

Wet and Wild In Philly



Mike Bennett

Freshman Robert Farmer faces Middle defensive back Chris Hart...

On the turf of the Vet, the Irish were almost upset by the Middies until the freshmen took over the offense for an Irish victory, 58-27

by Warren Junium

October 30, Philadelphia, PA—

The scene was Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, Pa, the city of brotherly love. The Naval Academy Midshipmen could not have cared less about being hospitable to the visiting Fighting Irish. They had only one thing on their mind — an upset.

"I said back in May that Navy would be the most improved football team in the country this year, and they certainly are," said Lou Holtz, Notre Dame head coach.

From the opening drive, it was obvious that the Irish would have trouble with Navy as it marched down the field seemingly oblivious to the Irish defense. Navy junior quarterback Jim Kubiak was three for four in completions during the opening drive, and with his accurate passing, he set up freshman kicker Ryan Bucchianeri's first collegiate field goal, putting the Middies up 3-0 only two minutes into the game.

The Irish answered the Middies chip shot with fifth-year senior kicker Kevin Pendergast's 32 yard field goal. But Navy came back on their next drive to score again.

Kubiak, in his second drive, was able to read the Notre Dame defense and found holes where he could place his passes. He topped off this 50 yard drive with a 31 yard break away pass to junior wide receiver Damon Dixon in the end zone, putting the Middies up 10-3 with a little over three minutes to play in the first quarter.

The score tradeoff continued, but it appeared that Notre Dame was playing catch-up. Senior quarterback Kevin McDougal orchestrated a scoring drive late in the first quarter. In this drive, McDougal relied on junior tailback Lee Becton

and senior flanker Lake Dawson. Becton rumbled for over 40 yards in four plays, and McDougal hit Dawson with a pass left for an Irish gain of 19. Dawson's grab set up



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... and splashes by him for the fifth Irish touchdown of the day.

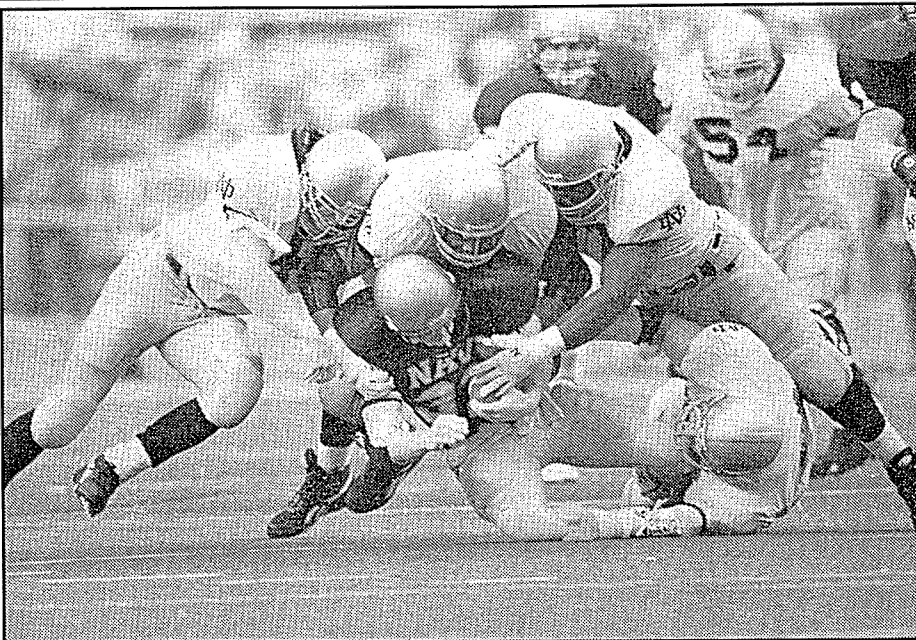
freshman fullback Marc Edwards' rush for a touchdown early in the second quarter, tying the score.

The Midshipmen scored two more touchdowns in the half. One with 9:36 remaining in the first period on a one yard run by senior fullback Brad Stramanak. Kubiak tossed a rocket pass to Stramanak that he caught in mid-air between two Irish defenders, before sprinting across the goal line.

The touchdown by Stramanak marked the most points given up by the Irish at that point in the year. It also gave Navy a 24-17 lead over

Notre Dame going into half time. This was the first time that the Irish were trailing their opponent at the half in two years.

"I knew that it felt strange when I went into



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The Notre Dame defense stepped up and held the Midies to 93 total yards in the second half.

the locker room at half time. You are telling me that this is the first time in two years. I can't believe it. Now I know why I felt strange," said Holtz. "I let the seniors speak

to them at the half. There was no ranting or raving. The seniors just told them what we had to do to win this game."

The Irish came out in the second half a different team, a team ready to take control.

Notre Dame took the opening kickoff from Navy, marking one of the last times that the Middies would have the ball in the game.

The Irish, on their first drive of the half, aired out the passing game and took advantage of the weak Navy secondary. McDougal had two passing sequences to Dawson. In

the first, McDougal connected with Dawson for a 19 yard gain and on the second, after scrambling from the grasps of the Midie defenders, McDougal aired out a 44 yard pass for the touchdown. Dawson's first touchdown of his senior year brought the Irish even with the Middies, 24-24.

Navy was stopped by the Irish on its next drive, giving the once sputtering offense a chance to take over and dominate the game. On the second play of the drive, freshman tailback Randy Kinder produced one of the most spectacular runs of his young collegiate career. With second and seven, McDougal handed off to Kinder. Kinder broke through the Navy line and rushed for a 70 yard Irish touchdown, putting Notre Dame ahead for the first time in the game, 31-24.

After being forced to punt its next drive, the Irish set up for another freshman to take them to the end zone. After a long drive led by Edwards, the Irish were again within striking distance. This time McDougal handed off to freshman tailback Robert Farmer. Farmer barreled through the Navy line for another Irish touchdown, giving Notre Dame a 38-24 edge.

The Middies did score once more on a field goal by Bucchianeri, bringing them within 11, for a score of 38-27.

Notre Dame continued to dominate the

Freshmen Shine for Irish

On an otherwise gloomy day for the Irish, the highly touted freshmen class showed its abilities against the Navy Midshipmen at Veterans Stadium. With impressive performances by fullback Marc Edwards and tailbacks Robert Farmer and Randy Kinder, the Irish offense was carried through the game, especially in the second half.

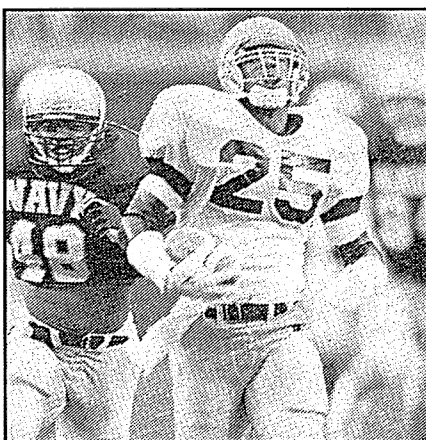
Edwards lived up to his billing as Mr. Football of Ohio with his offensive performance against the Midies. Edwards scored three of the Irish's seven touchdowns, with his most impressive coming off a 10 yard run through the Navy line in the second quarter. By the end of the day Edwards had impressive numbers. He gained 97 yards on 14 carries, with his

longest rush of 27 yards setting the Irish up for a touchdown late in the third quarter.

Notre Dame was also helped by Farmer and Kinder. They both had touchdowns, contributing to the freshman touchdown total of five for the day. Kinder was second for the Irish in rushing with 108 yards on 10 carries. He dazzled the spectators with a 70 yard touchdown run early in the second half that put the Irish up for the first time. Farmer was also an impressive rusher for the Irish. He contributed one touchdown and 77 yards to the Irish cause.

"Kinder, Farmer and Edwards, the three freshman, were very impressive today; they played great," said Holtz.

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Freshman Randy Kinder put the Irish ahead 31-24 with a spectacular 70 yard run.

exhausted Navy defense by posting two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter. After a 23 yard run by Farmer in the middle of the fourth quarter, the Irish were set to strike at the end zone one more time. With 6:51 remaining in the game, Edwards plowed through the weary offensive line of the Middies for Notre Dame's sixth touchdown on the day and Edwards' third for the Irish.

Next Notre Dame's defense decided to get into the scoring action. On first and 10 for the Middies, Kubiak set up to pass and let the ball

fly but Irish sophomore cornerback Bobby Taylor made an interception. Taylor slipped through his pursuers and ran across the goal line, scoring a 31 yard touchdown. With Taylor's score, the Irish increased their lead to 58-27.

Navy tried to retaliate, but the stingy Irish defense of the second half shut down the

Middies once again, sealing the Irish victory.

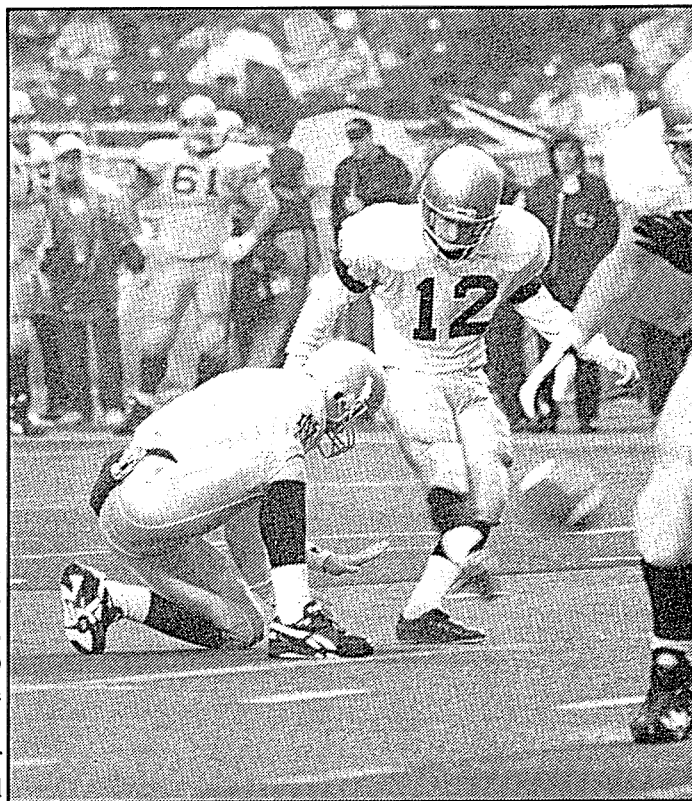
Notre Dame played more physically in the second half. They went away from their finesse

plays like the option. We couldn't stop them," said George Chaump, Navy head coach. "They showed their physical superiority in the second half. We tried stunts, everything to

slow them down. We just couldn't."

With the victory over Navy the Irish continued their undefeated season and looked forward to the impending battle with first ranked Florida State. □

**"We tried stunts, everything to slow them down. We just couldn't."
— George Chaump, Navy head coach**



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Kicker Kevin Pendergast had a busy day, scoring a field goal and seven extra points.

GAME SUMMARY

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	3	14	21	20	58
Naval Academy	10	14	3	0	27

1st Quarter NA: Bucchiaaneri 38 FG at 12:38
 ND: Pendergast 32 FG at 5:16
 NA: Dixon 31 pass from Kubiak (Bucchianeri PAT) at 3:08

2nd Quarter ND: Edwards 3 run (Pendergast PAT) at 14:57
 NA: Stramanak 1 run (Bucchianeri PAT) at 9:36
 ND: Edwards 10 run (Pendergast PAT) at 3:59
 NA: Screen 53 pass from Kubiak (Bucchianeri PAT) at 1:07

3rd Quarter ND: Dawson 44 pass from McDougal (Pendergast PAT) at 13:41
 ND: Kinder 70 run (Pendergast PAT) at 11:20
 ND: Farmer 9 run (Pendergast PAT) at 4:51
 NA: Bucchianeri 34 FG at :48

4th Quarter ND: Burris 3 run (Pendergast PAT) at 13:27
 ND: Edwards 1 run at 6:51 (PAT failed)

Team Statistics

	ND	NA
First Downs	30	15
Rushing	24	2
Passing	6	10
Penalty	0	3
Rushing	426	64
Passing	178	257
Total Net Yards	604	321
Average Gain Per Play	7.7	6
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-78	0-0
Punts-Averages	2-27.75	4-33
Kickoff Returns	64	166
3rd Down Conversions	5-9	4-15

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND - Becton 21-124, Edwards 14-97-3, Kinder 10-108-1, Farmer 6-77-1, McDougal 6-(-10), Lytle 2-17, Thorne 1-3, Burris 1-3-1, Rolle 1-9, Failla 1-(-2) NA - VanMatre 8-42, Kubiak 2-17, Williams 1-4, Smith 2-4, Stramanak 1-1, James 4-(-4)

Passing: ND - McDougal 15-9-17-0-1, Failla 1-1-8-0-0 NA - Kubiak 29-21-251-2-1, Solliday 6-3-6-0-0

Receiving: ND - Mayes 1-14, Miller 2-31, Dawson 4-99-1, Becton 1-14, McBride 1-12, Farmer 1-8 NA - Dixon 6-80, Screen 3-76, Jefferson 2-46, Scornavacchi 3-29, Van Matre 4-19, Stramanak 1-12, James 2-(-1), Smith 2-(-1), Kubiak 1-(-3)