



University of Notre Dame
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Notre Dame (9-2)
vs.
Ohio State (9-2)

The Rankings:

Notre Dame - 5th AP, 6th *USA Today*, 5th Harris, 6th BCS

Ohio State - 4th AP, 4th *USA Today*, 4th Harris, 4th BCS

The Date and Time:

Monday, Jan. 2, 2006, 3:00 p.m. MST (5:00 p.m. EST in South Bend, Ind.)

The Site:

Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz. (73,752) - Natural Grass Surface

The Tickets: For information on tickets, visit www.tostitosfiestabowl.com.

The TV Plans: ABC national telecast with Brent Musburger (play by play), Gary Danielson (analysis) and Jack Arute (sideline).

The Radio Plans: ESPN Radio national broadcast with Dave Paach (play by play), Rod Gilmore (analysis) and Stacy Dalea-Schuman (sideline).

Westwood One radio, who completed their 38th year broadcasting Notre Dame football games this season, will offer the Fiesta Bowl to nine stations. The broadcast will feature Tony Roberts (play by play) and Allen Pinkett (analysis) with Al Smith (producer).

The broadcast can be heard on WLS-AM in Chicago, Ill., WRSW-FM in Warsaw, Ind., WJOT-AM in Wabash, Ind., WNDV-AM in South Bend, Ind., WEFM-FM in Michigan City, Ind., WNDV-FM in South Bend, Ind., WKZO-AM in Kalamazoo, Mich., WDND-AM in South Bend, Ind., and WQSN-AM in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Websites:

Notre Dame - www.und.com
Ohio State - www.osubuckeyes.com
Fiesta Bowl - www.tostitosfiestabowl.com

2005 FIGHTING IRISH FOOTBALL

Football Contacts: Doug Walker and Alan Wasielewski • dwalker@nd.edu and awasiele@nd.edu

Two-Minute Drill (what you need to know about Notre Dame and the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl) -

- Notre Dame is making its first Bowl Championship Series appearance since 2000, when the Irish faced Oregon State in the 2001 Fiesta Bowl. Notre Dame is looking to break a seven-game losing streak in bowl games.
- Notre Dame and Ohio State will be meeting for just the fifth time. The series is tied at 2-2, with the Irish winning the first two games of the series in 1935 and '36. Ohio State won the two most recent contests between the two teams in 1995 and '96.
- The Irish will be making their 27th bowl game appearance on Jan. 2, 2006. Notre Dame is 13-13 all-time in bowl games.
- Junior QB **Brady Quinn's** stellar 2005 campaign has pushed him to ownership of all of Notre Dame's significant passing records, including career/single-season yardage, career/single-season attempts and completions and career/single-season touchdown passes. Quinn finished fourth in the voting for the Heisman Trophy this season, posting Notre Dame's top finish since Raghib "Rocket" Ismail finished second to Ty Detmer in the 1990 Heisman Trophy race.
- Senior WR **Maurice Stovall** and junior WR **Jeff Samardzija** have combined to become the only pair of teammates in the country with 10 or more touchdown receptions. Samardzija has a school-record 15, while Stovall is close behind with 11 (including 10 in Notre Dame's last five games).
- Notre Dame and Miami (Ohio) are the only schools in the country to boast a 3,000-yard passer, 1,000-yard rusher and two 1,000-yard receivers.
- Notre Dame is currently averaging 38.18 points per game, on pace to break the school record of 37.6 posted by the 1968 team. The Irish also have scored 55 touchdowns this season, four off the record (59) compiled by the 1991 team. The school record for points in a season (426 in 1991) is in reach as well, as the Irish currently have 420 points - needing just six more to reach the single-season record.
- Notre Dame's offensive improvement in 2005 continues to lead the nation. The Irish have improved 143.6 yards per game this year from their 2004 production, ranking ahead of USC (+122.2) and Iowa (+121.8).
- Sophomore RB **Darius Walker** became the ninth player to rush for over 1,000 yards in a single season at Stanford. Walker's career-best 186-yard performance against the Cardinal pushed him to eighth on the all-time single-season rushing list with 1,106 yards.
- Notre Dame finished sixth in the final Bowl Championship Series rankings, the highest for the team since midway through the 2002 season when the Irish peaked at No. 4. The No. 6 BCS ranking is the highest final ranking for the Irish since the inception of the BCS and guaranteed Notre Dame an at-large berth in one of the four BCS games.
- Notre Dame's minus-11-yard defensive rushing performance against Stanford marks the best effort (and fourth-best in modern history) by an Irish defensive unit in 37 years. The 1968 team held Georgia Tech to minus-42 yards rushing in a 36-4 victory on Nov. 16, 1968.

2005 IRISH SCHEDULE

times local to site • rankings AP/*USA Today*/Harris • (Notre Dame time, if applicable)

Date	ND Rank	Opponent	TV	Time or Result	Post Season
Sept. 3	-/-	at #23/25 Pittsburgh	ABC	W, 42-21	Season Over
Sept. 10	20/23	at #3/3 Michigan	ABC	W, 17-10	vs. Nebraska (Alamo)
Sept. 17	10/12	Michigan State	NBC	L, 41-44 (OT)	Season Over
Sept. 24	16/18	at Washington	ABC	W, 36-17	Season Over
Oct. 1	13/14/13	at #22/20/22 Purdue	ESPN	W, 49-28	Season Over
Oct. 15	9/9/8	#1/1/1 USC	NBC	L, 31-34	vs. Texas (Rose)
Oct. 22	9/12/11	BYU	NBC	W, 49-23	vs. California (Las Vegas)
Nov. 5	8/9/9	Tennessee	NBC	W, 41-21	Season Over
Nov. 12	7/7/7	Navy	NBC	W, 42-21	vs. Colo. St. (Poinsettia)
Nov. 19	6/7/6	Syracuse	NBC	W, 34-10	Season Over
Nov. 26	6/6/5	at Stanford	ABC	W, 38-31	Season Over
Jan. 2	5/6/5	vs. #4/4/4 Ohio State	ABC	3:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m.)	2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl

2005 Media Information

Interview requests and media access for the 2005 Notre Dame football team are administered by lead football contact Doug Walker and assistant football contact Alan Wasielewski.

Contact information:

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Fiesta Bowl Media Schedule**Tuesday, Dec. 27**

Notre Dame travel party arrival
(by approximately 12:00 noon MST)
TBA - Charlie Weis Press Conference
Sky Harbor International Airport, Phoenix

Wednesday, Dec. 28

8:30 a.m. - Press Conference
JW Marriott Camelback Inn

Thursday, Dec. 29

8:30 a.m. - Press Conference
JW Marriott Camelback Inn

Friday, Dec. 30

9:30 a.m. - Media Day
Sun Devil Stadium

Saturday, Dec. 31

TBA - Press Conference - Final Player Eligibility -
Team Practice Fields

Sunday, Jan. 1

8:30 a.m. - Head Coach Press Conference
JW Marriott Camelback Inn

Notre Dame Probable Starting Lineup**Offense:**

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
"X"	21	Maurice Stovall	Sr.	Third all-time in TD receptions (18), fifth in receiving yards (2,069)
LT	68	Ryan Harris	Jr.	Enjoying an outstanding season on the left side of the Irish line
LG	50	Dan Santucci	Sr.	Former DL is a key factor in ND's 154.8 rushing yards per game
OL	78	John Sullivan	Jr.	Has started Notre Dame's last seven contests
RG	74	Dan Stevenson	Sr.	Can play both guard spots, and has appeared in 43 career games
RT	73	Mark LeVoi	Sr.	Made his 36th career start vs. Stanford; the veteran of the OL
TE	88	Anthony Fasano	Sr.	Third on the team with 45 catches for 564 yards and two TDs
"Z"	83	Jeff Samardzija	Jr.	Has a Notre Dame record 15 touchdown catches this season
QB	10	Brady Quinn	Jr.	Notre Dame's all-time top passer for yards (8,050) and TDs (58)
FB	16	Asaph Schwapp	Fr.	Made first career start vs. USC, ND's leading rusher vs. BYU
RB	3	Darius Walker	So.	Eighth on the all-time single-season rushing list with 1,106 in '05

Defense:

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
LE	95	Victor Abiamiri	Jr.	Career game vs. Stanford - 10 tackles, four sacks
LT	98	Trevor Laws	Jr.	Becoming a force inside, led team with nine tackles vs. BYU
RT	66	Derek Landri	Sr.	37 tackles, 7.0 TFL, three sacks and seven QB hurries in 2005
RE	99	Ronald Talley	So.	Started four games at right DE, 12 tackles, one sack in '05
AP	40	Maurice Crum, Jr.	So.	Seeing first action of career this season, 50 tackles, 3.5 TFL
MLB	46	Corey Mays	Sr.	Second on the team with 68 tackles, also has 10.5 TFL and 4 sacks
WLB	39	Brandon Hoyte	Sr.	Leader of the Irish defense with 82 tackles, 15.5 TFL, six sacks
RCB	22	Ambrose Wooden	Jr.	Has been a step-up performer for the Irish - 67 tackles, five PBU
WS	18	Chinedum Ndukwe	Jr.	Has 50 tackles this season along with two interceptions and four FR
BS	9	Tom Zbikowski	Jr.	Leads the team with five INT, also has four return TDs this season
LCB	30	Mike Richardson	Sr.	Tied for fourth on the team with 62 tackles along with three INT

Special Teams:

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
PK	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	Sr.	11-17 in FGs, 50-51 in PATs (school record PAT total)
P	19	D.J. Fitzpatrick	Sr.	Solid 40.0 punt average with a long of 60 and 10 inside the 20
H	83	Jeff Samardzija	Jr.	Has caught 15 TDs and held for 52 PATs and 12 FGs
SNP	61	J.J. Jansen	So.	Sophomore snapper has been perfect thus far in 2005
PR	9	Tom Zbikowski	Jr.	Has two punt return for TDs with a 14.6 average
KR	11	David Grimes	Fr.	Averaging 22.5 yards on 15 attempts with a long of 40
	1	D.J. Hord	Fr.	Has a long return of 36, averaging 18.3 on six returns

Key Probable Non-Starters:

Pos.	No.	Player	Class	Notes
WR	82	Matt Shelton	Sr.	Key possession receiver has 23 catches for 277 yards (12.0 avg.)
C	76	Bob Morton	Sr.	Part of a guard/center rotation on the interior OL
OL	79	Brian Mattes	Sr.	Veteran can provide depth at both tackle positions
TE	87	Marcus Freeman	Sr.	Caught five passes in eight games during the '04 season
TE	89	John Carlson	Jr.	Logged first career touchdown reception at Purdue (22 yards)
DT	90	Brian Beidatsch	Sr.	Gives the Irish talented depth on the DL, 14 tackles, one sack
RB	26	Travis Thomas	Jr.	Saw significant time vs. USC with 18 rushes for 52 yards and a TD
DB	15	Leo Ferrine	So.	Nickle back logged first career touchdown and INT vs. Syracuse
K	45	Carl Gioia	Jr.	Hit first career field goal in relief of D.J. Fitzpatrick at Stanford

Note: This is only a projection. Notre Dame has started with a different non-standard personnel package in each game this season.

Notre Dame - Ohio State Series History

Notre Dame and Ohio State are separated by 280 miles, but they have faced each other on the gridiron just four times previous to this year's Tostitos Fiesta Bowl ... the Irish won the first two meetings in 1935 and 1936, while Ohio State earned victories in the two most recent meetings in 1995 and 1996 ... the two teams have never met on a neutral field ... see page 26 of this notes package for a complete recap of the 1935 "Game of the Century" between Notre Dame and Ohio State ... the teams' current AP rankings (Ohio State, No. 4; Notre Dame, No. 5) are exact duplicates of the same rankings both teams held in the last meeting from the 1996 season Ohio State won that contest 29-16 in Notre Dame Stadium ... the 1996 game marks the most recent matchup for a top-five Notre Dame team against a top-five ranked opponent.

The Last Time... Notre Dame vs. Ohio State

Ohio State dominated the most recent matchup between the two teams in 1996, earning a 29-16 victory. The Buckeyes led 22-7 at halftime, with the Irish rushing attack putting up just 28 net yards in the first 30 minutes.

Notre Dame would cut the lead to 13 points in the second half and forced an Ohio State punt with 3:35 left. **Autry Denson** grabbed it and returned the punt 90 yards for an apparent touchdown, but **Ty Goode** was called for holding on the return and the Irish would not threaten again in the contest.

Pepe Pearson led Ohio State with 173 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Stanley Jackson completed nine of 15 passes for 154 yards and two TDs. For Notre Dame, **Ron Powlus** ended up 13 of 30 for 154 yards, one TD and two interceptions. Denson compiled 55 rushing yards on 19 attempts.

Notre Dame Fiesta Bowl History

Notre Dame will be making its fourth appearance (1-2) in the Fiesta Bowl and first since 2001 ... the Irish earned a victory in their first trip to Tempe, Ariz., for the Fiesta Bowl in 1989, defeating West Virginia, 34-21, to win the program's most recent of 11 National Championships ... Colorado defeated Notre Dame, 41-24, in the 1995 Fiesta Bowl and Oregon State knocked off the Irish, 41-9, in the 2001 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

Notre Dame Bowl History

The Irish have made 26 bowl appearances in the program's history, compiling a 13-13 record ... after winning 13 of its first 19 bowl appearances, Notre Dame has lost its last seven post-season games ... Notre Dame made its first bowl appearance in 1924 when Knute Rockne took his famed Four Horsemen backfield across the country to meet Stanford in the Rose Bowl ... due to University regulations, the Irish did not appear in a bowl game again until the 1970 Cotton Bowl ... Notre Dame has appeared in 10 different bowl games over the years: Rose (1924), Cotton (1970, '71, '78, '79, '88, '93 and '94), Orange (1973, '75, '90, '91, '96), Sugar (1973, '80, '91), Gator (1976, '99, '03), Liberty (1983), Aloha (1984), Fiesta (1989, '95, '01, '06), Independence (1997) and Insight (2004) ... some of the most memorable moments in Notre Dame history have occurred in bowl games, including National Championship-clinching victories at the 1973 Sugar Bowl (24-23 over #1 Alabama), 1978 Cotton Bowl (38-10 over #1 Texas) and 1989 Fiesta Bowl (34-21 over unbeaten West Virginia) ... the "Ice Bowl" or "Chicken Soup Bowl" was played in 1979 when Notre Dame, led by future NFL Hall of Famer Joe Montana, scored 23 points in the final 7:37 to shock Houston (the game was possibly the coldest Cotton Bowl in history, hence the "Ice Bowl"; Joe Montana missed a portion of the game due to a lower than normal body temperature and sipped chicken soup to warm up, hence "The Chicken Soup Bowl.") ... in the 1983 Liberty Bowl, Notre Dame prevented the Doug Flutie-led Eagles a chance at a 10-2 record and spot among the nation's top 10 with a 19-18 victory ... Notre Dame denied Texas A&M a shot at the national title in the 1993 Cotton Bowl, knocking off the undefeated Aggies 28-3.

Notre Dame vs. the Big Ten Conference

Notre Dame has played almost three times as many games against Big Ten Conference opponents (333) as any other league ... the Pacific-10 (112) is the only other conference against whom the Irish have played at least 100 games ... Notre Dame has won more than 66 percent of its games versus Big Ten Conference opponents, with a record of .500 or better against 10 of the 11 Big Ten teams (Michigan is the lone exception) ... the Irish have an overall mark of 214-104-15 (.665) in 333 games against Big Ten schools, with more than 52 percent of those games (171) coming versus Michigan (14-18-1), Michigan State (43-25-1) and Purdue (50-25-2), all of whom were on Notre Dame's 2005 schedule ... for the third consecutive season, Notre Dame played three Big Ten schools (Michigan, W, 17-10; Michigan State, L, 41-44, in OT and Purdue, W, 49-28) during the regular season ... Notre Dame has never faced a Big Ten Conference team in a bowl game ... the Irish faced Penn State in the 1976 Gator Bowl (20-9 Irish victory) before the Nittany Lions joined the Big Ten.

SERIES VS. OHIO STATE

2-2-0, Home: 1-1-0, Away: 1-1-0, Neutral: 0-0-0

Site	Year	Rank	W/L	ND	Opp
	1935		W	18	13
*	1936		W	7	2
	1995	15-7	L	26	45
*	1996	5-4	L	16	29

* - indicates game played at Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Bowl History

Season	Bowl (date)	Opp.	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, 1970)	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 St.	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 Coll.	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)	W. 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 St.	L	26-31
1997	Indep. (Dec. 28, 1997)	LSU	L	9-27
1998	Gator (Jan. 1, 1999)	Georgia Tech	L	28-35
2000	Fiesta (Jan. 1, 2001)	Oregon St.	L	9-41
2002	Gator (Jan. 1, 2003)	NC State	L	6-28
2004	Insight (Dec. 28, 2004)	Oregon St.	L	21-38

2005 Opponent Information

(all times local to site)

Bowl Opponent...Ohio State (9-2)

Sept. 3	.....vs. Miami (Ohio)	.....W, 34-14
Sept. 10	....vs. #2 Texas	.....L, 22-25
Sept. 17	....vs. San Diego State	.....W, 27-6
Sept. 24	....vs. #21 Iowa	.....W, 31-6
Oct. 8	.....at #16 Penn State	.....L, 10-17
Oct. 15	.....vs. #16 Michigan State	.....W, 35-24
Oct. 22	.....at Indiana	.....W, 41-10
Oct. 29	.....at #22 Minnesota	.....W, 45-31
Nov. 5	.....vs. Illinois	.....W, 40-2
Nov. 12	.....vs. #25 Northwestern	.....W, 48-7
Nov. 19	.....at Michigan	.....W, 25-21

Other opponents...

Pittsburgh (5-6)	vs. - season complete
Michigan (7-4)	- vs. Nebraska - Dec. 28, 8:00 p.m., ESPN MasterCard Alamo Bowl
Michigan State (5-6)	- season complete
Washington (2-9)	- season complete
Purdue (5-6)	- season complete
USC (12-0)	- vs. Texas - Jan. 4, 8:00 p.m., ABC The Rose Bowl Game presented by Citi
BYU (6-5)	- vs. California - Dec. 22, 8:00 p.m., ESPN Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl
Tennessee (5-6)	- season complete
Navy (7-4)	- vs. Colorado St. - Dec. 22, 10:30 p.m., ESPN2 SD County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl
Syracuse (1-10)	- season complete
Stanford (5-6)	- season complete

NOTRE DAME vs. OHIO STATE: BY THE NUMBERS

The NCAA statistical rankings for Notre Dame in 2005 (top 50 only):

Team Rankings	Notre Dame	Ohio State
Rushing Offense	49th at 154.82	29th at 189.55
Passing Offense	4th at 334.27	215.09
Passing Efficiency	4th at 162.22	8th at 152.75
Total Offense	10th at 489.09	37th at 404.64
Scoring Offense	6th at 38.18	28th at 32.55
Rushing Defense	25th at 119.36	1st at 74.45
Pass Defense	257.55	36th at 200.82
Pass Efficiency Defense	121.41	32nd at 115.84
Total Defense	376.91	4th at 275.27
Scoring Defense	45th at 23.64	7th at 14.82
Net Punting	46th at 34.76	13th at 37.50
Punt Returns	11th at 14.67	31st at 11.22
Kickoff Returns	19.47	15th at 23.94
Turnover Margin	19th at .73	-.64

Individual Rankings

	Notre Dame	Ohio State
Rushing	Darius Walker 32nd at 100.55	Antonio Pittman 19th at 108.64
Passing Efficiency	Brady Quinn 4th at 162.91	Troy Smith 6th at 158.45
Total Offense	Brady Quinn 3rd at 341.36	Troy Smith 29th at 248.50
Receptions Per Game	Jeff Samardzija 23rd at 6.55	Maurice Stovall 42nd at 5.45
Receiving Yards Per Game	Jeff Samardzija 4th at 108.20	Santonio Holmes 45th at 77.55
	Maurice Stovall 21st at 93.00	
Interceptions	Tom Zbikowski †7th at .45	
Punt Returns	Tom Zbikowski 12th at 14.58	Ted Ginn Jr. 36th at 10.00
Kickoff Returns		Ted Ginn Jr. 3rd at 29.56
Scoring	Jeff Samardzija 28th at 8.18	Josh Hutson 14th at 9.09
All-Purpose Runners	Darius Walker 37th at 129.09	Ted Ginn Jr. 40th at 128.00
		Antonio Pittman †47th at 122.73

Fiesta Bowl Revenue Direction

The University of Notre Dame's share of Fiesta Bowl revenues will be dedicated to three academic priorities, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., the University's president, announced on Dec. 5, 2005.

The estimated \$14.5 million share will go toward undergraduate and graduate financial aid, library acquisitions and scientific instruments for the new Jordan Hall of Science that will open in mid-2006, Father Jenkins said.

Notre Dame will play Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Jan. 2 as part of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS).

"We're, of course, pleased that our team has competed at such a high level this year and is being rewarded with this bowl opportunity, but we're also very grateful that the funds from our participation will go to address such important needs for the academic mission of the University," Father Jenkins said.

He noted that over the past seven years the non-salary portions of the University's budget have been essentially flat in order to cope with economic pressures that have affected Notre Dame and many other colleges and universities.

"These funds from the BCS are being made available at a very opportune time," he said.

Under the BCS system, Notre Dame, as an independent university, keeps its entire share of the bowl proceeds. Universities that are a part of a conference share their allotments. In future years, under a new BCS arrangement, Notre Dame's share will be reduced to \$4.5 million in years that it participates in the BCS, with a guaranteed payment of \$1.3 million in years that it does not qualify. Under the existing system, Notre Dame receives no funds when it does not play in a BCS game.

The Fiesta Bowl revenue is the latest example of Notre Dame athletics supporting the academic priorities of the University.

Bowl game revenue has produced more than \$69 million in the past 25 years. These funds, along with a substantial portion of the proceeds from the University's television contract with NBC, have been used to support student financial aid, and together have supported more than 2,000 scholarships.

Notre Dame's University Libraries include the Theodore M. Hesburgh Library and 10 other libraries on campus containing nearly 3 million volumes, more than 5,000 electronic titles, some 3 million microform units, and 21,000 audiovisual items. The University's most recent strategic plan calls for a commitment to building library collections that will "bring the best students and faculty to Notre Dame and attract international scholars."

The Jordan Hall of Science is a 201,782-square-foot building under construction on the east side of Juniper Road, north of the Joyce Center. It will feature undergraduate laboratory space for the departments of chemistry, biochemistry, biology and physics, as well as two 250-seat lecture halls, a 150-seat multi-visualization room, an observatory, teaching labs, herbarium, greenhouse and departmental offices. It was underwritten with a leadership gift from University alumnus and Trustee John W. "Jay" Jordan II and is scheduled for completion next summer. - *from the University of Notre Dame News and Information Office*

Fiesta Bowl Ticket Demand High

Record Notre Dame ticket demand for the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl produced 45,589 ticket requests for the Jan. 2 Notre Dame-Ohio State football matchup in Tempe, Ariz. That's the most ticket requests ever received for any postseason bowl game in Irish football history.

That response was based on a 62,427-piece mailing that went to University of Notre Dame season-ticket holders, contributing alumni, parents of current undergraduate students, University faculty and staff, and Monogram Club members. The deadline for orders was Thursday, Dec. 8. It took the 20-person Notre Dame ticket staff more than 100 hours to process and input the orders.

Based on the overwhelming demand, a lottery will be conducted. Both lottery winners and losers will be notified via Federal Express on Monday, Dec. 19 - and tickets will be shipped that same day.

All 2,500 tickets allotted to Notre Dame students were sold.

Notre Dame received an original allotment of 15,000 tickets in Sun Devil Stadium for the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

Former Arizona State Athletic Directors Return to Tempe

Notre Dame's Kevin White and Ohio State's Eugene Smith, both directors of athletics for their respective universities, will be returning to familiar territory for the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Both White and Smith served terms as director of athletics at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

Smith, a four-year monogram winner for the Notre Dame football team from 1973-76 and 1977 graduate of the University, was a member of the '73 national championship team and served as an assistant coach for the Irish from 1977-81. He helped the '77 team claim the national title, giving him a national championship as both a coach and player at Notre Dame.

Smith was director of athletics at Arizona State from 2000-04, taking over for White who held onto the post

Milestone Games in 2005

100-Yard Rushing Games

Darius Walker at Stanford	186*	(35* att)
Darius Walker at Washington	128	(21 att)
Darius Walker vs. Syracuse	123	(26 att)
Darius Walker vs. Navy	118	(19 att)
Darius Walker vs. Michigan State	116	(26 att)
Darius Walker at Michigan	104	(26 att)
Darius Walker at Pittsburgh	100	(20 att)

100-Yard Receiving Games

Maurice Stovall vs. BYU	207*	(14* rec)
Jeff Samardzija at Stanford	191*	(8 rec)
Maurice Stovall vs. Michigan State	176	(8 rec)
Jeff Samardzija at Washington	164	(8 rec)
Jeff Samardzija at Purdue	153	(7 rec)
Jeff Samardzija vs. BYU	152	(10* rec)
Maurice Stovall at Stanford	136	(7 rec)
Maurice Stovall at Purdue	134	(8 rec)
Maurice Stovall vs. Navy	130	(8 rec)
Jeff Samardzija vs. Tennessee	127	(7 rec)

300-Yard Passing Games

Brady Quinn vs. Michigan State	487*
Brady Quinn vs. BYU	467
Brady Quinn at Purdue	440
Brady Quinn at Stanford	432
Brady Quinn at Washington	327

Multiple Touchdown Performances

Brady Quinn vs. BYU	6	(passing)
Brady Quinn vs. Michigan State	5	(passing)
Brady Quinn vs. Navy	4	(passing)
Maurice Stovall vs. BYU	4	(rec)
Maurice Stovall vs. Navy	3	(rec)
Brady Quinn at Stanford	3	(passing)
Brady Quinn vs. Tennessee	3	(passing)
Brady Quinn at Purdue	3	(passing)
Jeff Samardzija vs. Michigan State	3	(rec)
Rashon Powers-Neal at Pittsburgh	3	(rush)
Jeff Samardzija at Stanford	2	(rec)
Brady Quinn vs. Syracuse	2	(passing)
Tom Zbikowski vs. Tennessee	2	(punt ret., int. ret.)
Jeff Samardzija vs. BYU	2	(rec)
Brady Quinn vs. USC	2	(1 rush, 1 passing)
Jeff Samardzija at Purdue	2	(rec)
Brady Quinn at Michigan	2	(passing)
Darius Walker at Pittsburgh	2	(1 rush, 1 rec)
Brady Quinn at Pittsburgh	2	(passing)

Ten-Tackle (or more) Games

Corey Mays vs. Navy	14
Brandon Hoyte at Michigan	11
Ambrose Wooden at Pittsburgh	11
Victor Abiamiri at Stanford	10
Corey Mays vs. Syracuse	10

* - individual career highs

THE 2005 NOTRE DAME COACHING STAFF

Coach	Position	Previous Position, Team
Charlie Weis	Head Coach	Offensive Coordinator, New England Patriots (NFL)
John Latina.....	Assistant Head Coach (offense)/Offensive Line.....	Offensive Coordinator, University of Mississippi
Bill Lewis	Assistant Head Coach (defense)/Defensive Backs.....	Defensive Nickel Package, Miami Dolphins (NFL)
Michael Haywood	Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs.....	Running Backs, University of Texas
Rick Minter	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers.....	Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers, University of South Carolina
Rob Ianello.....	Wide Receivers/Recruiting Coordinator	Tight Ends, University of Wisconsin
Jappy Oliver	Defensive Line	Defensive Line, University of South Carolina
Bernie Parmalee.....	Tight Ends/Assistant Special Teams.....	Tight Ends, Miami Dolphins (NFL)
Brian Polian	Special Teams/Assistant Defensive Backs	Running Backs, University of Central Florida
Peter Vaas	Quarterbacks.....	Head Coach, Cologne Centurions (NFL Europe)

COACHING STAFF LOCATIONS DURING GAME

Charlie Weis	sidelines
John Latina	sidelines
Bill Lewis	press box
Michael Haywood	sidelines
Rick Minter	sidelines
Rob Ianello	press box
Jappy Oliver	sidelines
Bernie Parmalee	sidelines
Brian Polian	sidelines
Peter Vaas	press box
Grad. Asst. Shane Waldron.....	press box
Grad. Asst. Jeff Burrow.....	press box

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Abiamiri	Ab-ee-uh-MEER-ee
Anastasio	ahn-uh-STAH-zee-oh
Asaph Schwapp	A-sopp shwapp
Beidatsch	BY-datsch
Bruton	BREW-ton
Derrell Hand.....	du-RELL
Ferrine	Fuh-REEN
Hiben.....	HIGH-ben
Kuntz	Koontz
Landri.....	LAN-dree
LeVoi.....	le-VORE (as in fore)
Mattes	MATT-is
Chindeum Ndukwe.....	SHIN-uh-doom en-DUKE-way
Raridon	RARE-i-done
Rhema	RAY-ma
Samardzija	suh-MARR-zhuh
Schiccatano	shick-a-TAWN-O
Turkovich.....	Turk-uh-vitch
Vernaglia	ver-NAG-lee-uh
Wolke	WOLL-key
Zbikowski.....	zib-uh-COW-ski

from 1996-2000.

2005: The Charlie Weis Era Begins

The 117th season of Notre Dame football is the first in the tenure of head coach **Charlie Weis**, who started his career with a 9-2 record, including wins over three ranked opponents.

Weis was named the 28th head football coach in Notre Dame history on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2004. A 1978 Notre Dame graduate, Weis took the reins of the Irish program after a highly-successful career as an assistant coach in the National Football League.

The owner of four Super Bowl champion rings as products of a stellar 15-season career as an NFL assistant, Weis is a widely-respected disciple of professional coaching standouts Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick. He came to Notre Dame after excelling as offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots, where he played an integral role in New England's victories in three of the last four Super Bowls.

Weis is the first Notre Dame graduate to hold the football head coaching position at his alma mater since Hugh Devore (a '34 graduate) served as interim coach in 1963 and is the first Notre Dame graduate to serve as the Irish football coach on a full-fledged basis since Joe Kuharich (a '38 graduate who coached at Notre Dame from 1959 through '62).

Now in his 27th season in coaching, Weis coached nine seasons with the Patriots, including five as offensive coordinator. He helped produce four Super Bowl championships (New York Giants following the 1990 season, Patriots following '01, '03 and '04 seasons), five conference titles and seven division crowns.

Irish First-Year Head Coaches

As **Charlie Weis** continues his first season at the helm of the Irish, here are a few notes on Notre Dame's head coaches in their inaugural years (see page 27 for a recap of each coaching debut season in ND history) ... the 27 previous head football coaches in Notre Dame history have combined to amass a 168-60-12 (.700) record in their first years at the helm (not including 2005) ... Weis is the first coach to begin his Irish career by beating two ranked opponents in his first two games ... the only other attempt was by Terry Brennan in 1954 (won 21-0 vs. #4 Texas, lost 27-14 vs. #19 Purdue) ... Weis is the first coach to begin his Notre Dame tenure with two victories on the road and on an opponent's home field since Knute Rockne in 1918 (at Case Tech, at Wabash) ... Hunk Anderson faced his first two games away from Notre Dame in '31 (at Indiana, vs. Northwestern at Soldier Field - a win and a tie, respectively) and Dan Devine also started with two games away from South Bend in '75 (vs. Boston College at Foxboro, at Purdue - both wins) ... the two most recent Irish head coaches (Bob Davie, 7-6 in 1997; Tyrone Willingham, 10-3 in 2002) posted winning records in their first seasons ... the last Irish coach to turn in a sub-.500 season in his first year is Lou Holtz, whose '86 team finished 5-6. Notre Dame has assured itself of a winning record in Charlie Weis' first season with a 9-2 record entering the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl ... first-year coaching records since 1913 (most wins listed first) - Tyrone Willingham (10-3 in 2002), Ara Parseghian (9-1 in 1964), Terry Brennan (9-1 in 1954), **Charlie Weis** (9-2 in 2005), Frank Leahy (8-0-1 in 1941), Dan Devine (8-3 in 1975), Jesse Harper (7-0 in 1913), Bob Davie (7-6 in 1997), Hunk Anderson (6-2-1 in 1931), Elmer Layden (6-3 in 1934), Lou Holtz (5-6 in 1986), Gerry Faust (5-6 in 1981), Joe Kuharich (5-5 in 1959), Knute Rockne (3-1-2 in 1918).

First-year coaches' bowl game history -

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Bowl Game</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Score</u>
Tyrone Willingham	2003 Gator Bowl	L	6-28
Bob Davie	1997 Independence Bowl	L	9-27

2005 IRISH HONORS AND AWARDS

Junior DE Victor Abiamiri

- Notre Dame Lineman of the Year (presented by the Moose Krause Chapter of the NFF)

Sophomore LB Maurice Crum, Jr.

- *The Sporting News* First-Team Freshman All-America

Senior LB Bradon Hoyte -

- Knute Rockne Scholar-Athlete Awardwinner
(presented by the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley, 3.139 GPA)
- Wuerffel Trophy Finalist (presented by the All-Sports Association in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.)
Honors accomplishments both on and off the field
- Lott Trophy Semifinalist (presented by the Pacific Club IMPACT Foundation)
Honors accomplishments both on and off the field
- Draddy Trophy Semifinalist (presented by the NFF - the Academic Heisman)
- Butkus Award Watch List (presented by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Fla.)
Honors the nation's top linebacker

Senior TE Anthony Fasano -

- Nick Pietrosante Awardwinner
Honors players who exemplify the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America fullback
- *Sports Illustrated* Honorable Mention All-America
- Mackey Award Finalist (presented by the Nassau County Sports Administration)
Honors the nation's top collegiate tight end

Junior DL Trevor Laws -

- Westwood One/State Farm Student-Athlete of the Year (3.150 GPA)

Senior LB Corey Mays -

- Nick Pietrosante Awardwinner
Honors players who exemplify the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America fullback

Junior QB Brady Quinn -

- Heisman Trophy Fourth-Place Finisher
- Sammy Baugh Awardwinner (presented by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, Ohio)
Honors the nation's top passer
- *Sports Illustrated* Honorable Mention All-America
- Rivals.com Third-Team All-America
- Maxwell Award Finalist (presented by the Maxwell Football Club)
Honors the nation's best college football player
- O'Brien Award Finalist (presented by the Davey O'Brien Foundation)
Honors the nation's best collegiate quarterback
- Walter Camp Trophy Finalist (honors the nation's best college football player)
- ESPN.com Independents Most Valuable Player
- Monogram Club Team Co-Most Valuable Player
- *The Sporting News* Player of the Week
(Oct. 2 - for performance at Purdue: 29-36, 440 yds, 3 TD)
- Cingular/ABC Sports All-American of the Week
(Oct. 27 - for performance vs. BYU: 32-41, 467 yds, 6 TD)
(Oct. 6 - for performance at Purdue: 29-36, 440 yds, 3 TD)
- NBC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (vs. USC: 19-35, 264 yds, 1 TD)
- NBC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (vs. BYU: 32-41, 476 yds, 6 TD)
- NBC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (vs. Syracuse: 21-37, 270 yds, 2 TD)
- ABC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (at Pitt: 18-27, 227 yds, 2 TD)

Junior WR Jeff Samardzija -

- Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) First-Team All-America
- *Sports Illustrated* First-Team All-America
- ESPN.com All-American
- CBS Sportsline.com All-America
- Rivals.com First-Team All-America
- Walter Camp Football Foundation Second-Team All-America
- Monogram Club Team Co-Most Valuable Player
- Biletnikoff Award Finalist (presented by the Tallahassee Quarterback Club Foundation)
- ESPN.com Independents Newcomer of the Year
Honors the nation's top collegiate wide receiver
- ABC/Chevrolet Player of the Game
(at Wash.: 8 rec., 164 yds, 1 TD)
- *Sports Illustrated* Midseason All-America
- Master Coaches Survey Offense Game Ball (at Stanford: 8 rec., 191 yds, 2 TD)

Senior OL Dan Santucci -

- Westwood One/State Farm Student-Athlete of the Year

Senior OL Dan Stevenson -

- Guardian of the Year (presented by Guardian Life Insurance)
Honors Notre Dame's top offensive lineman

Senior WR Maurice Stovall -

- Nick Pietrosante Awardwinner
Honors players who exemplify the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America fullback
- NBC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (vs. Navy: 8 rec., 130 yds, 3 TD)

Sophomore DE Ronald Talley -

- *The Sporting News* Honorable Mention Freshman All-America

Sophomore RB Darius Walker -

- ABC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (at Michigan: 26 att., 104 yds, 5 rec., 22 yds)
- ABC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (at Stanford: 35 att., 186 yds, 5 rec., 55 yds)

Head Coach Charlie Weis -

- Munger Award Finalist (presented by the Maxwell Football Club)
Honors the nation's top collegiate head coach
- Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Finalist (presented by the FWAA)
- ESPN.com Independents Coach of the Year

Junior S Tom Zbikowski -

- *Sports Illustrated* Honorable Mention All-America (punt returner)
- Nick Pietrosante Awardwinner
Honors players who exemplify the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America fullback
- Cingular/ABC Sports All-American of the Week
(Nov. 10 - for performance vs. Tenn.: 78-yard PR for TD, 33-yard INT for TD)
- NBC/Chevrolet Player of the Game (vs. Tenn.: 78-yard PR for TD, 33-yard INT for TD)
- Master Coaches Survey Special Teams Game Ball
(vs. Tenn.: 78-yard PR for TD, 33-yard INT for TD)

Weis a Bowl Rookie? Not Quite

While the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl will be the first bowl game Charlie Weis will experience as a head coach, it will not be the first bowl game in which Weis has taken part. Obviously, the five Super Bowls in which he appeared (1990, '94, 2001, '03, '04) count as bowl game atmospheres, but Weis also took part in the 1987 Gator Bowl (L, 13-30 vs. LSU) and 1988 Liberty Bowl (L, 10-34 vs. Indiana) as an assistant coach at South Carolina.

Weis was a volunteer/defensive end coach for the Gamecocks in 1987 and the assistant recruiting coordinator in 1988. The next season he moved on to Franklin Township (N.J.) High School as head coach and won a state championship before beginning his NFL career in 1990 with a Super Bowl victory as a member of the New York Giants coaching staff (Weis was a defensive assistant/assistant special teams coach with the '90 Giants).

Notre Dame Scoring at an Historic Pace

40 points - Notre Dame has scored over 40 points six times this season, matching the school record set by both the 1991 and 1992 teams.

30 points - The Irish have scored 30 or more points in 10 of 11 games this season (a 17-10 victory at Michigan was the lone exception), setting the school record for 30-point performances. The previous record for 30 point games in a season was nine by the 1991 edition of the Fighting Irish (which included a 30-point performance in a bowl game). Notre Dame also has scored 30 or more points in nine straight games, becoming the first Notre Dame team to accomplish that feat.

From an historic perspective, Notre Dame has only scored over 30 points in eight games or more just five times in the program's history. The 1966, 1992 and 1993 teams all posted eight 30-point performances (the '93 team total includes a bowl game as well).

Notre Dame is currently seventh in the nation in scoring offense, averaging 38.18 points per game. If the 38.18 average holds up, it would set a Notre Dame single-season record.

In addition, the 2005 Irish team already has scored more points this season (420) than any of the previous 13 Notre Dame teams. The school record for points scored (426 in 1991) also is in reach, as the Irish need six points against Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl.

With one game remaining on the schedule, Charlie Weis' first Notre Dame team already has piled up 420 points - the most in a debut season for a non-interim Irish head coach. Weis' first squad also is averaging 38.18 points per game, just behind Jesse Harper's debut season average of 38.29 in 1913 (268 points in seven games).

Irish Offense Putting Up Unprecedented Yardage Totals

The 2005 edition of the Fighting Irish has become the first Notre Dame team to have a 3,000-yard passer (Brady Quinn, 3,633 yards), 1,000-yard rusher (Darius Walker, 1,106 yards) and 1,000-yard receiver (Jeff Samardzija, 1,190 yards and Maurice Stovall, 1,023 yards) on the same roster.

Notre Dame's Offensive Improvement the Best in the Nation

Entering post-season action, Notre Dame's 143.6 yards-per-game improvement for the Irish offense this season is rated first in the nation, ahead of USC, Iowa and Washington State. Here is a look at this year's top 10 most improved offenses:

Most Improved Teams in Total Offense

Rank	School	2004	2005	Improvement
1.	Notre Dame	345.5	489.1	+143.6
2.	USC	449.1	571.3	+122.2
3.	Iowa	312.7	416.6	+121.8
4.	Washington State	368.6	487.5	+120.7
5.	Penn State	310.7	437.4	+113.6
6.	Central Florida	280.0	396.9	+113.0
7.	New Mexico	298.0	398.2	+99.4
8.	Maryland	298.0	399.4	+97.8
9.	Clemson	295.6	390.3	+90.8
10.	Arizona State	435.4	518.1	+82.7

Offense Piling Up Yardage

The offense has been the highlight of the 2005 Notre Dame football season thus far. The Irish are currently 10th in the country in total offense (489.09) and are on pace for the most prolific offensive season since the team ended the 1996 season ranked 10th in total offense. Currently, the Irish are averaging 334.27 passing yards per game and are on pace to shatter the Notre Dame record of 252.7 set in 1970 (Notre Dame finished that season ranked eighth in the country in passing offense and second overall with a school-record 510.5 total yards per game).

One measuring stick for offensive production is games in which the team compiles over 500 yards of total offense. Notre Dame has accomplished that feat seven times this season (502 at Pittsburgh, 594 vs. Michigan State, 560 at Washington, 621 at Purdue, 511 vs. BYU, 505 vs. Navy, 663 at Stanford) - marking the first time the Irish have posted seven 500-yard performances in a season.

Here is a breakdown of Notre Dame's 500-plus games in two comparable seasons (1970, 1992) -

1970 (six): 633 vs. Purdue, 513 vs. Michigan State, 600 vs. Navy, 574 vs. Army, 606 vs. Pittsburgh, 557 vs. USC

1992 (five): 561 vs. Northwestern, 509 vs. Michigan State, 580 vs. Purdue, 521 vs. Pittsburgh, 576 vs. Boston College

Keep an Eye on Third Down

Notre Dame has been highly effective offensively on third down this season. The Irish are ninth in the nation (81 of 167, .485) on third down and are holding their opponents to a respectable .327 (50 of 153, 18th in the nation) on defense. Notre Dame, Ohio State, Texas and Auburn are the only schools in the country ranked in the top 18 for both offensive and defensive third-down percentage.

Irish Post Big Drives

Notre Dame had a penchant for long touchdown drives in 2005. Here's what the Irish produced compared to their '05 opponents:

Notre Dame	TD-Producing Drives	Opponent
36	60 yards or more	19
28	70 yards or more	16
13	80 yards or more	7
3	90 yards or more	1

663-Yard Effort Ranks Among the Best All-Time

Notre Dame's offensive explosion (663 total yards) against Stanford on Nov. 26 ranks among the best in the program's history. Dating back to 1963, it ranks fifth on the list and is the second 600-yard total offense effort of the season (621 at Purdue).

Top Total Offense Totals Since 1963 -

-720vs. Navy, 1969
-680vs. Air Force, 1977
-673vs. Illinois, 1968
-667vs. Georgia Tech, 1977
-663vs. Stanford, 2005**
-650vs. Washington, 1996
-650vs. Michigan State, 1991
-648vs. Rutgers, 1996
-636vs. Purdue, 1972
-633vs. Purdue, 1970
-630vs. Navy, 1987

12.621vs. Purdue, 2005

Team Records in Jeopardy

Notre Dame is on pace to break several team single-season offensive records this season. Here is an overview of the team records that may fall (or have already fallen) this season -

Record	Number (Year)	Current Team Total
Pass Attempts	411 (2003)	409
Pass Attempts Per Game	31.6 (2003)	37.1
Pass Completions	195 (2003)	265*
Pass Completions Per Game	16.2 (1970)	24.1
Completion Percentage	.638 (1993)	.648
Lowest Interception Percentage	.016 (1996)	.019
Passing Yards	2,858 (1999)	3,677*
Passing Yards Per Game	252.7 (1970)	334.3
Touchdown Passes	21 (1994)	32*
Total Offense Attempts	924 (1970)	872
Total Offense Yards	5,467 (1991)	5,308
Total Offense Yards Per Attempt	6.59 (1991)	6.17
Total Points	426 (1991)	420
Points Per Game	37.6 (1968)	38.2
Touchdowns	59	55
Touchdowns Per Game	5.3 (1949)	5.0
Extra Points	57 (1991)	52

* - indicates record already broken

An Eye on Career Records

Most Passes Attempted

- Brady Quinn1090 .2003-present
- Ron Powlus9691994-97
- Steve Beuerlein8501983-86
- Rick Mirer6981989-92
- Blair Kiel6091980-83

Most Passes Completed

- Brady Quinn611 .2003-present
- Ron Powlus5581994-97
- Steve Beuerlein4731983-86
- Rick Mirer3771989-92
- Jarius Jackson3061996-99

Most Passing Yards

- Brady Quinn8050 .2003-present
- Ron Powlus76021994-97
- Steve Beuerlein65271983-86
- Rick Mirer59971989-92
- Jarius Jackson48201996-99

Most Touchdown Passes

- Brady Quinn58 .2003-present
- Ron Powlus521994-97
- Rick Mirer411989-92
- Jarius Jackson341996-99
- Joe Theismann311968-70

Most Games with 250+ Passing Yards

- Brady Quinn15 .2003-present
- Jarius Jackson91996-99
- Steve Beuerlein81983-86
- Ron Powlus81994-97
- Joe Theismann51968-70

Average Rushing Yards Per Game

- Autry Denson89.91995-98
- Allen Pinkett89.81982-85
- Darius Walker86.0 .2004-present
- Vagas Ferguson73.91976-79
- George Gipp73.11917-20

Most Pass Receptions

- Tom Gatewood1571969-71
- Jim Seymour1381966-68
- Tim Brown1371984-87
- Derrick Mayes1291992-95
- Ken MacAfee1281974-77
- Maurice Stovall1212002-present

Continued on page 11...

Graduation Rate

The University of Notre Dame **ranks among the top three Division I-A institutions** in five major student-athlete graduation rate categories – overall, football, men, women and African-American – according to statistics released in October 2004 by the NCAA.

The federally mandated '04 NCAA Graduation Rates Report, the 14th such survey issued by the association, covers students who enrolled between '94 and '97 at Division I institutions, including 117 in Division I-A. The NCAA bases graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered non-graduates.

Among student-athletes who completed all four years of athletic eligibility at Notre Dame, 99 percent earned their degrees. The national average was 84 percent.

Using the NCAA formula, Notre Dame graduated a four-year average of 87 percent of its student-athletes, second only to Duke University at 90 percent, and tied with Stanford and Northwestern Universities. The national average for Division I-A schools is 61 percent.

In August '03, the NCAA presented an Academic Achievement Award to Notre Dame for its best-in-the-nation one-year graduation rate of 92 percent for all student-athletes who enrolled in '96.

Notre Dame graduated 71 percent of its African-American student-athletes, ranking ninth nationally, and Irish football players graduated at a 77 percent rate, to rank eighth.

All Student-Athletes

1.	Duke	90%
2.	(tie) Notre Dame	87
	(tie) Northwestern	87
	(tie) Stanford	87

Male Student-Athletes

1.	Duke	88%
2.	Stanford	84
3.	Notre Dame	82

Female Student-Athletes

1.	Northwestern	96%
2.	Duke	95
3.	Notre Dame	94

First-Year Players Seeing Significant Time

Through 11 games of the 2005 season, Notre Dame has seen 28 players make their Irish playing debut. Included in the 28 players are 11 true freshmen from Notre Dame's 15-player class signed last year. The complete list of players that have played for the first time this season: James Bent, Justin Brown, David Bruton*, Craig Cardillo, Dan Chervanick, Maurice Crum, Jr., Casey Cullen, Paul Duncan*, Leo Ferrine, David Fitzgerald, David Grimes*, LaBrose Hedgemon III, Ray Herring*, Joey Hiben*, D.J. Hord*, Pat Kuntz*, Terrail Lambert, Ashley McConnell, Marty Mooney, Steve Quinn * Asaph Schwapp*, Dwight Stephenson, Jr., Scott Smith*, Ronald Talley, Michael Turkovich*, Anthony Vernaglia and Rich Whitney III.

* - indicates true freshman

Four Ranked Teams in Six Games

Including the Oct. 15 matchup with No. 1 USC, Notre Dame faced four ranked teams (according to the AP ranking) in this season's first six games for the fifth time in the program's history this year. Notre Dame won three of the games this year, taking down #23 Pittsburgh, #3 Michigan and #22 Purdue - all on the road.

Notre Dame faced a similar challenge in 2003, 2000, 1979 and 1953. The 1953 team (W, 28-21 at #6 Oklahoma; W, 24-14 vs. #15 Pittsburgh; W, 27-14 vs. #4 Georgia Tech; W, 38-7 vs. Navy) is the only Irish squad to win all four games.

Irish Third in Graduation Rates of Bowl Teams

The graduation rate for the Notre Dame football team ranks third among the 56 teams participating in post-season bowl games, according to a report prepared by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida.

With a 77 percent rate, Fiesta Bowl-bound Notre Dame trailed only Northwestern University at 83 percent and Boston College at 78 percent. Notre Dame and Penn State (74 percent) were the only teams in the four Bowl Championship Series games with graduation rates higher than 58 percent.

Notre Dame ranked second at 76 percent in the graduation rate of African-American football players. Northwestern was first at 90 percent.

Nearly half of the teams had an overall graduation rate for football players of 50 percent or less, and two-thirds graduated less than half their African-American football players.

The report used NCAA data from a year ago which based graduation rates on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who left school or transferred, regardless of academic standing, were considered non-graduates.

Among student-athletes, including football players, who completed all four years of athletic eligibility at Notre Dame, 99 percent earned their degrees.

The Central Florida study also used the NCAA's new Academic Progress Report (APR) to evaluate this year's bowl-bound football teams, and Notre Dame again fared well with a score of 934. Forty-one percent of the teams fell below the NCAA benchmark of 925.

Starting next year, universities that regularly fall below the 925 score can lose scholarships, face recruiting restrictions and be barred from post-season participation.

Schedule Transformation

Notre Dame faced a daunting schedule at the start of the 2005 season, but the Irish slate ended up transforming itself during the course of the season. Here is a look at the 2005 campaign game by game, with team rankings from when the game was played. (Rankings are AP/*USA Today*/Harris Interactive)

Date	ND Rank	Opponent	Opponent Rank	Notes
Sept. 3	NR	Pittsburgh	23/25	Pitt loses first three before finishing 5-3
Sept. 10	20/23	Michigan	3/3	UM starts season 3-3, finishes 4-1
Sept. 17	10/12	Michigan State	NR	MSU begins 4-0, finishes 1-6
Sept. 24	16/18	Washington	NR	Huskies finish with a 2-9 record
Oct. 1	13/14/13	Purdue	22/20/22	Ranked in top 10 after 2-0 start, PU loses six straight before winning last three games
Oct. 15	9/9/8	USC	1/1/1	Irish and Trojans battle to the final whistle
Oct. 22	9/12/11	BYU	NR	BYU wins five of last seven, Las Vegas Bowl-bound
Nov. 5	8/9/9	Tennessee	NR	UT fails to go to a bowl game for first time since '88
Nov. 12	7/7/7	Navy	NR	Midshipmen Poinsettia Bowl bound with 7-4 record
Nov. 19	6/7/6	Syracuse	NR	Orange finish with one win under new head coach
Nov. 26	6/6/5	Stanford	NR	Irish 38-31 victory prevents bowl trip for Cardinal

Notre Dame's Solid Start in 2005

Notre Dame's three victories over ranked opponents all have occurred on the road this season - and all on the opponent's home field. That marks the first time Notre Dame has defeated three ranked teams on the road since 2002 (vs. #21 Maryland, at #18 Air Force, at #11 Florida State), but the first time since 1990 that feat has been achieved on the opponents' home fields (at #24 Michigan State, at #9 Tennessee, at #18 USC).

The three ranked victories also occurred in the first five games of the year. The 2005 season marks the 11th time Notre Dame has faced three ranked opponents in its first five games of the season - and the '05 season is the first time since 1980 (vs. #13 Miami, vs. #14 Michigan and vs. #9 Purdue) that the team has won all three such games in five attempts (1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2003).

Notre Dame Closing Gap in All-Time Winning Percentage

Notre Dame's recent final win/loss records ended up pushing the Irish out of the top spot in college football's all-time winning percentage list. Notre Dame is currently second on the all-time winning percentage and all-time wins list behind Michigan, but the winning percentage gap has narrowed. Michigan, with its regular season 7-4 record will face Nebraska in the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 28, is currently 849-279-36 all-time for a winning percentage of .7448.

The Irish are 9-2 and 811-265-42 all-time for a winning percentage of .7442. The Notre Dame - Michigan bowl game outcomes will determine ownership of the all-time winning percentage mark until the 2006 season.

Notre Dame Winning Time-of-Possession Battle

While Notre Dame's offense has been piling up the yardage this season (averaging 489.09 yards per game), it also has won the time of possession battle in nine of 11 games this season. Only BYU (33:39) and Navy (31:35) have been able to hold the ball for more than 30 minutes against Notre Dame. Overall, Notre Dame averages 33:11 minutes per game with the ball, compared to 26:49 for its opponents. Here is a game-by-game breakdown:

Game	Notre Dame	Opponent
at Pitt	32:46	27:14
at Mich	30:56	29:04
MSU	35:49	24:11
Wash	36:56	23:04
Purdue	36:03	23:57
USC	38:40	21:20
BYU	26:21	33:39
Tennessee	32:12	27:48
Navy	28:25	31:35
Syracuse	32:13	27:47
Stanford	34:35	25:25

An Eye on Career Records cont. from p. 9

Most Receiving Yards

1. Derrick Mayes2,5121992-95
2. Tim Brown2,4931984-87
3. Tom Gatewood2,2831969-71
4. Jim Seymour2,1131966-68
5. • Maurice Stovall2,069 .2002-present
6. Tony Hunter1,8971979-82
7. Ken MacAfee1,7591974-77
8. Malcolm Johnson1,7371995-98
9. • Jeff Samardzija1,553 ..2003-present
10. Bobby Brown1,5211996-99
11. • Rhema McKnight1,504 ...2002-present

Most Receiving Touchdowns

1. Derrick Mayes221992-95
2. Tom Gatewood191969-71
3. • Maurice Stovall182002-present
4. Jim Seymour161966-68
5. • Jeff Samardzija152003-present
- Ken MacAfee151974-77
7. Tim Brown121984-87
- Bobby Brown121996-99
9. Malcolm Johnson101995-98
10. Jack Snow91962-64
11. • Anthony Fasano82003-present

Most Receptions by a Tight End

1. Ken MacAfee1281974-77
2. • Anthony Fasano90 ..2003-present
3. Derek Brown621988-91
- Dean Masztak621978-81
5. Mark Bavaro551981-84
- Tony Hunter551979-82

Most Tackles

1. Bob Crable5211978-81
2. Bob Golic4791975-78
3. Steve Heimkreiter3981975-78
4. Bob Olson3691967-69
5. Tony Furjanic3611982-85
8. • Brandon Hoyte287 ..2002-present

Most Points Scored

1. Allen Pinkett3201982-85
2. Craig Hentrich2941989-92
3. Autry Denson2821995-98
4. Louis Salmon2501900-03
5. Nicholas Setta2482000-03
10. • D.J. Fitzpatrick207 ..2002-present

• - indicates current players

Future Schedules

2006

Sept. 2.....at Georgia Tech
 Sept. 9PENN STATE
 Sept. 16MICHIGAN
 Sept. 23at Michigan State
 Sept. 30PURDUE
 Oct. 7STANFORD
 Oct. 21UCLA
 Oct. 28Navy (at Baltimore)
 Nov. 4.....NORTH CAROLINA
 Nov. 11at Air Force
 Nov. 18.....ARMY
 Nov. 25at USC

2007

Sept. 1GEORGIA TECH
 Sept. 8at Penn State
 Sept. 15.....at Michigan
 Sept. 22MICHIGAN STATE
 Sept. 29at Purdue
 Oct. 6at UCLA
 Oct. 13BOSTON COLLEGE
 Oct. 20USC
 Nov. 3NAVY
 Nov. 10AIR FORCE
 Nov. 17DUKE
 Nov. 24at Stanford

Notre Dame Special Teams Captains

at PittsburghTravis Thomas (Jr., RB)
 at MichiganCasey Cullen (Jr., DL)
 vs. Michigan State.....Tom Zbikowski (Jr., S)
 at WashingtonJohn Carlson (Jr., TE)
 at Purdue.....Chase Anastasio (Jr., WR)
 vs. USCTrevor Laws (Jr., DL)
 vs. BYUTom Zbikowski (Jr., S)
 vs. TennesseeD.J. Fitzpatrick (Sr., K/P)
 vs. NavyTom Zbikowski (Jr., S)
 vs. SyracuseD.J. Fitzpatrick (Sr., K/P)
 at Stanford.....Chase Anastasio (Jr., WR)
 vs. Ohio State (Fiesta Bowl).....TBA

Notre Dame in the Bowl Championship Series

Notre Dame moved up to sixth in the Dec. 4 release of the final BCS Standings (available on page 26 of this notes package). That marks the highest-ever BCS ranking for the team since the team was rated sixth on Nov. 17, 2002. The Irish eventually appeared in the Gator Bowl that season.

Notre Dame automatically qualified for an at-large berth in the BCS this season by finishing with nine wins and in the top six of the final BCS rankings.

Notre Dame's BCS Rankings -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Week of Ranking</u>	<u>Date of Release</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Week of Ranking</u>	<u>Date of Release</u>
6	2005	8	Dec. 4, 2005	7	2002	4	Nov. 11, 2002
8	2005	7	Nov. 28, 2005	7	2002	3	Nov. 4, 2002
8	2005	6	Nov. 21, 2005	3	2002	2	Oct. 28, 2002
9	2005	5	Nov. 14, 2005	3	2002	1	Oct. 21, 2002
11	2005	4	Nov. 7, 2005	11	2000	7	Dec. 3, 2000
14	2005	3	Oct. 31, 2005	11	2000	6	Nov. 27, 2000
15	2005	2	Oct. 24, 2005	11	2000	5	Nov. 20, 2000
16	2005	1	Oct. 17, 2005	11	2000	4	Nov. 13, 2000
25	2004	4	Nov. 8, 2004	12	2000	3	Nov. 6, 2000
23	2004	1	Nov. 18, 2004	14	2000	2	Oct. 30, 2000
9	2002	8	Dec. 8, 2002	9	1998	5	Nov. 23, 1998
10	2002	7	Dec. 2, 2002	10	1998	4	Nov. 16, 1998
7	2002	6	Nov. 25, 2002	12	1998	3	Nov. 9, 1998
6	2002	5	Nov. 18, 2002	13	1998	2	Nov. 2, 1998
				16	1998	1	Oct. 26, 1998

The Drive

Trailing by a single point 31-30 late in the game at Stanford on Saturday, Nov. 26, Notre Dame put together a textbook, last-minute drive to rally back and take the lead for good in its 38-31 victory over the Cardinal.

Receiving the ball with 1:46 remaining and two timeouts left, Notre Dame raced down the field to secure its eligibility for a BCS bowl game and deny Stanford its own bowl eligibility and a victory in the last game at Stanford Stadium.

The final drive play by play -

- 1st and 10 at the ND 20 - Brady Quinn 30-yard pass to Jeff Samardzija
- 1st and 10 at the ND 50 - Quinn 17-yard pass to Samardzija
- 1st and 10 at the Stanford 33 - Quinn rush for three yards
- 2nd and 7 at the Stanford 30 - Quinn 21-yard pass to Maurice Stovall, pass interference declined
- 1st and G at the Stanford 9 - Darius Walker rush for three yards
- 2nd and G at the Stanford 6 - Walker six-yard rush up the middle for the touchdown
- Two-point conversion - Walker takes the direct snap up the middle for two points
- Drive Stats: six plays, 80 yards, 0:51 elapsed, four first downs (three passing, one rushing)

Stovall Making the Most of His Senior Season

Senior WR **Maurice Stovall** is enjoying a career year in his last season with the Fighting Irish. The Philadelphia, Pa., native is second on the team with 60 catches for 1,023 yards and 11 touchdowns. He became the fourth Notre Dame player to reach 1,000 yards receiving in a season at Stanford - the same game in which teammate Jeff Samardzija became the third player to accomplish that feat. With a total of 11 touchdown catches, Stovall is tied with Derrick Mayes (11, 1994) and trails teammate Jeff Samardzija (15, 2005) on the single-season record list at Notre Dame.

Here is a look at Stovall's production game-by-game this season -

Stovall Game By Game in 2005:

Opponent	Rec.	Yards	TD
at Pittsburgh.....	2	27	0
at Michigan	2	17	0
vs. Michigan State	8	176	1
at Washington	3	34	0
at Purdue	8	134	0
USC	3	30	0
BYU	14	207	4
Tennessee.....	2	41	1
Navy	8	130	3
Syracuse.....	3	91	1
Stanford	7	136	1

Stovall Moving Up the Career Charts

Senior WR Maurice Stovall currently sits in the top six for career receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns at Notre Dame. His offensive explosion (605 yards, 10 touchdowns) in the last five games has hastened his climb up the Irish all-time career charts.

Career Receptions

1. Tom Gatewood1571969-71
2. Jim Seymour1381966-68
3. Tim Brown1371984-87
4. Derrick Mayes.....1291992-95
5. Ken MacAfee.....1281974-77
- 6. Maurice Stovall.. 1212002-present**
7. Tony Hunter1201979-82

Career Receiving Yards

1. Derrick Mayes2,5121992-95
2. Tim Brown2,4931984-97
3. Tom Gatewood2,2831969-71
4. Jim Seymour2,1131966-68
- 5. Maurice Stovall..2,0692002-present**
6. Tony Hunter1,8971979-82

Career Touchdown Receptions

1. Derrick Mayes221992-95
2. Tom Gatewood191969-71
- 3. Maurice Stovall.. 182002-present**
4. Jim Seymour161966-68

Mo (Stovall) and Shark (Samardzija) - A Dynamic Duo

Senior WR Maurice Stovall and junior WR Jeff Samardzija currently are the only two teammates in the country with double-digit touchdown catches and join Miami of Ohio's Ryne Robinson (1,119) and Martin Nance (1,107) as the only teammates in the country with 1,000 receiving yards. Samardzija has a school-record 15 scoring grabs, while Stovall has caught 10 in the last five games and 11 total. They are the first duo in Notre Dame history to post 10 or more touchdown receptions in the same season.

Both players also rank well on the national charts - here is a breakdown of the national leaders for touchdown receptions -

1. Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame15

- Dwayne Jarrett, USC15
- 2. Greg Jennings, W. Michigan14
- Martin Nance, Miami (Ohio)14
- Davone Bess, Hawaii14
- Dwayne Jarrett, USC14
- Steve Sanders, Bowling Green14
- 7. Sam Hurde, Northern Illinois.....13
- 8. Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming.....12
- Sam Hurd, Northern Illinois.....12
- Sidney Rice, South Carolina.....12

11. Maurice Stovall, Notre Dame.....11

- Reggie Lindsey, UAB11
- 13. Demetrius Williams, Oregon10
- James Hardy, Indiana10
- Santonio Holmes, Ohio State10
- Mercedes Lewis, UCLA10

Defensive Rushing Performance at Stanford Best in 37 Years

With two dramatic sacks by Victor Abiamiri to snuff out Stanford's final drive on Nov. 26, the Irish defense ended up holding the Cardinal to minus-11-yards rushing. The performance marks the best for the Irish since the 1968 team held Georgia Tech to minus-42 in a 34-6 victory.

Here are some other notable defensive rushing performances, including the school-record -

- 51 by Wisconsin - 1964
- 42 by Georgia Tech - 1968
- 12 by USC - 1966
- 7 by SMU - 1989
- 7 by Navy - 1986
- 6 by Rutgers - 1996
- 6 by Miami (Fla.) - 1976
- 4 by Illinois - 1967

Quinn and the Notre Dame Record Book

Junior QB **Brady Quinn**, in his third full year as the Irish starter, already has made a lasting mark on the Irish football record book. Here is a quick overview of some of his accomplishments and rankings all-time at Notre Dame (additional records broken are listed on page 32 of this notes package):

Touchdown Passes, Single Game - 6 - vs. BYU, the school record, breaking his previous mark of five posted earlier this season against Michigan State.

Touchdown Passes, Career - 58 - first on the all-time list ahead of Ron Powlus (52 from 1994-97).

Touchdown Passes, Season - 32 - the Notre Dame single-season record, breaking Powlus' mark of 19 from 1994.

Completions, Single Game - 33 - vs. Michigan State, matched Joe Theismann's school record from the 1970 game at USC. Quinn completed 32 passes against BYU on Oct. 22.

Consecutive Completions - 12 - vs. BYU, second on the all-time list (matching Jarious Jackson) behind Ron Powlus' 14 straight against Michigan State in 1997. Quinn has posted three consecutive completion streaks over 10 this season (11 at Pittsburgh and at Purdue, 12 vs. BYU).

Consecutive Passes Without an Interception - 130 - compiled vs. USC, BYU, Tennessee and Navy this season, breaking the old record of 127 by Carlyle Holiday during the 2002 season.

Passing Yards, Single Game - 487 - vs. Michigan State, second all-time behind Theismann's 526 at USC in '70.

Passing Yards, First Half - 287 - vs. BYU, breaking his own record of 283 against Purdue earlier this season.

Passing Yards, Single Season - 3,633 - besting Jarious Jackson's school-record 2,753 from 1999.

Passing Yards, Career - 8,050 - breaking Powlus' mark of 7,602.

Passing Attempts, Single Season - 405 - breaking his own mark of 332 from 2003.

Passing Attempts, Career - 1,090 - passing Powlus (969).

Pass Completions, Single Season - 263 - breaking his own mark of 195 from 2004.

Pass Completions, Career - 611 - passing Powlus (558).

Games with Four or More Touchdown Passes - 4 - surpassing Powlus' mark of three. Quinn has thrown at least four touchdown passes against Washington (2004), Michigan State (2005), BYU (2005) and Navy (2005).

Games with 250+ Passing Yards - 15 - beaking Jackson's record of nine from 1996-99.

Passes Without An Interception, Game - 41 vs. BYU, breaking Steve Beuerlein's record of 39 against Penn State in 1986.

And here are the records he is currently on pace to break -

Passing Attempts Per Game, Season - 36.8 currently, would break his own record of 29.4 from 2004.

Passing Attempts Per Game, Career - 31.1 currently, would break Powlus' record of 22.0.

Pass Completions Per Game, Season - 23.9 currently, would break Terry Hanratty's 16.6 from 1968.

Pass Completions Per Game, Career - 17.5 currently, would break Powlus' record of 12.6.

Consecutive Games Completing A Pass - 35 - tied for second all-time, behind Powlus' 43 games.

Completion Percentage, Season - 64.9 currently, would break Kevin McDougal's record of 61.6 from 1993.

Completion Percentage, Career - 56.1 currently, behind McDougal's 62.2 from 1990-93.

Pass Efficiency Rating, Season - 162.91 currently, ahead of John Huarte's 155.1 from 1964.

Avg. Passing Yards Per Game, Season - 330.3 - far ahead of Joe Theismann's 242.9 from 1970.

Avg. Passing Yards Per Game, Career - 230.0 - currently first on the all-time list ahead of Powlus (172.7).

Quinn - Notre Dame Yardage King

Junior QB **Brady Quinn** already has surpassed the school records for single-season yardage gained (3,755) and career yardage gained (8,193), surpassing both records against Syracuse on Nov. 19.

Quinn broke Jarious Jackson's total yardage mark from 1999 (3,217) and Ron Powlus' career yardage mark (7,479) from 1994-97.

College Graduates

The 2005 Notre Dame roster features six players who have already earned their undergraduate degree from the University. Fifth-year seniors Brian Beidatsch, D.J. Fitzpatrick, Mark LeVoi, Corey Mays, Rashon Powers-Neal, Matt Shelton and Dan Stevenson all graduated from Notre Dame in May of 2005. Teammate and current fifth-year player Brandon Hoyte would be among the group if he was not busy seeking DUAL degrees in psychology and management.

The fifth-year senior group also proved to be diligent workers in the classroom - especially in their final undergraduate semester at the University. None of the players earned lower than a 2.7 GPA in the spring semester of 2005.

Here is a list of the graduates on the 2005 Notre Dame football team -

- DL Brian Beidatsch - degree in marketing from the Mendoza College of Business (3.417 final semester GPA).
- K/P D.J. Fitzpatrick - degree in accounting from the Mendoza College of Business.
- OL Mark LeVoi - degree in anthropology from the College of Arts and Letters.
- LB Corey Mays - degree in psychology from the College of Arts and Letters (3.25 final semester GPA, 3.04 overall GPA).
- WR Matt Shelton - degree in marketing from the Mendoza College of Business (3.333 final semester GPA).
- OL Dan Stevenson - degree in marketing from the Mendoza College of Business (3.60 final semester GPA, 3.30 overall GPA).

Notre Dame's seven college graduates is tied for the sixth-best in the nation. The full list (minimum of six) -

Miami (Fla.)	11
Auburn, Boston College	9
LSU, Virginia Tech	8
Alabama, Arizona State, Kentucky	7
Arkansas, Michigan State	6
Notre Dame	6

Quinn 300

Since 1950, a Notre Dame quarterback has thrown for 300 yards or more 16 times. Junior QB **Brady Quinn** is responsible for seven of those performances - the most for any single Notre Dame quarterback. Quinn has thrown for 350 (vs. Boston College, 2003), 432 (vs. Purdue, 2004), 487 (vs. Michigan State, 2005), 327 (at Washington, 2005), 440 (at Purdue, 2005), 467 (vs. BYU, 2005) and 432 (at Stanford, 2005).

Quinn is the only Notre Dame quarterback to throw for over 400 yards five times in a career (in fact, he is the only one to do it twice) - and in Notre Dame's road game at Purdue in 2005 he became the first Irish signalcaller to throw for more than 300 yards in three consecutive games. He also is the first Irish quarterback to throw for 300 or more yards four times in a season.

Quinn Game By Game in 2005:

Opponent	Att.	Comp.	%	Int.	Yds.	TD	Long
at Pittsburgh	27	18	.667	1	227	2	51
at Michigan	30	19	.633	0	140	2	26
vs. Michigan State	60	33	.550	1	487	5	50
at Washington	37	25	.675	0	327	1	52
at Purdue	36	29	.805	1	440	3	55
vs. USC	35	19	.542	1	264	1	36
vs. BYU	41	32	.780	0	467	6*	44
vs. Tennessee	33	20	.606	0	295	3	73
vs. Navy	31	22	.710	1	284	4	31
vs. Syracuse	37	21	.567	0	270	2	41
at Stanford	38	25	.658	2	432	3	80

TOTAL 405* 263* .649 7 3633* 32* 80

Per Game 36.8 23.9 .64 330.3 2.9

Other Pass Efficiency: 162.91

* - Notre Dame record

Quinn On A Streak

Junior QB **Brady Quinn** has thrown at least one touchdown pass in his last 16 games played (and started) for the Irish, breaking John Huarte's record of 10 set in 1964. The Dublin, Ohio, native has totaled 40 scoring tosses during the run (2.5 per game).

Quinn's touchdown passes over the last 16 games:

2005 - 3 at Stanford, 2 vs. Syracuse, 4 vs. Navy 3 vs. Tennessee, 6 vs. BYU, 1 vs. USC, 3 at Purdue, 1 at Washington, 5 vs. Michigan State, 2 at Michigan, 2 at Pittsburgh

2004 - 2 vs. Oregon State (Insight Bowl), 1 at USC, 3 vs. Pittsburgh, 1 at Tennessee, 1 vs. Boston College

Quinn Throws Six

Junior QB **Brady Quinn** became the first Notre Dame quarterback to throw six touchdown passes in a single game against BYU on Oct. 22. Quinn finished the game 32 of 41 for 467 yards, six touchdowns and no interceptions. It ranks as possibly the greatest single-game performance by a Notre Dame quarterback and earned Quinn the ABC Sports/Cingular All-American Player of the Week award for the second time in 2005 (he also earned the award after his stellar performance at Purdue).

Quinn broke his own school record of five touchdown passes set earlier this season against Michigan State.

Quinn's touchdown passes vs. BYU:

- 10 yards to Maurice Stovall, first quarter, 7:12
- 14 yards to Jeff Samardzija, second quarter, 10:33
- 15 yards to Stovall, second quarter, 4:18
- 21 yards to Samardzija, third quarter, 12:50
- 36 yards to Stovall, third quarter, 4:47
- 24 yards to Stovall, third quarter, 2:16

Notre Dame Stadium Greatest Wins

As part of Notre Dame Stadium's 75th Anniversary in 2005, www.und.com, the official athletics website of the Fighting Irish, asked fans to vote for the most memorable victory in Notre Dame Stadium.

Voting was done over the summer on www.und.com and tabulated on Aug. 1. Here are some trends from the voting:

- According to voters, the greatest era in Notre Dame Stadium history was 1988 through 1993. Seven of the top 10 games fall into this time frame, including the top three choices by fans (1988 vs. #1 Miami, 1993 vs. #1 Florida State and 1990 vs. #2 Miami).

- Wins over longtime rivals (USC, Michigan) resonate among the Irish faithful. Twelve of the top 20 games selected were wins over USC (six) and Michigan (six).

- Signature moments cause a game to stand out in Notre Dame fans' memories. "The Snow Bowl" (Notre Dame vs. Penn State in 1992) was ranked fifth. "The Green Jersey Game" (Notre Dame vs. USC in 1977) was ranked fourth. "The Reggie Ho Game" (Notre Dame vs. Michigan in 1988) was ranked sixth. "The Harry 'O' Kick" (Notre Dame vs. Michigan in 1980) was ranked 10th.

- The new configuration of Notre Dame Stadium (rededicated in 1997) has yet to see its share of greatest victories. Notre Dame's recent upset wins over Michigan (2002 and 2004) were 11th and 12th on the list, but a win over Purdue (1998) was only able to break into the top 30.

- Notre Dame fans remember recent games more fondly than those played in the past. Of the top 20 games selected, only six were played before 1977.

Here is a list of the final top 10 as voted on by Irish fans on www.und.com (see the web page for short recaps on each victory).

1. #4 Notre Dame 31, #1 Miami 30, Oct. 15, 1988
2. #2 Notre Dame 31, #1 Fla. St. 24, Nov. 13, 1993
3. #6 Notre Dame 29, #2 Miami 20, Oct. 20, 1990
4. #11 Notre Dame 49, #5 USC 19, Oct. 22, 1977
5. #8 Notre Dame 17, #22 Penn St. 16, Nov. 14, 1992
6. #13 Notre Dame 19, #9 Michigan 17, Sept. 10, 1988
7. #1 Notre Dame 28, #4 Michigan 24, Sept. 15, 1990
8. #1 Notre Dame 28, #9 USC 24, Oct. 21, 1989
9. #8 Notre Dame 23, #6 USC 14, Oct. 27, 1973
10. #8 Notre Dame 29, #14 Michigan 27, Sept. 20, 1980

www.und.com also will have a complete list of the top 20 games as voted on by the fans.

Quinn Throws 21 in Notre Dame Stadium

Junior QB **Brady Quinn** shattered the Notre Dame record for touchdown passes at Notre Dame Stadium this season, exploding for 21 scoring tosses this season - 5 vs. Michigan State, 1 vs. USC, 6 vs. BYU, 3 vs. Tennessee, 4 vs. Navy, 2 vs. Syracuse.

The previous record for touchdown passes in Notre Dame Stadium in a single-season was 11 by Ron Powlus (1994) and Jarious Jackson (1999). Quinn's performance at home this season has been so dominating that his total home field touchdown passes would have broken the previous single-season record, regardless of venue, of 19 held by Ron Powlus (1994). Quinn has thrown 11 touchdown passes in five road games this season (32 total).

Quinn Now the Best Third-Year Starting Quarterback

In 2005, junior **Brady Quinn** has become just the 13th quarterback in Notre Dame history to start under center for three years. The following is a list of Quinn's predecessors, along with their stats (when available) from their third starting season. In the 12 seasons played by three-year starting Irish quarterbacks, prior to Quinn's '05 season, the group amassed a 90-30-4 combined record.

Quinn has already compiled the greatest season by any third-year starting quarterback in Notre Dame history. He has surpassed his predecessors in every key statistical category this season.

Player	Year	Att.-Comp.	Yards	TD-Int.	Record
Nate Silver	1905				5-4
Gus Dorais	1912				7-0
Jim Phelan	1917				6-1-1
Ralph Guglielmi	1954	127-68	1160	6-7	9-1
Daryl Lamonica	1962	128-64	821	6-7	5-5
Terry Hanratty	1968	197-116	1466	10-9	7-2-1
Tom Clements	1974	215-122	1549	8-11	10-2
Blair Kiel	1982	219-118	1273	3-10	6-4-1
Steve Beuerlein	1985	214-107	1335	3-13	5-6
Tony Rice	1989	138-70	1176	8-7	12-1
Rick Mirer	1992	234-120	1876	15-6	10-1-1
Ron Powlus	1996	232-133	1942	12-4	8-3
<i>Brady Quinn</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>405-263</i>	<i>3633</i>	<i>32-7</i>	<i>9-2</i>

Quinn a Touchdown Machine

Junior QB **Brady Quinn** has accounted for two or more touchdowns in 10 of Notre Dame's 11 games this season (a single touchdown pass at Washington was the lone exception) and currently rides an eight-game streak of multiple touchdown performances - three (passing) at Purdue, two (one run, one pass) vs. USC, six (passing) vs. BYU, three (passing) vs. Tennessee, four (passing) vs. Navy, two (passing) vs. Syracuse and three (passing) at Stanford.

Notre Dame Players in the NFL

As of Nov. 17 and according to official team web sites, 31 Notre Dame football alumni have landed on a roster in the National Football League.

Here is the complete list of Irish players who were named to final rosters in the NFL this season (years in the league):

- Arnaz Battle, WR, San Francisco (3)
- Bertrand Berry, DL, Arizona (8)
- Jerome Bettis, RB, Pittsburgh (13)
- Jordan Black, OL, Kansas City (3)
- Rocky Boiman, LB, Tennessee (4)
- John Carney, K, New Orleans (16)
- Deke Cooper, DB, Jacksonville (4)
- Glenn Earl, DB, Houston (2)
- Jeff Faine, OL, Cleveland (3)
- Tony Fisher, RB, Green Bay (4)
- Mike Gandy, OL, Buffalo (4)
- David Givens, WR, New England (4)
- Paul Grasmanis, DL, Philadelphia (10)
- Craig Hentrich, K/P, Tennessee (12)
- Grant Irons, DL, Oakland (4)
- Julius Jones, RB, Dallas (1)
- Lance Legree, DL, NY Jets (5)
- Sean Mahan, OL, Tampa Bay (3)
- Jim Molinaro, OL, Washington (1)
- Luke Petitgout, OL, NY Giants (7)
- Mike Rosenthal, OL, Minnesota (6)
- Allen Rossum, DB, Atlanta (8)
- Gerome Sapp, DB, Indianapolis (3)
- Hunter Smith, P/K, Indianapolis (7)
- Justin Tuck, DL, NY Giants (R)
- Courtney Watson, LB, New Orleans (2)
- Anthony Weaver, DL, Baltimore (4)
- Renaldo Wynn, DL, Washington (8)
- Bryant Young, DL, San Francisco (12)

Practice Squad Players

- Carlyle Holiday, WR, Arizona
- Jim Jones, OL, Pittsburgh (2)

Others Signed Since Start of '05 Season

- Darrell Campbell, DT, Chicago
- Kurt Vollers, OL, Indianapolis

Samardzija the Record Setter

Junior WR **Jeff Samardzija** is enjoying a career season in 2005, leading the team with 71 catches for 1,190 yards and 15 touchdowns. He is ranked fourth in the country in receiving yards per game (108.2) and became Notre Dame's first 1,000-yard receiver since 1970 on an 80-yard touchdown pass against Stanford on Nov. 26. Samardzija eventually broke Tom Gatewood's single-season receiving yardage record against Stanford, pushing his season total to 1,190 yards.

He has already surpassed the single-season touchdown total. His 15 scoring receptions led the nation and have bested Derrick Mayes' previous record of 11 from 1994

Touchdown Receptions in a Season -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Season</u>
1.....	Jeff Samardzija	15	2005
2.....	Maurice Stovall	11	2005
	.....Derrick Mayes.....	11	.....1994
4.....	Jack Snow.....	9	.....1964
5.....	Jim Seymour.....	8	.....1966

Receiving Yards in a Season -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Season</u>
1.....	Jeff Samardzija	1,190	.....2005
2.....	Tom Gatewood	.....1,123	.....1970
3.....	Jack Snow	.....1,114	.....1964
4.....	Maurice Stovall	1,023	.....2005
5.....	Tim Brown	.....910	.....1985

Samardzija Finishes Eight for First Eight in 2005

Junior WR **Jeff Samardzija** entered the 2005 campaign without a touchdown catch, but exploded this season to catch a touchdown pass in each of Notre Dame's first eight games. The two-sport athlete (who was a top-line starting pitcher for the Irish baseball team last season) became the first Irish receiver to begin the season with eight consecutive games with a touchdown catch - which made him the Notre Dame recordholder for consecutive games with a touchdown reception. He surpassed Malcolm Johnson's six-game run from 1998 against BYU. Johnson caught a scoring toss in six straight midseason contests (Arizona State, Army, Baylor, Boston College, Navy and LSU) from Oct. 10 through Nov. 11, during the '98 season.

Samardzija, who also serves as the team's holder on field-goal attempts, tied a Notre Dame record with three touchdown receptions versus Michigan State (since broken by teammate Maurice Stovall, who posted four touchdown receptions against BYU). Samardzija was the seventh player to catch three touchdown passes in a game and the first since Tom Gatewood versus Purdue in 1970.

Zbikowski Returns

Junior **Tom Zbikowski**, who has seen action in just 22 games for the Irish, has already made a name for himself in the Notre Dame record books. At one point this season in a three-game stretch against USC, BYU and Tennessee, he returned a punt or interception for a touchdown four times - the first Irish defensive player to accomplish such a feat.

Here is a look at Zbikowski's scoring returns this season -

- vs. USC - punt return 60 yards
- vs. BYU - interception return 83 yards
- vs. Tennessee - punt return 78 yards, interception return 33 yards

In addition, Zbikowski returned a fumble 75 yards for a TD against Michigan State in 2004.

With his interception and punt return for a touchdown against Tennessee on Nov. 5, Zbikowski became the first Irish player to accomplish that feat since Nick Rassas against Northwestern in 1965. Rassas returned an interception 92 yards for a touchdown and a punt 72 yards for a score in Notre Dame's 38-7 victory.

With his five career TD returns (two interceptions, two punts, one fumble), Zbikowski already has established himself among the best big-play return specialists in Notre Dame history.

Walker Reaches 1,000 Yards In Dramatic Fashion

Sophomore running back Darius Walker became the ninth Irish player to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season against Stanford on Nov. 26. Walker surpassed the 1,000-yard barrier during a career-best 35-carry, 186-yard day during which he scored the winning touchdown and added a two-point conversion for the final scoring outcome. The nine players who previously rushed for 1,000 yards in a season combined to accomplish the feat 14 times.

Walker's outstanding day against Stanford pushed him into the top-10 all-time on the single-season rushing yardage list as well -

Notre Dame Single-Season Rushing Yardage Top 10

1. Vegas Ferguson, 19791,437
2. Allen Pinkett, 1983.....1,394
3. Reggie Brooks, 19921,343
4. Julius Jones, 20031,268
Autry Denson, 19971,268
6. Vegas Ferguson, 19781,192
7. Autry Denson, 19981,176
- 8. Darius Walker, 20051,106**
9. Allen Pinkett, 1984.....1,105
10. Ryan Grant, 20021,085

Walker's 100-Yard Games

Sophomore RB **Darius Walker** has rushed for 100 yards seven times this season, marking the first time since 1993 that an Irish player has posted seven or more 100-yard rushing performances in a season. Lee Becton ended the '93 campaign with seven consecutive 100-yard performances.

100-Yard Rushing Games in a Single Season Since 1950

1. Allen Pinkett101983
2. Phil Carter91980
3. Autry Denson81997
- 4. Darius Walker72005**
Lee Becton71993

Denson (1998), Denson (1996), Reggie Brooks (1992), Pinkett (1985), Vegas Ferguson (1979), Jerome Heavens (1977) all posted six 100-yard rushing performances.

Jinx?, What Jinx?

Sophomore running back **Darius Walker** set a Notre Dame freshman rushing record in 2004 with 786 yards, eclipsing the mark of 756 Jerome Heavens set in 1975, en route to earning third-team Freshman All-America honors from *The Sporting News*. Walker has turned in one of the finest statistical seasons ever by an Irish sophomore. Here's a look at how the top 10 rushers in Notre Dame history, plus a few other notables, fared in their sophomore year.

Player	Year	Carries-Yards	Avg.	TD
Allen Pinkett	1983	252-1394	5.5	16
Autry Denson	1996	202-1179	5.8	8
<i>Darius Walker</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>237-1106</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>6</i>
Ryan Grant	2002	261-1085	4.2	9
Jerome Bettis	1991	168-972	5.8	16
Phil Carter	1980	186-882	4.4	6
Randy Kinder	1994	119-702	5.9	4
Tony Brooks	1988	117-667	5.7	2
Julius Jones	2000	162-657	4.1	7
George Gipp	1918	98-541	5.5	1
Vegas Ferguson	1977	80-493	6.2	6
Emil Sitko	1947	60-426	7.1	5
Jerome Heavens	1976	54-204	3.8	0
Walker's Freshman Totals:				
	2004	185-786	4.3	7

Notre Dame Football By The Numbers

.744 - Notre Dame's winning percentage, the second-highest in the history of college football.

5 - College Football Hall of Fame Coaches - Jesse Harper, Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Ara Parseghian and Dan Devine.

7 - Heisman Trophy Winners - Angelo Bertelli (1943), Johnny Lujack (1947), Leon Hart (1949), John Lattner (1953), Paul Hornung (1956), John Huarte (1964) and Tim Brown (1987).

10 - Alumni named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

11 - National Championships - since the Associated Press poll began in 1936 (1943-46-47-49-66-73-77-88), the most of any other school. The Irish also earned consensus national titles in 1924, 1929 and 130 prior to the organization of the AP rankings, giving them 11 total consensus crowns.

12 - Unbeaten and untied seasons.

21 - Seasons in which the team has been voted the national champion by at least one selector.

26 - Bowl games in which the Irish have taken part, compiling a 13-13 record.

41 - College Football Hall of Fame Players.

98 - Percent graduation rate among football players who enter on scholarship and remain at least four years.

100 - Out of 117 years in which Notre Dame has finished with a winning record (including this season).

117 - Years of college football (including 2005).

810 - All-time victories, second all-time in college football.

Walker's Great Start

Sophomore RB **Darius Walker** started the 2005 season with four consecutive 100-yard performances. He ran for an even 100 yards at #23/25 Pittsburgh (42-21 Irish victory), posted 104 yards in a 17-10 victory at #3/3 Michigan, rushed for 116 yards against Michigan State (44-41 OT loss) and had a then-career-high 128 yards at Washington on Sept. 24. Purdue ended Walker's streak of 100-yard games at four by holding him to 80 yards on 23 carries.

The effort against Washington made Walker the first Irish running back to start the season with four consecutive 100-yard rushing performances. The last Notre Dame running back to rush for over 100 yards in four straight games was Randy Kinder, who rushed for 100 yards against Purdue (142), Vanderbilt (110), Texas (129) and Ohio State (143) in 1995.

Walker Game By Game in 2005:

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Carries</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Lng</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Receptions</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Lng</u>	<u>TD</u>
at Pittsburgh	20	100	11	1	3	52	51	1
at Michigan	26	104	17	0	5	22	9	0
vs. Michigan St.	26	116	16	0	5	24	7	1
at Washington	21	128	18	1	3	20	10	0
at Purdue	23	80	19	1	1	-2	0	0
vs. USC	19	72	20	0	4	43	26	0
vs. BYU	7	17	9	0	1	37	37	0
vs. Tennessee	15	62	12	0	4	34	15	0
vs. Navy	19	118	15	1	2	15	11	0
vs. Syracuse	26	123	37	1	3	14	7	0
at Stanford	35	186	38	1	5	55	18	0
TOTALS	237	1106	38	6	36	314	51	2

Walker Expanding His Game

While sophomore **Darius Walker** set the Notre Dame freshman rushing record last season (786 yards in '04), he was limited in his role in the Irish passing game (10 catches, 74 yards). He has already eclipsed those numbers in 2005, posting 36 catches (fourth on the team) for 314 yards and two touchdowns.

He is currently second on the all-time single-season receptions-by-a-back list at Notre Dame. He trails record holder Bob Gladieux (37 in 1968) by one reception entering the bowl season.

Receptions by a Running Back - Season

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Season</u>
1.	Bob Gladieux	37	1968
2.	Darius Walker	36.....	2005
3.	Autry Denson	30	1997
4.	Joe Heap	29	1952
	Allen Pinkett	28	1983
6.	Marc Edwards.....	25	1995
	Mark Green	25	1986

Travis Thomas Steps Up

Looking for a change-of-pace back against No. 1 USC on Oct. 15, Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis turned to junior RB **Travis Thomas**. Thomas, who has shined in reserve duty this season, stepped up to rush for 52 yards, including a 16-yard run to record Notre Dame's first touchdown of the day against the Trojans. Thomas also posted a career-best 58 yards rushing against Navy.

Thomas' production this season already surpasses his totals from 2004, his first season of action for the Irish:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Long</u>
2004	11	25	25	1.0	0	12
2005	11	63	248	3.9	5	16

Fitzpatrick Puts His Name in the Irish Record Book

Senior PK/P **D.J. Fitzpatrick** is 50 of 51 on his PAT attempts this season, surpassing Craig Hentrich's school-record for PATs in a season (48 in 1991). Fitzpatrick missed his first PAT of the season at Stanford on Nov. 26.

Older and Wiser

The 2005 Notre Dame offensive line is one of the **most experienced** units in school history. With the entire starting group from a year ago still in the fold, the Irish offense boasts almost 100 combined career starts on the line. Entering the '05 campaign, senior tackle Mark LeVoir started the last 24 Notre Dame games and led the veteran group in starting assignments. Seniors Bob Morton and Dan Stevenson were a close second with 22 starts each, while junior Ryan Harris had 19 starts to his credit and junior John Sullivan was the junior man of the group with 12. Here is a look at the 10 most experienced offensive line units to wear the blue and gold since '85, with the '05 group added in for comparison.

Year	Starts Heading Into Season
2005	99
1997	84
2002	76
1985	56
1996	56
1998	52
1987	50
1995	49
1993	46
1989	45
1990	43

On the 'Fas' Track to Success

Senior tight end **Anthony Fasano**, a Mackey Award finalist in 2005, has put together two stellar receiving seasons for the Irish in 2004 and '05. After a breakout season in '04, highlighted by a record-setting performance against Purdue when the 6-4, 257-pound Fasano hauled in a career-high eight passes for a Notre Dame tight end-record 155 yards. His 27 catches in '04 tied him with former Irish standout Pete Chryplewicz for the fifth-highest single-season total by a tight end and he has far surpassed that total this season with 45 catches.

Fasano has moved onto Notre Dame's top five all-time tight end receiving list. Here's a look at where he stands heading into the weekend:

Player	Receptions	Years
Ken MacAfee	128	1974-77
Anthony Fasano	90	2003-present
Derek Brown	62	1988-91
Dean Masztak	62	1978-81
Tony Hunter	55	1979-82
Mark Bavaro	55	1981-84

Fasano's signature game – the eight-reception, 155-yard outburst versus Purdue in '04 – placed him at the top of the record books in terms of yards for a single game. The following is a list of how he stacks up against Notre Dame's top five tight end in terms of career yards.

Player	Yards	Years
Ken MacAfee	1759	1974-77
Anthony Fasano	1100	2003-present
Dean Masztak	924	1978-81
Derek Brown	899	1988-91
Mike Creaney	890	1970-72
Mark Bavaro	771	1981-84

What makes Fasano's totals even more impressive is the fact that he has tallied them in a little more than two years of action, after not playing his freshman year in 2002. Here's a breakdown of what Notre Dame's other prolific pass-catching tight ends did in their third seasons in the blue and gold.

Player	Receptions-Yards	Touchdowns
Anthony Fasano	45-564	2
Ken MacAfee	34-483	3
Mike Creaney	17-321	2
Derek Brown	15-220	1
Mark Bavaro	23-376	3

Fasano also is in reach of the single-season mark for catches by a tight end, needing just nine more this season to reach Ken MacAfee's record of 54 from 1977.

Player	Receptions	Year
Ken MacAfee	54	1977
Anthony Fasano	45	2005
Tony Hunter	42	1982
Ken MacAfee	34	1976
Mark Bavaro	32	1984

2005 Football Banquet Recap

Record-setting juniors **Brady Quinn** and **Jeff Samardzija** shared the 2005 Notre Dame football MVP award, presented by the Notre Dame Monogram Club. Those awards were among others presented at the 85th Notre Dame Football Banquet Dec. 2 at the Joyce Center on the University of Notre Dame campus. Former Irish head coach Lou Holtz served as guest speaker in front of a sold-out crowd of 1,900. The Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley sponsors the event.

Quinn (from Dublin, Ohio) already in '05 has set 17 single-game, single-season and career records for his passing. He's already Notre Dame's career leader in passing yards (8,050), pass completions (609) and TD passes (58). With the prospect of a bowl game remaining to add to his '05 totals, Quinn already owns the single-season marks for passing yards (3,633), completions (263) and TD throws (32). He set an Irish single-game mark this fall with his six TD passes versus BYU. He's one of five finalists for the Walter Camp Foundation Player of the Year Award and one of three finalists for the '05 Davey O'Brien Award as the top quarterback nationally. Quinn is majoring in finance and political science, pursuing dual degrees from the Mendoza College of Business and the College of Arts and Letters.

Samardzija (from Valparaiso, Ind.) has enjoyed a breakout '05 season in which he already has established Irish single-season highs for reception yardage (1,190) and TD receptions (15). He has caught 71 passes so far in '05, just six away from the Notre Dame single-season mark of 77 by Tom Gatewood in 1970. One of three finalists for the '05 Biletnikoff Award as the top receiver in the country, Samardzija is a marketing major in the Mendoza College of Business.

Senior offensive guard **Dan Stevenson** won the Guardian of the Year Award from the Guardian Life Insurance Company (a sponsor of Irish football on Westwood One radio broadcasts) as the top offensive lineman. He's a three-year starter at guard for the Irish, starting all 11 games in '05 at right guard. He helped pave the way for a 1,000-yard rusher in '05 (Darius Walker at 1,106 yards), the all-time single-season receiver at Notre Dame (Samardzija), a second receiver in Maurice Stovall who tied the previous single-season TD reception mark and a quarterback (Quinn) who rewrote the Irish record book. Stevenson (from Barrington, Ill.) currently is enrolled in graduate coursework after earning his degree last May as a marketing major in the Mendoza College of Business.

Junior defensive end **Victor Abiamiri** (from Randallstown, Md.) won the Lineman of the Year Award from the Moose Krause Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame. He has led all Irish defensive linemen in '05 with 46 overall tackles, 15 tackles for loss and a team-leading eight sacks. He's enrolled in the Mendoza College of Business as a finance major.

Three seniors, linebacker **Corey Mays**, wide receiver **Maurice Stovall** and tight end **Anthony Fasano**, and a junior – safety **Tom Zbikowski** – shared the Nick Pietrosante Award as the individuals who best exemplify the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America fullback. Pietrosante, Notre Dame's leading rusher in '57 and '58 (and later a number-one draft pick and two-time all-pro selection with the Detroit Lions), died of cancer on Feb. 6, 1988. Mays (from Chicago, Ill.) stands second on the squad in tackles in '05 with 68, to go with 10.5 tackles for loss, four sacks and three fumble recoveries. He started all 11 regular-season games and is in graduate studies this fall after earning his degree in psychology last spring from the College of Arts and Letters.

Stovall (from Philadelphia, Pa.) has caught 60 passes for 1,023 yards and 11 TDs - joining Samardzija as only the third and fourth Irish players to ever hit the 1,000-yard mark in reception yardage in a single season. Stovall is a sociology and computer applications major in the College of Arts and Letters.

Fasano (from Verona, N.J.) ranks behind only Samardzija and Stovall in receptions for '05 with 45 for 564 yards and two TDs (he now has 90 career catches for 1,100 yards). One of three finalists for the '05 John Mackey Award as the top tight end nationally, Fasano is a marketing major in the Mendoza College of Business.

Zbikowski (from Arlington Heights, Ill.) ranks as the top Irish name both at strong safety and as a punt returner. He ranks seventh nationally with his average of 14.6 yards per punt return, including two for TDs - and he also has notched 62 tackles and a team-leading five interceptions (two of those returned for TDs). He's a sociology and computer applications major in the College of Arts and Letters.

Senior linebacker **Brandon Hoyte**, like Quinn voted a '05 Irish captain by his teammates, received the Knute Rockne Student-Athlete Award from the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley. He owns a 3.139 grade-point average while pursuing a double major in psychology and management from the College of Arts and Letters and the Mendoza College of Business. The senior from Parlin, N.J., leads the Irish in tackles in '05 with 82, to go with a team-leading 15.5 tackles for loss and six sacks.

Junior defensive tackle **Trevor Laws** (from Burnsville, Minn.) and senior offensive guard **Dan Santucci** (from Harwood Heights, Ill.) shared the Westwood One/Westwood Farm Student-Athlete of the Year Award. They were two of 11 weekly winners announced during Westwood One national radio broadcasts of Irish games in 2005. Laws is a marketing major in the Mendoza College of Business who boasts a 3.150 grade-point average - while Santucci also majors in marketing in the Mendoza College of Business and owns a 3.261 average. Santucci started all 11 games in '05 at left offensive guard, while Laws also started all 11 contests, making 32 tackles, three tackles for loss and a sack and a half.

Other weekly winners (in addition to Laws and Santucci) were senior offensive wide receiver **Rob Woods**, senior safety **Jake Carney**, junior kicker **Carl Gioia**, junior tight end **John Carlson**, senior offensive lineman **Brian Mattes**, Stevenson, senior defensive end **Chris Frome**, senior defensive back **Brandon Harris** and Hoyte.

Don't Forget the Anniversary

The 2005 football season marks the **75th anniversary of the opening of fabled Notre Dame Stadium**. The Irish have played 386 games in the facility to date and own a 291-90-5 (.760) record in the "House that Rockne Built."

The Irish were 3-3 in Notre Dame Stadium in '04, but rebounded to finish 4-2 at home this season and push the team's record at home to 95-32 (.748) over the last 21 years.

The most wins in a season by the Irish at home is seven by the '88 national championship team and the longest home winning streak in Notre Dame football history is 28 games (from 11/21/42 through 9/30/50).

In '55, the Stadium's 25th anniversary, Notre Dame went 8-2 on the season for coach Terry Brennan, including a 4-0 home record; the Irish turned in a 9-2-1 overall record and a 5-0 home mark to commemorate Notre Dame Stadium's 50th anniversary in '80.

Irish Have Faced Another Loaded Schedule

With the updates of the AP and *USA Today*/Coaches Poll, Notre Dame will continue to face one of the toughest schedules in the nation (rankings are AP/*USA Today* and Harris Interactive):

- Notre Dame is the only team that played three games against top four teams from the preseason polls - #1/1 USC (L, 31-34), #5/4 Tennessee (W, 41-21) and #3/3 Michigan (W, 17-10).
- Notre Dame is the only school that will face three teams that were in the top 10 of both preseason polls this season.
- Notre Dame will play games against seven teams ranked in the top 25 this season at least once this season. The Irish have already defeated #23/25 Pittsburgh 42-21, #3/3 Michigan 17-10 and #22/20/22 Purdue.

The Irish also faced #1/1/1 USC, Tennessee (who was ranked as high as third this season) and Michigan State (who have been in and out of the top 25 this year). Notre Dame will face #4/4/4 Ohio State in the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

In Front of the Nation

In 2004, the Notre Dame football team once again received more network television exposure and played in more highly-rated games than any other program in college football.

The Irish played in the highest-rated network game of the '04 regular season (and the highest-rated regular-season game overall in two seasons) in its '04 regular-season finale at USC. That game, televised by ABC Sports, received a 6.3 Nielsen rating and was seen in 6.898 million households.

Overall, Notre Dame played in six games that ranked among the top 25 highest-rated network telecasts and no other school played in more than five (Tennessee and Georgia each played in five).

Including Notre Dame's last game at Stanford, the Irish have a remarkable streak of 159 consecutive games (more than 12 full seasons) that have been carried by either NBC (87), ABC (45), CBS (14) or ESPN (13). You have to go all the way back to the '92 season to find a Notre Dame game that wasn't on one of those four networks.

In Front of a Full House

Notre Dame has played in front of sellout crowds in 180 of its previous 206 games, including 55 of its last 60 contests dating back to the end of the Fiesta Bowl at the end of the 2000 season (the '01, '03 and '05 games at Stanford, last year's game vs. Navy at the Meadowlands and this season's game at Washington were not sellouts).

At Michigan in '03, the Irish and Wolverines attracted the largest crowd in NCAA history (111,726), marking the third time in the history of the series that an NCAA attendance record has been set. It also represented the seventh time in the last four seasons that Notre Dame has been part of establishing a new stadium attendance record (at Nebraska and Texas A&M in '01; at Air Force and Florida State, home vs. Boston College in '02, vs. Oregon State in the Insight Bowl in '04 - the game set a Bank One Ballpark record for football configuration). Notre Dame and Michigan played before an over-capacity 111,386 at Michigan Stadium in September of this season. This season's Washington was played before less than a capacity crowd as 71,473 witnessed the Irish defeat the Huskies, 36-17, at Husky Stadium (capacity: 72,500) in Seattle.

At Purdue, the Irish and Boilermakers played before 60,491 football fans, a Ross-Ade Stadium record (since the renovation of the facility in 2003).

Making the Grade

The last four seasons of Notre Dame football have produced some impressive semesters in the classroom for the Notre Dame football team. In fact, the Irish had a 2004 spring semester in which the team's 104 players combined for a 2.96 grade-point average that ranks as the program's best semester GPA on record (dating back to 1992). The Notre Dame football program's top six semester GPAs since '92 were all posted in the seven semesters prior to the fall of '04, including the three semesters from fall of '02 to fall of '03 (2.84 in fall of '02, 2.79 in spring of '03 and 2.82 in fall of '03). The football program's second-best semester GPA of the past 12 years came in the spring of '02 (2.90), followed by a 2.80 in the spring of '01 and a 2.69 in the fall of '01. Upon closer examination, the 2004 spring semester saw 11 Irish football players post a Dean's List GPA (sliding scale, based on major), while 21 turned in a semester GPA of 3.4-plus and more than half (53) had a GPA of 3.0 or better. In addition, two players - former DE Kyle Businscak and senior LB Brandon Hoyte - received Academic All-District V honors in '03, marking Budinscak's third selection and Hoyte's second to the prestigious squad. Budinscak followed up with another All-District V honor in '04.

Taking Care of Business Off the Field, Too

The American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) annually honors the school with the highest graduation rate based on a particular entering freshman football class, and Notre Dame has won the award six times, most recently in 2001 with its 100-percent graduation rate (22 of 22 entering freshmen from '96 earned their degrees within five years). The '01 award followed Notre Dame's previous honors in '82, '83, '84, '88 and '91. Notre Dame also holds the distinction of producing the first 100-percent rate in a single year when 24 of 24 student-athletes from the entering class of '82 earned their degrees within a five-year period (and 16 of those 24 did so within four years). Only eight other times has a school registered a 100-percent graduation rate. The '88 award had special meaning, as it was the first time a school won the national championship on the football field - as Notre Dame did, finishing 12-0 after a Fiesta Bowl win over unbeaten West Virginia - and in the classroom. Including the special mention category, the Irish have received some sort of recognition in 23 of the 24 years the award has been presented, with Duke next at 21.

Inside the Irish Huddle DVD

Legendary Notre Dame Quarterbacks, a project dedicated to the lore and history of University of Notre Dame football and its rich quarterbacking tradition, is beginning its existence with the release of a DVD, *Inside the Irish Huddle, Stories from the Legendary Notre Dame Quarterbacks*.

The DVD is now available and can be ordered on NDQB1.com, the official website of the Legendary Notre Dame Quarterbacks.

Inside the Irish Huddle, made in association with Indianapolis and Chicago based Pathway Productions, includes interviews with and collegiate highlights of some of the most high-profile players and coaches in Notre Dame and college football history. Joe Montana, Joe Theismann, Paul Hornung, Johnny Lujack, Tom Clements and Terry Hanratty are just a few of former players featured on *Inside the Irish Huddle*.

The project is spearheaded by former Irish quarterback Blair Kiel (1980-83).

Notre Dame Stadium Update

Thanks to funding by the Notre Dame Monogram Club, Notre Dame Stadium featured a new look for its 75th anniversary this season.

- Positioned in the 195 portals of the original Stadium walls (now visible in the lower bowl concourse), there now are individual, four-by-10-foot, mesh banners with old-school, black-and-white photos highlighting Notre Dame's 11 consensus national-championship seasons, its 139 first-team football All-Americans, its seven Heisman Trophy winners, its five national-championship coaches and its eight representatives in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

- Hanging from the ceiling around the lower concourse are 15 full-color, 12-by-15-foot banners – 10 of them featuring action shots of members of the 2005 Irish squad, and five featuring the 75th anniversary logo for Notre Dame Stadium. In addition, there will be four other five-by-eight-foot representations of the logo within the Stadium.

- One addition visible from inside the Stadium is a sign on the facing of the wall just above the tunnel – it reads "Irish" and includes the Monogram Club logo.

- Attached to light polls on Moose Krause Circle surrounding the Stadium and in the Stadium and Joyce North and South parking lots are 100 two-by-four foot pole banners, all of them featuring various Notre Dame marks and phrases – including combinations of Irish, We Are ND, a shamrock, the leprechaun, University of Notre Dame, Here Come the Irish, Fighting Irish, a gold helmet and the 75th anniversary Stadium logo.

- In addition, there are plans over the next few years to theme the entry gates at the Stadium – with the intention of creating specific recognition of Notre Dame's national championships, its All-Americans, its Heisman Trophy winners and its national championship coaches. The gate completed was Gate B. It recognizes the Irish Heisman winners with three-foot by eight-foot replicas of the Heisman Trophy. The displays were designed by Rockwell Group of New York and fabricated by Show Motion Inc. of Connecticut. The work was accomplished with the cooperation of the Downtown Athletic Club and the Heisman Trophy Trust.

Most of the signage and design work was handled by Sport Graphics, Inc., in Indianapolis, Ind. Additional work for the gate designs is by the Rockwell Group in New York, N.Y.

Guglielmino Athletics Complex Officially Dedicated

The Guglielmino Athletics Complex, new home to the University of Notre Dame football program, was dedicated Friday, Oct. 14, 2005. The dedication program included a blessing of the building, an afternoon Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and a dedication dinner in the rotunda of the Main Building. A special, 18-by-24-inch, commemorative poster (printed by Mossberg & Company in South Bend and designed by recent Notre Dame graduate Tim O'Connor) created for the dedication was available free of charge Friday night as fans left the pep rally at Notre Dame Stadium.

Opened in August and located on the east side of campus, the 96,000-square-foot building commonly referred to as "The Gug" is a spacious, state-of-the-art facility that houses the football program's locker rooms, offices and meeting rooms, in addition to giving the 800 student-athletes in Notre Dame's 26 varsity sports enhanced space for all training, strength and conditioning, and medical needs. The Guglielmino Athletics Complex has been made possible through the generous gift of the late Don F. Guglielmino and his wife Flora. A longtime supporter of Notre Dame, Guglielmino attended the University in the 1939-40 academic year.

Irish Football on the Printed Page

This fall, three new books about Fighting Irish football have debuted. *The Spirit of Notre Dame*, by Jim Langford and Jeremy Langford, officially went on sale during the last week of August. Detailing both athletic and student/alumni stories from the University, the book is said to be "the absolute essential title for the millions of people who have a place in their heart for the Fighting Irish." The book is a production of The Doubleday Broadway Publishing Group and can be bought on www.randomhouse.com.

South Bend Tribune and Notre Dame football beat writer Eric Hansen has seen the release of his new book, *Notre Dame, Where Have You Gone?* Hansen catches up with former Fighting Irish football players, from the All-Americans to the walk-ons to the one-play wonders to the once-tragic figures. The book is available for order at www.sport-publishinginc.com.

The third offering comes from Senior Associate Athletic Director for Media Relations at Notre Dame - John Heisler. *Echoes of Notre Dame Football, The Greatest Stories Ever Told*, was edited by the former long-time sports information director. A member of the CoSIDA Hall of Fame, Heisler's book stitches together the best columns from the best columnists. It not only recounts the greatest moments in Notre Dame lore, it also tracks the chronological progression sportswriting styles from the esoteric to the ultra-modern. The book is available by calling 800-335-5323 or by sending an e-mail to WebOrders@triumphbooks.com. The book also features a foreword by Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis.

Kevin White Radio Show

Look for the Kevin White Show for the next 30 weeks on ESPN 1000 AM radio in Chicago.

The hour-long program debuted Sept. 4 in its sixth season - with first-night guests including former Irish football-walk-on Dan "Rudy" Ruettinger (subject of the 1993 movie "Rudy"), former Irish placekicker Harry Oliver (he kicked a 51-yard field goal 25 years ago this week to help Notre Dame beat Michigan 29-27 in 1980), and current Irish hockey coach Jeff Jackson.

Guests regularly will include familiar names from all facets of college athletics.

The show features White, Notre Dame's director of athletics, and ESPN 1000's Dave Juday. It can be heard regularly at 11:00 p.m. Central time on Sunday.

Sponsors of the show include Gatorade, Xerox, adidas, Comcast, McDonald's, Chase, Coca-Cola, Sirius Satellite Radio, Jordan Industries and Sayers Computer Source.

The show can be heard in more than 30 states around the country on ESPN 1000 in Chicago.

Katrina Collection Update

Collections taken up throughout the University of Notre Dame community in recent weeks—in the student residence hall chapels and dining halls and even the football stadium—have raised over \$240,000 for the relief of victims of the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe.

A collection in the Notre Dame Stadium during the football game with Michigan State raised \$195,871. Collections also have been taken up at Masses in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and in the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore but have not yet been tabulated.

Funds raised in the University's Katrina collections are being distributed among Catholic Charities USA; Catholic parishes in the Gulf region which are administered by Notre Dame's founding religious order, the Congregation of Holy Cross; and regional parochial schools participating in Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) volunteer teacher program.

The University will continue to accept donations throughout the semester. Contributions may be sent to: Notre Dame Katrina Collection, P.O. Box 198, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556-019.

Instant Replay

Notre Dame utilized the Big Ten Conference instant replay system during all home games this season. The opposing team is given the option of agreeing to use the system as well, and it will only be implemented if both teams decide to utilize the system.

- The Big Ten instant replay model and the NFL instant replay system are different. In the Big Ten model, only the Big Ten Technical Advisor, working in the press box, can stop a game to review a play. Unlike the NFL model, in the Big Ten neither the coaches nor the game officials on the field may ask for a review.

- In order for a play to be changed the Technical Advisor must have indisputable video evidence that an error occurred. Television broadcast of the game will be the sole source of whether there is indisputable video evidence.

- The replay system will not guarantee that all officiating mistakes are identified and corrected.

- The types of plays that are reviewable include plays that are governed by the sideline, goal line, end zone and end line, passing plays, and other detectable infractions, such as forward progress with respect to first down.

National Football Foundation Honors Two Former Irish Players

Two former Notre Dame football greats were honored by the National Football Foundation at the organization's annual awards dinner on Dec. 6, 2005, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. **John Huarte** was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, while **Alan Page** was given the Distinguished American Award.

Huarte (pronounced HEW-ert), the 1964 Heisman Trophy winner, is one of 11 former college players and two coaches inducted as the National Football Foundation's 2005 College Football Hall of Fame Division I-A class.

The players and coaches will be enshrined at the Hall of Fame in South Bend in August 2006.

Huarte's Heisman Trophy victory ranks as one of the biggest upsets in the history of the award considering he missed much of his sophomore season due to injury and didn't even play enough as a junior to win a monogram (second and third in the voting were Tulsa's Jerry Rhome and Illinois' Dick Butkus - and other candidates included Alabama's Joe Namath and Kansas' Gale Sayers).

Behind the aerial efforts of Huarte and fellow Californian Jack Snow (he caught 60 passes that year for 1,114 yards and a Notre Dame-record nine touchdowns), Ara Parseghian in his first year turned Notre Dame from a 2-7 team in '63 into a 9-1 squad that came within minutes of the national title.

A consensus first-team All-American as a senior, Huarte threw for 270 yards in the '64 opening-game upset of Wisconsin - including TD tosses of 61 and 42 yards to Snow - and ended up finishing the year ranked third nationally in total offense (2,069 yards). He set 12 Irish records that year and earned back-of-the-year and player-of-the-year honors from United Press International. He was named MVP of the College All-Star Game in Chicago in 1965.

A second-round draft pick of the AFL New York Jets (and a sixth-round pick of the NFL Philadelphia Eagles), Huarte played in the pro ranks for eight years with Boston, Philadelphia, Minnesota, Kansas City and Chicago - prior to retiring from the World Football League Memphis entry in 1975.

Originally a 6-0, 180-pound signalcaller from Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif., Huarte becomes the 41st Notre Dame player to be chosen for the Hall of Fame since inductions began in 1951. Five former Irish coaches also have been selected. No other school has produced more than those 46 enshrinees, the most recent being Joe Theismann in 2003.

Huarte becomes the ninth Notre Dame quarterback selected to the Hall of Fame, joining Frank Carideo in 1954, Harry Stuhldreher in 1958, John Lujack in 1960, Angelo Bertelli in 1972, Paul Hornung in 1985, Bob Williams in 1988, Ralph Guglielmi in 2001 and Theismann in 2003.

Huarte on his inclusion among the greats at the College Football Hall of Fame...

"The main thing is when you run your eyes over the list of all the great players over the years who have gotten in, to be part of that company, is really special. My name is associated with the history of the game and all the great players."

Huarte on going from backup to Heisman Trophy winner in one season...

"It was a gritty experience to not play and then going in as a starter my last year. I had done a lot of scrimmaging on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but to not have that opportunity my first few years and then the last, to set a lot of new records, it changed my life."

Page received the Distinguished American Award presented on special occasions when a truly deserving individual emerges, the award honors someone who has applied the character building attributes learned from amateur sport in their business and personal life, exhibiting superior leadership qualities in education, amateur athletics, business and in the community.

A Hall of Fame player both in college and the NFL, Alan Page's greatest contributions have come as a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and founder of the Page Education Foundation, which encourages Minnesota's youth of color to continue their education.

Page graduated from Central Catholic High School in Canton, Ohio, and from the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science in 1967. At Notre Dame, he led the football team to a national championship in 1966 and a 25-3-2 mark from 1964 to 1966. A first-round draft pick and 15th overall, he went on to collect 164 career sacks, block 28 punts or placekicks, recover 24 fumbles and appear in eight Pro Bowls in a professional football career that spanned 15 seasons, including 10 as a member of the Vikings and five with the Chicago Bears.

In 1971, the four-time NFC defensive player of the year became the first defensive player in NFL history to earn the league's most valuable player award. Page was selected to the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1988 and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1993.

While playing professional football, Page attended law school full time, earning a Juris Doctor in 1978 from the University of Minnesota. In 1979, he began practicing law with a Minnesota firm. He later became an assistant attorney general, and in 1993 he was sworn in as an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Page takes great pride in his work with the Page Education Foundation on behalf of the youth in his state. The Foundation, established in 1988 by Page and his wife Diane, provides educational grants to students of color to attend colleges in Minnesota. As a condition of receiving the funds, the so-called Page Scholars serve as role models and mentors for younger children with the simple, if not lofty, goal of changing the future. Thus far, the foundation has awarded more than 5,100 scholarships to 2,393 individual students totaling more than \$4.5 million.

An NCAA Silver Anniversary Award recipient in 1992, Page has been a member of the National Bar Association since 1979 and currently sits on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and the board of directors for the Minneapolis Urban League. Since 1980, he has been a member of the Minnesota Minority Lawyers' Association, and he has served as an advisory board member to the League of Women Voters since 1984. Last January, Page became the 37th recipient of the NCAA's Theodore Roosevelt Award, the NCAA's highest honor.

In the 1970s, Page took up marathon running, and in 1979 he became the first active NFL player to complete a marathon. He currently runs 60 miles a week. He and his wife have four children.

With 119 chapters and over 12,000 members nationwide, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, a non-profit educational organization, runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in America's young people.

NFF programs include the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., Play It Smart, The NFF Center for Youth Development Through Sport at Springfield College (Mass.), the NFL-NFF Coaching Academy, and annual scholarships of nearly \$1 million for college and high school scholar-athletes.

USC Television Rating Highest In 11 Seasons

The USC-Notre Dame football game earned the best overnight television rating for a Notre Dame home game in more than a decade. The 7.9 overnight rating and 17 share was the highest since Notre Dame-Michigan earned a 8.4/21 overnight on Sept. 10, 1994.

The rating peaked at a 14.2/27 from 7:30-7:45 as USC QB Matt Leinert scored with three seconds remaining leading the Trojans to a dramatic 34-31 victory. Notre Dame had taken the lead with 2:02 left. No. 9 Notre Dame had been bidding to end No. 1 USC's 27-game winning streak.

NBC's college football analyst Pat Haden called the contest, "as entertaining a last three minutes of a college football game as I've ever seen."

The top-rated markets were:

1. Indianapolis, 14.7/30
2. Los Angeles, 13.4/31
3. Knoxville, 12.6/25
4. Oklahoma City, 11.9/25
5. Portland, 11.0/25
6. Chicago, 10.7/24
7. Birmingham, 10.4/19
8. Boston, 10.3/21.

Notre Dame NBC Ratings Highest in 10 Years

Notre Dame football on NBC earned a 3.6 season average rating and a 9 share, the highest season average rating in more than a decade (4.8 in 1995) and a 44 percent increase over last year (2.5/6).

Notre Dame finished 9-2 in Charlie Weis' inaugural season as head coach and will play Ohio State in the 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

One of the highlights of Notre Dame's resurgent season came on Oct. 15, when 30 million viewers watched all or part of Notre Dame's 34-31, last-second loss to No. 1 USC. It was the most viewed regular season college football game in the last nine years on any network (ABC's Florida-Florida State, 32 million on Nov. 30, 1996). The game generated a 6.7 national rating and 16 share, tied with Ohio State-Notre Dame (6.7/19 on Sept. 28, 1996) for the highest rating for a Notre Dame game on NBC in more than a decade, and tied for the fourth highest rated game in the 15 years of Notre Dame football on NBC.

Members of the media can get more information about NBC Universal and its programming on the NBC Universal Media Village Web site at www.nbcumv.com.

Notre Dame - NBC Sports Television Ratings

Here is a look at the top 10 all-time rated games since Notre Dame and NBC began their partnership in 1991. This season's ND - USC game checks in at fifth place on the list.

Notre Dame on NBC Top 10 Games

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Share</u>
Nov. 13, 1993	Florida State	W	31-24	16.0	39
Sept. 10, 1994	Michigan	L	24-26	8.4	21
Nov. 20, 1993	Boston College	L	39-41	7.7	21
Oct. 15, 2005	USC	L	31-34	6.7	17
Sept. 28, 1996	Ohio State	L	16-29	6.7	19
Oct. 21, 1995	USC	W	38-10	6.4	17
Nov. 14, 1992	Penn State	W	17-16	6.3	18
Oct. 26, 1991	USC	W	24-20	6.1	18
Sept. 12, 1992	Michigan	T	17-17	5.9	19
Sept. 5, 1998	Michigan	W	36-20	5.9	15

Notre Dame the Top "Brand" in College Sports

Notre Dame possesses the top "brand" in college sports.

That's according to a poll in the Nov. 21-27, 2005, issue of *Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal*.

Notre Dame was a landslide winner with 33.3 percent of the 994 votes. Next was Duke with 15.8 percent, followed by Michigan (15.7), North Carolina (12.9) and USC (5.4).

The results were collected between Sept. 12 and Oct. 2 via web sites of both *Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal* and *SportsBusiness Daily*.

Q. What university is the top "brand" in college sports?

- 1. Notre Dame, 33.3%**
2. Duke, 15.8%
3. Michigan, 15.7%
4. North Carolina, 12.9%
5. USC, 5.4%

Notre Dame and adidas Extend Agreement

The University of Notre Dame and adidas have entered into a new 10-year agreement in which adidas will continue to supply footwear and apparel for all 26 Irish varsity athletic teams

The new agreement began with the 2004-05 academic year and extends through the 2013-14 seasons. The agreement is worth in excess of \$60 million over that 10-year period.

The agreement continues a relationship that began in 1997-98 when adidas began providing footwear for all Notre Dame teams and apparel for many Irish teams. Starting in 2001-02, the arrangement began to include virtually all of Notre Dame's athletic uniforms.

The agreement with adidas includes the value of all footwear and apparel (game and practice gear) for all of Notre Dame's teams, various complementary marketing segments, as well as a cash component.

adidas-Salomon is a global leader within the sporting goods industry and offers a broad range of products with brands such as adidas, Salomon and TaylorMade in its portfolio.

Official Athletics Web Site Posts Record Month in October

The University of Notre Dame official athletics web site, www.und.com, enjoyed a record month of traffic in October of 2005. The site jumped to number one on the CSTV Online network, registering 7,230,190 page views for the month of October, a 31-percent increase from the same month a year ago. The web site is run in cooperation with the Notre Dame Sports Information Office and CSTV Online.

Bolstered by across-the-board success from all of Notre Dame's fall sports teams, www.und.com welcomed 745,409 unique visitors to its site, a staggering growth of 77 percent against the same month from last year.

The 7.2 million hits mark a new record for www.und.com, surpassing the 7.0 views the site registered in September of 2004. The site followed up with 6.5 million hits in November.

According to the latest CSTV Online network rankings, Notre Dame ended the month of October ranked first followed by USC, North Carolina, Ohio State and Tennessee.

Notre Dame Athletic Department Success

Notre Dame's six fall sports combined to produce an unprecedented combination of accomplishments during the 2005 seasons:

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY - The fifth-ranked Irish finished third at the NCAA championship meet (its best finish since 1990), produced the lowest team score (122 points) by a Notre Dame squad since 1964, took the runnerup spot at the NCAA Great Lakes regional, claimed the BIG EAST title - and under Joe Piane's direction produced three All-Americans who all finished in the top 50 at the NCAA meet (Kurt Benninger, Tim Moore and Kaleb Van Ort).

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY - The fourth-rated Irish finished seventh at the NCAA championships under coach Tim Connelly, took second at the NCAA Great Lakes regional, claimed the BIG EAST title (the first time since 1996 one school won both the men's and women's BIG EAST crowns) - and placed three runners in the top 35 of the NCAA meet, including All-Americans Stephanie Madia (she finished third, tied for the best-ever effort by a Notre Dame runner at the NCAAs), veteran Molly Huddle (her third cross country All-America award and her eighth overall) and Sunni Olding (her second straight All-America effort).

FOOTBALL (9-2) - The Irish under first-year coach Charlie Weis finished the regular season at 9-2, ranked sixth in the final Bowl Championship Series standings (and fifth according to Associated Press), produced road wins against #23 Pittsburgh, #3 Michigan and #22 Purdue, earned their first BCS invitation in five years, this time in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl vs. Ohio State, while rewriting the Irish record books as the most prolific scoring and passing team in Irish history, behind the exploits of quarterback Brady Quinn and first-team All-America receiver Jeff Samardzija.

MEN'S SOCCER (12-8-3) - The Irish finished 12-8-3 (6-4-1 in BIG EAST play), advanced to the NCAA championships for the fifth straight season under Bobby Clark, defeated two-time defending NCAA champion Indiana 2-0 on the road in the NCAA second round for arguably one of the biggest wins in the history of men's soccer at Notre Dame - led by junior first-team All-American Greg Dalby and first-team all-BIG EAST pick Ian Etherington.

WOMEN'S SOCCER (22-3) - The fifth-ranked Irish (they were the preseason number-one-ranked team) finished 22-3 under Randy Waldrum, advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals before falling to eventual NCAA champion Portland to end a 13-game Irish win streak (including a 60-3 scoring margin during that streak), ranked as the highest-scoring team in the country in 2005 (4.4 goals per game), won the BIG EAST regular-season (10-1 record) and tournament (Notre Dame's eighth) titles - led by All-America senior Katie Thorlakson (she finished second on NCAA charts for both season and career assists), All-America freshman Kerri Hanks (71 points in '05) and defender Candace Chapman and midfielder Jen Buczkowski (both All-Americans as well).

VOLLEYBALL (30-4) - The ninth-ranked Irish finished 30-4 for their most wins since '94, advanced to the NCAA third round for first Sweet 16 appearances since '97 (and fifth overall), played in the NCAAs for the 14th straight year, won BIG EAST regular-season (14th conference title under BIG EAST coach of the year Debbie Brown) and tournament (13th conference tourney title under Brown) crowns, earned highest-ever number-six NCAA seed, helped Notre Dame to an all-time high ranking in the AVCA poll, put together a 15-match win streak, spent 11 weeks in the top 10 and went 4-0 against top-10 opponents - led by three all-BIG EAST first-team picks Lauren Brewster, Lauren Kelbley, and Meg Henican.

The combined record of the four team sports was 73-17-3 (.801), as the teams combined to win more than 80 percent of their contests. Notre Dame was the only school to win at least twice in both NCAA soccer tournaments and in the NCAA volleyball championship (men's soccer and volleyball won twice, women's soccer had three NCAA wins). Notre Dame, Penn State and California are the only schools to win at least once in those three NCAA tournaments and also play in a Division I football bowl game.

Irish in the Top 10 - Here's where Notre Dame stands in the top 10 of various NCAA statistical rankings, both as a team and individually.

PASSING OFFENSE (yards per game)

1. Texas Tech	403.6
2. Hawaii	389.5
3. Arizona State	364.9
4. NOTRE DAME	334.3

SCORING OFFENSE (points per game)

1. Texas	50.92
2. USC	50.00
3. Louisville	46.70
4. Texas Tech	42.09
5. Fresno State	39.91
6. NOTRE DAME.....	38.18

TOTAL OFFENSE (yards per game)

1. USC	580.25
2. Texas Tech.....	511.00
3. Texas	508.42
4. Arizona State	504.55
5. Minnesota.....	497.82
6. Michigan State	497.27
7. Louisville.....	497.10
8. Northwestern	492.73
9. Washington State	489.27
10. NOTRE DAME	489.09

PUNT RETURNS (yards per return)

1. UCLA	25.28
2. Fresno State.....	20.00
3. Northwestern	19.38
4. Kentucky	17.17
5. Central Florida	16.54
6. Texas	15.90
7. California	15.64
8. Arizona State	15.46
9. Wisconsin	15.45
10. West Virginia.....	15.41
11. NOTRE DAME.....	14.67

PASSING EFFICIENCY (rating points)

1. Louisville	166.36
2. Texas	164.97
3. UCLA	162.65
4. NOTRE DAME	162.22

THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY (offense)

1. USC	54.9
2. Minnesota	53.3
3. Texas	51.2
4. Louisville	51.3
5. Tulsa	50.0
6. Fresno State	49.1
7. NOTRE DAME	48.5

INDIVIDUAL PASSING EFFICIENCY (rating points)

1. Vince Young	168.6
2. Brian Brohm, Louisville.....	166.7
3. Drew Olson, UCLA.....	165.2
4. Brady Quinn, Notre Dame.....	162.9

INDIVIDUAL TOTAL OFFENSE (yards per game)

1. Cody Hodges, Texas Tech	378.8
2. Colt Brennan, Hawaii	371.0
3. Brady Quinn, Notre Dame.....	341.4

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME

1. Mike Hass, Oregon State.....	139.27
2. Greg Jennings, Western Michigan	114.45
3. Jason Hill, Washington State.....	109.70
4. Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame	108.20

TOTAL RECEIVING YARDS

1. Mike Hass, Oregon State.....	1,532
2. Greg Jennings, Western Michigan	1,259
3. Ryan Grice-Mullen, Hawaii	1,228
4. Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame ..	1,190

INTERCEPTIONS

1. Aaron Gipson, Oregon .....	.64
2. Anthony Smith, Syracuse.....	.55
Jelani Jordan, Bowling Green .....	.55
Dion Byrum, Ohio .....	.55
5. Chaz Williams, La.-Monroe .....	.50
Caleb Campbell, Army .....	.50
7. Tom Zbikowski, Notre Dame .....	.45
13 others tied with .....	.45

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS

1. Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame	15
Dwayne Jarrett, USC	15
2. Greg Jennings, W. Michigan.....	14
Martin Nance, Miami (Ohio)	14
Davone Bess, Hawaii	14
6. Jason Hill, Washington State	13

PASSING (Completions per game)

1. Cody Hodges, Texas Tech	30.73
2. Colt Brennan, Hawaii	29.55
3. John Beck, BYU.....	26.91
4. Brett Basanez, Northwestern.....	25.09
5. Jay Cutler, Vanderbilt	24.82
6. Brady Quinn, Notre Dame.....	23.91

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1. Colt Brennan, Hawaii.....	35
2. Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	32
3. Drew Olson, UCLA	31
4. Cody Hodges, Texas Tech	30
5. Paul Pinegar, Fresno State.....	29

POINTS RESPONSIBLE FOR

1. Colt Brennan, Hawaii.....	19.17
2. Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	18.44
3. Cody Hodges, Texas Tech.....	18.36
4. Brady Quinn, Notre Dame.....	18.00

Notre Dame in The BCS

2005 Final BCS Standings

Team	H	USA	Comp	Avg.
1. USC	1	1	2	.9868
2. Texas	2	2	1	.9732
3. Penn State	3	3	3	.9187
4. Ohio State	4	4	4	.8559
5. Oregon	6	5	5	.7989
6. NOTRE DAME 5	6	6	t-10	.7329
7. Georgia	8	8	8	.7182
8. Miami (Fla.)	9	9	7	.7037
9. Auburn	7	7	12	.6747
10. Virginia Tech	11	12	6	.6715
11. West Virginia	12	11	9	.6403
12. LSU	10	10	t-10	.6293
13. Alabama	13	13	18	.4538
14. TCU	14	14	17	.4445
15. Texas Tech	15	15	13	.4288
16. UCLA	t-17	17	t-14	.3693
17. Florida	t-17	18	21	.3058
18. Wisconsin	20	20	t-14	.3021
19. Louisville	16	16	NR	.2624
20. Michigan	21	21	16	.2579
21. Boston College	19	19	22	.2452
22. Florida State	22	22	NR	.1110
23. Oklahoma	26	26	t-19	.0999
24. Georgia Tech	24	24	25	.0945
25. Northwestern	t-29	28	t-19	.0887

H - Harris Interactive Ranking

USA - USA Today Ranking

Comp - Average Computer Ranking

Score - BCS Average

Notre Dame in the 2005 BCS Standings -

Oct. 17 - 16th

Oct. 24 - 15th

Oct. 31 - 14th

Nov. 7 - 11th

Nov. 14 - 9th

Nov. 21 - 8th

Nov. 28 - 8th

Dec. 4 - 6th

Notre Dame 18, Ohio State 13, Nov. 2, 1935 - "The Game of the Century"

More than 60 years have passed since Notre Dame's unbelievable 18-13 upset of Ohio State, but the 1935 confrontation is still labeled "The Game of the Century."

Although both teams were undefeated heading into the clash, the top-ranked Buckeyes were heavy favorites. One sportswriter picked Ohio State by 40 points since coach Francis "Close the Gates of Mercy" Schmidt had his Bucks riding rampant over every foe. The Irish, good but not that good, weren't given much of a chance.

But coach **Elmer Layden**, a former member of the Four Horsemen, said, "The 1935 team was one that believed in itself to an extraordinary extent. It was fired emotionally because death walked with it in every game."

Captain-elect **Joe Sullivan**, a starting tackle, had died of pneumonia several months before the season began. His teammates didn't elect another captain. Instead, they dedicated each contest to Sullivan.

Electricity had been generating in Columbus for weeks before the big game. There were parades and pep rallies. University officials and city politicians went into hiding to avoid "friends" seeking tickets. Scalpers were scoffing at any offer less than \$50.

On the Friday before the game, Layden took his team to a secluded seminary outside the city for workouts, hoping to avoid the carnival-like atmosphere on campus. But when the Irish arrived, they were greeted by thousands of Buckeye fans shouting, "Catholics, go home."

When Saturday came, over 81,000 fans jammed into Ohio Stadium. The Buckeyes got off to a quick start and owned a commanding 13-0 lead at halftime. The pregame predictions were coming true. Ohio State's offense operated at will, and Notre Dame couldn't do anything right.

"I had never seen a Notre Dame offense so completely stopped," said writer Francis Wallace. "When the Irish passed, the ball was intercepted and converted into a touchdown. It was difficult to get a running play started against the hard-charging Ohio State line. It was even hard to get a punt away."

In the dressing room, Layden announced that the second team would start the second half. He ended his analytical pep talk by saying, "They won the first half. Now it's your turn. Go out and win this half for yourselves."

The defense finally figured out how to stop Ohio State's razzle-dazzle, and the offense, behind the superb antics of **Andy Pilney**, got on track. At the end of the third quarter, Ohio State still was ahead 13-0, but the Irish were driving. Notre Dame was on the Buckeyes' 12-yard line.

Pilney passed to **Francis Gaul** at the two-yard line. On the next play, **Steve Miller** went over for the touchdown. The conversion attempt hit the crossbar and wobbled back onto the field, but Notre Dame had cracked the scoreboard.

The Irish were threatening again, but Miller fumbled in the end zone and Ohio State recovered. Notre Dame's hopes dimmed as the Bucks moved downfield. But the defense finally forced Ohio State to punt, and Notre Dame was back in the business of creating miracles.

With three minutes to go, the Irish started from their own 20-yard line. Pilney's zig-zag running brought the Irish quickly into Ohio State territory. Then he tossed a 33-yard touchdown pass to **Mike Layden**. A kick would tie the game. But the Irish missed again, and the Buckeyes clung to a 13-12 advantage.

Layden called for an onside kick, but Ohio State wasn't fooled and recovered the ball. All the Buckeyes had to do was maintain possession for a win. But on Dick Beltz' drive off right tackle, he was hit hard by Pilney and lost the football. Notre Dame's second-string center **Henry Pojman** recovered on the Ohio State 49.

The crowd was out of control. Layden was crouching on the sidelines, chain-smoking. He sent in a play. The ball came back to Pilney, who dropped back to throw. But all his receivers were covered. He took off, swerving to avoid a rush of Buckeye defenders. They finally forced him out of bounds on the Ohio State 19-yard line. But Pilney didn't get up. He had torn cartilage in his knee and had to be carried from the field on a stretcher.

Bill Shakespeare entered the game with half a minute remaining. He threw straight at Buckeye defender Beltz, who had his hands on the ball, but couldn't hang on.

Layden sent in scrub quarterback **Jim McKenna** with another play. McKenna had sneaked aboard the team train to Columbus, and his teammates had helped hide him in a berth. When he couldn't scrounge up a ticket for the game, he talked his way into the Notre Dame locker room. When Layden saw him, he ordered the industrious youth to get dressed. He did, but in his excitement he forgot his pads. Now he was bringing in the winning play.

Shakespeare threw another pass. **Wayne Millner** caught the ball in the end zone. The miracle was almost complete.

"I've thought a lot about the pass. But I wake up nights dreaming about the one before it—the one the Ohio State guy had in his hands and dropped," said Shakespeare years after the game. "If he'd held it, Wayne and I both would have been bums."

Pilney, the game's hero, missed the touchdown. He was being carried to the locker room.

"While they were carrying me toward the dressing room door, I was trying to turn my head, even though I was in intense pain, to see what was happening," he remembered. "I heard the crowd and the trainer says to me, 'Andy, it's over. We won.' That's the last thing I remember. Then I went out."

Profile: First Year Irish Coaches

Jesse Harper (7-0-0 in 1913)

Debut, first win, first home winvs. Ohio Northern, 87-0
 First road game, first road winat Army, 35-13 (fourth game overall)
 First loss, first road loss.....at Yale, 28-0 in 1914
 Never lost at home16-0

Knute Rockne (3-1-2 in 1918)

Debut, first win, first road winat Case Tech, 26-6
 First non-win, first home gamevs. Great Lakes, 7-7 (third game overall)
 First home winvs. Kalamazoo, 14-0 in 1919 (seventh game overall)
 First road lossat Michigan State, 13-7 (fourth game overall)
 First home lossvs. Carnegie Tech, 27-7 (102nd game overall)
 First 42 home games41-0-1

Hunk Anderson (6-2-1 in 1931)

Debut, first win, first road winat Indiana, 25-0
 First non-win.....vs. NW. at Soldier Field (second game overall)
 First loss, first home lossvs. USC, 16-14 (seventh game overall)

Elmer Layden (6-3-0 in 1934)

Debut, first loss, first home lossvs. Texas, 7-6
 First win, first home winvs. Purdue, 18-7 (second game overall)
 First road lossat Pittsburgh, 19-0 (fifth game overall)
 First road winat Northwestern, 20-7 (seventh game overall)

Frank Leahy (8-0-1 in 1941)

Debut, first win, first home winvs. Arizona, 38-7
 First non-winvs. Army, 0-0, Yankee Stadium (sixth game overall)
 First road winat Georgia Tech, 20-0 (third game overall)
 First loss, first home lossvs. GT, 13-6 in 1942 (11th game overall)
 First road loss.....at Great Lakes, 19-14 in '43 (30th game overall)
 First 16 road games.....14-0-2

Terry Brennan (9-1-0 in 1954)

Debut, first win, first home winvs. #4 Texas, 21-0
 First loss, first home lossvs. #19 Purdue, 27-14 (second game overall)
 First road lossat #13 Mich. State, 21-7 in 1955 (14th game overall)
 Entered year ranked #2finished year ranked #4

Joe Kuharich (5-5-0 in 1959)

Debut, first win, first home win.....vs. North Carolina, 28-8
 First loss, first road lossat Purdue, 28-7 (second game overall)
 First home lossvs. #2 Northwestern, 30-24 (fifth game overall)
 Debuted at #8 in second game.....finished season unranked

Ara Parseghian (9-1-0 in 1964)

Debut, first win, first road win.....at Wisconsin, 31-7
 First home winvs. Purdue, 34-15
 First loss, first road lossat USC, 20-17 (10th game overall)
 Unranked to start year#1 for four weeks during season

Dan Devine (8-3-0 in 1975)

Debut, first winvs. Boston College, 17-13 in Foxboro
 First home winvs. Northwestern, 31-7 (third game overall)
 First road winat Purdue, 17-0 (second game overall)
 First home lossvs. Michigan State, 10-3 (fourth game overall)
 First road lossat Pittsburgh, 34-20 (10th game overall)
 Ranked as high as #7finished year unranked

Gerry Faust (5-6-0 in 1981)

Debut, first win, first home winvs. LSU, 27-9
 First loss, first road loss.....at #11 Michigan (second game overall)
 First home lossvs. #20 Florida State, 19-13 (fifth game overall)
 Ranked as high as #1finished season unranked

Lou Holtz (5-6-0 in 1986)

Debut, first loss, first home lossvs. #3 Michigan, 24-23
 First win, first home win.....vs. Purdue, 41-9 (third game overall)
 First road lossat Michigan State, 20-15 (second game overall)
 First road win.....at #17 USC, 38-37 (11th game overall)
 Spent one week at #20finished season unranked

Bob Davie (7-6 in 1997)

Debut, first win, first home winvs. GT, 17-13 (ND Stadium rededication)
 First loss, first road lossat Purdue, 28-17 (second game overall)
 First home lossvs. #17 Michigan State, 23-7 (third game overall)
 Entered year ranked 11th.....finished season unranked

Tyrone Willingham (10-3 in 2002)

Debut, first winvs. Maryland, 22-0 in Giants Stadium
 First home winvs. Purdue, 24-17 (second game overall)
 First loss, first home lossvs. Boston College, 14-7 (ninth game overall)
 First road lossat USC, 44-13 (12th game overall)
 Ranked as high as #4.....finished season ranked 17th

Charlie Weis (9-2 in 2005)

Debut, first winat #23/25 Pittsburgh, 42-21
 First road winat #3/3 Michigan, 17-10 (second game overall)
 First home winvs. BYU, 49-23 (seventh game overall)
 First loss, first home loss.....vs. Michigan State, 44-41 (OT) (third game overall)
 First road lossTBD
 Ranking ..currently ranked 5 (AP), 6 (USA Today), 5 (Harris Interactive), 6 (BCS)

Assault on the Notre Dame Record Book

Notre Dame individual records that have fallen this season...

Single-game touchdown passes - 6

Brady Quinn vs. BYU

Single-game touchdown receptions - 4

Maurice Stovall vs. BYU

Single-game receptions - 14

Maurice Stovall vs. BYU

Single-game, two players with 10 or more receptions -

Maurice Stovall (14) and Jeff Samardzija (10) vs. BYU

Pass completions in a game - 33 (tied)

Brady Quinn vs. Michigan State

Passes without and interception, game - 41

Brady Quinn vs. BYU

Passing yards in a first half - 287

Brady Quinn vs. BYU

Consecutive games with a touchdown pass - 16

Brady Quinn (current)

Consecutive games with a touchdown reception - 8

Jeff Samardzija (first eight games of the season, ended vs. Navy)

Consecutive games with a touchdown reception to begin a season - 8

Jeff Samardzija

Consecutive 100-yard rushing games to begin season - 4

Darius Walker - at Pitt, at Mich., vs. MSU, at Wash.

Consecutive games throwing for over 300 yards - 3

Brady Quinn - vs. MSU, at Wash., at Purdue

Consecutive passes without an interception - 130

Brady Quinn

Single-season touchdown passes - 32

Brady Quinn

Single-season pass completions - 263

Brady Quinn

Single-season pass attempts - 405

Brady Quinn

Single-season touchdown receptions - 15

Jeff Samardzija

Single-season 300-plus passing games - 5

Brady Quinn - vs. MSU, at Wash.,
at Purdue, vs. BYU, at Stanford

Single-season 400-plus passing games - 4

Brady Quinn - vs. MSU, at Purdue, vs. BYU, at Stanford

Single-season passing yardage - 3,633

Brady Quinn

Single-season total yards gained - 3,755

Brady Quinn

Single-season receiving yards - 1,190

Jeff Samardzija

Single-season PATs - 50

D.J. Fitzpatrick

Career passing yardage - 8,050

Brady Quinn

Career total yards gained - 8,193

Brady Quinn

Career 400-plus passing games - 5

Brady Quinn - vs. Purdue (2004), vs. MSU, at Purdue, vs. BYU - 2005,
at Stanford (2005)

Career four-touchdown passing games - 4

Brady Quinn - vs. Washington (2004), vs. Michigan State (2005), vs.
BYU (2005), vs. Navy (2005)

Career games passing for 250-plus - 15

Brady Quinn

Career passing attempts - 1,090

Brady Quinn

Career pass completions - 611

Brady Quinn

Career touchdown passes - 58

Brady Quinn

Career Total Plays - 1,252

Brady Quinn

And the records within reach

- Single-season completion percentage - 61.6 by Kevin McDougal in 1993
Brady Quinn (64.9)
- Single-season passing yards per game - 242.9 by Joe Theismann in 1970
Brady Quinn (330.3)
- Consecutive games completing a pass - 43 by Ron Powlus
Brady Quinn (34)
- Single-season receptions - 77 by Tom Gatewood in 1970
Jeff Samardzija (71) and Maurice Stovall (60)
- Single-season catches by a tight end - 54 by Ken MacAfee in 1977
Anthony Fasano (45)

- Single-season catches by a back - 37 by Bob Gladieux in 1968
Darius Walker (36)
- Career receptions - 157 by Tom Gatewood (1969-71)
Maurice Stovall (121)
- Single-season touchdown receptions - 15 by Jeff Samardzija (current)
Maurice Stovall (11)
- Single-season receiving yards - 1,190 by Jeff Samardzija (current)
Maurice Stovall (1,023)
- Career touchdown receptions - 22 by Derrick Mayes from 1992-95
Maurice Stovall (18)
Jeff Samardzija (15)

THE LAST TIME...

NOTRE DAME ...

RUSHING

Had 400 or more yards:at Boston College, 1996 (426)
 Had 300 or more yards:at Stanford, 2003 (320)
 Had 70 or more rushing attempts:vs. Michigan State, 1991 (76)
 Had 60 or more rushing attempts:vs. West Virginia, 2001 (69)
 Had 50 or more rushing attempts:at Stanford, 2005 (50)
 Had six or more rush TDs:vs. Navy, 1996 (6)
 Had five or more rush TDs:at USC, 2000 (5)
 Had four or more rush TDs:at Purdue, 2005 (4)
 Had two players with 100 rush yards in a game:vs. Stanford, 2002
 (Rashon Powers-Neal 108, Ryan Grant 103)

PASSING

Had 500 or more yards:at USC, 1970 (526)
 Had 400 or more yards:at Stanford, 2005 (432)
 Had 300 or more yards:at Stanford, 2005 (432)
 Had 40 or more pass attempts:vs. BYU, 2005 (41)
 Had 30 or more pass attempts:at Stanford, 2005 (38)
 Had 25 or more pass completions:at Stanford, 2005 (25)
 Had 20 or more pass completions:at Stanford, 2005 (25)
 Had six passing TDs:vs. BYU, 2005 (6)
 Had five passing TDs:vs. BYU, 2005 (6)
 Had four passing TDs:vs. Navy, 2005 (4)
 Had three passing TDs:at Stanford, 2005 (3)
 Had five passes intercepted:vs. USC, 1967 (7)
 Had four passes intercepted:at Purdue, 2003 (4)
 Had three passes intercepted:vs. Michigan, 2004 (3)

RECEIVING

Had two players with 100 receiving yards in a game:at Stanford, 2005
 (Jeff Samardzija - 191, Maurice Stovall - 136)
 Had a player with over 150 receiving yards in a game:at Stanford, 2005
 (Jeff Samardzija - 191)
 Had two players with 10 catches in a game:vs. BYU, 2005
 (Maurice Stovall - 14, Jeff Samardzija - 10)

COMBINATION OFFENSE

Had a 200-yard passer and 100-yard rusher in a game:at Stanford, 2005
 (Brady Quinn - 432 passing, Darius Walker - 186 rushing)
 Had a 100-yard receiver and 100-yard rusher in a game:at Stanford, 2005
 (Jeff Samardzija - 191 receiving, Maurice Stovall - 136 receiving, Darius Walker - 186 rushing)

TOTAL OFFENSE

Had 600 or more yards total offense:at Stanford, 2005 (663)
 Had 500 or more yards total offense:at Stanford, 2005 (663)
 Had 400 or more yards total offense:at Stanford, 2005 (663)
 Had 85 or more plays total offense:at Stanford, 2005 (88)
 Had 75 or more plays total offense:at Stanford, 2005 (88)

SCORING

Scored 60 or more points:vs. Rutgers, 1996 (62)
 Scored 50 or more points:at Stanford, 2003 (57)
 Scored 40 or more points:vs. Navy, 2005 (42)
 Scored 30 or more points:at Stanford, 2005 (38)

Allowed 60 or more points:Never
 Allowed 50 or more points:at Miami (Fla.), 1985 (58)
 Allowed 40 or more points:vs. Michigan State, 2005 (44)
 Allowed 30 or more points:at Stanford, 2005 (31)
 Was held scoreless:vs. Florida State, 2003 (37-0)
 Was held scoreless at home:vs. Florida State, 2003 (37-0)
 Was held scoreless on the road:at Michigan, 2003 (38-0)
 Held opponent scoreless:vs. Rutgers, 2002 (42-0)
 Held opponent scoreless at home:vs. Rutgers, 2002 (42-0)
 Held opponent scoreless on the road:at Purdue, 1993 (17-0)
 Held opponent scoreless at neutral site:vs. Maryland
 (Giants Stadium - East Rutherford, NJ), 2002 (22-0)
 Held two opponents scoreless in a season:2002 vs. Maryland (22-0)
vs. Rutgers (42-0)
 Held three opponents scoreless in a season:1976 vs. Purdue (23-0)
at Northwestern (49-0), vs. Oregon (41-0)
 Held four opponents scoreless in a season:1966 vs. Army (35-0)
vs. North Carolina (32-0), at Oklahoma (38-0), vs. Pittsburgh (40-0)
vs. Duke (64-0), at USC (51-0)
 Held five opponents scoreless in a season:1966 vs. Army (35-0)
vs. North Carolina (32-0), at Oklahoma (38-0), vs. Pittsburgh (40-0)
vs. Duke (64-0), at USC (51-0)
 Held six opponents scoreless in a season:1966 vs. Army (35-0)
vs. North Carolina (32-0), at Oklahoma (38-0), vs. Pittsburgh (40-0)
vs. Duke (64-0), at USC (51-0)
 Had multiple players with multiple TDs in a game:vs. BYU, 2005
 (Maurice Stovall - 4, Jeff Samardzija - 2)

TURNOVERS

Did not commit a turnover:vs. Syracuse, 2005
 Committed six or more turnovers:vs. Navy, 1984 (6)
 Committed five or more turnovers:vs. Boston College, 2002 (5)
 Committed four or more fumbles lost:vs. Michigan State, 1999 (4)
 Committed three or more fumbles lost:vs. Washington State, 2003 (3)
 Recorded six or more takeaways:at Michigan State, 2004 (6)
 Recorded five or more takeaways:vs. Washington, 2004 (5)
 Returned two or more interceptions for TDs:vs. Stanford, 2002 (2)
 (Shane Walton - 18 yards, Courtney Watson - 34 yards)
 Returned an interception for a TD:vs. Syracuse, 2005 (1)
 (Leo Ferrine - 16 yards)
 Returned a fumble for a TD:at Michigan State, 2004 (1)
 (Tom Zbikowski - 75 yards)

DEFENSE

Held opponent 50 or fewer rushing yards:at Stanford, 2005 (minus-11)
 Held opponent to 100 or fewer passing yards:vs. Syracuse, 2005 (78)
 Held opponent to 300 or fewer yards total offense:vs. Syracuse, 2005 (221)
 Held opponent to 200 or fewer yards total offense:at Pittsburgh, 2003 (175)
 Intercepted five or more passes:vs. Purdue, 1988 (5)
 Intercepted four or more passes:vs. Indiana, 1991 (4)
 Intercepted three or more passes:at Michigan State, 2004 (3)
 Scored a safety:at Stanford, 2003
 Recorded nine or more sacks:vs. Rutgers, 1996 (9)
 Recorded eight or more sacks:vs. Pittsburgh, 2003 (8)
 Recorded seven or more sacks:at Stanford, 2005 (7)
 Recorded six or more sacks:vat Stanford, 2005 (7)
 Recorded five or more sacks:at Stanford, 2005 (7)
 Held opponent to 10 or fewer first downs:at Pittsburgh, 2003 (9)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Returned a punt for a TD:vs. Tennessee, 2005
 (Tom Zbikowski, 78 yards)
 Returned a blocked punt for a TD:at Boston College, 2003
 (Carlos Campbell, 25 yards)
 Returned a kickoff for a TD:vs. Navy, 2002
 (Vontez Duff, 92 yards)
 Blocked a punt:vs. Syracuse, 2005 (2)
 Punted 10 or more times:at Tennessee, 2004 (10)
 Did not punt:vs. Navy, 2005
 Blocked a field goal:at Purdue, 2005
 Had a field goal blocked:vs. Syracuse, 2005
 Blocked a PAT kick:vs. LSU, 1998
 Scored on a blocked PAT attempt:vs. Texas, 1995
 Missed a kicking PAT:at Stanford, 2005
 Had a kicking PAT blocked:at Stanford, 2003
 Had a punt blocked:vs. Michigan State, 2005

MISCELLANEOUS

Had 30 or more first downs:at Stanford, 2005 (30)
 Had 20 or more first downs:at Stanford, 2005 (30)
 Was not penalized:at LSU, 1997
 Had 10 or more penalties:vs. BYU, 2005 (11)
 Had 120 or more yards in penalties:at Rutgers, 2000 (120)
 Had 35 minutes or more of possession time:vs. USC, 2005 (38:40)
 Was involved in a tie game:at USC, 1994 (17-17)
 Was involved in an overtime game:vs. Michigan State, 2005 (L, 41-44)

A NOTRE DAME PLAYER ...

RUSHING

Rushed for 300 or more yards:Never
 Rushed for 250 or more yards:Julius Jones at Pittsburgh, 2003 (262)
 Rushed for 200 or more yards:Julius Jones at Stanford, 2003 (218)
 Rushed for 175 or more yards:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (186)
 Rushed for 150 or more yards:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (186)
 Rushed for 125 or more yards:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (186)
 Rushed for 100 or more yards:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (186)
 Quarterback rushed for 100 or more yards:Carlyle Holiday
 at Boston College, 2001 (109)
 Rushed 40 or more times:Allen Pinkett at LSU, 1984 (40)
 Rushed 35 or more times:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (35)
 Rushed 30 or more times:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (35)
 Rushed 25 or more times:Darius Walker at Stanford, 2005 (35)
 Rushed for four or more TDs:Emmett Mosley vs. Navy, 1994 (4)
 Rushed for three or more TDs:Rashon Powers-Neal at Pitt, 2005 (3)
 Rushed for two or more TDs:Rashon Powers-Neal at Purdue, 2005 (2)
 Had a run of 80 yards or more:Terrance Howard at West Virginia, 2000 (80)
 Had a run of 70 yards or more:Terrance Howard at West Virginia, 2000 (80)
 Had a run of 60 yards or more:Carlyle Holiday vs. Pittsburgh, 2001 (67)
 Had a run of 50 yards or more:Carlyle Holiday at Air Force, 2002 (53)

PASSING

Passed for 500 or more yards:Joe Theismann at USC, 1970 (526)
 Passed for 400 or more yards:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (432)
 Passed for 300 or more yards:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (432)
 Attempted 50 or more passes:Brady Quinn vs. Michigan State, 2005 (60)
 Attempted 40 or more passes:Brady Quinn vs. BYU, 2005 (41)
 Attempted 30 or more passes:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (38)
 Completed 30 or more passes:Brady Quinn vs. BYU, 2005 (32)
 Completed 20 or more passes:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (25)
 Threw five or more TDs:Brady Quinn vs. BYU, 2005 (6)
 Threw four or more TDs:Brady Quinn vs. Navy, 2005 (4)
 Threw three or more TDs:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (3)
 Threw five or more interceptions:Before 1975
 Threw four or more interceptions:Brady Quinn at Purdue, 2003 (4)
 Threw three or more interceptions:Brady Quinn vs. Michigan, 2004 (3)
 Completed a pass of 80 yards or more:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (80)
 Completed a pass of 70 yards or more:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (80)
 Completed a pass of 60 yards or more:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (80)
 Completed a pass of 50 yards or more:Brady Quinn at Stanford, 2005 (80)

TURNOVERS

Did not commit a turnover:Stanford, 2005
 Had three or more fumbles lost:Washington, 2004 (4)
 Intercepted five or more passes:USC, 1967 (7)
 Intercepted four or more passes:Purdue, 2003 (4)
 Intercepted three or more passes:Michigan, 2004 (3)
 Returned an interception for a TD:Michigan State, 2005
 (Sir Darean Adams - 30 yards)
 Returned a fumble for a TD:Air Force, 2002
 (Marchello Graddy - 21 yards)

DEFENSE

Held ND to 10 or fewer first downs:Michigan, 2003 (7)
 Scored a safety:LSU, 1998
 Held ND to 50 or fewer rushing yards:Tennessee, 2005 (48)
 Held ND to 200 or fewer passing yards:Michigan, 2005 (140)
 Held ND to 100 or fewer passing yards:Pittsburgh, 2003 (33)
 Held ND to 300 or fewer yards total offense:Michigan, 2005 (244)
 Held ND to 200 or fewer yards total offense:Michigan, 2003 (140)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Returned a punt for a TD:Purdue, 2002 (Anthony Chambers - 76 yards)
 Returned a blocked punt for a TD:Michigan State, 2004
 (Jerramy Scott - 0 yards)
 Returned a kickoff for a TD:Stanford, 2005 (T.J. Rushing - 87 yards)
 Punted 10 or more times:Rutgers, 2002 (10)
 Did not punt:Miami (Fla.), 1985
 Missed a kicking PAT:USC, 2005

MISCELLANEOUS

Had 30 or more first downs:USC, 2002 (31)
 Had 20 or more first downs:Navy, 2005 (21)
 Had 10 or more penalties:Washington State, 2003 (13)
 Had 100 or more yards in penalties:Washington State, 2003 (118)
 Had 35 minutes or more of possession time:Michigan, 2003 (37:47)
 Had a 100-yard receiver and a 100-yard rusher:USC, 2005
 (Reggie Bush, 160 rushing, Dwayne Jarrett, 101 receiving)

AN OPPOSING PLAYER ...

RUSHING

Rushed for 300 or more yards:Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh, 1975 (303)
 Rushed for 200 or more yards:Rondell Mealey, LSU, 1997 (222)
 Rushed for 150 or more yards:Reggie Bush, USC, 2005 (160)
 Rushed for 100 or more yards:Damien Rhodes, Syracuse, 2005 (112)
 Rushed 40 or more times:Craig Heyward, Pittsburgh, 1987 (42)
 Rushed 30 or more times:Chris Perry, Michigan, 2003 (31)
 Rushed 25 or more times:Lamar Owens, Navy, 2005 (26)
 Rushed for five or more TDs:Walter Reyes, Syracuse, 2003 (5)
 Rushed for four or more TDs:Walter Reyes, Syracuse, 2003 (5)
 Rushed for three or more TDs:Reggie Bush, USC, 2005 (3)
 Rushed for two or more TDs:Reggie Bush, USC, 2005 (3)
 Had a run of 80 yards or more:Sherman Lewis, Michigan State, 1963 (85)
 Had a run of 70 yards or more:Walter Reyes, Syracuse, 2003 (71)
 Had a run of 60 yards or more:Walter Reyes, Syracuse, 2003 (71)
 Had a run of 50 yards or more:Damien Rhodes, Syracuse, 2005 (51)

PASSING

Passed for 500 or more yards:Never

Passed for 400 or more yards:Matt Leinart, USC, 2004 (400)
 Passed for 300 or more yards:John Beck, BYU, 2005 (317)
 Attempted 60 or more passes:Andy Kelly, Tennessee, 1990 (60)
 Attempted 50 or more passes:Kyle Orton, Purdue, 2001 (52)
 Attempted 40 or more passes:John Beck, BYU, 2005 (45)
 Completed 30 or more passes:Carson Palmer, USC, 2002 (32)
 Completed 20 or more passes:John Beck, BYU, 2005 (26)
 Threw five or more TDs:Matt Leinart, USC, 2004 (5)
 Threw four or more TDs:Derek Anderson, Oregon State, 2004 (4)
 Threw three or more TDs:Drew Stanton, Michigan State, 2005 (3)
 Completed a pass of 90 yards or more:Kyle Orton, Purdue, 2004 (97)
 Completed a pass of 80 yards or more:Kyle Orton, Purdue, 2004 (97)
 Completed a pass of 70 yards or more:T.C. Ostrander, Stanford, 2005 (76)
 Completed a pass of 60 yards or more:T.C. Ostrander, Stanford, 2005 (76)
 Completed a pass of 50 yards or more:T.C. Ostrander, Stanford, 2005 (76)

RECEIVING

Caught 10 or more passes:Dorien Bryant, Purdue, 2005 (14)
 Caught seven or more passes:Matt Traverso, Stanford, 2005 (7)
 Had 200 or more yards receiving:Craphonso Thorpe, Florida State, 2003 (217)
 Had 150 or more yards receiving:Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue, 2004 (181)
 Had 100 or more yards receiving:Mark Bradford, Stanford, 2005 (124)
and Justin McCullum, Stanford, 2005 (101)
 Caught three or more TD passes:Pat Fitzgerald, Texas, 1995 (3)
 Caught two or more TD passes:Dorien Bryant, Purdue, 2005 (2)

SCORING

Accounted for five or more touchdowns:Matt Leinart, USC, 2004 (5 passing)
 Accounted for four or more touchdowns:Matt Trannon, Michigan State, 2005
 (3 receiving, 1 rushing)
 Accounted for three or more touchdowns:Jonny Harline, BYU, 2005
 (2 receiving, 1 rushing)

DEFENSE

Intercepted three or more passes:Rod Johnson, N.C. State, 2003 (3)
 Intercepted two or more passes:Rod Johnson, N.C. State, 2003 (3)
 Recorded three or more sacks:Ennis Davis, USC, 1999 (3)
 Recorded two or more sacks:Leon Hall, Michigan, 2005 (2)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicked four or more field goals:Garrett Rivas, Michigan, 2004 (4)
 Kicked a field goal 50 or more yards:Matt Payne, BYU, 2004 (53)
 Kicked a punt of 65 or more yards:Brandon Fields, Michigan State, 2004 (79)
 Totaled 100 or more kick return yards:Karl Whittaker, Navy, 2005 (159)

NOTRE DAME DEPTH CHART *(Irish vs. Ohio State – 2006 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 2, 2006, Tempe Ariz., Sun Devil Stadium)*

Irish Offense

X	21	MAURICE STOVALL	6-5	222	Sr.
	11	David Grimes	6-0	170	Fr.
LT	68	RYAN HARRIS	6-5	288	Jr.
	77	Michael Turkovich	6-6	290	Fr.
LG	50	Dan Santucci	6-4	290	Sr.
	79	Brian Mattes	6-6	285	Sr.
C	76	Bob Morton**	6-4	292	Sr.
	78	JOHN SULLIVAN	6-4	298	Jr.
RG	74	DAN STEVENSON	6-6	292	Sr.
	62	Scott Raridon	6-7	304	Sr.
RT	73	MARK LeVOIR	6-7	311	Sr.
	72	Paul Duncan	6-7	292	Fr.
Y	88	ANTHONY FASANO	6-5	255	Sr.
	89	John Carlson	6-6	254	Jr.
	87	Marcus Freeman	6-3	245	Sr.
Z	83	Jeff Samardzija	6-5	216	Jr.
	82	Matt Shelton	6-0	172	Sr.
QB	10	BRADY QUINN	6-4	231	Jr.
	14	David Wolke	6-2	196	So.
FB	44	Asaph Schwapp	6-0	250	Fr.
	35	Ashley McConnell	6-0	247	Jr.
HB	3	DARIUS WALKER	5-10	208	So.
	26	Travis Thomas	6-0	215	Jr.

Irish Defense

LE	95	Victor Abiamiri	6-4	260	Jr.
	94	Justin Brown	6-3	247	So.
LT	98	Trevor Laws	6-1	293	Jr.
	90	Brian Beidatsch	6-3	294	Sr.
RT	66	DEREK LANDRI	6-3	263	Sr.
	57	Dwight Stephenson, Jr.	6-2	252	Jr.
	or 96	Pat Kuntz	6-2	267	Fr.
RE	99	Ronald Talley	6-4	261	So.
	94	Justin Brown	6-3	247	So.
WLB	39	BRANDON HOYTE	6-0	236	Sr.
	52	Joe Brockington	6-1	212	Jr.
MLB	46	Corey Mays	6-1	234	Sr.
	41	Scott Smith	6-3	235	Fr.
Apache	40	Maurice Crum, Jr.	6-0	220	So.
	48	Steve Quinn	6-2	215	Fr.
LCB	22	Ambrose Wooden	5-11	197	Jr.
	15	Leo Ferrine	6-0	186	So.
WS	18	Chinedum Ndukwe	6-2	219	Jr.
	27	David Bruton	6-2	187	Fr.
SS	9	TOM ZBIKOWSKI	6-0	208	Jr.
	28	Kyle McCarthy	6-0	189	Fr.
RCB	30	Mike Richardson	5-11	193	Sr.
	20	Terrail Lambert	5-11	188	So.

Irish Special Teams

PK	19	D.J. FITZPATRICK	6-2	206	Sr.	SNP	61	J.J. Jansen	6-3	242	So.
	45	Carl Gioia	5-11	179	Jr.		62	Scott Raridon	6-7	304	Sr.
P	19	D.J. FITZPATRICK	6-2	206	Sr.	PR	9	Tom Zbikowski	6-0	208	Jr.
	17	Geoff Price	6-3	186	Jr.		11	David Grimes	6-0	170	Fr.
KO	19	D.J. FITZPATRICK	6-2	206	Sr.	KR	11	David Grimes	6-0	170	Fr.
	45	Carl Gioia	5-11	179	Jr.		1	D.J. Hord	6-2	185	Fr.
HLD	83	Jeff Samardzija	6-5	216	Jr.	ALL CAPS - returning starter from 2004 (min. six regular season starts) ** - indicates was a starter at another position in 2004					
	82	MATT SHELTON	6-0	172	Sr.						