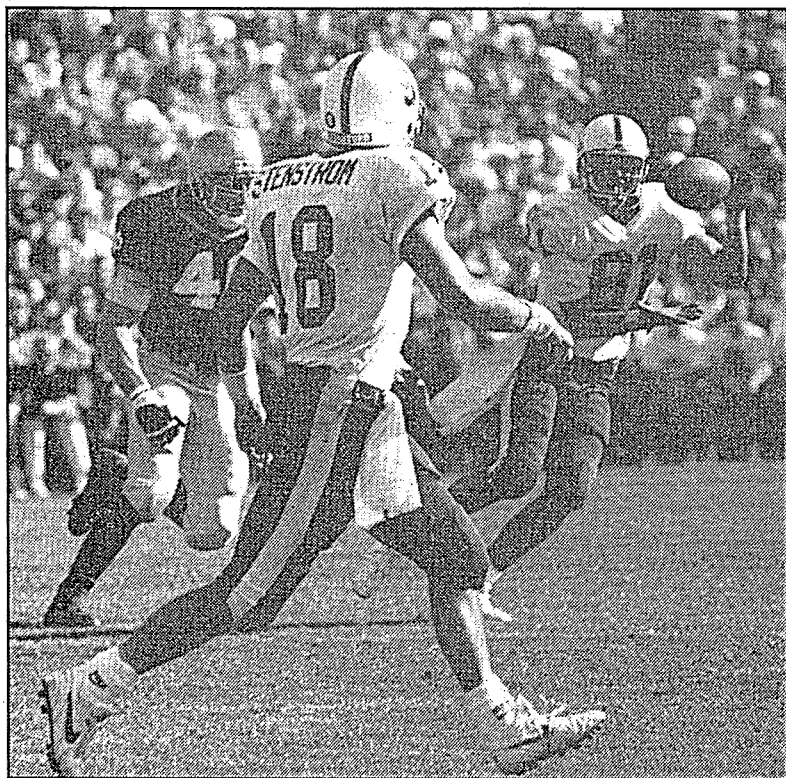


# WELCOME BACK, BILL



Nick Spangler

Cardinal quarterback Steve Stenstrom picked the Irish secondary apart as he completed 21 passes on 32 attempts for 215 yards and two touchdowns.

by Amanda Clinton

What happened? How could Notre Dame lose to Stanford by a score of 33-16 at home? Well, when you commit five turnovers, it is almost impossible to beat anybody, especially Stanford. What makes Stanford so special? Three things. First, its defense was touted at the time as being one of the nation's best. Following the Cardinal's 24-3 manhandling of Penn State in the Blockbuster Bowl on New Year's Day, this preseason prediction proved to be prophetic. Second, when a great offense like Notre Dame's plays a great defense like Stanford's, the offense must create scoring opportunities and then successfully convert on these opportunities. Translation: don't turn the ball over. Third, the Irish were playing against Bill Walsh, who was making his debut in Notre Dame Stadium as a head coach after a season of commentating on Notre Dame's home games for NBC. Walsh wears three Super Bowl rings to attest to his ability to convert on turnovers.

Explained Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz, "We didn't make the plays. But you can't make any when you turn the ball over five times."

Notre Dame dominated throughout the first quarter but started to

*Bill Walsh returned to Notre Dame Stadium in a role that Fighting Irish fans would rather forget: coach, not commentator*

show fatigue and frustration in the second quarter before being hammered in the third and fourth quarters.

"That's my fault," Holtz apologized. "We worked too hard in practice this week with the stress of exams hanging over the heads of our players. We were tired."

The Irish scored their last touchdown of the game five minutes into the second quarter. The Notre Dame team that ran out of the tunnel after halftime went on to perform as if it had left its speed and its strength, its confidence and its composure in the locker room. In short, the Irish self-destructed after starting too strong.

The game began as if it had been tailored to be a blowout by the Irish over the Cardinal. Stanford received the opening kickoff. When Cardinal junior quarterback Steve Stenstrom got the ball in his hands for the first time, Irish senior linebacker Demetrius DuBose hammered him from behind, forcing him to fumble. Irish senior defensive end Devon McDonald tried to grab the ball as it bobbled around in the end zone, but Stanford outside guard Brian Cassidy fell on the ball for a safety. Two points and possession for Notre Dame.

Notre Dame received the ensuing kick and glided down the field for an easy touchdown. On a third and four from the Cardinal 12-yard line, Irish senior tailback Reggie Brooks caught a pitch to the right and sprinted into the end zone to increase Notre Dame's lead to 9-0 with 12:35 left in the first quarter.

It all looked so easy, but for the rest of the first quarter neither the Irish nor the Cardinal could put points on the board. Once the second quarter began, however, Notre Dame was back on another scoring drive. The Irish fought their way down to the Cardinal 2-yard line where Notre Dame senior quarterback Rick Mirer pitched right to junior running back Jeff Burris who jogged into the end zone without even being touched by a Cardinal player, making the score 16-0. This was the last time the Irish scored in the game. For the next 41

minutes, the Irish were held scoreless.

Stanford received the kickoff after the Irish scored their second touchdown but was unable to convert on this opportunity. The Irish defense only allowed the Cardinal a 2-yard gain in three plays from scrimmage. But Stanford found the ball back in the hands of its players after Mirer tossed a pass to senior split end Ray Griggs who caught the ball and ran with it but fumbled after being nailed by Cardinal senior strong safety Seyon Albert. Stanford senior cornerback Darrien Gordon recovered the ball and returned it to the Irish 23-yard line before being pushed out of bounds. Turnover Number One.

With almost nine minutes left in the second quarter, Stanford reached the Notre Dame 6-yard line. The Cardinal easily slid into the end zone by running a reverse right with senior running back Glyn Milburn carrying the ball. The Cardinal failed its two point conversion attempt by overthrowing a receiver because of pressure by Notre Dame junior linebacker Anthony Peterson, leaving the score at 16-6.

For the remaining eight minutes in the first half, the ball changed hands several times, but neither team could convert its drives into scoring opportunities. The first half concluded with the score stuck at 16-6. Notre Dame dominated the first half in terms of rushing yardage with 27 carries for 143 yards, compared to Stanford's 19 carries for 37 yards. However, the Cardinal beat the Irish in passing with 99 yards to Notre Dame's 88. Stenstrom attempted 19 passes and completed ten. Mirer attempted 18 passes but completed only four. Herein lay the hidden key to the rest of the game: Stenstrom had the hot hand, and his short, sideline strikes eventually overextended the Irish linebackers and picked apart the Irish secondary.

"Early on, Notre Dame just missed some breaks and gave up some turnovers," explained Cardinal senior free safety John Lynch. "The game could have been a blow-

out in the second quarter, but things like that kept us in the game and helped us gain confidence and get it going. Notre Dame was thinking that they should be winning big by now, and they were ripe for the taking."

The second half started off on a bad note for the Irish. In the first half, Notre Dame allowed only one costly turnover, but the Irish coughed up the ball four times in the second half. Notre Dame received the kickoff, and on the first play Bettis received a pitch to the left and fumbled when he was hit by Lynch. Cardinal senior outside linebacker Dave Garnett recovered the ball on

drove all the way down to the Stanford 37-yard line where Bettis was throttled by Cardinal senior outside linebacker Ron George and once again coughed up the ball. Stanford's junior cornerback Vaughn Bryant recovered the ball on the Cardinal 35-yard line. Turnover Number Three. But the Notre Dame defense halted the attempted Stanford scoring drive at the Notre Dame 46-yard line.

The Notre Dame offense took to the field after Stanford punted the ball away, but remained there for less than a minute before the Irish also had to punt.

Stanford then plowed down the field to the Notre Dame 20-yard line where Stenstrom tossed a ball to senior running back J.J. Lasley who caught the ball at the Irish 16-yard line before darting down the field into the end zone, putting the Cardinal ahead 20-16.

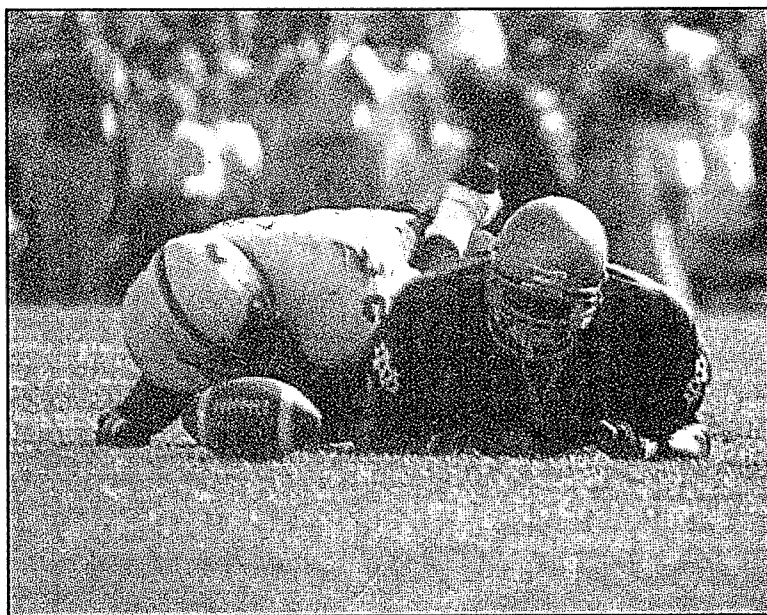
The Irish plugged down the field to the Cardinal 9-yard line, eating up five minutes. With fourteen minutes left in the fourth quarter, Mirer launched a pass intended for senior tight end Irv Smith, only to have it intercepted by Stanford's Lynch who returned the ball to the Cardinal 24-yard line. Turnover Number Four.

Stated Holtz: "The real turning point was with the score 20-16 we had the ball on their 9-yard line and threw the interception. And to have them take it back down, that was a real crusher."

The Cardinal then proceeded down the field to the Irish 20-yard line where Stanford, on a fourth down with only one to go, opted for the field goal to push the score to 23-16.

When the Notre Dame offense took the field, it once again remained there for less than a minute.

The Stanford offense proved to be unstoppable as it drove down the field for another touchdown. The Cardinal penetrated to the Irish 14-yard line where Stenstrom handed off to Milburn who darted right and sprinted in for the touchdown and the score 30-16.



Ken Osgood

**A typically turnover-proof Notre Dame offense turned turnover-prone against an opportunistic Stanford defense, losing four out of five fumbles.**

the Notre Dame 22-yard line. Turnover Number Two.

With momentum heading its way, Stanford easily converted this opportunity into a score. On the Irish 8-yard line Stenstrom passed to sophomore wide receiver Justin Armour over the middle. Armour caught the ball on the 1-yard line and stepped into the end zone making the score 16-13.

"We came in expecting to win," boasted Stenstrom. "We knew we were playing a great football team and that this would have to be our best effort if we wanted to win. We studied the Tennessee game where Tennessee just kept playing and playing and used that to motivate ourselves."

The next Irish possession, Notre Dame

Notre Dame junior flanker Clint Johnson fielded the kickoff and ran nine yards up the gridiron where he attempted a desperation lateral pass to sophomore tailback Lee Becton but was intercepted by Stanford freshman cornerback David Walker at the Irish 8-yard line. Turnover Number Five.

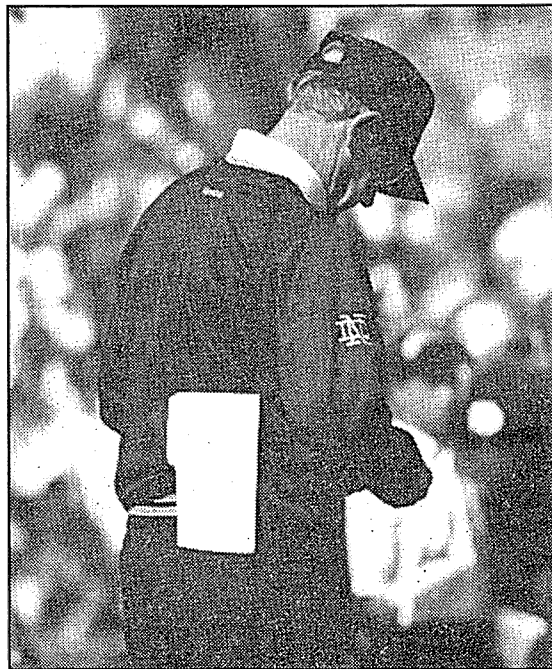
The Cardinal was unable to get into the end zone. Stanford was on the Irish 1-yard line on a fourth down but opted to go for the field goal, making the score 33-16.

When Notre Dame received the ball for the last time, with over two minutes left on the clock, it was unable to create a scoring drive, ending the game with a score of 33-16. By the conclusion of the game, the Irish had given the ball to Stanford five times. Mirer attempted 38 passes in the game, completing only 13 with one interception.

Said Holtz: "Mির has a lot on his mind, but there are no excuses. I've been in the game long enough to know that you have days like that. He's not infallible."

On a more positive note, the Irish

defense put forward a valiant effort, only allowing the Cardinal into the end zone four times, stopping a two point conversion and forcing Stanford to settle for field goals twice. The Notre Dame defense performed well considering the amount of time the



Ken Osgood  
"It's tough to swallow something like this," said an aggravated Holtz.

defensive players were on the field.

Said DuBose: "It was tough on the defense to be on the field so much. Our defense played well. Stanford's been in school for only three days, and we've already been into midterms this week. We're tired."

With the dream of a national championship ended by a game marked with so many unusually unimpressive performances, the Notre Dame players jogged off the field in defeat with their heads hung low. The Irish coaches, players and fans knew that this was not the normal Notre Dame football team. This was an off day.

Despite the fact that Notre Dame had the same number of turnovers as when the Irish last played the Cardinal at home two years ago, Walsh insisted that this was not a factor.

"The last game there was an explanation as to why Notre Dame lost. Let's not do that again," lectured Walsh. "We beat Notre Dame this time and the last time. Stanford beat Notre Dame two years ago and this year. Pure and simple. We won this game!" □

## GAME SUMMARY

### Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	9	7	0	0	16
Stanford	0	6	14	13	33

### Team Statistics

	ND	SU
First Downs .....	21	20
Rushing .....	10	11
Passing .....	8	9
Penalty .....	3	0
Rushing .....	154	157
Passing .....	195	215
Total Net Yards .....	349	372
Average Gain Per Play .....	4.4	4.7
Fumbles-Lost .....	5-4	3-1
Penalties-Yards .....	1-5	6-69
Punts-Averages .....	5-47.8	5-43.6
Kickoff Returns .....	73	17
3rd Down Conversions .....	10-19	8-18

### Individual Statistics

Rushing: ND - Brooks 11-86-1, Bettis 17-54, Becton 5-20, Burris 1-2-1, Mirer 8-(-8) SU - Milburn 20-119-2, Roberts 10-48, Lasley 5-14, Calomese 1-11, Stenstrom 10-(-35)  
 Passing: ND - Mirer 18-13-195-0-1 SU - Stenstrom 32-21-215-2-0, Butterfield 1-0-0-0  
 Receiving: ND - Griggs 3-51, Miller 2-20, Bettis 3-56, Smith 2-23, Dawson 2-28, Jarrell 1-17 SU - Cook 8-78, Lasley 5-45, Armour 3-41, Milburn 2-12, Wetnight 2-30, Roberts 1-9