and seven. That set up a 45-yard Billy Hackett field goal just 4:35 into the game.

Three more plays netted only six yards, and Notre Dame took over again at their 39. Rice connected with Derek Brown for 23 yards but otherwise stayed on the ground all the way to first and goal from the three. West Virginia put up a fight at that point, but Anthony Johnson finally carried for the last yard on fourth down.

West Virginia went two more possessions without gaining first down yardage and the Irish capitalized again. On third and 11 at his own 48, Rice again found Brown wide open over the middle and Notre Dame's rookie tight end sprinted to the five. Rodney Culver scored on the next play to make it 16-0, 5:19 into the second quarter.

The Mountaineers finally found the scoreboard on a 29-yard Charlie Baumann field goal, but two of the three first downs on the 52-yard drive came via Irish penalties. And the Irish came right back with an answer. Rice hit Johnson for 19 yards, then zipped one to Raghib Ismail for 29 yards and six points for a commanding 23-3 advantage. Only a 36-yard pass play with four seconds left from Harris to Reggie Rembert put West Virginia in position for a 31-yard field goal to close the half.

Notre Dame got those three points right back after Pat Terrell intercepted Harris on West Virginia's initial third-period offensive thrust. This time, it was Reggie Ho connecting from 32 yards after Rice's 35-yarder to Mark Green had picked up the largest chunk of ground.

Next came the only opportunity the Mountaineers had to get back in the game. After Harris had led his team 74 yards for a touchdown to make it 26-13, Willie Edwards intercepted a Rice pass to give West Virginia the ball back at the Irish 26. Notre Dame's defense proved equal to the challenge.

On first down, Flash Gordon hemmed in Harris on the option for a loss of two.

On second down, Stan Smagala made a spectacular deflection in the end zone of a Harris pass.

On third down, Frank Stams - who earned defensive MVP honors - and Arnold Ale stormed Harris for a loss of 12, knocking West Virginia completely out of field goal range. The Mountaineers had to punt, and Notre Dame promptly drove for another touchdown.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	9	14	3	8	34
West Virginia	0	6	7	8	21
Attendance: 74,911 Weather: Cloudy, light rain, 55 degrees					

Team	Score ND-WV	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	3-0	1	10:25	Billy Hackett 45 FG
Drive: 37 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:00.				
Notre Dame	9-0	1	4:34	Anthony Johnson 1 run (run failed)
Drive: 61 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:20.				
Notre Dame	16-0	2	9:41	Rodney Culver 5 run (Reggie Ho kick)
Drive: 84 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:07.				
West Virginia	16-3	2	6:18	Charlie Baumann 29 FG
Drive: 52 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:22.				
Notre Dame	23-3	2	1:48	Raghib Ismail 29 pass from Tony Rice (Reggie Ho kick)
Drive: 63 yards in eight plays; Time Elapsed: 4:30.				
West Virginia	23-6	2	2:00	Charlie Baumann 31 FG
Drive: 69 yards in nine plays; Time Elapsed: 1:48.				
Notre Dame	26-6	3	5:34	Reggie Ho 32 FG
Drive: 50 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:55.				
West Virginia	26-13	3	3:32	Grantis Bell 17 pass from Major Harris
Drive: 74 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 2:02.				
Notre Dame	34-13	4	13:05	Frank Jacobs 3 pass from Tony Rice (Rice two-point conversion)
Drive: 80 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:07.				
West Virginia	34-21	4	1:14	Reggie Rembert 3 run (Rembert two-point conversion)
Drive: 59 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:57.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	WV		ND	WV
First Downs	19	19	Total Offensive Plays	70	67
By Rushing	13	4	Total Net Yards	455	282
By Passing	6	10	Average Gain Per Play	6.5	4.2
By Penalty	0	5	Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-0	0-0
Rushing Attempts	59	37	Penalties: No.-Yds.	11-102	3-38
Yards Rushing	245	141	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	1-0	1-14
Yards Lost Rushing	3	33	Punts: No.-Yds.	4-147	7-318
Net Yards Rushing	242	108	Average Per Punt	36.8	45.1
Net Yards Passing	213	174	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	3-28	2-35
Passes Attempted	11	30	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	2-3	6-107
Passes Completed	7	14			
Had Intercepted	1	1			

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Anthony Johnson 5-20, Tony Brooks 11-36, Tony Rice 13-75, Mark Green 13-62, Braxton Banks 5-12, Ricky Watters 3-6, Rodney Culver 4-20, Pat Eilers 1-2, Steve Belles 3-10, Ryan Mihalko 1-2.

WV: Major Harris 13-42, A.B. Brown 11-49, Craig Taylor 6-12, Undra Johnson 1-5, Rico Tyler 2-21, Eugene Napoleon 3-9, Reggie Rembert 1-3.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Tony Rice 11-7-1-213.

WV: Major Harris 26-13-1-166, Greg Jones 4-1-0-8

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Derek Brown 2-70, Anthony Johnson 1-19, Raghib Ismail 1-29, Mark Green 1-35, Frank Jacobs 1-3, Ricky Watters 1-57.

WV: Keith Winn 3-31, Craig Taylor 3-34, Grantis Bell 4-44, Reggie Rembert 2-40, A.B. Brown 1-17, Rico Tyler 1-8

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

Offensive MVP	Defensive MVP
Tony Rice, Quarterback	Frank Stams, Defensive End



1990 ORANGE BOWL

NOTRE DAME 21 — COLORADO 6

MIAMI — Notre Dame made use of its standard weapons — a bend-but-don't break defense, a rugged running game plus a timely pass completion or two. Those items, plus some uncharacteristic miscues by top-ranked Colorado enabled the Irish to dash the national title hopes of the Buffs with their 21-6 Orange Bowl victory.

The Notre Dame triumph over unbeaten Colorado helped the Irish make amends for their loss to Miami that ended the regular season and marked the only blemish on the record for the last two seasons. It also lent credence to the pregame speculation that the Irish experience in big games would pay dividends.

That certainly appeared to be the case in the first half when the Buffs — who came in averaging 34 points and 473 yards per game — squandered three golden scoring opportunities. Colorado rolled up and down the field the initial two periods, but putting the ball in the end zone was another matter.

First, the Buffs drove to the Irish 35 on their second possession. From there, Eric Bieniemy darted into the clear at the Notre Dame 25, only to fumble as he changed hands with the football. Pat Terrell recovered for Notre Dame at the Irish 19.

On their next possession, the Buffs moved from their own 18 to the Notre Dame five. On fourth and three from there, kicker Ken Culbertson oddly pulled a chip-shot, 23-yard field-goal attempt to the left.

Finally, Colorado ran the ball to a first and goal at the Irish one—only to have Notre Dame pull off what Lou Holtz tabbed as the most impressive goal line stand he'd seen in a bowl game. On fourth down, the Buffs gambled with a fake field-goal attempt, but holder Jeff Campbell had no one to throw to and Troy Ridgley and Stan Smagala smothered him at the one.

Notre Dame's lone scoring chance in the first 30 minutes ended when Colorado blocked a Billy Hackett field goal try as the first half ended in a rather bizarre 0-0 tie. As it turned out, all the momentum shifted to the Notre Dame side of the ledger from that point on.

The Irish took the second half kickoff and required just over three minutes to score. A 27-yard pass from Tony Rice to Tony Smith and a 27-yard run by fullback Anthony Johnson — who played impressively in finishing with 89 rushing yards — set the stage for Johnson's two-yard scoring run that made it 7-0.

Notre Dame immediately got the ball back when Ned Bolcar tipped a third down Darian Hagan pass into the air and intercepted at the Buff 46. Twenty-five yards in penalties for clipping and holding calls almost sabotaged the Irish. But Rice threw to Johnson for 13 yards on a third down play, then hit Pat Eilers for 18 on first and 32. Finally, Orange Bowl MVP Raghib Ismail raced 35 yards down the Notre Dame sideline on a reverse for a 14-0 Irish lead. Ismail, who ended up playing tailback most of the night, in part due to an early knee injury to Ricky Watters, finished with 108 yards rushing to lead both teams.

Colorado bounced back on the final play of the third period, accounting for the longest rush against the Irish all season on a 39-yard Hagan keeper that made it 14-6 when Culbertson's PAT hit the upright. When the Buffs were forced to punt the ball away to Notre Dame at the 10:27 mark, they had no idea they'd nearly never get it back.

Notre Dame promptly embarked on a stereotypical Irish march — 17 runs, none longer than 11 yards, no passes — that knocked 8:55 off the clock. When Johnson negotiated the final seven yards for a clinching touchdown that made it 21-6 with only 1:32 remaining, the Buffs were finished.

For the Irish, the triumph finished off a long season that began way back in August in the Kickoff Classic and featured Holtz's squad atop the polls throughout the regular season. Then, the one week the Irish weren't number one after their defeat at the hands of the Hurricanes, they bounced back to beat the number-one team.

They did it by playing mistake-free football — no turnovers for the Irish compared to a lost fumble and pair of interceptions thrown by Hagan.

"Coming away from the first half without any points after controlling the game for a while was too much to overcome," said Colorado coach Bill McCartney. "Anytime you're playing a team like Notre Dame, you've got to capitalize on your chances. We didn't. I didn't think anybody could keep us out of the end zone like they did on the goal line, but they did."

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	0	14	7	21
Colorado	0	0	6	0	6
Attendance: 81,191 Weather: Cloudy and breezy, 70 degrees					

Team	Score ND-CU	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	7-0	3	11:48	Anthony Johnson 4 run (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 69 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:12; Big Play: Anthony Johnson run for 29 yards.				
Notre Dame	14-0	3	7:19	Raghib Ismail 35 run (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 46 yards in seven plays; Elapsed Time: 3:27; Big Play: Tony Rice pass to Pat Eilers for 18 yards.				
Colorado	14-6	3	:01	Darian Hagan 39 run (Ken Culbertson kick failed)
Drive: 53 yards in four plays; Elapsed Time: 1:42.				
Notre Dame	21-6	4	1:32	Anthony Johnson 7 run (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 82 yards in 17 plays; Elapsed Time: 8:55; Big Play: Anthony Johnson runs for nine and 11 yards.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	CU
First Downs	18	16
By Rushing	14	12
By Passing	4	4
By Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	52	46
Yards Rushing	295	239
Yards Lost Rushing	16	22
Net Yards Rushing	279	217
Net Yards Passing	99	65
Passes Attempted	9	13
Passes Completed	5	4
Had Intercepted	0	2
Total Offensive Plays	61	59
Total Net Yards	378	282
Average Gain Per Play	6.2	4.8
Fumbles: No.-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties: No.-Yds.	3-35	1-5
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	2-0	0-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	5-204	3-118
Average Per Punt	40.1	39.3
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	0-0	3-36
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	2-24	3-43

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Raghib Ismail 16-108; Anthony Johnson 15-89; Tony Rice 14-50; Rodney Culver 5-29; Ricky Watters 2-3.

CU: Darian Hagan 19-106; Eric Bieniemy 11-66; J.J. Flannigan 12-45; Erich Kissick 2-6; Jeff Campbell 2-(-6).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Tony Rice 9-5-0-99.

CU: Darian Hagan 13-4-2-65.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Pat Eilers 2-47; Tony Smith 1-27; Anthony Johnson 1-13; Derek Brown 1-12.

CU: Erich Kissick 2-33; Mike Pritchard 1-16; John Perak 1-16.

NOTRE DAME MVP

Raghib Ismail, Flanker



1991 ORANGE BOWL

COLORADO 10 — NOTRE DAME 9

MIAMI — Turnovers, mistakes and missed opportunities — they all played major roles for Notre Dame as the fifth-ranked Fighting Irish self-destructed on offense in their Orange Bowl rematch with top-ranked Colorado.

This time, it was the Buffs who survived one last amazing attempt by Raghib Ismail and claimed the national championship on a 10-9 victory.

The game produced some strange twists, notably the starring role played by reserve Colorado quarterback Charles Johnson. He came off the bench after Darian Hagan injured a knee late in the first half and looked impressive in completing five of six passes after intermission.

Meanwhile, the Irish offense — coldly proficient most of the season — struggled to five turnovers, including three within four plays in the second half. The Notre Dame defense, which had its share of struggles in 1990, played maybe as well as it had all year against a potent Buffalo attack.

But it was a play that didn't even count that had everyone talking once this one was over.

With Colorado nursing its one-point lead and pushing toward field goal range in the waning moments, Notre Dame's defense came to the fore. From a first-and-10 situation at the Irish 27 for the Buffs, Notre Dame produced three straight lost-yardage plays, the last two sacks of Johnson for a combined 19 yards in losses, pushing Colorado back to its own 47 with 43 seconds to go — and brought punter Tom Rouen onto the field. In turn, Ismail wandered back toward the goal line for the Irish.

Electing not to boot the ball out of bounds, Rouen boomed a 44-yarder that Ismail fielded at his own nine. Rocket weaved his way through all kinds of traffic and eventually broke free down the right sideline for what appeared to be a spectacular 91-yard return. But a flag had been thrown against Greg Davis for a clip as Ismail was breaking to the outside. The Irish began instead at their own 22 and couldn't advance beyond their own 38 before time ran out.

The frustrating finish typified what proved to be an unusually inefficient evening for Notre Dame's offense. The Irish endured just about everything — a blocked PAT, a 50-yard field goal that banged off the upright, three interceptions and a pair of lost fumbles. Still, Ismail's last gasp return might very well have turned out to be the gamewinner.

Colorado wasted little time throwing its best shots at the Irish, sending speedy Mike Pritchard on a reverse for 15 yards on the game's first play. But when Rouen mishandled the punt snap on fourth down, Notre Dame began at the Colorado 48. That's when the Irish should have known they might be in for a long evening, as a pressured Rick Mirer saw his first-down pass for Ismail picked off and returned to near midfield.

Notre Dame's next possession took up 14 plays — but moved only as far as the Buff 35 following two straight incompletions. A Jim Sexton punt panned Colorado at its three, and enabled Notre Dame to take over on the Big Eight champion's 35. This time, two more incompletions prompted a Hentrich field goal attempt from 50 yards that clanged off the right upright.

Colorado broke the scoring drought early in the second period, taking the ball from its own 32 to the Irish five. Notre Dame held off the Buffs from a first-and-goal situation at the seven and forced a Jim Harper field goal that made it 3-0.

The Irish responded by throwing a 62-yard march of their own at Colorado. Mirer threw twice to Ismail for 21 total yards and later to Irv Smith for nine yards on third down. Ricky Watters negotiated the last two yards for the touchdown, but Colorado blocked Hentrich's extra-point attempt. Notre Dame's lone other first-half attempt ended in a 48-yard field-goal try by Hentrich that misfired.

Notre Dame took the second half kickoff and drove methodically from its own 28, getting 26 yards on a first-play throw to Derek Brown and 19 more on a Watters run. But, after first and goal at the Colorado four saw the Irish manage two runs for lost yardage and an incomplection, Hentrich converted the field goal from 24 yards to make it 9-3.

Next for the Irish came their offensive undoing, as lost fumbles by Watters and Tony Brooks were followed by an interception of a Mirer throw. In between came Colorado's only other points — a one-yard Eric Bieniemy run capping a 40-yard drive, plus the eventual game-winning PAT — and it could have been worse. Notre Dame's defense thwarted one possession with a pair of minus-yardage plays and ended another when George Williams blocked a 36-yard field-goal attempt early in the final period.

The Irish couldn't convert after Willie Clark recovered a Bieniemy fumble near midfield at the halfway mark of the fourth quarter. That set up Ismail's ill-fated punt return that left fans of both teams gasping.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	6	3	0	9
Colorado	0	3	7	0	10

Attendance: 77,062—Weather: Fair, 76 degrees

Team	Score CU-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Colorado	3-0	2	12:04	Jim Harper 22 FG
Drive: 63 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:24; Big Play: Eric Bieniemy run for 18 yards.				
Notre Dame	3-6	2	7:32	Ricky Watters 2 run (Craig Hentrich kick blocked)
Drive: 62 yards in nine plays; Elapsed Time: 4:32; Big Play: Jerome Bettis run for 18 yards.				
Notre Dame	3-9	3	10:10	Craig Hentrich 24 FG
Drive: 66 yards in 10 plays; Elapsed Time: 4:50; Big Play: Rick Mirer pass to Derek Brown for 26 yards.				
Colorado	10-9	3	4:26	Eric Bieniemy 1 run (Jim Harper kick)
Drive: 40 yards in eight plays; Elapsed Time: 3:58; Big Play: Charles Johnson pass to Sean Brown for 16 yards.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	CU	ND
First Downs	19	18
By Rushing	13	8
By Passing	6	9
By Penalty	0	1
Rushing Attempts	54	35
Yards Rushing	235	141
Yards Lost Rushing	49	18
Net Yards Rushing	186	123
Net Yards Passing	109	141
Passes Attempted	19	31
Passes Completed	9	13
Had Intercepted	0	3
Total Offensive Plays	73	66
Total Net Yards	295	264
Average Gain Per Play	4.0	4.0
Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-1	2-2
Penalties: No.-Yds.	6-50	3-45
Interceptions: No.-Yds.	3-50	0-0
Punts: No.-Yds.	7-283	3-153
Average Per Punt	40.4	51.0
Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	0-0	4-68
Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	3-49	3-53

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

CU: Eric Bieniemy 26-86, George Hemingway 14-76, Darian Hagan 7-36, Mike Pritchard 2-24, Charles Johnson 4-(-25), Tom Rouen 1-(-11).

ND: Tony Brooks 9-46, Ricky Watters 9-44, Jerome Bettis 3-27, Rodney Culver 5-9, Raghib Ismail 3-(-1), Rick Mirer 6-(-2).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

CU: Darian Hagan 12-4-0-29, Charles Johnson 6-5-0-80, Eric Bieniemy 1-0-0-0.

ND: Rick Mirer 31-13-3-141.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

CU: Mike Pritchard 3-45, Sean Brown 2-23, George Hemingway 2-13, Eric Bieniemy 1-19, Jon Boman 1-9.

ND: Raghib Ismail 6-57, Derek Brown 4-50, Adrian Jarrell 1-11, Irv Smith 1-9, Shawn Davis 1-8.

DEFENSIVE MVP

Chris Zorich, Nose Tackle



1992 SUGAR BOWL

NOTRE DAME 39 — FLORIDA 28

NEW ORLEANS — The old maxim that he who laughs last, laughs best, accounts for the roar emanating from the Irish locker room after a stunning 39-28 Sugar Bowl upset of third-ranked Florida.

After surviving two weeks as the collective butt of jokes — including “What’s the difference between Cheerios and Notre Dame? Cheerios belong in a bowl!” gag overheard from an anonymous French Quarter waiter — the 18th-ranked Irish responded on game day with a convincing second half rejoinder that silenced the snapping jaws of the heavily favored Gators and the heavily partisan Superdome crowd of 76,447.

Down 16-7 at the half, and outgained 288-142 in total yardage to that point, Notre Dame unleashed a power running game behind a dominating offensive line, a strategy that resulted in 32 second half points including three Jerome Bettis touchdowns late in the contest. Meanwhile, Gator quarterback Shane Matthews and the potent Florida offense jabbed away at the young Notre Dame defense but never landed the necessary knockout punch, instead settling for a record five field goals by Arden Czyzewski on five trips inside the Irish 20.

The criticisms of that makeshift defensive lineup appeared to be well founded after the game’s first series, as Matthews shredded the young secondary for 60 passing yards en route to an 11-play, 85-yard touchdown drive that took over four minutes. That set the tone for much of the first half, although three long Gator drives netted only nine total points.

The Irish, meanwhile, managed just one first down in the first quarter and were down 13-0 before Rick Mirer ignited the offense with three straight completions. The last was a 40-yard strike to Lake Dawson midway through the second quarter, pulling the Irish to within six points at 13-7. Czyzewski’s third field goal of the half, with just 20 second remaining, accounted for the nine-point halftime margin.

The halftime stats harbored little foresight on what would take place on the Superdome turf in the ensuing 30 minutes. Notre Dame entered the game as the nation’s sixth-best rushing team, averaging nearly 270 yards per game, but had totaled just 34 ground yards. Meanwhile, Matthews looked every bit the 3,000 yard passer he was, throwing for 202 first half yards and helping the Gators control the ball for nearly 20 minutes.

Any thought that the Irish would be forced into debuting “Air Holtz” in the second half was quickly buried. Like a prizefighter tiring out an opponent with body punches, Holtz called for an incredible 11 straight running plays into the heart of the renowned Florida line, with the work of Bettis, Rodney Culver and Tony Brooks finally resulting in the first-ever collegiate field goal by Kevin Pendergast.

After the Irish defense held, the burly backfield returned to their ground-eating ways. Bettis and Culver chewed up 41 yards on three carries midway through the drive, and Mirer and Tony Smith saved a third-and-17 with another of their seven hookups. Mirer hit 6-5 Irv Smith for the go-ahead touchdown near the end of the third quarter.

Florida retook the lead 22-17 on successive field goals, though failing to get the TD after Darren Mickell forced a Rick Mirer fumble at the Irish 12. The rest of the final quarter would belong Bettis, the eventual Sugar Bowl MVP. He capped a 14-play drive by crashing in behind Gene McGuire for a three-yard score, with the two-point conversion giving the Irish a 25-22 advantage. After the Gators failed on fourth-and-10 at midfield with under four minutes to go, Bettis took the first handoff and rumbled through a gaping right-side hole for 49 yards and a 32-22 lead.

But no lead is safe when Matthews’ arm is involved, and with well over three minutes still to work with, he eventually hit Harrison Houston with a 36-yard TD strike. But the two-point conversion pass failed, as the Irish led 32-28.

Bettis and the Irish line wasted little time sealing the outcome. After Culver covered an onside kick attempt, the 246-pound Bettis broke loose again on a third down, rolling to his third score from 39 yards out. Those were the last of 245 second half rushing yards by the Irish, with Bettis accounting for 127 and Rodney Culver and Tony Brooks also prime contributors. Though Matthews finished 28-of-58 with 370 passing yards, he had just 11 second half completions against a tightening Holtz-inspired defense. In fact, the Gators went without a touchdown for over 53 minutes between the opening score and Houston’s grab in the waning moments.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	7	10	22	39
Florida	10	6	0	12	28
Attendance: 76,447—Weather: Indoors, 72 degrees					

Team	Score UF-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Florida	7-0	1	10:40	Willie Jackson 15 pass from Shane Matthews (Arden Czyzewski kick) Drive: 85 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:20; Big Play: Shane Matthews 21 pass to Aubrey Hill.
Florida	10-0	1	3:36	Arden Czyzewski 26 FG Drive: 71 yards in 15 plays; Elapsed Time: 5:02; Big Play: Shane Matthews pass 18 yards to Willie Jackson.
Florida	13-0	2	10:29	Arden Czyzewski 24 FG Drive: 75 yards in 14 plays; Elapsed Time: 5:21; Big Play: Shane Matthews run 20 yards.
Notre Dame	13-7	2	8:01	Lake Dawson 40 pass from Rick Mirer (Craig Hentrich kick) Drive: 64 yards in five plays; Elapsed Time: 2:28; Big Play: Rick Mirer pass 19 yards to Tony Smith.
Florida	16-7	2	0:20	Arden Czyzewski 36 FG Drive: 51 yards in 10 plays; Elapsed Time: 2:23; Big Play: Shane Matthews 17-yard pass to Alonzo Sullivan.
Notre Dame	16-10	3	10:03	Kevin Pendergast 23 FG Drive: 64 yards in 12 plays; Elapsed Time: 4:57; Big Play: Rodney Culver 19 run.
Notre Dame	16-17	3	2:12	Irv Smith 4 pass from Rick Mirer (Kevin Pendergast kick) Drive: 80 yards in 14 plays; Elapsed Time 4:53; Big Play: Rick Mirer 16-yard pass to Tony Smith.
Florida	19-17	4	13:42	Arden Czyzewski 37 FG Drive: 50 yards in 10 plays; Elapsed Time: 3:30; Big Play: Shane Matthews 20 pass to Errict Rhett.
Florida	22-17	4	11:21	Arden Czyzewski 24 FG Drive: 4 yards in 4 plays; Elapsed Time: 0:57.
Notre Dame	22-25	4	4:48	Jerome Bettis 3 run (Rick Mirer to Tony Brooks pass) Drive: 64 yards in 14 plays; Elapsed Time 6:33; Big Play: Rodney Culver 12 run.
Notre Dame	22-32	4	3:32	Jerome Bettis 49 run (Kevin Pendergast kick) Drive: 49 yards in one play; Elapsed Time: 0:09.
Florida	28-32	4	2:28	Harrison Houston 36 pass from Shane Matthews (Matthews pass incomplete) Drive: 64 yards in five plays; Elapsed Time: 1:04.
Notre Dame	28-39	4	2:04	Jerome Bettis 39 run (Kevin Pendergast kick) Drive: 44 yards in three plays; Elapsed time: 0:24.

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	UF	ND	UF
First Downs	23	29	Total Offensive Plays	68 91
By Rushing	18	13	Total Net Yards	433 511
By Passing	4	16	Average Gain Per Play	6.4 5.6
By Penalty	1	0	Fumbles: No.-Lost	4-3 0-0
Rushing Attempts	49	33	Penalties: No.-Yds.	3-15 4-40
Yards Rushing	324	162	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	2-31 1-4
Yards Lost Rushing	45	21	Punts: No.-Yds.	2-68 2-105
Net Yards Rushing	279	141	Average Per Punt	34.0 52.5
Net Yards Passing	154	370	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	0-0 0-0
Passes Attempted	19	58	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	7-188 6-90
Passes Completed	14	28		
Had Intercepted	1	2		

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Jerome Bettis 16-150, Rodney Culver 13-93, Tony Brooks 13-68, Paul Failla 1-(-2), Rick Mirer 6-(-30).

UF: Errict Rhett 15-63, Willie McClendon 7-34, Shane Matthews 7-27, Dexter McNabb 4-17.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Rick Mirer 19-14-1-154.

UF: Shane Matthews 58-28-2-370.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Tony Smith 7-75, Lake Dawson 2-49, Derek Brown 1-11, Rodney Culver 1-6, Jerome Bettis 1-5, Irv Smith 1-4, William Pollard 1-4.

UF: Willie Jackson 8-148, Harrison Houston 3-52, Alonzo Sullivan 4-47, Aubrey Hill 3-41, Errict Rhett 4-38, Willie McClendon 3-19, Tre Everett 2-18, Dexter McNabb 1-7.

MILLER-DIGBY AWARD — MVP

Jerome Bettis, Fullback



1993 COTTON BOWL

NOTRE DAME 28 — TEXAS A&M 3

DALLAS — Both Texas A&M and Notre Dame were known for their running games entering the 1993 Cotton Bowl Classic. The Aggies had built up a 12-0 record behind the running of Rodney Thomas and Greg Hill while the Irish checked in with a 9-1-1 mark on the strength of Lou Holtz's "Thunder and Lightning", Jerome Bettis and Reggie Brooks.

In the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day, only one great running game showed itself.

Notre Dame rushed for 290 net yards while A&M accounted for just 78 as the Irish dominated all facets of the game in a 28-3 win over the Aggies.

Brooks finished with 115 yards on 22 carries and Bettis added 75 yards on 20 rushes. Quarterback Rick Mirer even got into the act with 55 yards on 13 attempts.

But, in the first half, Notre Dame certainly didn't appear to be on the way to a blowout. On its first possession, the Irish drove to the Aggie 18 before Mirer's pitch to Brooks ended up on the ground and Kefa Chatham recovered for Texas A&M. After that drive, Notre Dame was forced to punt on its next four possessions, moving no more than 20 yards each time it had the ball.

At the same time, the Aggies were having very little luck moving the ball. Texas A&M did move into field goal range midway through the second quarter but Terry Venetoulis' 46-yard attempt was short and the game remained scoreless.

After the teams again exchanged punts, Notre Dame received the spark it needed to take control. With just 36 seconds left in the half, Mirer threw to Lake Dawson on a middle screen and Dawson strolled 40 yards to give the Irish a 7-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Notre Dame's rushing game came to the forefront and buried the Aggies. After throwing 15 passes in the first half, the Irish put the ball in the air only three times in the second half. Notre Dame controlled the ball and the clock, by using the ground game. At one period in the second half, the Irish ran the ball on 34 consecutive plays — successfully.

On its first possession of the half, Notre Dame ate up 5:06 of clock with an 65-yard, 10-play drive that resulted in a Mirer-to-Bettis touchdown toss of 26 yards. Possession number two was much of the same for the Irish, moving 87 yards in 10 plays before Brooks fumbled at the Texas A&M four.

Again the Notre Dame defense rose to the occasion. On the Aggies' second play after the turnover, Brian Hamilton stripped Texas A&M quarterback Corey Pullig and Demetrius DuBose recovered at the Aggie 11. Two plays later, Bettis scored from one yard out to give the Irish a 21-0 lead.

After A&M scored on a 41-yard field goal by Venetoulis, Notre Dame again kept the ball on the ground and moved 82 yards in 16 plays in 9:24 with Bettis adding the final score — his third touchdown — to set the final, 28-3.

Mirer was named the game's most outstanding offensive player, completing eight-for-16 passes for 119 yards and two touchdowns. Devon McDonald was the game's outstanding defensive player with 10 tackles, including four for losses and one sack.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	7	14	7	28
Texas A&M	0	0	0	3	3
Attendance: 71,615 — Weather: Cloudy, 31 degrees					

Team	Score A&M-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	0-7	2	0:36	Lake Dawson 40 pass from Rick Mirer (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 64 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 0:56.				
Notre Dame	0-14	3	7:17	Jerome Bettis 26 pass from Mirer (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 65 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:06; Big Play: On third down-and-six, Rick Mirer runs right for seven yards and a first down.				
Notre Dame	0-21	3	0:33	Jerome Bettis 1 run (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 11 yards in two plays; Time Elapsed: 0:08; Big Play: Demetrius DuBose recovers Corey Pullig's fumble at the Texas A&M 11.				
Texas A&M	3-21	4	14:27	Terry Venetoulis 41 FG
Drive: 38 yards in six plays; Time Elapsed: 1:06; Big Play: Corey Pullig throws to Tony Harrison for 39 yards.				
Notre Dame	3-28	4	5:03	Jerome Bettis 4 run (Craig Hentrich kick)
Drive: 82 yards in 16 plays; Time Elapsed: 9:24; Big Play: Rick Mirer keeps for 11.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND		A&M			ND		A&M	
First Downs	23	29	Total Offensive Plays	82	51				
By Rushing	20	8	Total Net Yards	439	165				
By Passing	6	2	Average Gain Per Play	5.4	3.2				
By Penalty	2	1	Fumbles: No.-Lost	3-3	2-2				
Rushing Attempts	64	33	Penalties: No.-Yds.	3-30	7-42				
Yards Rushing	308	122	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	0-0				
Yards Lost Rushing	18	44	Punts: No.-Yds.	4-152	6-243				
Net Yards Rushing	290	78	Average Per Punt	38.0	40.5				
Net Yards Passing	149	87	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	1-9	2-8				
Passes Attempted	18	18	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	1-13	5-98				
Passes Completed	9	7	Third Down Conversions	12-17	3-12				
Had Intercepted	0	0							

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Reggie Brooks 22-115, Jerome Bettis 20-75, Rick Mirer 13-55, Lee Becton 5-26, Jeff Burris 2-8, Travis Davis 1-8, Ray Zellars 1-3.

A&M: Rodney Thomas 20-50, Brian Mitchell 1-12, Corey Pullig 9-11, Doug Carter 3-5.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Rick Mirer 16-8-0-119, Paul Failla 1-1-0-30, Jerome Bettis 1-0-0-0.

A&M: Corey Pullig 18-7-0-87.

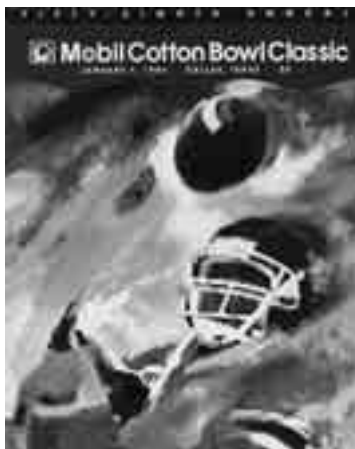
INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Irv Smith 3-38, Lake Dawson 2-46, Mike Miller 1-30, Jerome Bettis 1-26, Reggie Brooks 1-5, Ray Griggs 1-4.

A&M: Tony Harrison 3-59, Greg Schorp 2-14, Brian Mitchell 1-12, Clif Groce 1-2.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

Outstanding Offensive Player	Outstanding Defensive Player
Rick Mirer, Quarterback	Devon McDonald, Defensive End



1994 COTTON BOWL

NOTRE DAME 24 — TEXAS A&M 21

DALLAS — Defenses dominated late in the Cotton Bowl as the Irish shut down Texas A&M's comeback in the fourth quarter for an edgy 24-21 win in Dallas. Tailback Lee Becton led all runners with 138 of Notre Dame's 206 yards rushing, marking his seventh consecutive 100-plus yardage game.

Texas A&M countered the Irish ground attack with an aerial display headed by quarterback Corey Pullig. Pullig hit the airways 31 times, completing 17 for 238 yards to balance out what Notre Dame had done on the ground. Both teams scored touchdowns on their first possessions of the game. Notre Dame drove 91 yards and capped off the drive with quarterback Kevin McDougal's electrifying 19-yard keeper around the right end. The Aggies reloaded and struck back with a drive that resulted in Greg Hill's eight-yard touchdown sweep around the right side.

For the next few series both teams would battle back and fourth, getting few results. The defenses denied each other time and time again. For the Aggies, it was time for the air raid as they mounted a 77-yard, 14-play drive that chewed up 7:02 off the clock. During the drive, the Aggies passed five times, completing four. Faced with a fourth and one, R.C. Slocum and his troops elected to go for the first down at the Irish 15. Pullig, using a beautiful play-action fake, found a wide open Detron Smith for an Aggie touchdown.

Pullig would end the half with 123 yards passing, completing 50 percent of his passes and leading A&M to a 14-7 halftime lead. Notre Dame's explosive attack was limited to only 123 yards of total offense. To blame for that was an Aggie defense that swarmed anywhere it saw blue and gold.

Notre Dame, after holding Texas A&M to a three-yard series on the opening drive, started the second half in the same fashion in which it began the game — by scoring a touchdown. The engines ignited for the rest of the game as Becton hit on all cylinders. The tailback carried four times for 32 yards before Notre Dame tied the game at 14-14 with Ray Zellars going off tackle for a two-yard score.

Slocum's troops battled right back to remain in the driver's seat. Using only 3:31, the Aggies assembled a 10-play, 80-yard drive with Pullig hitting on three quick attempts, and Rodney Thomas plowing his way in from the one to put the Aggies back on top at 21-14.

Becton would carry three more times for 31 yards, and McDougal would hit a streaking Zellars for another 18 to put the Irish deep into enemy territory. With first and goal from the one, Holtz turned to freshman bulldozer Marc Edwards who plowed his way in to tie the game at 21. With the Irish stopping A&M after six plays, Slocum's team punted the ball away.

Deadlocked in the fourth quarter, Notre Dame found the momentum. After settling for a punt on the first drive of the quarter, Pete Bercich picked off Pullig and took the ball back. Seven plays later, the Irish had to punt again. With under six minutes left, it seemed A&M would have the last chance at victory. Slocum's Aggies started at their own 10-yard line and went backwards. On fourth and 12 the Aggies punted the ball into the hands of Irish return man Mike Miller.

Miller left nothing behind him except Aggies, and a blazing trail of smoke. He returned the punt 38 yards before finally being pushed out of bounds to give the Irish the ball on the A&M 22-yard line. Becton picked up eight on the first play, but the Aggie defense stiffened and held the Irish. Placekicker Kevin Pendergast and the Notre Dame field goal unit trotted out to the field, only to head back to the sidelines. The Irish took a timeout with 2:22 left in the game after trying to draw the Aggies offside. Pendergast and company returned to the field and connected on the 31-yard field goal to give the Irish a 24-21 lead.

A&M received the kickoff, and Pullig entered the game to try and muster one last heroic effort. But, on first and 10, Notre Dame's Bobby Taylor picked up a loose fumble and seemed to have thwarted any last Aggie chance of survival. Slocum's boys on defense held Notre Dame to three and out and got the ball back with a minute left to play. Needing a big play, Pullig went to the air one more time and found tight end Greg Schorp for a gain of 32. After unsuccessful second and third down plays, the Aggies had one last chance to win. Pullig dropped back to pass and found Tony Harrison who then tried to lateral the ball back to teammate Leeland McElroy. The ball never made it there, and Irish linebacker Renaldo Wynn smothered the ball.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	7	0	14	3	24
Texas A&M	7	7	7	0	21
Attendance: 69,855 — Weather: Sunny, 62 degrees					
Team	Score A&M-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play	
Notre Dame	0-7	1	8:01	Kevin McDougal 19 run (Kevin Pendergast kick)	
Drive: 91 yards in 13 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:59					
Texas A&M	7-7	1	3:56	Greg Hill 8 run (Terry Venetoulis kick)	
Drive: 79 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:05; Big Play: Corey Pullig 21-yard pass to Rodney Thomas on third and 16 for the first down					
Texas A&M	14-7	2	2:56	Corey Pullig 15 pass to Detron Smith (Terry Venetoulis kick)	
Drive: 77 yards in 14 plays; Time Elapsed: 7:02; Big Play: Corey Pullig 15-yard touchdown pass on fourth and one at the Irish 15					
Notre Dame	14-14	3	10:21	Ray Zellars 2 run (Kevin Pendergast kick)	
Drive: 51 yards in eight plays; Time Elapsed: 3:35; Big Play: Lee Becton takes wide pitch for 13 yards and carries two more times to set up Ray Zellars score					
Texas A&M	21-14	3	6:50	Rodney Thomas 1-yard dive (Terry Venetoulis kick)	
Drive: 80 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:31; Big Play: Leeland McElroy picks up the first down on a 16-yard run to ND 19					
Notre Dame	21-21	3	3:48	Marc Edwards 2 run (Kevin Pendergast kick)	
Drive: 65 yards in seven plays; Time Elapsed: 3:02; Big Play: Kevin McDgoual tosses 18-yard pass to Ray Zellars to A&M 13					
Notre Dame	21-24	4	2:22	Kevin Pendergast 31 FG	
Drive: 8 yards in 4 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:38; Big Play: Michael Miller returns punt for 38 yards to A&M 22					

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND		A&M			ND		A&M	
First Downs	19	20	Total Offensive Plays	66	68				
By Rushing	13	11	Total Net Yards	311	341				
By Passing	5	9	Average Gain Per Play	4.7	5.0				
By Penalty	1	0	Fumbles: No.-Lost	1-0	4-2				
Rushing Attempts	51	37	Penalties: No.-Yds.	5-34	3-15				
Yards Rushing	236	147	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	1-1	0-0				
Yards Lost Rushing	30	44	Punts: No.-Yds.	7-266	4-149				
Net Yards Rushing	206	103	Average Per Punt	38.0	37.3				
Net Yards Passing	105	238	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-35	0-0				
Passes Attempted	15	31	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	3-59	5-117				
Passes Completed	7	17	Third Down Conversions	5-13	6-14				
Had Intercepted	0	1							

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Lee Becton 26-138, Kevin McDougal 9-13, Ray Zellars 9-25, Marc Edwards 3-6, Michael Miller 2-20, Jeff Burris 1-4, Randy Kinder 1-0.

A&M: Greg Hill 16-38, Cliff Groce 1-2, Leeland McElroy 4-45, Rodney Thomas 9-33, Corey Pullig 7-15.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Kevin McDougal 15-7-0-105.

A&M: Corey Pullig 31-17-1-238.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Lake Dawson 2-41, Derrick Mayes 2-27, Lee Becton 1-3, Oscar McBride 1-16, Ray Zellars 1-18.

A&M: Cliff Groce 4-45, Greg Shrop 3-53, Tony Harrison 3-52, Mitchell 2-29, Detron Smith 2-24, Leeland McElroy 1-7, Greg Hill 1-7, Rodney Thomas 1-21.

OFFENSIVE MVP

Lee Becton, Tailback



1995 FIESTA BOWL

COLORADO 41 — NOTRE DAME 24

TEMPE — If holding the Heisman Trophy winner in check ranked as the only goal, Notre Dame's defensive performance against fourth-rated Colorado in the 1995 Fiesta Bowl might have qualified as impressive.

Unfortunately for the Irish, there proved to be far more to the Buffaloes' potency than running back Rashaan Salaam. Though he did score three touchdowns on runs of five, one and one yards, Notre Dame limited him to 83 net yards on 27 attempts, for a 3.1-yard average with no gain greater than 13 yards.

The same could not be said for quarterback Kordell Stewart. Running the Colorado option attack with precision, Stewart threw for 226 yards and a touchdown and — more impressively — scuttled the Irish defense with 143 rushing yards on only seven carries. He easily earned the game's offensive MVP award and had more to do than anyone else with Colorado scurrying out to a 31-3 lead on its way to an eventual 41-24 victory over Notre Dame.

Stewart's 29-yard run and 37-yard completion to Phil Savoy set up the Buffs' first touchdown. His 35-yard romp set up the second Colorado TD. A 46-yard pass to James Kidd put the Buffs in position for their third first half TD. And a third period, 41-yard option keeper by Stewart made it 34-17 for Colorado just when the Irish were threatening to get back into the football game. Playing its final game for retiring coach Bill McCartney, Colorado scored on five of its first six possessions to do everything it could to put the contest out of reach early.

Salaam's biggest gain of the afternoon came on the game's third play from scrimmage. After that, Stewart took over. His 28-yard pass to Michael Westbrook pushed the Buffs to the Irish 22 and, three plays later, Neil Voskeritchian converted a 33-yard field goal for an early Colorado advantage.

After Notre Dame's first possession ended when Ron Powlus couldn't connect with Derrick Mayes on a fourth-and-eight throw from the Colorado 30, the Buffs continued their rumbling. Stewart's 29-yard excursion came on first down, and three plays later he hooked up with Savoy for 37 yards to the Irish one. Stewart's one-yard toss to tight end Christian Fauria made it 10-0.

Notre Dame rebounded with a field goal of its own, after Scott Sollmann's kickoff return to the Buff 46 and Powlus' run for 17 set Scott Cengia up for a three-pointer from 29 yards out. But that barely stemmed the Buffalo tide.

Stewart keyed the next Colorado scoring drive, running 35 yards himself and throwing for 22 more to Westbrook before scoring himself from nine yards out to make it 17-3. Third downs hurt the Irish on Colorado's next possession, as Stewart ran for 16 yards on third and 11 and threw to Savoy for 46 on third and 10. The Buffs' next scoring drive required only 38 yards after an eight-yard Notre Dame punt, with Salaam notching the score on a short run.

Notre Dame's initial touchdown drive came in the final 1:29 of the first half, with Powlus throwing for 36 yards to Lee Becton, 20 more to Mayes and finally seven yards to Mayes for the score — making it 31-10 at the break. Though Colorado ran off only four more plays than Notre Dame in the first two periods, its 332-161 edge in total yards at halftime proved particularly telling.

The Irish attempted to reestablish their running game as the third period began — and they did so, with Becton running for gains of 12 and 18 yards on successive plays and Ray Zellars following with an 11-yard run. But, on fourth and goal from the five, Charles Stafford's throw to Zellars after a faked field goal went awry.

Still, Powlus hooked up with Mayes after a short Colorado punt on a TD throw that comprised a one-play, 40-yard scoring drive to cut the deficit to 31-17.

After a Voskeritchian field goal, the Irish drove from their own 21 to the Colorado 30, only to have the Buffs' Ted Johnson intercept a pass for the only turnover by either team.

A 37-yard Stewart pass to Kidd set up Salaam's final TD. Then the Irish drove 91 yards in 14 plays, converting four times on third down before Powlus threw seven yards to Leon Wallace for the final 41-24 margin.

SCORING SUMMARY

Colorado	10	21	3	7	41
Notre Dame	3	7	7	7	24
Attendance: 73,968—Weather: Sunny, 60 degrees					

Team	Score CU-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Colorado	3-0	1	11:58	Neil Voskeritchian 33 FG
Drive: 53 yards in 8 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:59; Big Play: Michael Westbrook 22 pass from Kordell Stewart to Notre Dame 22 on 1st and 15				
Colorado	10-0	1	5:55	Christian Fauria 1 pass from Kordell Stewart (Neil Voskeritchian kick)
Drive: 70 yards in 5 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:27; Big Play: 3rd and 7, Phil Savoy 37 pass from Kordell Stewart to ND 1.				
Notre Dame	10-3	1	2:01	Scott Cengia 29 FG
Drive: 34 yards in 9 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:54; Big Play: 2nd and 8, Ron Powlus 17 run to CU 17				
Colorado	17-3	2	9:21	Kordell Stewart 9 run (Neil Voskeritchian kick)
Drive: 66 yards in 5 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:55; Big Play: 2nd and 9, Kordell Stewart 35 run to ND 30.				
Colorado	24-3	2	4:07	Rashaan Salaam 1 run (Neil Voskeritchian kick)
Drive: 80 yards in 9 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:50; Big Play: 3rd and 10, James Kidd 46 pass from Kordell Stewart to ND 1.				
Colorado	31-3	2	1:35	Rashaan Salaam 1 run (Neil Voskeritchian kick)
Drive: 38 yards in 6 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:45; Big Play: 3rd and 9, Michael Westbrook 19 pass from Kordell Stewart to ND 18.				
Notre Dame	31-10	2	0:05	Derrick Mayes 7 pass from Ron Powlus (Scott Cengia kick)
Drive: 65 yards in 6 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:30; Big Play: 2nd and 9, Derrick Mayes 20 pass from Ron Powlus to CU 8.				
Notre Dame	31-17	3	5:47	Derrick Mayes 40 pass from Ron Powlus (Scott Cengia kick)
Drive: 40 yards in 1 play; Time Elapsed: 0:08; Big Play: 1st and 10, Derrick Mayes 40 pass from Ron Powlus for TD.				
Colorado	34-17	3	1:55	Neil Voskeritchian 48 FG
Drive: 45 yards in 5 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:03; Big Play: 1st and 10, Kordell Stewart 41 run to ND 35				
Colorado	41-17	4	9:29	Rashaan Salaam 5 run (Neil Voskeritchian kick)
Drive: 56 yards in 4 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:43; Big Play: 2nd and 2, James Kidd 37 pass from Kordell Stewart to ND 11.				
Notre Dame	41-24	4	2:07	Leon Wallace 7 pass from Ron Powlus (Stefan Schreffner kick)
Drive: 91 yards in 14 plays; Time elapsed: 7:22; Big Play: 3rd and 5, Derrick Mayes 26 pass from Ron Powlus to CU 32.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	CU	ND	CU	ND
First Downs	18	22	Total Offensive Plays	60 80
By Rushing	9	13	Total Net Yards	472 408
By Passing	8	9	Average Gain Per Play	10.8 7.4
By Penalty	1	0	Fumbles: No.-Lost	0-0 2-0
Rushing Attempts	39	45	Penalties: No.-Yds.	4-35 3-25
Yards Rushing	246	149	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	1-7 0-0
Yards Lost Rushing	0	27	Punts: No.-Yds.	4-144 5-165
Net Yards Rushing	246	149	Average Per Punt	36.0 33.0
Net Yards Passing	226	259	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-12 0-0
Passes Attempted	21	35	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-47 7-149
Passes Completed	12	18	Third Down Conversions	5-11 10-19
Had Intercepted	0	1		

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Lee Becton 17-81, Ron Powlus 15-12, Ray Zellars 5-21, Emmett Mosley 3-21, Marc Edwards 2-4, Robert Farmer 2-1, Scott Sollmann 1-9.

CU: Rashaan Salaam 27-83, Kordell Stewart 7-143, Herchell Troutman 2-20, Kay Detmer 2-2, Lendon Henry 1- (-2).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Ron Powlus 34-18-1-259; Charles Stafford 1-0-0-0.

CU: Kordell Stewart 21-12-0-226.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Derrick Mayes 4-93, Lee Becton 3-60, Emmett Mosley 3-34, Ray Zellars 2-25, Charles Stafford 2-22, Oscar McBride 2-21, Leon Wallace 1-7, Robert Farmer 1- (-3).

CU: Michael Westbrook 4-70, James Kidd 2-83, Phil Savoy 2-58, Christian Fauria 2-3, Rae Carruth 1-6, Rashaan Salaam 1-6.



1996 ORANGE BOWL

FLORIDA STATE 31 — NOTRE DAME 26

MIAMI — Notre Dame's 1996 Orange Bowl matchup with eighth-ranked Florida State qualified as a historic occasion, since the Irish and Seminoles comprised the final combatants in Miami's venerable Orange Bowl facility before the game's switch to Joe Robbie Stadium for 1997.

The game itself was not without its challenges for Lou Holtz's sixth-ranked team that was without injured quarterback Ron Powlus and leading rusher Randy Kinder — and found itself facing a Florida State offensive attack averaging 48.4 points and 551.5 yards per game.

Still, backup quarterback Tom Krug, all-star split end Derrick Mayes and their Irish teammates combined to keep the Seminoles on their heels most of the evening until a 17-point fourth-quarter rally wiped out a 12-point Notre Dame lead and gave Florida State a 31-26 win for its 11th consecutive postseason victory.

Krug took a physical pounding but still managed to rush for 45 yards and tie an Irish bowl record with three touchdown passes and an overall 14-of-24 throwing performance. Mayes earned Notre Dame's MVP honor by catching six passes for 96 yards, including TD grabs of 39 and 33 yards.

Those two helped Notre Dame claim a 26-14 edge with less than 12 minutes on the clock before a furious Seminole response, aided by the last two of four scoring throws by Danny Kanell, put Bobby Bowden's club back on top. Andre Cooper claimed the Seminole MVP award thanks to three TD receptions, the last of which put Florida State ahead for good at 29-26 with 6:09 to go.

The Irish had their share of early opportunities, especially after Florida product Autry Denson rambled 48 yards on the first play from scrimmage and Marc Edwards followed that effort with a 28-yard gain of his own on the next play. But, after reaching the six, a sack and a missed field goal sent Notre Dame to the sideline emptyhanded.

A Shawn Wooden interception ended Florida State's first possession at midfield, and five plays later Krug led Mayes perfectly into the end zone for 39 yards and a 7-0 lead. The Seminoles required just more than two minutes to tie it, with Warrick Dunn adding 23 yards on one play and Kanell finding Cooper for 15 yards and the touchdown.

With the Irish going to a spread passing game that at times saw Krug lined up with no one else in the backfield, Notre Dame pounded out a 62-yard answering drive. This time Scott Cengia's 20-yard field goal attempt fell through after hitting the left upright and the Irish led by three.

Notre Dame's chance to take control fell through the cracks when an illegal block negated a 52-yard score on a punt return by Mayes. With Kanell hitting Cooper a second time in the end zone, this time for 10 yards, the Seminoles claimed a 14-10 halftime advantage.

The third quarter and first part of the fourth were all Notre Dame. The Irish forced the 'Noles to punt the ball away to start the second half, then drove 55 yards to take the lead on Krug's second TD pass to Mayes, this one for 33 yards and a 17-14 score. Meanwhile, Ivory Covington ended another Florida State threat with an interception and Scott Bentley's missed 42-yard field goal maintained that margin at the end of three periods.

On the fourth play of the final quarter Irish punter Hunter Smith kicked the ball 44 yards to the Florida State one. From there on first down, Kanell dropped one step too far into the end zone, with the resulting safety making the margin 19-14. Emmett Mosley returned the free kick 21 yards, Robert Farmer rushed 51 yards down the left side — and Krug's five-yard toss to tight end Pete Chryplewicz made it 26-14 with 11:43 on the clock.

The Seminoles wasted little time getting back into the contest, requiring only five plays and 1:56 to negotiate 73 yards. Kanell passed 24 yards to Wayne Messam, 21 more to E.G. Green, then 11 more to Green to cut the margin to 26-21.

After the Irish couldn't gain a first down, Dee Feaster's 41-yard punt return put the 'Noles in prime position. A key fourth-and-five completion to Green put the ball on the Irish three, and on second down the familiar Kanell-to-Cooper pairing made it 29-26 after the duo also combined on a two-point conversion.

An Irish fumble stopped one late Notre Dame foray, but Florida State misfired on a pass attempt into the end zone on fourth and goal from the three. Notre Dame took over one more time from the three with 2:06 left, but on first down Krug was called for intentional grounding from the end zone. The two points and resulting Seminole possession enabled Florida State to run out the clock.

SCORING SUMMARY

Florida State	7	7	0	17	31
Notre Dame	10	0	7	9	26
Attendance: 72,198—Weather: Cloudy, humid, 79 degrees					

Team	Score FSU-ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	0-7	1	8:27	Derrick Mayes 39 pass from Tom Krug (Scott Cengia kick) Drive: 50 yards in 5 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:55; Big Play: Tom Krug 15-yard scramble on second and 10 from the 50 to set up score.
Florida State	7-7	1	6:08	Andre Cooper 15 pass from Dan Kanell (Scott Bentley kick) Drive: 81 yards in 7 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:19; Big Play: Warrick Dunn runs for 23 yards down right side on first and 10 to put ball at ND 31.
Notre Dame	7-10	1	0:02	Scott Cengia 20FG Drive: 62 yards in 14 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:06; Big Play: Tom Krug passes to Emmett Mosley on third and four to putt ball at FSU 8.
Florida State	14-10	2	2:30	Andre Cooper 10 pass from Dan Kanell (Scott Bentley kick) Drive: 59 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:44; Big Play: Warrick Dunn runs for 18 yards down right side on third and eight to put ball at ND 11.
Notre Dame	14-17	3	8:04	Derrick Mayes 33 pass from Tom Krug (Scott Cengia kick) Drive: 55 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:58; Big Play: Touchdown pass.
Notre Dame	14-19	4	13:44	Safety, Dan Kannell steps out of bounds in end zone
Notre Dame	14-26	4	11:43	Pete Chryplewicz 5 pass from Tom Krug (Scott Cengia kick) Drive: 63 yards in 5 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:01; Big Play: Robert Farmer runs for 51 yards on third and three to put ball at FSU 4.
Florida State	21-26	4	9:47	E.G. Green 11 pass from Dan Kanell (Scott Bentley kick) Drive: 73 yards in 5 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:56; Big Play: Dan Kanell passes for 24 yards to Wayne Messam on second and eight to put ball at ND 32.
Florida State	29-26	4	6:09	Andre Cooper 3 pass from Dan Kanell (Scott Bentley kick) Drive: 30 yards in 6 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:39; Big Play: Dan Kanell 22 pass to E.G. Green on four and five to put ball at ND 3.
Florida State	31-26	4	2:02	Safety, Tom Krug intentional grounding in end zone

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	FSU	ND	FSU
First Downs	17	26	Total Offensive Plays	71 70
By Rushing	11	10	Total Net Yards	425 478
By Passing	5	16	Average Gain Per Play	6.0 6.8
By Penalty	1	0	Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-1 1-0
Rushing Attempts	45	37	Penalties: No.-Yds.	7-55 7-59
Yards Rushing	297	221	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	2-14 1-8
Yards Lost Rushing	41	33	Punts: No.-Yds.	5-212 3-132
Net Yards Rushing	256	188	Average Per Punt	42.4 44.0
Net Yards Passing	169	290	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-21 3-52
Passes Attempted	26	33	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	5-110 6-78
Passes Completed	15	20	Third Down Conversions	7-16 6-13
Had Intercepted	1	2		

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Robert Farmer 7-93, Autry Denson 11-67, Marc Edwards 14-55, Thomas Krug 11-45, Marcus Thorne 1-4, Scott Sollmann 1- -8.

FSU: Warrick Dunn 22-151, Rock Preston 6-55, Pooh Bear Williams 2-7, Khalid Abdullah 2-2, Danny Kanell 5- -27.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Thomas Krug 24-14-3-140, Hunter Smith 1-1-0-29, Marc Edwards 1-0-0-0.

FSU: Danny Kanell 32-20-4-290, Warrick Dunn 1-0-0-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Derrick Mayes 6-96, Pete Chryplewicz 3-18, Marc Edwards 2-25, Charles Stafford 2-14, Emmett Mosley 1-13, Robert Farmer 1-3.

FSU: Wayne Messam 6-103, E.G. Green 5-99, Andre Cooper 4-38, Warrick Dunn 2-19, Pooh Bear Williams 2-17, Khalid Abdullah 1-14.

NOTRE DAME MVP

Derrick Mayes, split end



1997 INDEPENDENCE BOWL

LSU 27 — NOTRE DAME 9

SHREVEPORT — The rematch track record alone didn't bode well for the Irish. In 12 previous bowl games that had been rematches of regular-season contests, the same team had won both games on only four occasions.

It had been tough enough for Notre Dame to venture into Louisiana once, with the Irish coming away with an impressive 24-6 conquest of 11th-rated LSU in Baton Rouge in mid-November.

Now, Bob Davie's crew was assigned to return to that same state, this time to Shreveport, for a Independence Bowl date with those same Tigers of LSU.

And the Irish showed signs early on making it two straight against Gerry DiNardo's team. While holding LSU to less than 100 total yards in the opening half, Notre Dame made good use of Autry Denson's 68 first half rushing yards and saw 60- and 70-yard marches end up in a pair of Scott Cengia field goals good for a 6-3 halftime lead. In fact, LSU's only first-half points came following the only turnover in the first 30 minutes, a lost fumble by the Irish.

Then came Rondell Mealey. He, more than any other single player, accounted for the eventual 27-9 LSU triumph.

Technically listed as the third-string tailback early in the year behind eventual top Southeastern Conference groundgainer Kevin Faulk and Cecil Collins, Mealey found his best-ever career opportunity staring him in the face at Independence Stadium with Collins long since lost for the season with a broken leg and Faulk idled since the first period with a sprained left ankle. Enter Mealey, a sophomore from Destrehan, La.

After receiving the second half kickoff, Mealey carried the ball on LSU's first seven plays from scrimmage. Those seven rushes accounted for 40 yards (of the 46 on the drive) and a Wade Richey field goal tied the game at six.

After bottling up the Irish at their own six, the Tigers took the lead for good on their next possession, this time with Mealey carrying four straight times for 27 yards in the middle of the eight-play touchdown excursion.

The Irish didn't manage a third period first down until the final play of the quarter. Nonetheless, a roughing-the-passer penalty against LSU and a 26-yard Ron Powlus rushing gain put Notre Dame in position for another Cengia field goal, this one from 33 yards out to make it 13-9 with 13 minutes remaining.

Just as quickly as Irish fans regained hope Davie's squad could get back into the game, Mealey took it away. On first down from his own 20, he stunned the record crowd of 50,459 by romping 78 yards to the Irish two. When he scored on the next play to make it 20-9, the decibel level of the Tiger fans rose with the Irish deficit on the scoreboard.

Three quarterback sacks energized the Tigers over the next two Notre Dame drives, leaving Mealey to add a final score with 2:22 remaining. On this seven-play drive, he carried six times for 34 of the 35 yards (27 on one run).

Denson finished with 101 yards for the Irish, Malcolm Johnson caught five passes for 49 yards, Hunter Smith punted for a 45-yard average and Melvin Dansby added 14 tackles, three for losses.

But it was Mealey who carried the day, with all but 37 of his 222 rushing yards coming in the second half.

Notre Dame might have held a larger margin if the Irish managed to cash in more effectively once inside enemy territory.

On the first Irish scoring drive, a Denson gain of 35 yards put Notre Dame at the LSU 13 with a first down. But successive rushing gains of zero, minus-three and zero yards by Denson left Cengia to kick a 33-yarder on fourth and 13.

Later, after a first and goal at the LSU four, the Irish managed a net of two yards on three rushing attempts, again leaving it for Cengia to connect from 21 yards for the 6-3 halftime lead.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	3	3	0	3	9
LSU	0	3	10	14	27

Attendance: 50,459—Weather: Cloudy, showers, 40 degrees

Team	Score ND-LSU	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	3-0	1	7:13	Scott Cengia 33 FG Drive: 70 yards in 9 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:03; Big Play: Autry Denson rushes 35 yards on first and 10 to put ball at LSU 13
LSU	3-3	2	7:12	Wade Richey 37 FG Drive: 4 yards in 4 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:54; Big Play: Mark Roman recovers Notre Dame fumble at ND 24 to start drive
Notre Dame	3-6	2	0:20	Scott Cengia 21 FG Drive: 60 yards in 14 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:52; Big Play: Autry Denson rushes five yards on third and 2 to put ball at LSU 4
LSU	6-6	3	9:17	Wade Richey 42 FG Drive: 46 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:43; Big Play: Abram Booty 14-yard pass from Herb Tyler on third and six to put ball at ND 33
LSU	6-13	3	4:05	Abram Booty 12 pass from Herb Tyler (Wade Richey kick) Drive: 49 yards in 8 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:31; Big Play: Rondell Mealey 13-yard rush on first and 10 to put ball at ND 23
Notre Dame	9-13	4	13:10	Scott Cengia 33 FG Drive: 61 yards in 8 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:34; Big Play: Ron Powlus 26-yard rush on first and 10 to put ball at LSU 20
LSU	9-20	4	0:23	Rondell Mealey 2 run (Wade Richey kick) Drive: 80 yards in 2 plays; Time Elapsed: 0:23; Big Play: Rondell Mealey 78-yard rush on first and 10 to put ball at ND 2
LSU	9-27	4	3:19	Rondell Mealey 1 run (Wade Richey kick) Drive: 35 yards in 7 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:19; Big Play: Rondell Mealey 27-yard rush on third and 13 to put ball at ND 1

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	LSU	ND	LSU
First Downs	19	19	Total Offensive Plays	66 64
By Rushing	10	14	Total Net Yards	243 326
By Passing	6	5	Average Gain Per Play	3.7 5.1
By Penalty	3	0	Fumbles: No.-Lost	1-1 0-0
Rushing Attempts	41	52	Penalties: No.-Yds.	5-30 5-55
Yards Rushing	198	294	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0 0-0
Yards Lost Rushing	70	29	Punts: No.-Yds.	5-225 4-143
Net Yards Rushing	128	265	Average Per Punt	45.0 35.8
Net Yards Passing	115	61	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-23 3-38
Passes Attempted	25	12	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-61 2-34
Passes Completed	13	5	Third Down Conversions	6-16 7-15
Had Intercepted	0	0		

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Autry Denson 20-101, Ken Barry 8-43, Tony Driver 1-1, Clement Stokes 1-2, Jarious Jackson 4-2, Ron Powlus 7-13.

LSU: Rondell Mealey 34-222, Tommy Banks 6-23, Herb Tyler 9-13, Kevin Faulk 3-7.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Ron Powlus 18-8-0-66, Jarious Jackson 7-5-0-49.

LSU: Herb Tyler 12-5-1-61.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Malcolm Johnson 5-49, Autry Denson 3-32, Joey Getherall 3-23, Bobby Brown 1-10, Ken Barry 1-1.

LSU: Abram Booty 5-61.

INDEPENDENCE BOWL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Bobbie Howard



1999 GATOR BOWL

GEORGIA TECH 35 — NOTRE DAME 28

JACKSONVILLE — Nearly all the pre-game speculation in the Notre Dame camp prior to the 1999 Gator Bowl matchup with Georgia Tech centered around the physical condition of Irish quarterback Jarious Jackson.

Though Jackson wasn't quite 100 percent, his gutsy contributions and those of record-setting Irish tailback Autry Denson nearly were enough to carry green-clad Notre Dame to victory at All-Tel Stadium.

Instead, it was the big-play offense of Georgia Tech that paved the way for a 35-28 Yellow Jacket victory in a rematch between the same two teams that had opened the 1997 regular season in the dedication game of the expanded Notre Dame Stadium.

Jackson played it safe in the opening half, disdaining the option most of the time in the interest of simply making sure he was healthy for the second half. But he turned things loose a bit more after the break, even running for a third-period Irish score that brought the Irish within a point at 21-20. Denson, meanwhile, gained 96 of his game-high 130 rushing yards in the final two periods and his three touchdown runs helped earn him the Notre Dame MVP honor.

But all that wasn't enough to prevent Tech's diversified offense from using a banner 237-yard throwing effort by quarterback Joe Hamilton and TD receptions of 44 and 55 yards by Dez White in the second half to hold off the Irish. The Jackets scored on five drives of 71 yards or longer.

Tech took a lead midway through the opening period, as Hamilton deftly mixed his plays, hitting four straight attempts good for 59 yards down to the Notre Dame 28. From there, the Jackets ran off seven straight running plays — including a conversion on fourth and one — with Joe Burns taking a pitch from Hamilton from the five, then throwing back to the Tech signalcaller for the score.

Notre Dame responded quickly, with Jackson finding Bobby Brown good for 33 yards on second down to the Tech 31. After a Jamie Spencer run for 10 yards, Denson ran for nine to tie the score.

Tech responded in kind, with Hamilton throwing to Charlie Rogers for 26 yards and to White for 11. Phillip Rogers went the final two yards for a 14-7 Georgia Tech advantage.

Jackson was sacked to thwart each of the next two Irish series. Then it was Tech that put together another impressive 84-yard march, 68 of it coming on the ground. Hamilton found Mike Sheridan for nine yards and a 21-7 advantage. Jackson completed five straight passes in the final few minutes of the first half, but a Jim Sanson 44-yard field goal attempt fell short with 45 seconds remaining.

Denson nearly took control of the game by himself as the second half began. An 80-yard Irish excursion involved seven carries for 54 by the senior back, with his one-yard gain cutting the deficit to 21-14. Tony Driver's fumble recovery on the ensuing kickoff set the Irish up at the Tech 26, and on the eighth play Jackson found paydirt. A blocked PAT attempt left Tech ahead 21-20.

Then it became big-play time for the Jackets. A second-down Bobbie Howard sack left Georgia Tech with third and 10 from the Irish 44 — but Hamilton responded by finding Jacksonville native White behind the defense to put Tech back up 28-20. But the Irish weren't finished.

On a 12-play, 88-yard drive, Denson carried seven times — including for the TD — and Jackson found Jay Johnson on a key 27-yard pass play. Jackson's two-point conversion throw to Brown tied the score at 28 with 11:56 to go in the contest.

The Irish nearly recovered a second fumble on the kickoff, but from there Tech launched its game-winning drive. After Hamilton threw twice for the necessary yardage on third downs, on first and 10 he again found White on a post pattern and the 55-yard scoring play.

The Irish had three more shots, but none of the three possessions advanced past the Notre Dame 28-yard line.

SCORING SUMMARY

Georgia Tech	7	14	7	7	35
Notre Dame	7	0	13	8	28

Attendance: 70,791—Weather: Sunny, clear, 67 degrees

Team	Score GT ND	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Georgia Tech	7-0	1	6:22	Joe Hamilton 5 pass from Joe Burns (Brad Chambers kick) Drive: 87 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:53; Big Play: Phillip Rogers rushes for two yardson fourth and one to put ball at ND 17.
Notre Dame	7-7	1	4:06	Autry Denson 9 run (Jim Sanson kick) Drive: 65 yards in 6 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:16; Big Play: Jarious Jackson passes to Bobby Brown for 33 yards on second and nine to put ball at GT 3.
Georgia Tech	14-7	2	13:46	Phillip Rogers 2 run (Brad Chambers kick) Drive: 78 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:20; Big Play: Joe Hamilton passes to Charlie Rogers for 26 yards on second and nine to put ball at ND 30.
Georgia Tech	21-7	2	4:26	Mike Sheridan 9 pass from Joe Hamilton (Brad Chambers kick) Drive: 84 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:26; Big Play: Charlie Rogers rushes for 26 yards on second and five to put ball at ND 37.
Notre Dame	21-14	3	10:47	Autry Denson 1 run (Jim Sanson kick) Drive: 80 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:13; Big Play: Autry Denson rushed for five yards and third and one to put ball at GT 25.
Notre Dame	21-20	3	7:23	Jarious Jackson 2 run (Kick blocked) Drive: 26 yards in 8 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:24; Big Play: Jarious Jackson rushes for one yard on fourth and one to put ball at GT 1.
Georgia Tech	28-20	3	3:42	Dez White 44 pass from Joe Hamilton (Brad Chambers kick) Drive: 71 yards in 7 plays; Time Elapsed: 3:41; Big Play: Touchdown pass.
Notre Dame	28-28	4	11:56	Autry Denson 1 run (Bobby Brown pass from Jarious Jackson) Drive: 88 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:46; Big Play: GT penalized 13 yards for late hit on Notre Dame third and eight to put ball at GT 13.
Georgia Tech	35-28	4	7:55	Dez White 55 pass from Joe Hamilton (Brad Chambers kick) Drive: 91 yards in 9 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:01; Big Play: Joe Hamilton passes to Charlie Rogers for eight yards on third and four to put ball at GT 34.

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND	GT	ND	GT
First Downs	20	23	Total Offensive Plays	65 68
By Rushing	10	10	Total Net Yards	309 436
By Passing	8	11	Average Gain Per Play	4.8 6.4
By Penalty	2	2	Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-1 2-1
Rushing Attempts	41	47	Penalties: No.-Yds.	6-30 7-53
Yards Rushing	104	205	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0 0-0
Yards Lost Rushing	35	11	Punts: No.-Yds.	5-183 3-104
Net Yards Rushing	159	194	Average Per Punt	36.6 34.7
Net Yards Passing	150	242	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	1-8 3-38
Passes Attempted	24	21	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	4-55 5-40
Passes Completed	13	14	Third Down Conversions	2-9 6-12
Had Intercepted	0	0		

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Autry Denson 26-130, Jamie Spencer 3-17, Jarious Jackson 12-12.

GT: Charlie Rogers 13-82, Joe Burns 12-55, Phillip Rogers 10-28, Joe Hamilton 10-19, Ed Wilder 2-10.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Jarious Jackson 24-13-0-150.

GT: Joe Hamilton 20-13-3-237, Joe Burns 1-1-1-5.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Malcolm Johnson 5-43, Bobby Brown 2-42, Jay Johnson 1-27, Raki Nelson 2-20, Jabari Holloway 2-11, Autry Denson 1-7.

GT: Dez White 4-129, Charlie Rogers 4-52, Russell Matvay 1-28, Mike Sheridan 1-9, Ed Wilder 1-7, Conrad Andrzejewski 1-7, Joe Hamilton 1-5, Joe Burns 1-5.

NOTRE DAME MVP

Autry Denson, tailback



2001 FIESTA BOWL

OREGON STATE 41 — NOTRE DAME 9

TEMPE — Oregon State used four third quarter touchdowns, capitalizing on two Notre Dame turnovers, to defeat the Irish 41-9 in the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

Notre Dame's trip to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl was its 11th New Year's Day Bowl game in 14 years and second in the four-year tenure of Irish head coach Bob Davie. The loss was its fifth straight bowl-game defeat, a drought that goes back to the 1994 Cotton Bowl win over sixth-ranked Texas A&M.

"That football team out there impressed me," Davie said.

While the scoreboard showed the worst defeat for the Irish since a 58-7 loss at Miami in 1985, Notre Dame was still within striking distance at halftime.

Oregon State tallied scores on its first two possessions with field goals of 32 and 29 yards. Both drives covered over 50 yards, but the Irish defense got tough deep in its own territory holding the Beavers on third-and-18 and third-and-one.

The Beavers had another chance to score midway through the second quarter, but Notre Dame snuffed out the opportunity with a stop on fourth-and-goal from the Irish one-yard line.

Notre Dame was again forced to punt with the Beavers taking over at their own 10-yard line. At that point, Oregon State appeared to be ready to run away with the game when Chad Johnson caught a Jonathon Smith pass on second down and sprinted 74 yards for the first touchdown of the game. The Beavers' two-point conversion attempt failed and Oregon State led 12-0.

Notre Dame then took the ball at its own 23 and quarterback Matt LoVecchio was sacked on the first two Irish plays. After seeing its third-and-31 pass fall incomplete, the drive was kept alive by a personal foul call against Oregon State. A 40-yard pass from LoVecchio to Javin Hunter moved Notre Dame into Beaver territory for the first time in the game. An Oregon State pass interference call moved Notre Dame to the Beaver 12, but after two incomplete passes, Nick Setta booted a 29-yard field goal as time expired in the first half.

Notre Dame trailed just 12-3.

Oregon State took possession to open the second half, but the drive fizzled after just four plays. Notre Dame took over following the punt, but the Beavers forced a LoVecchio fumble on second down deep in his own territory. Oregon State turned that possession into a touchdown in just two plays, scoring on a 23-yard pass to T.J. Houshmandzadeh.

"If I had to say there was one big series, I think it was probably the first possession of the second half when it was 12-3 and we finally stopped them," Davie said. "We ran the ball on first down and got stoned, and then on second down we get sacked and turn the ball over. We were just off-rhythm all night, and I have to give (Oregon State) credit because they jumped up and made a bunch of plays on defense."

Oregon State, up 19-3 three minutes into the third quarter, turned it up offensively and defensively in the next seven minutes. The Beaver defense held Notre Dame to minus-11 yards on its next three possessions, forcing two punts and an interception while scoring three touchdowns in its next eight plays.

After forcing another LoVecchio interception late in the third quarter to stop an Irish drive, Oregon State was content to let the clock run. They had turned a 12-3 halftime lead into a 41-3 celebration.

Notre Dame rounded out the scoring by capitalizing on the lone Oregon State turnover by following a Beaver fumble with a 57-yard touchdown drive capped by a Tony Fisher dive from a yard out.

"Their speed was definitely a factor," Davie said. "They played extremely hard. When we can't run the football any more effectively than we did tonight, we virtually have no chance."

The Irish were limited to season lows with 155 yards total offense and 17 yards rushing.

SCORING SUMMARY

Notre Dame	0	3	0	6	9
Oregon State	3	9	29	0	41
Attendance: 75,428—Weather: Clear, 63 degrees					

Team	Score ND-OSU	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Oregon State	0-3	1	7:27	Ryan Cesca 32-yard field goal Drive: 59 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:32; Big Play: Jonathan Smith completes an eight-yard pass to T.J. Houshmandzadeh on third-down-and-five to put ball on the Notre Dame 30.
Oregon State	0-6	2	14:55	Ryan Cesca 29-yard field goal Drive: 50 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:08; Big Play: Ken Simonton rushes for two yards on fourth-and-one putting the ball on the Notre Dame 19.
Oregon State	0-12	2	4:18	Chad Johnson 74-yard pass from Jonathan Smith (Two-point conversion failed) Drive: 90 yards in 4 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:08; Big Play: Touchdown pass as Chad Johnson runs away from defense after CB Clifford Jefferson pulls a hamstring.
Notre Dame	3-12	2	0:00	Nick Setta 29-yard field goal Drive: 65 yards in 15 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:18; Big Play: Two Oregon State penalties give Notre Dame first downs and a Matt LoVecchio 40-yard pass to Javin Hunter gives Notre Dame the ball on the Oregon State 30.
Oregon State	3-19	3	12:04	T.J. Houshmandzadeh 23-yard pass from Jonathan Smith (Ryan Cesca kick) Drive: 26 yards in 2 plays; Time Elapsed: 0:45; Big Play: Eric Manning recovers a Matt LoVecchio fumble giving Oregon State the ball on the Notre Dame 26.
Oregon State	3-27	3	9:08	Terrell Roberts 45-yard punt return (Robert Prescott pass from Jonathan Smith)
Oregon State	3-34	3	7:02	Chad Johnson 4-yard pass from Jonathan Smith (Ryan Cesca kick) Drive: 22 yards in 4 plays; Time Elapsed: 0:58; Big Play: Touchdown pass after Matt LoVecchio interception gives Oregon State the ball on Irish 22.
Oregon State	3-41	3	4:54	Ken Simonton 4-yard run (Ryan Cesca kick) Drive: 55 yards in 4 plays; Time Elapsed: 1:31; Big Play: Jonathan Smith 25-yard pass to Robert Prescott placing ball at ND 25. Ken Simonton follows with 17-yard run putting ball at ND 4.
Notre Dame	9-41	4	6:07	Tony Fisher 1-yard run (Matt LoVecchio rush fails) Drive: 57 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:10; Big Play: Matt LoVecchio completes 14-yard pass to Javin Hunter putting ball on Oregon State 1.

TEAM STATISTICS

	ND OSU			ND OSU	
First Downs	18	20	Total Offensive Plays	70	64
By Rushing	5	7	Total Net Yards	155	446
By Passing	7	12	Average Gain Per Play	2.2	7.0
By Penalty	6	1	Fumbles: No.-Lost	2-1	3-1
Rushing Attempts	37	39	Penalties: No.-Yds.	7-42	18-174
Yards Rushing	99	156	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	0-0	2-31
Yards Lost Rushing	82	29	Punts: No.-Yds.	6-249	3-117
Net Yards Rushing	17	127	Average Per Punt	41.5	39.0
Net Yards Passing	138	319	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	2-(-1)	4-106
Passes Attempted	33	25	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	6-146	1-12
Passes Completed	13	17	Third Down Conversions	4-15	5-13
Had Intercepted	2	0			

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Julius Jones 13-30, Terrance Howard 8-28, Tony Fisher 5-9, Tom Lopienski 1-0, Joey Getherall 1-(-1), Matt LoVecchio 9-(-49).

OSU: Ken Simonton 18-85, Antonio Battle 8-32, Patrick McCall 10-25, Nick Stremick 1-(-2), Jonathan Smith 2-(-13).

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Matt LoVecchio 33-13-0-138.

OSU: Jonathan Smith 24-16-3-305, Nick Stremick 1-1-0-14.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: David Givens 4-23, Javin Hunter 3-57, Dan O'Leary 2-36, Tony Fisher 2-2, Joey Getherall 1-10, Julius Jones 1-10.

OSU: T.J. Houshmandzadeh 6-74, Chad Johnson 4-93, Martin Maurer 3-82, Robert Prescott 2-41, Patrick McCall 1-15, Tevita Moala 1-14.

FIESTA BOWL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Julius Jones, tailback



2003 GATOR BOWL

NORTH CAROLINA ST. 28 — NOTRE DAME 6

JACKSONVILLE — Progress can be measured in different ways. While Notre Dame's 28-6 loss to North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl might have put a damper on an otherwise brilliant season, it did serve as an indicator of the progress the Irish made it in a very short period of time.

Notre Dame controlled the ball for more than 33 minutes and ran 15 more plays against the Wolfpack. However, the Irish were undermined by the one thing that had been their calling card all season -- turnovers.

Notre Dame entered the game with a +8 turnover ratio, good for 26th in the nation. Against North Carolina State, that mark was turned upside down, as the Irish tossed three interceptions, including a critical game-changing theft late in the first half.

Playing his final game at Notre Dame, wide receiver Arnaz Battle caught 10 passes for 84 yards, setting a school record for receptions in a bowl game. Battle wound up with 58 catches on the season, the third-highest total in school history and the most by an Irish wideout in 33 years. Tailback Ryan Grant added 68 yards rushing on 21 carries, giving him 1,085 yards on the ground for the season, the 10th-highest single-season mark in school history.

Spirits were high for Notre Dame early on, as the Irish moved smartly downfield on their second possession, going 52 yards in 12 plays to set up a 23-yard field goal by Nicholas Setta. However, in a precursor of Notre Dame's misfortune, starting quarterback Carlyle Holiday injured his shoulder late in the drive and would not return.

N.C. State moved in front on its next possession, driving 92 yards in 12 plays, and culminating with a two-yard TD run by T.A. McLendon. It was the first of two scores for the Wolfpack runner, who added a three-yard scamper the next time his team had the ball, putting N.C. State on top, 14-3, with 5:02 remaining in the first half.

The Wolfpack then dealt Notre Dame's comeback hopes a staggering blow, as Rod Johnson intercepted a pass by Irish reserve quarterback Pat Dillingham, setting up N.C. State at the Notre Dame 48-yard line. It took Wolfpack signal-caller Philip Rivers six plays to march his team to the end zone, finding Jericho Cotchery on a nine-yard scoring toss with 1:16 left in the first half.

The Irish looked strong on their first possession of the third quarter, moving all the way to the N.C. State 24-yard line. However, the drive stalled there and on fourth down, Notre Dame elected to go for it, but Johnson intercepted Dillingham's pass in the end zone, quashing the threat.

Later in the period, the Irish once again worked their way down to the Wolfpack 24-yard line. This time, they called on Setta, who boomed a 41-yard field goal to slice the N.C. State lead to 21-6 heading into the fourth quarter.

The Wolfpack iced the game early in the final frame, as Rivers orchestrated a nine-play, 69-yard drive that was capped by his seven-yard touchdown pass to Sean Berton with just under 11 minutes to play.

Notre Dame made two forays into N.C. State territory in the fourth period, including a march to the Wolfpack one-yard line in the last two minutes. However, the Irish could not punch the ball into the end zone on four tries and turned the ball over on downs.

SCORING SUMMARY

North Carolina State	0	21	0	7	28
Notre Dame	3	0	3	0	6

Attendance: 73,491—Weather: Partly Cloudy, Temp. 70

Team	Score ND-NCST	Qtr.	Time Left	Play
Notre Dame	3-0	1	4:12	Nicholas Setta 23-yard field goal
Drive: 52 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 6:42; Big Play: Rashon Powers-Neal rushes for 2 yards on fourth-and-one to NC State 49 to keep drive going.				
North Carolina State	3-7	2	14:03	T.A. McLendon 2-yard run (Adam Kiker kick)
Drive: 96 yards in 12 plays; Time Elapsed: 5:09; Big Play: Philip Rivers completes 11-yard pass to Jericho Cotchery to ND 2 on third down and six.				
North Carolina State	3-14	2	5:02	T.A. McLendon 3-yard run (Adam Kiker kick)
Drive: 76 yards in 11 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:51; Big Play: Philip Rivers completes passes of 18 and 12 yards putting the ball at the ND 3.				
North Carolina State	3-21	2	1:16	Philip Rivers 9-yard pass to Jericho Cotchery (Adam Kiker kick)
Drive: 48 yards in 6 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:51; Big Play: After a Pat Dillingham INT gives NC State the ball on the ND 48, Bryan Peterson completes a pass to Joseph Gray for 24 yards to the ND 13.				
Notre Dame	6-21	3	1:44	Nicholas Setta 41-yard field goal
Drive: 39 yards in 10 plays; Time Elapsed: 4:05; Big Play: Pat Dillingham completes a 17-yard pass to Omar Jenkins on fourth-and-four.				
North Carolina State	6-28	4	10:41	Philip Rivers 7-yard pass to Sean Berton (Adam Kiker Kick)
Drive: 69 yards in 9 plays; Time Elapsed: 2:51; Big Play: Rivers completes passes of 26 and 12 yards to Jericho Cotchery giving the Wolfpack the ball on the ND 22.				

TEAM STATISTICS

	NCS	ND		NCS	ND
First Downs	21	23	Total Offensive Plays	67	82
By Rushing	4	8	Total Net Yards	317	286
By Passing	14	9	Average Gain Per Play	4.7	3.5
By Penalty	3	6	Fumbles: No.-Lost	0-0	0-0
Rushing Attempts	26	38	Penalties: No.-Yds.	10-87	9-90
Yards Rushing	80	112	Interceptions: No.-Yds.	3-26	0-0
Yards Lost Rushing	18	26	Punts: No.-Yds.	1-0	2-20
Net Yards Rushing	62	86	Average Per Punt	43.2	30.3
Net Yards Passing	255	200	Punt Returns: No.-Yds.	1-0	2-20
Passes Attempted	41	44	Kickoff Returns: No.-Yds.	1-7	2-51
Passes Completed	25	23	Third Down Conversions	7-15	4-19
Had Intercepted	0	3	Fourth Down Conversions	0-1	4-7

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

ND: Ryan Grant 21-68, Rashon Powers-Neal 5-16, Mike McNair 4-8, Arnaz Battle 2-6, Carlyle Holiday 2-3, Pat Dillingham 4-(-15).

NCS: Philip Rivers 7-22, Josh Brown 7-18, T.A. McLendon 11-18, Sean Berton 1-4.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

ND: Pat Dillingham 37-19-0-166, Carlyle Holiday 6-3-0-22, Joey Hildbold 1-1-0-12.

NCS: Philip Rivers 37-23-2-228, Bryan Peterson 3-2-0-27, Team 1-0-0-0.

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

ND: Arnaz Battle 10-84, Jared Clark 4-41, Omar Jenkins 3-42, Maurice Stovall 3-25, Gary Godsey 1-5, Ronnie Rodamer 1-5, Rhema McKnight 1-(-2).

NCS: Jericho Cotchery 10-127, Sean Berton 5-40, T.A. McLendon 3-16, Dovonte Edwards 3-13, Bryan Peterson 2-16, Joseph Gray 1-24, Sterling Hicks 1-19.

NOTRE DAME GATOR BOWL MVP

Cedric Hilliard, nose guard

Bowl Records



Jerome Bettis (6) holds the Notre Dame record for rushing yards in a bowl game with 150 set against Florida in the 1992 Sugar Bowl. (photo by Lighthouse Imaging)

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

RUSHING

Rushing Attempts: 28, Allen Pinkett (111 yards) vs. Boston College, '83 Liberty
Rushing Yards: 150, Jerome Bettis (16 attempts) vs. Florida, '92 Sugar
Rushing Yards Per Attempt (min. 10 attempts): 9.4, Jerome Bettis (16 for 150) vs. Florida, '92 Sugar
Rushing Touchdowns: 3, Jerome Bettis vs. Florida, '92 Sugar; Autry Denson vs. Georgia Tech, '99 Gator
Longest Rush: 49, Jerome Bettis vs. Florida, '92 Sugar

PASSING

Pass Attempts: 37, Pat Dillingham vs. North Carolina State, '03 Gator
Pass Completions: 19, Pat Dillingham (attempted 37) vs. North Carolina State, '03 Gator
Completion Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .737, Rick Mirer (14 of 19) vs. Florida, '92 Sugar
Passing Yards: 259, Ron Powlus (18 of 34) vs. Colorado, '95 Fiesta
Most Yards Per Attempt: 19.4, Tony Rice vs. West Virginia (11 for 213), '89 Fiesta Bowl
Most Yards Per Completion: 30.4, Tony Rice vs. West Virginia (7 for 213), '89 Fiesta Bowl
Passes Had Intercepted: 4, Joe Montana vs. Houston, '79 Cotton
Touchdown Passes: 3, Ron Powlus vs. Colorado, '95 Fiesta; Thomas Krug vs. Florida State, '96 Orange

RECEIVING

Pass Receptions: 10, Arnaz Battle (84 yards) vs. North Carolina State, '03 Gator
Pass Reception Yards: 112, Tom Gatewood (6 receptions) vs. Texas, '70 Cotton
Touchdown Receptions: 2, Derrick Mayes vs. Colorado, '95 Fiesta; Derrick Mayes vs. Florida State, '96 Orange
Longest Pass: 60, Joe Theismann to Jim Yoder vs. Texas, '71 Cotton

TOTAL OFFENSE

Total Offense Attempts: 49, Ron Powlus (271 yards) vs. Colorado, '95 Fiesta
Total Offense Yards: 288, Tony Rice (24 attempts) vs. West Virginia, '89 Fiesta

SCORING

Points: 18, Elmer Layden (3 TDs) vs. Stanford, '25 Rose; Vagas Ferguson (3 TDs) vs. Texas, '77 Cotton; Jerome Bettis (3TDs) vs. Florida, '92 Sugar; Bettis (3 TDs) vs. Texas A&M, '93 Cotton; Autry Denson (3 TDs) vs. Georgia Tech, '99 Gator
Touchdowns: 3, Elmer Layden vs. Stanford, '25 Rose; Vagas Ferguson vs. Texas, '77 Cotton; Jerome Bettis vs. Florida, '92 Sugar; Bettis vs. Texas A&M, '93 Cotton; Autry Denson vs. Georgia Tech, '99 Gator
Kicking Points: 9, Scott Cengia vs. LSU (3 FGs), '97 Independence
Extra Points: 5, Dave Reeve vs. Texas, '78 Cotton
Field Goals: 3, Scott Cengia vs. LSU, '97 Independence
Longest Field Goal: 51, John Carney vs. SMU, '84 Aloha

DEFENSE

Most Unassisted Tackles: 18, Rod Smith vs. Florida, '92 Sugar
Most Assisted Tackles: 9, Jay Case vs. Houston, '79 Cotton
Most Total Tackles: 18, Rod Smith vs. Florida, '92 Sugar

INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions: 2, Elmer Layden (148 yards) vs. Stanford, '25 Rose
Interception Yards: 148, Elmer Layden (2 returns) vs. Stanford, '25 Rose
Longest Interception: 78, Elmer Layden vs. Stanford, '25 Rose

PUNT RETURNS

Punt Returns: 4, Dave Waymer (15 yards) vs. Houston, '79 Cotton; Joe Howard (42 yards) vs. SMU, '84 Aloha; Raghib Ismail (68 yards) vs. Colorado, '91 Orange
Punt Return Yards: 68, Raghib Ismail (4 returns) vs. Colorado, '91 Orange
Longest Punt Return: 33, Steve Cichy (1 return) vs. Houston, '79 Cotton

KICKOFF RETURNS

Kickoff Returns: 6, Tim Brown (129 yards) vs. Texas A&M, '88 Cotton
Kickoff Return Yards: 144, Clint Johnson (5 returns) vs. Florida, '92 Sugar
Longest Kickoff Return: 93, Al Hunter vs. Alabama, '73 Sugar

PUNTING

Punts: 8, Jim Yoder (366 yards) vs. Texas, '71 Cotton
Punting Average: 48.5, Elmer Layden vs. Stanford, '25 Rose
Longest Punt: 80, Elmer Layden vs. Stanford, '25 Rose

CAREER RECORDS

RUSHING

Rushing Attempts: 57, Autry Denson (298 yards) in '96 Orange, '97 Independence, '99 Gator
Rushing Yards: 298, Autry Denson (57 attempts) in '96 Orange, '97 Independence, '99 Gator
Rushing Yards Per Attempt (min. 20 attempts): 5.2, Autry Denson (57 for 298) in '96 Orange, '97 Independence, '99 Gator
Rushing Touchdowns: 5, Jerome Bettis in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton

PASSING

Pass Attempts: 66, Rick Mirer (completed 35) in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton
Pass Completions: 35, Rick Mirer (attempted 66) in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton
Completion Percentage (min. 20 attempts): .605, Joe Theismann (26 of 43) in '70 Cotton, '71 Cotton
Passing Yards: 414, Rick Mirer (35 of 66) in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton
Passes Had Intercepted: 5, Joe Montana in '78 Cotton, '79 Cotton
Touchdown Passes: 4, Rick Mirer in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton

RECEIVING

Pass Receptions: 12, Derrick Mayes (216 yards) in '93 Cotton, '94 Cotton, '95 Fiesta, '96 Orange
Pass Reception Yards: 155, Tom Gatewood (8 receptions) in '70 Cotton, '71 Cotton
Touchdown Receptions: 4, Derrick Mayes in '93 Cotton, '94 Cotton, '95 Fiesta, '96 Orange

TOTAL OFFENSE

Total Offense Attempts: 91, Rick Mirer (437 yards) in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton
Total Offense Yards: 477, Joe Theismann (72 attempts) in '70 Cotton, '71 Cotton

SCORING

Points: 36, Jerome Bettis (6 TDs) in '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton
Touchdowns: 6, Jerome Bettis in '91 Orange, '92 Sugar, '93 Cotton
Kicking Points: 20, Scott Cengia (5 FGs, 5 PATs) in '95 Fiesta, '96 Orange, '97 Independence
Extra Points: 11, Dave Reeve in '75 Orange, '76 Gator, '78 Cotton
Field Goals: 5, Scott Cengia in '95 Fiesta, '96 Orange, '97 Independence

Bowl Records



Quarterback Joe Theismann (7) holds the Notre Dame career bowl game record with 477 total offensive yards and a .605 completion percentage. Theismann played in both the '70 and '71 Cotton Bowl.

RETURNS

Interceptions: 2, Elmer Layden (148 yards) in '25 Rose; Reggie Barnett (10 yards) in '73 Orange, '75 Sugar, '75 Orange; Pat Terrell (0 yards) in '88 Cotton, '89 Fiesta, '90 Orange

Interception Yards: 148, Elmer Layden (2 returns) in '25 Rose

Punt Returns: 4, Dave Waymer (15 yards) in '76 Gator, '78 Cotton, '79 Cotton; Joe Howard (42 yards) in '83 Liberty, '84 Aloha; Raghib Ismail (68 yards) in '91 Orange

Punt Return Yards: 68, Raghib Ismail (4 returns) in '91 Orange

Kickoff Returns: 8, Tim Brown (217 yards) in '84 Aloha, '88 Cotton; Clint Johnson (203 yards) in '92 Sugar, '94 Cotton

Kickoff Return Yards: 217, Tim Brown (8 returns) in '84 Aloha, '88 Cotton

PUNTING

Punts: 15, Hunter Smith (620 yards) in '96 Orange, '97 Independence, '99 Gator

Punting Average: 48.5, Elmer Layden in '25 Rose

OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL

RUSHING

Rushing Attempts: 36, Herschel Walker (150 yards), Georgia, '81 Sugar

Rushing Yards: 222, Rondell Mealey (34 attempts), LSU, '97 Independence

Rushing Yards Per Attempt (min. 10 attempts): 7.8, Eddie Phillips (23 for 164), Texas, '71 Cotton

Rushing Touchdowns: 3, Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, '73 Orange; Rashaan Salaam, Colorado, '95 Fiesta

Longest Rush: 78, Rondell Mealey, LSU, '97 Independence

PASSING

Pass Attempts: 58, Shane Matthews (completed 28), Florida, '92 Sugar

Pass Completions: 28, Shane Matthews (attempted 58), Florida, '92 Sugar

Completion Percentage (min. 10 attempts): 684, David Humm (13 of 19), Nebraska, '73 Orange

Passing Yards: 370, Shane Matthews (28 of 58), Florida, '92 Sugar

Passes Had Intercepted: 3, Randy McEachern, Texas, '78 Cotton

Touchdown Passes: 4, Danny Kanell, Florida State, '96 Orange

RECEIVING

Pass Reception: 10, Jerricho Cotchery (127 yards), North Carolina State, '03 Gator

Pass Reception Yards: 148, Willie Jackson (8 receptions), Florida, '92 Sugar

Touchdown Receptions: 3, Andre Cooper, Florida State, '96 Orange

Longest Pass: 74, Jonathan Smith to Chad Johnson, Oregon State, '01 Fiesta

TOTAL OFFENSE

Total Offense Attempts: 65, Shane Matthews (397 yards), Florida, '92 Sugar

Total Offense Yards: 397, Shane Matthews (65 attempts), Florida, '92 Sugar

SCORING

Points: 24, Johnny Rodgers (4 TDs), Nebraska, '73 Orange

Touchdowns: 4, Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, '73 Orange

Kicking Points: 16, Arden Czyzewski (5 FGs, 1 PAT), Florida, '92 Sugar

Extra Points: 5, Neil Voskeritchian, Colorado, '95 Fiesta

Field Goals: 5, Arden Czyzewski, Florida, '92 Sugar

Longest Field Goal: 47, Brandy Brownlee, SMU, '84 Aloha

INTERCEPTIONS

Interceptions: 3, Rod Johnson (36 yards), North Carolina State, '03 Gator

Interception Yards: 36, Rod Johnson (3 returns), North Carolina State, '03 Gator

Longest Interception: 36, Rod Johnson, North Carolina State, '03 Gator

PUNT RETURNS

Punt Returns: 5, Willie Shelby (34 yards), Alabama, '75 Orange

Punt Return Yards: 61, T.J. Hoshmandzadeh, Oregon State, '01 Fiesta

Longest Punt Return: 41, Dee Feaster, Florida State, '96 Orange

KICKOFF RETURNS

Kickoff Returns: 6, Eugene Napoleon, West Virginia, '89 Fiesta

Kickoff Return Yards: 107, Eugene Napoleon, West Virginia, '89 Fiesta

Longest Kickoff Return: 35, Cobby Morrison, SMU, '84 Aloha; Dave McCloughan, Colorado, '91 Orange

PUNTING

Punts: 11, Mark Malkiewicz (424 yards), Georgia, '81 Sugar

Punting Average: 46.3, Greg Gantt (6 for 278), Alabama, '73 Sugar

Longest Punt: 69, Greg Gantt, Alabama, '73 Sugar

TEAM

First Downs: 28 vs. Texas A & M, '93 Cotton

Rushing Attempts: 66 vs. Alabama (185 yards), '75 Orange

Rushing Yards: 290 vs. Texas A & M (64 attempts), '93 Sugar

Pass Attempts: 44 vs. North Carolina State (completed 23), '03 Gator

Pass Completions: 23 vs. North Carolina State (attempted 44), '03 Gator

Completion Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .737 vs. Florida (14 of 19), '92 Sugar

Passing Yards: 259 vs. Colorado (18 of 35), '95 Fiesta

Passes Had Intercepted: 4 vs. Houston, '79 Cotton

Touchdown Passes: 3 vs. Colorado, '95 Fiesta; Florida State, '96 Orange.

Total Offense Attempts: 85 vs. Texas (399 yards), '78 Cotton

Total Offense Yards: 455 vs. West Virginia (70 attempts), '89 Fiesta

Fumbles Lost: 3 vs. Alabama, '73 Sugar; vs. Houston, '79 Cotton

Total Turnovers: 7 vs. Houston (4 interceptions, 3 fumbles), '79 Cotton

OPPONENT TEAM

First Downs: 30 by Nebraska, '73 Orange

Rushing Attempts: 67 by Texas (331 yards), '70 Cotton

Rushing Yards: 331 by Texas (67 yards), '70 Cotton

Pass Attempts: 58 by Florida (completed 28), '92 Sugar

Pass Completions: 28 by Florida (completed 58), '92 Sugar

Completion Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .706 by Stanford (12 of 17), '25 Rose

Passing Yards: 370 by Florida (28 of 58), '92 Sugar

Passes Had Intercepted: 5 by Stanford, '25 Rose

Touchdown Passes: 4 by Florida State, '96 Orange

Total Offense Attempts: 91 by Florida (511 yards), '92 Sugar

Total Offense Yards: 560 by Nebraska (90 attempts), '73 Orange

Fumbles Lost: 5 by Texas, '71 Cotton

Total Turnovers: 8 by Stanford (5 interceptions, 3 fumbles), '25 Rose