

Revenge Never Tasted So Sweet

Notre Dame avenged last year's loss to Stanford with a 48-20 victory

by Jeremy Dixon

October 2, Notre Dame —

Irish fans knew the victory was secure when they saw Lou Holtz drinking his strawberry milkshake on the sidelines. Holtz, who forgot his necessary shake before the game, had a student manager bring one to him during the fourth quarter of the Stanford match up that the Irish dominated, 48-20. Last year's loss to the Cardinal was wiped out of the team's memory by the "big play" attack.

The onslaught began on Notre Dame's first possession. Starting on their own eight yard line, the Irish marched down the field in 10 plays. A 46 yard play action pass from senior quarterback Kevin McDougal to junior flanker Mike Miller gave the Irish a first down at the Cardinal 20 yard line. Four plays later, senior cornerback Willie Clark rolled untouched around the right end into the end zone to give Notre Dame a lead it would not relinquish.

Stanford came right back on the next possession though. Coupling senior running back Ellery Roberts' 24 yards rushing with three completions to junior split end Justin Armour for 49 yards and three first downs, the Cardinal was first and 10 on the Irish 12 yard line before the Notre Dame defense stepped up. On second down and three, Irish senior defensive lineman Oliver Gibson stopped Roberts for a loss and a third

down pass attempt fell incomplete. The defense forced a 23 yard field goal, cutting the Irish lead to 7-3.

On their next possession, the Irish were led by freshman tailback Randy Kinder, who ended the day with 105 yards rushing to become the first Notre Dame freshman to surpass 100 yards rushing since 1982. He had a 21 yard run down the left side to move the ball into Stanford territory. A pass interference penalty moved the ball further downfield to the Cardinal 15 yard line where, after a two yard loss, Coach Holtz decided to try the option for the first time. It developed just as planned, with McDougal waltzing 17 yards into the end zone for another Irish score.

Holtz declared earlier in the week that he was abandoning the option because of McDougal's inability to run it. "We decided Kevin would definitely have to learn it; we made some progress," said Holtz.

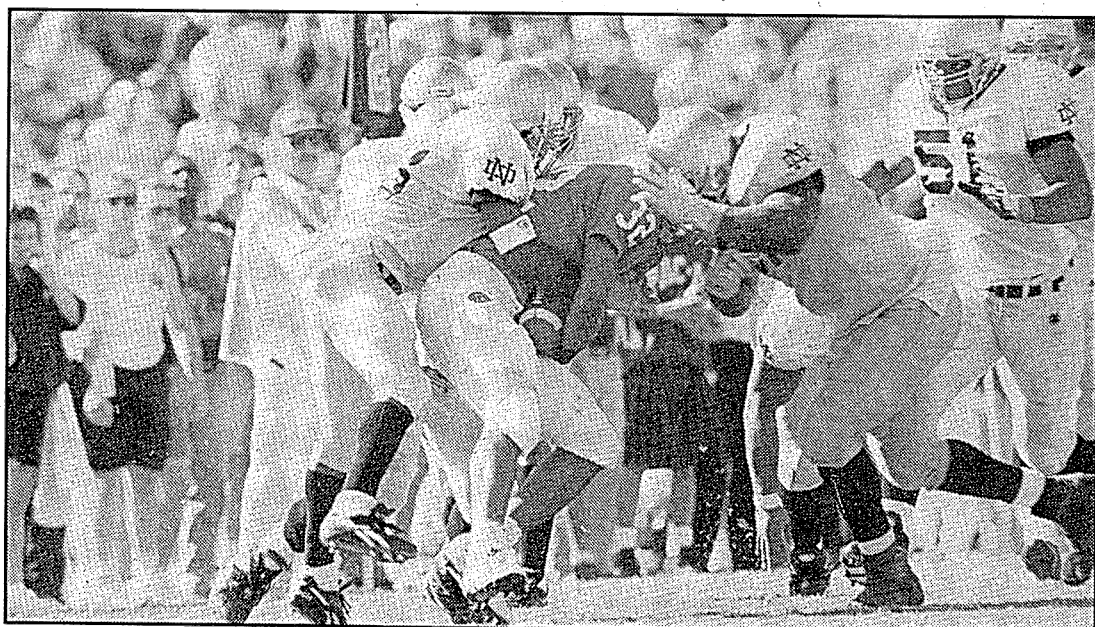
"I knew we were going to run it," said

McDougal. "It's in [Holtz's] offense. I felt if they were going to let me run it, I might as well run it."

The Irish only ran the option four times, but it was three times too many for Bill Walsh and Stanford. Of the four options the Irish ran, McDougal scored two touchdowns and pitched to junior tailback Lee Becton for another.

"We made some good defensive plays, some fabulous plays, but we still can't fathom the option," Walsh said.

Keeping up the Irish tradition of strong special teams and galactic nicknames, senior split end Clint "Cosmic" Johnson scored one touchdown and set up another. With 47 seconds left in the first half and the Irish lead cut to 14-6 by a Stanford field goal, Johnson took the kickoff from the goal line down the left sideline to the Stanford 21 yard line. McDougal worked the late half magic again with a nine yard end zone pass to a diving sophomore split end Derrick Mayes



The Notre Dame defense smothers a Stanford ball carrier. The defense forced the Cardinal to lose 43 yards rushing.

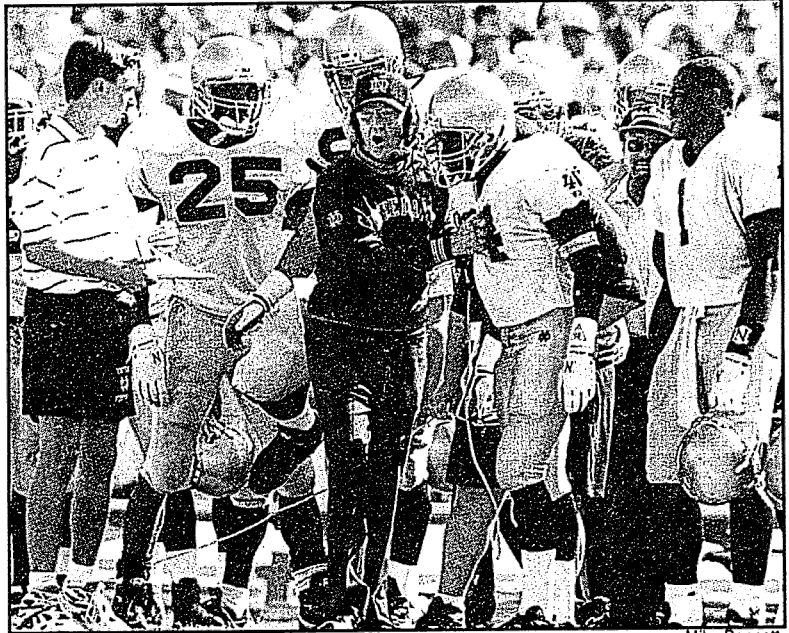
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— the first touchdown for the Irish receivers all season — to give Notre Dame a 20-6 lead going into halftime.

The Irish took the opening kickoff of the second half and again marched down the field. A third down conversion from McDougal to senior flanker Lake Dawson moved the ball into Stanford territory, setting up McDougal's second option touchdown.

Once again, Stanford came back. Senior quarterback Steve Stenstrom picked apart the secondary, leading the Cardinal deep into Notre Dame territory where Roberts again took charge. On second down from the eight yard line, Roberts took a pitch that almost scored him a touchdown, but just missed. However, on the next play he found the end zone to cut the lead to 27-13.

On the kickoff, "Cosmic" got another chance — perhaps making the biggest and the most memorable play during a day of the big plays. Taking the ball from five yards inside the goal line, "Cosmic" Johnson sprinted up the left sideline once more. This time, however, the only people to catch him were his teammates as they mobbed him in



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Ray Zellars receives last minute instructions from Coach Holtz. Zellars rushed for 41 yards on the day.

the end zone.

"We put [the kickoff return] in two or three weeks ago," said Johnson. "The only thing new about it is we return it up the

sidelines. It used to be up the middle."

"I didn't want to put it in, but players convinced me," Holtz said.

The run-back took the wind out of Stanford's sails. The Cardinal had put together an impressive drive only to watch Notre Dame's lead balloon to 34-13.

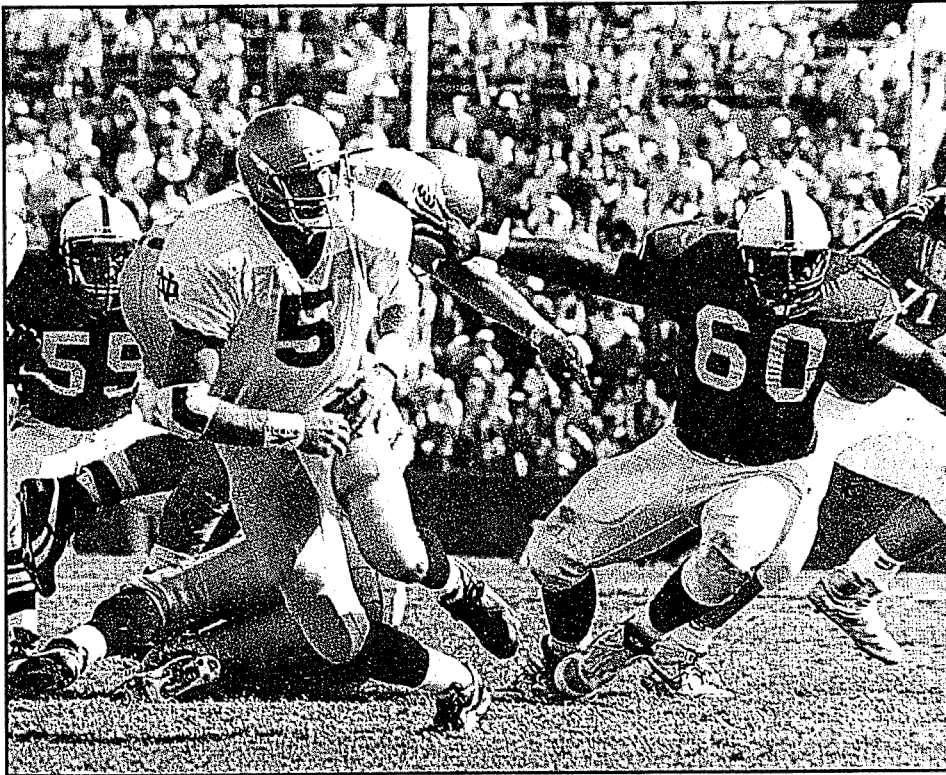
"We were thinking, if we can hold them, it's our game. But then came the kickoff return for the touchdown, and now we were forced to make big plays," Roberts said.

Stanford came right back at the Irish on the next possession to score on a 30 yard pass from Stenstrom to freshman wide receiver Brian Manning.

But Notre Dame again answered in the Big play with a 27 yard run for freshman tail back Randy Kinder that was followed two plays later by a crucial third down conversion, a 32 yard reception by Dawson at the Stanford 10 yard line. This set up the Irish option once again. McDougal ran it to perfection, pitching to Becton just as he was hit by two Cardinal defenders. Becton cruised into the end zone to put the Irish up 41-20.

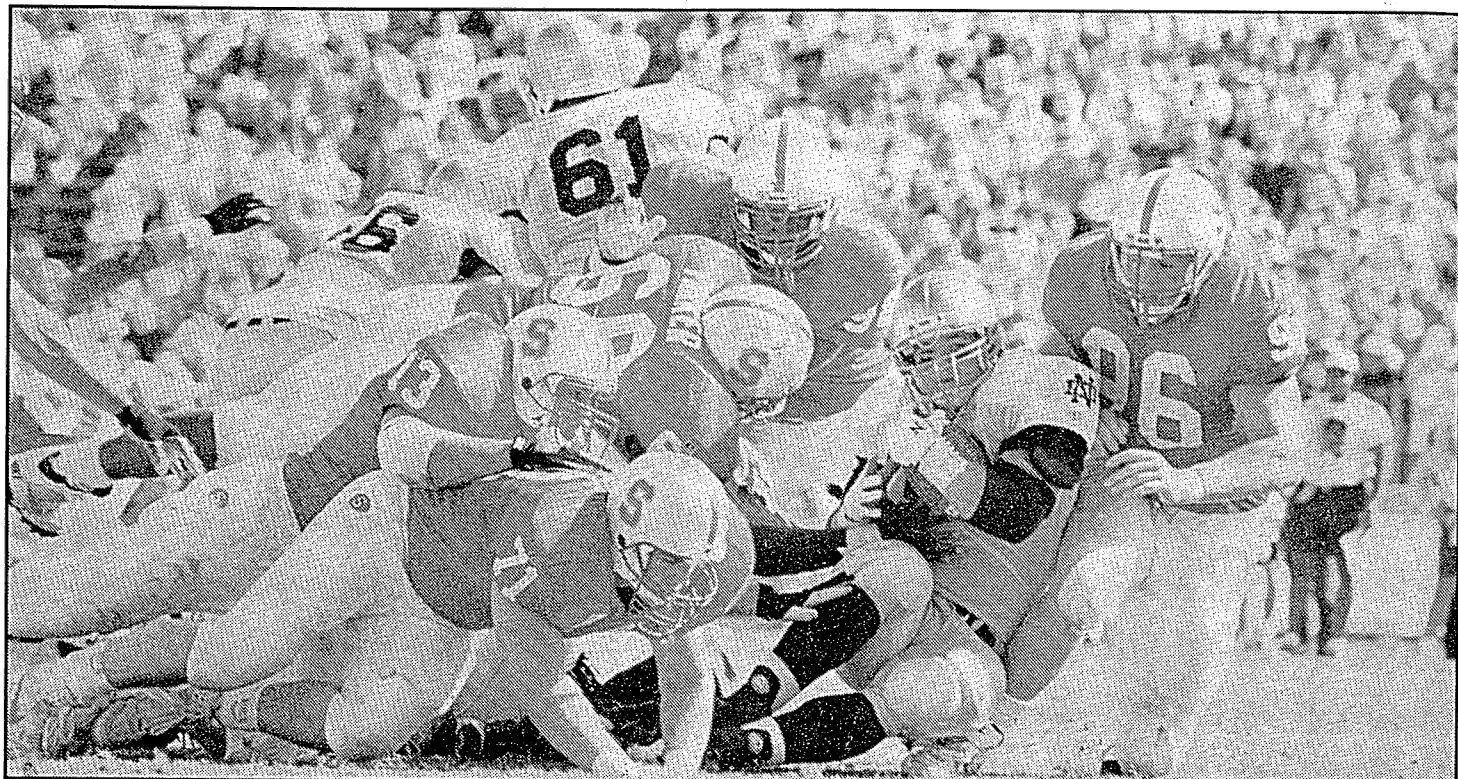
"I think the defense is getting better, but I still don't think we can stop the option. McDougal is a good option quarterback," said Stanford linebacker Coy Gibbs.

On the next Irish possession, the big



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Junior back-up quarterback Paul Failla watches the run develop. He threw an 80 yard touchdown pass in the match up with Stanford.



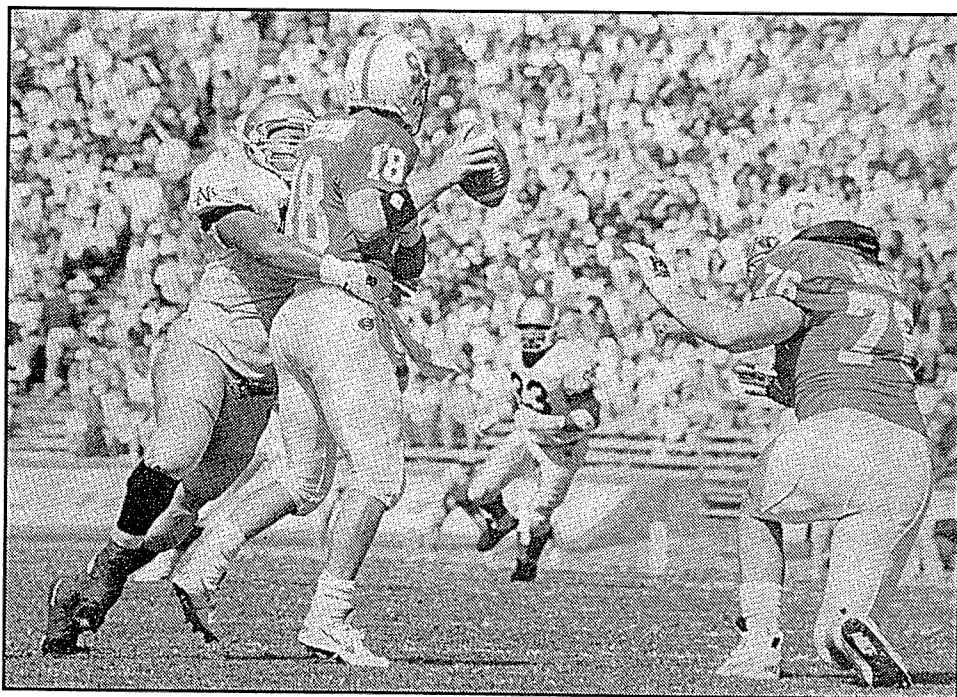
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Stanford defenders swarm around a Notre Dame ball carrier. The Cardinal defense was ineffective against the Irish passing and rushing game.

play showed up again. Junior back up quarterback Paul Failla, on the only Irish pass of the fourth quarter, connected with Mayes for an 80 yard touchdown pass to give the Irish a final margin of victory of 48-20.

Late in the fourth quarter, with Stanford driving deep in Notre Dame territory, junior defensive back Shawn Wooden made a spectacular interception in the end zone. Wooden jumped up to tip the ball, then kept batting it up in the air until he caught it while lying on his back. It was an amazing catch that landed Wooden on the highlight films.

The Irish took part in the day of big plays. It only allowed two touchdowns by Stanford's Roberts and Manning. Two sacks, one by sophomore outside linebacker Renaldo Wynn, and the other by freshman defensive back Kinnon Tatum and senior defensive end Brian Hamilton, ended potential touchdown drives by Stanford and forced the Cardinal to settle for field goals. Sophomore cornerback Bobby Taylor had a good game covering Cardinal standout



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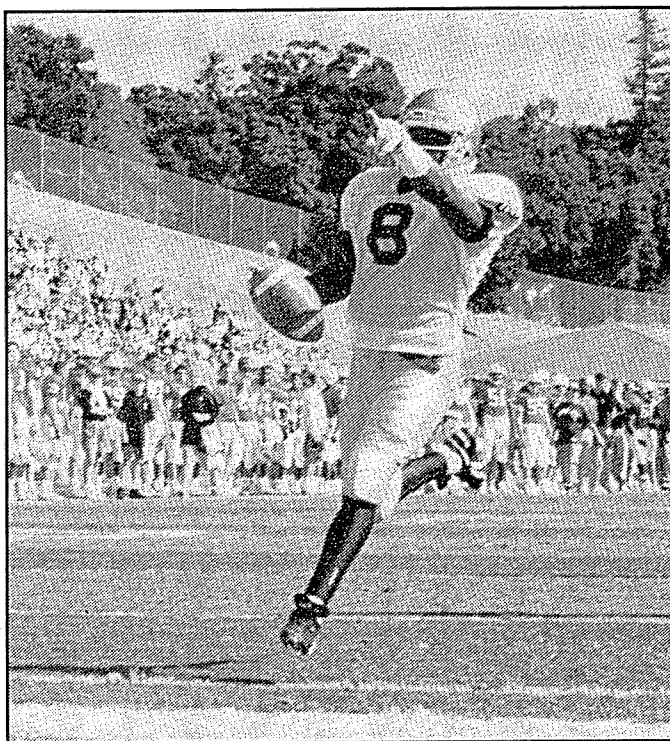
Notre Dame's defense wraps up Stanford quarterback Steve Stenstrom once again. Notre Dame sacked the Cardinal quarterback three times for a total loss of 27 yards.

junior tight end Justin Armour. Senior free safety Jeff Burris had some crushing hits, and junior linebacker Jeremy Sample led the team with 10 tackles.

"I thought this was a heck of a football game," said Holtz. "In the second half each team answered the challenge. I thought our offense played very, very well."

"We played an outstanding Notre Dame team," said Walsh. "Their big plays destroyed us. I think they'll win all their remaining games." Buoyed by the confidence received by destroying Stanford, the team headed home to take on Pitt, coming one week closer to that November match up with Florida State.

"We made a lot of big plays," said Holtz. And on that beautiful California day, the big plays were all the Irish needed. □



Clint Johnson celebrates after scoring on a 100 yard kickoff return.

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GAME SUMMARY

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	7	13	21	7	48
Stanford	3	3	14	0	20

1st Quarter ND: Clark 9 run (Pendergast kick) at 6:58
SU: Abrams 23 field goal at 0:31

2nd Quarter ND: McDougal 17 run (Pendergast kick) at 12:24
SU: Abrams 34 field goal at 0:47
ND: Mayes 9 pass from Mirer (Pendergast kick) at 0:24

3rd Quarter ND: McDougal 19 run (Pendergast kick) at 9:13
SU: Roberts 1 run (Abrams kick) at 6:30
ND: Johnson 100 kickoff return (Pendergast kick) at 6:15
SU: Manning 30 pass from Stenstrom (Pendergast kick) at 4:20
ND: Becton 8 run (Pendergast kick) at 1:41

4th Quarter ND: Mayes 80 pass from Failla (Pendergast kick) at 13:04

Team Statistics

	ND	SU
First Downs	21	24
Rushing	15	8
Passing	5	16
Penalty	1	0
Rushing	264	74
Passing	211	321
Total Net Yards	475	395
Average Gain Per Play	7.4	5.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-29	6-69
Punts-Averages	3-39.7	6-43.5
Kickoff Returns	179	173
3rd Down Conversions	8-12	9-16

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND - Kinder 16-105, McDougal 4-48, Zellars 9-41, Clark 11-37, Becton 6-28, Edwards 2-10, Lytle 3-10, Farmer 2-2, Failla 1-0 SU - Roberts 14-58, Mitchell 6-31, Manning 1-18, Allen 1-6, Frost 1-2, Stenstrom 5-2

Passing: ND - McDougal 7-9-131-1, Failla 1-1-80-1 SU - Stenstrom 34-46-321-1, Armour 1-0-0-0

Receiving: ND - Mayes 3-101, Dawson 3-62, Miller 1-46, Zellars 1-2 SU - Armour 7-91, Allen 6-33, Manning 4-77, Cline 4-560, Roberts 4-21, Shaw 3-22, Harris 2-26, Comella 2-6, Kirwan 1-14, Mitchell 1-(19)