



Notre Dame single-season rushing list during the year and finished with 3,091 yards - good enough for fourth on the Notre Dame all-time list. He also finished fifth on the Notre Dame charts for single-season rushing totals with 1,268 yards. The complete single season list:

	Player, Year	Yards
1.	Vagas Ferguson, 1979	1,437
2.	Allen Pinkett, 1983	1,394
3.	Reggie Brooks, 1992	1,343
4.	Julius Jones, 2003	1,268
	Autry Denson, 1997	1,268

Jones posted three 200-yard games during the 2003 season and was one of only two players in the country who could boast such a feat. The other was Patrick Cobbs of North Texas who had four 200-yard games in '03. Jones also was the first player in Notre Dame history to have three 200-yard games in a season or a career.

THE MIGHTY QUINN

Quarterback Brady Quinn opened some eyes with his poise and confidence under center during the 2003 season. The Dublin, Ohio, native was one of only six true freshmen in the nation to start a game at quarterback in '03, having completed 157 of a school-record 332 passes for 1,831 yards and nine touchdowns with 15 interceptions. His completions, attempts and passing yards were the most by an Irish quarterback in his freshman season since 1951, topping the previous marks held by Steve Beuerlein in 1983 (75 of 145 for 1,061 yards). Quinn's nine passing TDs ended up second only to Matt LoVecchio's 11 scoring tosses in 2000. Quinn's 157 completions also ranked third in school history.

His strongest performance of the season came at Boston College, when the Irish rookie completed 59 percent of his passes (23 of 39) for a career-best 350 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions. His 350 yards through the air were the most by a Notre Dame quarterback since Nov. 25, 1978, when Joe Montana threw for 358 yards in a loss at USC.

Quinn made his first career start at Purdue, completing 29 of 59 passes for 297 yards and one touchdown with four interceptions. His 29 completions were the most by an Irish quarterback since Ron Powluis connected 31 times at Purdue in 1997 and the 59 attempts were the second-most in school history behind Terry Hanratty's 63 passes at Purdue in 1967. In addition, Quinn's passing yardage total was the best by a Notre Dame quarterback in his first start since Hanratty threw for 304 yards in that game at Purdue in 1967. Quinn's yardage total also was the best by an Irish first-time freshman starting QB in the last 53 seasons.

Quinn also had two touchdown strikes against Stanford as he found Matt Shelton on a 65-yard aerial and Maurice Stovall on a 45-yard score. Against the Cardinal, Quinn was an efficient eight of 13 for 177 yards.

JENKINS ENDS UP 18TH ON CAREER RECEIVING CHARTS

Wide receiver Omar Jenkins completed his career with a reputation of being a reliable sure-handed pass catcher and finished second on the team with 36 receptions for 344 yards and one touchdown in 2003. He finished his climb up the Notre Dame career receiving yardage ladder, ending up 18th with 1,088 yards through the air. He became the 21st Irish player to amass 1,000 career receiving yards with 73 vs. Florida State.

SPREADING THE WEALTH

Notre Dame had a season-high 10 different players catch passes in its '03 loss at Boston College. It was the most pass catchers the Irish had in a single game since Oct. 16, 1999, when 10 Notre Dame players had a reception in a 25-24 come-from-behind win over USC at Notre Dame Stadium.

The Irish had eight different players with a reception on Nov. 29 vs. Stanford, marking the sixth time in 2003 that the Irish had at least eight players catch a pass. All told, 16 different players had at least one reception in '03, including quarterback Carlyle Holiday (2-13), who spent some time at wide receiver toward the end of the season, and right guard Dan Stevenson, who caught a deflected pass for a one-yard gain vs. Michigan State. It marked the second consecutive season in which Notre Dame had 16 players with a reception. The last time the Irish had more than 16 pass catchers in a season was 1986, when 17 different players caught a pass during Lou Holtz's first campaign at Notre Dame.

TUCK-ING THEM IN

Defensive end Justin Tuck was a menace for opposing quarterbacks in 2003. For the season, Tuck led the Irish in sacks (13.5), tackles for loss (19.0), forced fumbles (three) and finished third on the team with 73 tackles. The Kellyton, Ala., product broke the Notre Dame single-season sack record against Stanford and ranked sixth in the nation with 1.13 sacks per game. Tuck broke the single-season sack record previously held by both Bertrand Berry (10 sacks in 1996) and Mike Gann (10 sacks in 1984) (sack records at Notre Dame go back to 1982). Meanwhile, Tuck's tackles for loss total was the highest since Anthony Weaver had 21 stops behind the line in 2001.

Tuck's best performance came at #15 Pittsburgh, when he wound up with a career-high 10 tackles, a then career-best 3.5 sacks (part of an eight-sack night by the Irish) and a forced fumble in Notre Dame's 20-14 win over the Panthers. He then added a career-high 14 tackles, including two for loss and 1.5 sacks, as well as another forced fumble vs. Navy. At Stanford, Tuck surpassed his career-high with 4.0 sacks and led the Irish with seven tackles, including five solos and four for loss.

CLOSE SHAVES

Notre Dame's 27-24 win over Navy in 2003 continued a trend of remarkable Irish victories that began in 2002. The Irish are 9-3 (.750) in games decided by eight points or less since Tyrone Willingham took over as the Notre Dame head coach prior to the 2002 season. The only times the Irish have not won a close ball game under Willingham's guidance were against Boston College in 2002 (14-7) and 2003 (27-25), as well as the '03 matchup vs. Michigan State (22-16).

Fourth-quarter comebacks also aren't anything new to Notre Dame in the Willingham era. After rallying from a 24-21 deficit to beat Navy, the Irish now have won six times during the past two seasons when they were tied or trailing in the fourth quarter. That includes a 29-26 overtime win over Washington State in the 2003 season opener. Notre Dame nearly added a third comeback win to that total at Boston College, rallying from a 24-12 fourth-quarter deficit to take a 25-24 lead before the Eagles kicked the game-winning field goal with 38 seconds remaining.

GETTING THEIR KICKS

Prior to 2003, only seven Notre Dame wins since 1961 had occurred on the game's final play. That heartstopping feat happened twice in '03, thanks to a 40-yard field goal each time. Nicholas Setta did the honors in the season-opening overtime win over Washington State and D.J. Fitzpatrick got his turn in the spotlight with his game-winning boot vs. Navy. The last time the Irish won twice on the last play of the game was 2000, when Setta kicked a 38-yard field goal as time expired to beat Purdue and Joey Getherall scored on a nine-yard run in overtime to defeat Air Force. Here's a rundown of the nine "walk-off" wins for Notre Dame since 1961:

- Joe Perkowski - 41-yard field goal vs. Syracuse (17-15) in 1961
- Joe Unis - extra point following Joe Montana's eight-yard TD pass to Kris Haines in Cotton Bowl vs. Houston (35-34) in 1979
- Harry Oliver - 51-yard field goal vs. Michigan (29-27) in 1980
- John Carney - 19-yard field goal vs. USC (38-37) in 1986
- Jim Sanson - 39-yard field goal vs. Texas (27-24) in 1996
- Nicholas Setta - 38-yard field goal vs. Purdue (23-21) in 2000
- Joey Getherall - nine-yard run in overtime vs. Air Force (34-31) in 2000
- Nicholas Setta - 40-yard field goal in overtime vs. Washington State (29-26) in 2003
- D.J. Fitzpatrick - 40-yard field goal vs. Navy (27-24) in 2003

RETURN TO SENDER

The return game has been a source of strength for Notre Dame over the past five seasons. The Irish have logged 26 returns (punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions) for touchdowns in that time, a figure that ranks ninth in the country. Here's a look at the national leaders in touchdown returns since 1999 (research courtesy of the University of Colorado athletic media relations office — bowl games counted separately):

Team	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bowls	Total
Miami (Fla.)	3	13	11	5	9	1	42
Virginia Tech	8	6	7	7	10	0	38
Kansas State	9	5	2	12	5	0	33
Nebraska	6	7	5	6	4	3	30
North Carolina State	3	2	4	9	10	1	29
Colorado	5	4	7	7	1	4	28
East Carolina	7	5	4	5	3	4	28
Texas Tech	3	7	8	5	3	1	27
NOTRE DAME	4	6	4	9	2	2	26



ABIAMIRI MAKES RARE FRESHMAN DEFENSIVE LINE STARTS

Victor Abiamiri started six times in 2003 (Michigan State, Florida State, Navy, BYU, Stanford and Syracuse), marking the first time a Notre Dame freshman started on the defensive line since Anthony Weaver got the call against Georgia Tech in the 1999 Gator Bowl.

HARRIS HAD AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Ryan Harris made a huge difference in the Notre Dame running attack after entering the lineup against Pittsburgh in the fifth game of the 2003 season. Harris was only the third freshman to start on the offensive line in Notre Dame history (joining Brad Williams and Mike Rosenthal) and helped create huge openings for Julius Jones against the Panthers as he gained a school-record 262 yards.

HARRIS AND ABIAMIRI NAMED FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICANS

Ryan Harris and Victor Abiamiri were named 2003 freshman All-Americans by Rivals.com. Harris was named to the first team after starting the last eight games for the Irish, while Abiamiri was an honorable mention recipient.

BUDINSKAK AND HOYTE NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Defensive end Kyle Budinscak and inside linebacker Brandon Hoyte were named CoSIDA first-team Academic All-District V selections in 2003.

A native of Bridgewater, N.J., Budinscak is a three-time academic all-district first-team honoree. He started all eight games he played in 2003 before his season ended abruptly with a knee injury against Florida State.

Budinscak posted a 3.53 overall grade-point average as a finance major in the Mendoza College of Business. He has been on the Dean's List four times during his career and has been a three-time State Farm/Westwood One Student-Athlete of the Game.

Hoyte earned his second academic all-district nod and his initial first-team selection in 2003 after garnering second-team accolades in '02. The native of Parlin, N.J., Hoyte has a 3.21 grade-point average in psychology and is a two-time State Farm/Westwood One Student-Athlete of the Game.

On the field, Hoyte is just as talented as he started nine of 12 games for the Irish in 2003 with 74 tackles, including 48 solos. He has 7.5 tackles for loss and finished the season second on the team in stops.

SETTA, FITZPATRICK DRAW DOUBLE DUTY

Before an injury ended his season, Nicholas Setta was serving as the starting place-kicker and punter for the Irish, marking the first time a Notre Dame player regularly filled both roles since Craig Hentrich turned the trick from 1989-92.

Setta completed his fourth year as the Irish placekicker, having twice been named to the Lou Groza Award Watch List. He finished second in career field goal attempts (66), career field goals made (46) and third in career points by kicking.

career, the second-longest streak in school history behind Hentrich's run of 136 straight PATs from 1989-92. Setta's last missed PAT kick came on Oct. 7, 2000 vs. Stanford.

Setta was one of the primary sources of offense for Notre Dame through the first six games of the 2003 season. He connected on nine of 10 field-goal attempts (making his last nine in a row), including a perfect seven of seven on kicks inside of 40 yards and finished third on the team with 32 points in 2003.

Setta got his final season at Notre Dame off to a flying start against Washington State, matching his career high (and tying the school record) with five field goals in six attempts, including the game-winning 40-yard boot in overtime.

While he had a wealth of experience as a placekicker, Setta came into the 2003 season having only served as a backup punter behind two-time Ray Guy Award semifinalist Joey Hildbold. However, while filling in for the injured Hildbold against Boston College in 2000, Setta did punt four times for 160 yards (a 40-yard average), including a career-long 47-yard boot in a 28-16 Irish victory.

It should also be noted that D.J. Fitzpatrick stepped into Setta's role for the final six games of the season and eventually finished second on the team in scoring with 53 points (12 field goals, 17 PATs) and posted a 36.8 punt average on 44 kicks.

COURTNEY WATSON NAMED TO AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM

All-America linebacker Courtney Watson was one of 11 people named to the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Football Team in 2003. The award recognizes players for their dedication and commitment to community service and all nominees must display sincere concern and reliability.

Watson, who joins former defensive end Grant Irons as the only Irish players to win the award, was recognized for his extensive work within the University and South Bend communities. A native of Sarasota, Fla., Watson was responsible for creating and developing the football team's community service initiative entitled Tackle The Arts.

In conjunction with the 2003 Tackle the Arts event, Watson, along with teammates Brandon Hoyte and Dan Stevenson, also played host to a picnic for at-risk children in the South Bend area. The children, who attended the picnic and later Tackle the Arts, were identified through the NCAA's National Youth in Sports Program.

Additionally, Watson has made many surprise visits to the pediatric floor at Memorial Hospital in South Bend and has addressed the Jackson Middle School football team at its end of the year banquet. He has participated in the St. Joseph County City Bureau Youth Fest and made hospital visits while the Irish were in Jacksonville, Fla., playing in the 2003 Toyota Gator Bowl.

Watson has also been very active in the Notre Dame community as he was nominated and then elected a member of the Notre Dame Student Senate in 2002-03. Meeting every Wednesday night, Watson and his fellow senators would discuss issues pertinent to the University community.

Watson also was a four-year participant, and two-time champion, in Notre Dame's student-run basketball tournament called Bookstore Basketball, which is the largest five-on-five outdoor basketball tournament in America.

BUZZ PRESTON CHOSEN FOR NCAA ADVANCED COACHING PROGRAM

Notre Dame running backs/special teams coach Buzz Preston was one of 20 ethnic minority football coaches who were selected to participate in the first NCAA Advanced Coaching Program Jan. 2-4, 2004 in Orlando.

The program was developed through the recently-created NCAA Coaches Academy,



Navy: DT Darrell Campbell (5), NG Cedric Hilliard (4), RB Julius Jones (2), OT Jim Molinaro (6)

BYU: CB Vontez Duff (7), RB Julius Jones (3), OT Jim Molinaro (7)

Stanford: CB Vontez Duff (8), OT Jim Molinaro (8), DT Darrell Campbell (6), WR Omar Jenkins (5)

Syracuse: CB Vontez Duff (9), OT Jim Molinaro (9), RB Julius Jones (4), LB Courtney Watson (8)

NOTRE DAME ON THE SMALL SCREEN

The 2003 Syracuse game was covered on a national basis by ABC and the Irish extended their streak of appearances on one of four major networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN) to 136 straight games, a stretch that spans 10 full seasons (1993-2003).

Table with 6 columns: YEAR, GAMES, NBC, ABC, CBS, ESPN. Shows data from 1992 to 2003 and a Totals row.

NOTRE DAME REACHES TELEVISION MILESTONE IN 2003

The Notre Dame game vs. Florida State in 2003 was broadcast nationally by NBC, marking the 250th national television appearance for the Irish in their history.

The '03 game at Michigan was another milestone for the Irish program — it was the 300th time a Notre Dame football game appeared on national or regional television.

During their 115-year history, the Irish have posted a combined 194-111-4 (.634) record in these TV games, beginning with a 27-21 victory over No. 4 Oklahoma on Nov. 8, 1952 in a game that was shown nationwide on ABC.

Here's a breakdown of Notre Dame's success over the years when appearing on each of the various networks on both a national and regional basis (the current Irish win/loss streak on the four major networks is listed in parentheses):

NATIONAL TELEVISION

Table listing national television networks and their win/loss records: NBC (won 2), ABC (lost 3), CBS (won 6), ESPN/ESPN2 (won 2), WGN, SportsChannel, Raycom, TBS, Katz, and Totals (166-84-3 (.662)).

REGIONAL TELEVISION

Table listing regional television networks and their win/loss records: ABC (lost 2), CBS (won 1), TBS, Big Ten Syndication, and Totals (28-27-1 (.509)).

NOTRE DAME FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON TELEVISION IN 2003

In addition to continuing its streak of consecutive games played on one of the four major television networks (NBC, ABC, CBS or ESPN), Notre Dame was spotlighted on the small screen in several other ways during the 2003 season.

ESPN filmed "The Season: Notre Dame Football" in South Bend throughout the '03 campaign. Crews from the network attended practice sessions, team meals and other team-related activities and conducted regular interviews with Irish players and coaches.

ESPN "College GameDay" celebrated its 10th season of live remotes from college football's top games. In recognition of its first-ever road trip (a Nov. 13, 1993 journey to South Bend for the game between No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame) aired weekly all-access features on the Irish adapted from its feature presentation, "The Season: Notre Dame Football."

College Sports Television (CSTV), the nation's new 24-hour cable channel devoted exclusively to college sports, highlighted Irish athletics on Sunday nights (8-9 p.m. ET) in a show called "Notre Dame Primetime."

Besides these features, Notre Dame enjoyed the 13th season of its unique relationship with NBC. All Irish home football games since 1991 have been televised on the network, with the current agreement slated to continue through 2010.

SECOND NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL FANTASY CAMP SET

After a highly successful inaugural football fantasy camp last July, plans are now underway for the 2004 Notre Dame Football Fantasy Camp. The five-day event is scheduled for June 30-July 4, 2004, and will provide ardent Fighting Irish fans with a true inside look at Notre Dame football.

The 2003 Notre Dame Football Fantasy Camp alumni have been effusive in their praise of the experience. Almost 30 campers representing 13 states and England attended last year's session, as the average age of the campers was 41 years old.

"This was not a fantasy camp, but rather a reality camp. It was an overwhelming experience for each of us. Heck, I threw a touchdown pass in Notre Dame Stadium! The former players and coaches were amazing, working with us as if we were actual football players," Robbie Horton, vice president of sales at Sysco Food, says.

The 2004 participants will stay in the historic Morris Inn under the shadow of the Golden Dome and within walking distance of all facilities. Campers will dress in the home locker room of Notre Dame Stadium; practice daily on Cartier Fields (the real practice facilities of the current Irish team); have use of the Loftus Center as needed; dine in the Monogram Room, South Dining Hall and Stadium Press Box and play golf at the Warren Golf Course on campus.

The Notre Dame Football Fantasy Camp is produced by former Notre Dame quarterback Pat Steenberge, in partnership with the Notre Dame National Monogram Club, which receives a portion of the proceeds.

"The 2003 Fantasy Camp proved to be a huge success. It brought together a great group of former players and coaches who worked with the campers who had always dreamed of playing for Notre Dame," National Monogram Club executive director and associate athletics director Bill Scholl said.

For more information about the 2004 Notre Dame Fantasy Football Camp, please visit the official camp web site (www.NDfootballfantasycamp.com), contact Steenberge via e-mail at patrick@globalfootball.com or call Anthony Travel at 800-366-3772.