

Welcome to the BIG TIME

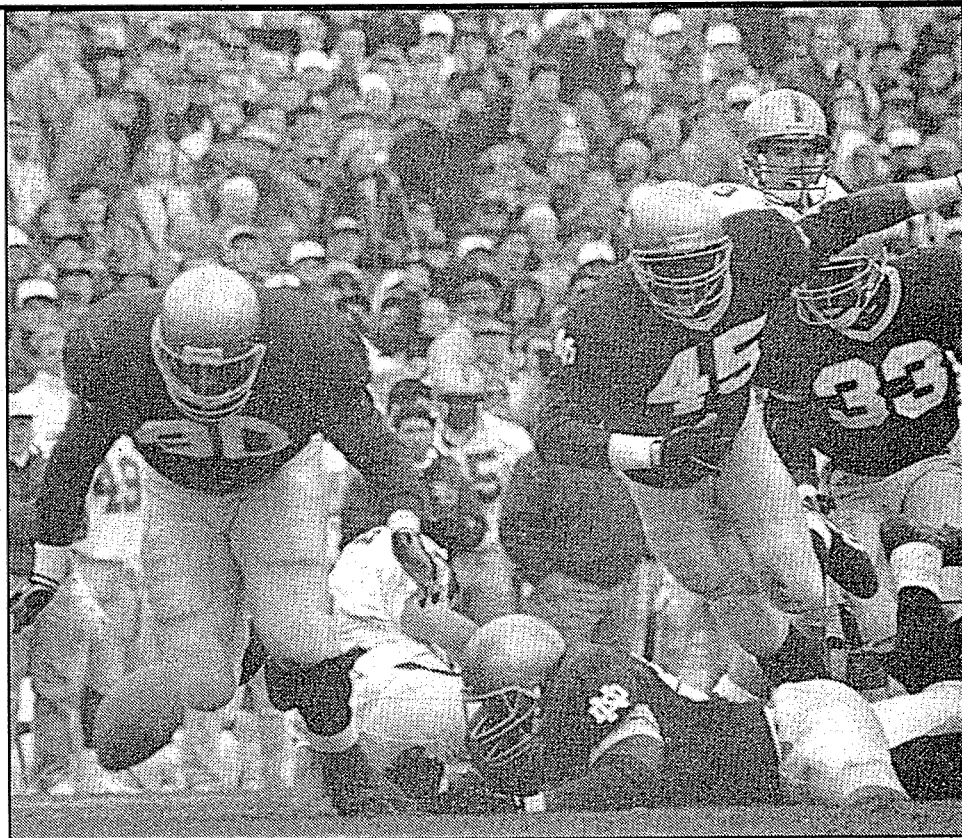
Midnight struck on Boston College's Cinderella season as the Irish grounded the Golden Eagles

by Amanda Clinton

As Notre Dame fans piled into the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center, a boisterous contingent of Boston College supporters chanted for their team. When the pep rally began, the Golden Eagle fans stopped cheering and started harassing the speakers. Even Lou Holtz had to try to ignore their rude display as he belted out his speech. Not until Dan Wagner, the leprechaun mascot, asked the crowd what the difference between Notre Dame and Boston College is, and supplied the crowd with the answer: class, did the Eagle supporters quiet down.

This episode proved to be a metaphor for the game played the next day. Boston College was all talk but no action as the Irish easily trounced the upstart undefeated Eagles. Notre Dame players commented after the game that the vocal fans at the rally only added fuel to their fire and desire to teach Boston College the lessons of football.

Just six minutes into the game, the Irish cruised to an easy touchdown, and the Eagles learned that they might have under-



Nick Spangler

Nick Smith follows the bouncing ball after Notre Dame's defense forced a fumble in the Boston College backfield.

estimated the talent of Notre Dame.

The Irish were on the Eagles' 9-yard line. Quarterback Rick Mirer faked up the middle to fullback Jerome Bettis, freezing the defense, before tossing a pass to tailback Lee Becton, who was left alone. Becton looked over his shoulder and easily caught the ball before jogging in the end zone for the first Notre Dame touchdown. The Boston College players looked dumbstruck at the ease with which the Irish were able to tally their first seven points. Lesson Number One: It is easy to be intimidated in Notre Dame Stadium.

With six minutes and 36 seconds left in the first quarter, Notre Dame was on the Boston College 37-yard line. Mirer threw a pass to Bettis, who was running down the side of the field. Bettis caught the ball and easily faked out an Eagle player on their 12-yard line before cruising in for a touchdown, making the score 14-0. Lesson Number Two: When Jerome Bettis comes rumbling towards you, the best thing to do is step aside.

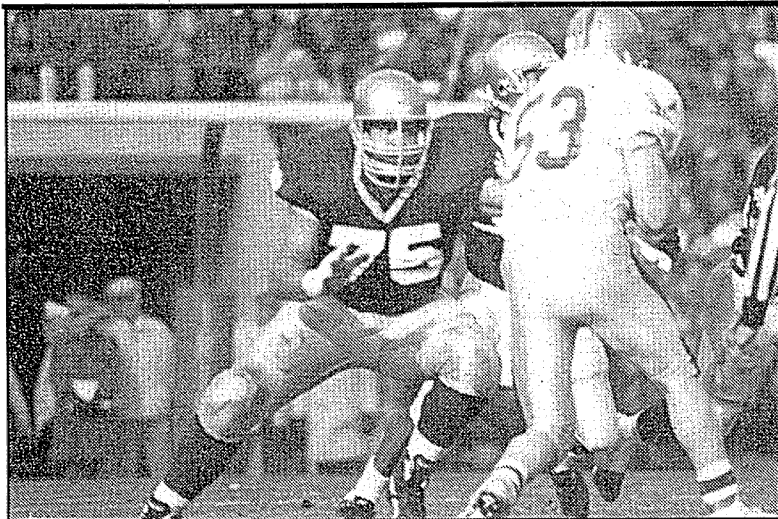
Chuckled Bettis, "Coach tells us we're running backs. If we can't make one person miss, we aren't worth anything."

Boston College held onto the ball for three plays before quarterback Glenn Foley was hit so hard by defensive end Karmeeleyah McGill that Foley coughed up the ball and Irish defensive tackle Brian Hamilton recovered the fumble on the Boston College 21-yard line. Lesson Number Three: You can run but you can't hide from the Notre Dame defense.

It only took Notre Dame three plays to tally another touchdown. Mirer held onto the ball, ran past three defenders splitting two tacklers and sprinted into the end zone on a 26-yard run without even being touched, pushing the score to 21-0 with four minutes left in the first quarter. Lesson Number Four: Quarterbacks don't just pass, they can run too.

Said Boston College head coach Tom Coughlin, "I admit that after their first three scoring drives, we weren't as effective or competitive. I take my hat off to Notre Dame."

The second quarter was just as much of a blowout as the first, with a shaky Boston College team and a Notre Dame squad fueled on momentum.



Ken Osgood

Boston College put no pressure on Rick Mirer because of the blocking of Aaron Taylor and the rest of the offensive line.

With just one minute and 47 seconds left in the second quarter, Notre Dame was back on the scoring trail. The Irish got down to the Eagles' 1-yard line where Mirer went right on an option but ran into Boston College senior inside linebacker Tom McManus. Mirer, who almost made it into the end zone, wildly pitched the ball to Brooks who shot his hand up and secured the ball into his arms before stepping in the end zone for yet another Irish touchdown, making the score 28-0. Lesson Number Five: When things go wrong, they tend to get worse for opponents at Notre Dame Stadium.

Said Coughlin, "At 28-0, I sensed a loss of confidence. Never say die always applies, you hope, but that wasn't the case for us today."

After Foley was sacked by Irish defensive end Devon McDonald, the Eagles had to punt the ball away. When the Irish took control, they got to their own 26-yard line on a third-and-twenty. Brooks took the ball and ran into McManus, but broke away and outran his pursuers on a 74-yard run for another touchdown, making the score 34-0. During the game Brooks reached 1,000 career yards rushing, making him the seventh player in Notre Dame history to reach that mark. Lesson Number Six: You can't catch what you can't see.

With 9:51 left in the first half, Boston College got a chance to try to convert on the offense. Once again they had to punt the ball away. When Notre Dame took control, Mirer threw a pass to split end Ray Griggs, but the ball bounced off his hands and landed

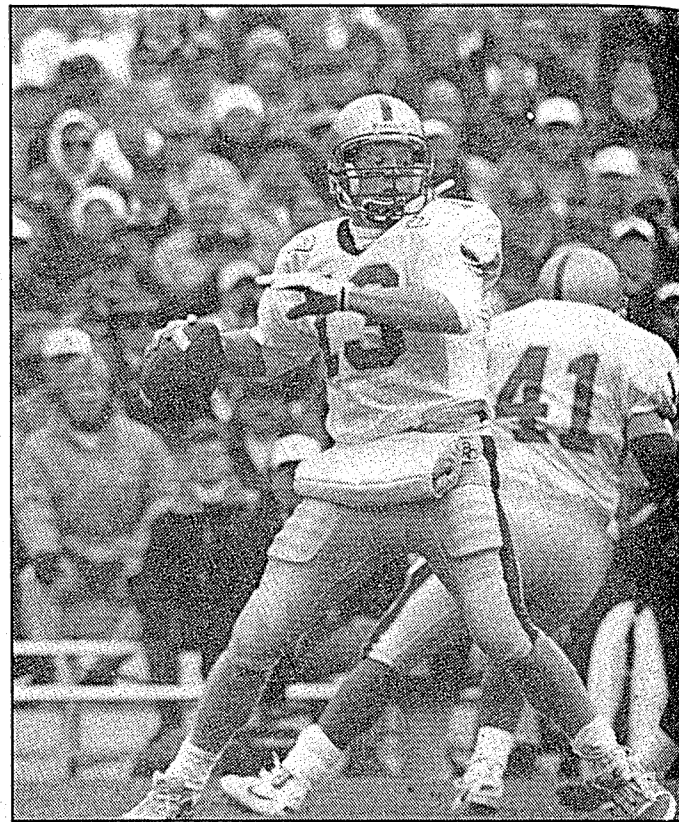
in the arms of Eagle sophomore cornerback Michael Reed. Boston College was unable to convert and turned it over to Notre Dame. But the Irish were only able to manage a field goal.

The first half ended with Notre Dame on top, 37-0. In the first half, Boston College was only able to manage two first downs and 16 rushes for a total of negative seven yards. Compare that to Notre Dame's 15 first downs and 29 rushes for 217 yards. The Irish tallied 347 total offensive yards to the Eagles' 11.

Stated Notre Dame head coach Lou Holtz, "Every time we've had a big lead at the half and lost the game, we've always had something disastrous happen right before the half. We've also never been up 37-0 at the half before. But you always realize that if you can do that in the first half, they can do it in the second half."

To the dismay of Boston College fans, the Eagles were unable to do much better in the second half. Notre Dame received the ball on the kickoff and moved down the field for another touchdown. On the Boston College 3-yard line, Mirer faked to sophomore fullback Ray Zellars and shot off a pass to Irish safety/running back Jeff Burris in the end zone. For an Eagle defense that was ranked twelfth in the nation, it began to appear overrated. Lesson Number Seven: The Irish do their talking on the field.

When the Eagles got their hands on the



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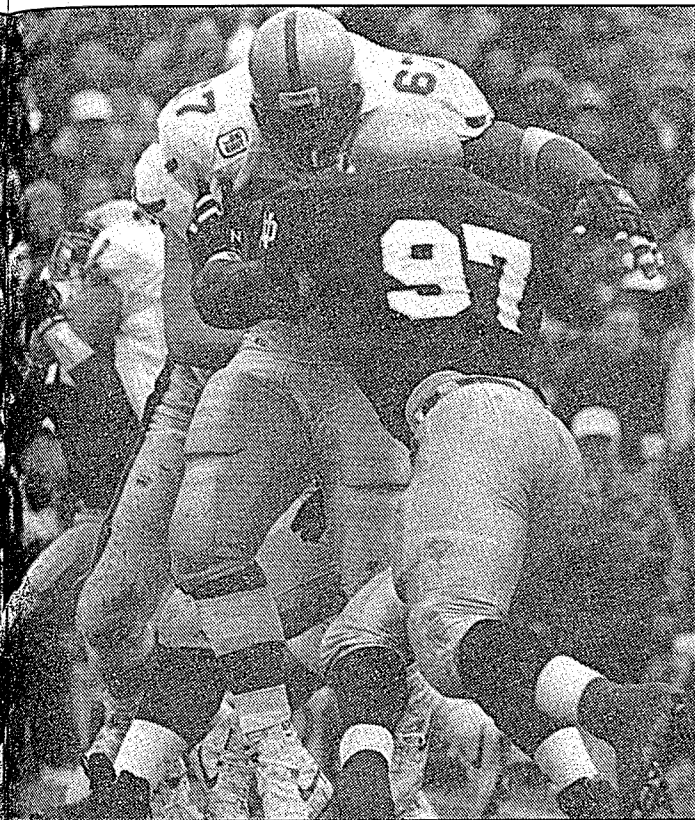
ball, they drove down the field all the way to the Irish 14-yard line, but Notre Dame cornerback Greg Lane tipped an intended pass from Boston College's Foley to well-covered junior flanker Ivan Boyd. Notre Dame's Burris intercepted the ball in the end zone. Lesson Number Eight: The best offense is a good defense.

"We didn't in our wildest dreams expect this, but we will learn from it," said Boston College's McManus.

The Irish offense took to the field and drove down to the Eagle 24-yard line but were unable to make it to the end zone, so Notre Dame kicker Craig Hentrich notched a field goal to push the score up to 47-0.

After the Eagles attempted to make a mark on the scoreboard and failed, quarterback Kevin McDougal took over for Mirer. With 10:55 left in the game, Notre Dame knocked their lead up to 54 points. When the Irish got down to the 2-yard line, junior fullback Dean Lytle plowed up the middle into the end zone to make the score 54-0.

Lamented Coughlin, "I'm not astounded by the score because I am probably punch drunk. That's an awful lot of points to score against a defense rated as high as we were." Lesson Number Nine: Respect is something



Facing a fierce Notre Dame pass rush that recorded four quarterback sacks for a loss of 44 yards, Glenn Foley completed only 11 passes out of 28 attempts.

you must earn.

After Boston College received the kickoff, it only made it to its own 20-yard line before punting it away. Sophomore quarterback Paul Fallia then took over for the Irish, but the offense had to punt the ball back to Boston College. When senior running back Chuckie Dukes was on the trail to score, linebacker Demetrius DuBose hammered Dukes and stripped the ball. Irish sophomore defensive tackle John Taliaferro recovered the ball on the Notre Dame 22-yard line. But the Irish stalled and had to punt it away again.

With just 57 seconds left in the game, Boston College was finally able

to get on the scoreboard with a touchdown making the final score 54-7. The Eagles fought their way down to the Irish 4-yard line where Foley threw the ball on a slant to sophomore tight end Pete Mitchell who was in the end zone.

Said McDonald, "Personally, I'm mad that they got the seven points. That's the goal we didn't achieve."

At the end of the beating, Coughlin along with his Eagles was absolutely devastated. He attempted to look on the bright side when he said, "This stings. This hurts. But we didn't get anyone hurt. I don't think we hit hard enough to get hurt."

Lesson Number Ten: If you are going to talk the game you had better be able to play the game.

"This is the one time I can stand up here and say our football team was outstanding in all areas. We are on an emotional high," lauded Holtz. "We got up on them early. Rick Mirer performed brilliantly. It was just our day. Boston College is a good football team, but we are an excellent football team today." □

GAME SUMMARY

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	21	16	10	7	54
Boston College	0	0	0	7	7

1st Quarter	ND: Becton 9 pass from Mirer (PAT) at 9:49 ND: Bettis 37 pass from Mirer (PAT) at 6:36 ND: Mirer 16 run (PAT) at 4:22
2nd Quarter	ND: Brooks 1 run (PAT) at 13:13 ND: Brooks 73 run at 9:57 ND: Hentrich 37 FG at 1:05
3rd Quarter	ND: Burriss 3 pass from Mirer (PAT) at 11:16 ND: Hentrich 42 FG at 1:54
4th Quarter	ND: Lytle 2 run (PAT) at 10:56 BC: Mitchell 4 pass from Foley (PAT) at 0:57

Team Statistics

	ND	BC
First Downs.....	26	9
Rushing.....	17	4
Passing.....	8	4
Penalty.....	1	1
Rushing	340	55
Passing	236	121
Total Net Yards	576	176
Average Gain Per Play.....	7.3	3.1
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-2
Penalties-Yards	8-60	4-36
Punts-Averages	2-42.0	10-41.9
Kickoff Returns	23	109
3rd Down Conversions	5-10	1-13

Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND - Brooks 18-174-2, Lytle 8-43-1, Becton 7-35, Bettis 5-26, Hentrich 1-16, Zellars 4-12, Mirer 4-12-1, Stafford 5-7, McDougal 2-6, Burriss 1-5, Lozano 1-1 BC - Dukes 17-74, Campbell 4-12, Shirley 1-5, Green 1-4
Passing: ND - Mirer 18-13-180-3-1, McDougal 3-2-56-0-0, Failla 2-0-0-0-0 BC - Foley 28-11-121-1-1
Receiving: ND - I. Smith 3-51, Mayes 2-56, Dawson 2-25, Miller 2-22, Bettis 1-37, Griggs 1-13, Zellars 1-11, Becton 1-9, Pollard 1-9, Burriss 1-3 BC - Mitchell 4-20, Grice 1-48, Boyd 1-12, Kleine 1-10, Laro 1-9, Saxton 1-9, Dukes 1-7, Miller 1-6