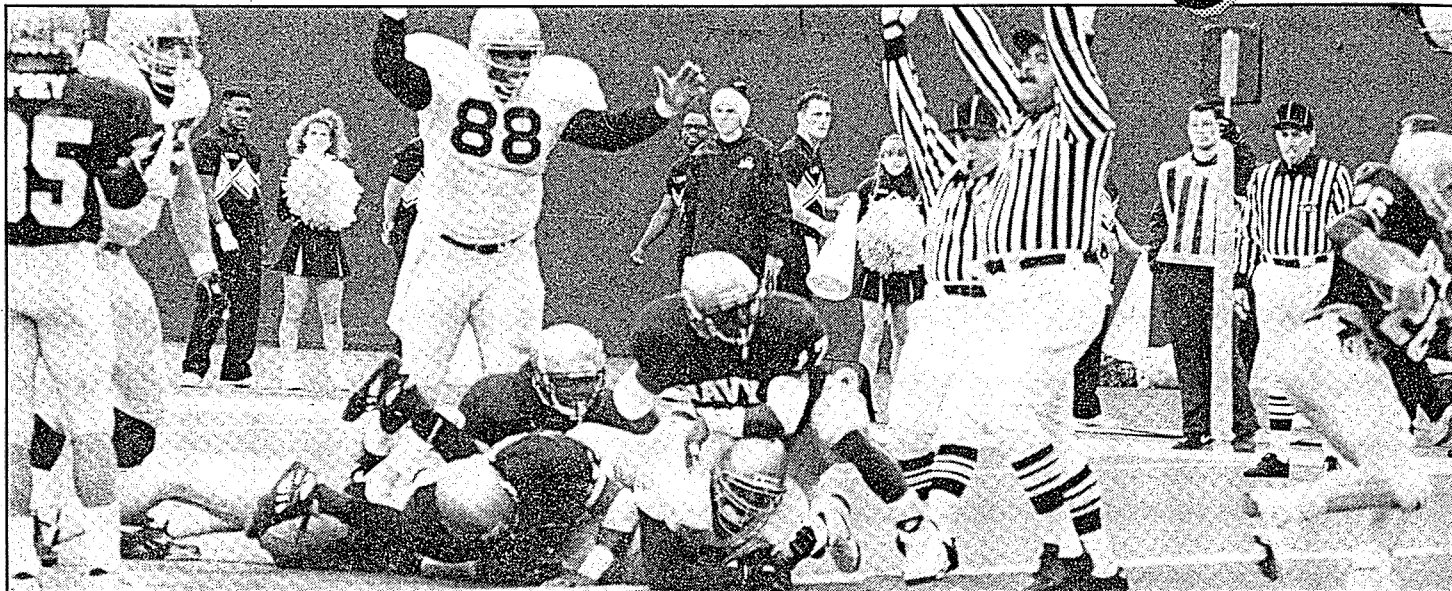


# 29 and counting . . .



## Notre Dame sinks Navy again

by Kate Medeiros

**H**alloween held no major surprises for the 58,769 fans at Giant's Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Nor did it hold any surprises for Notre Dame's Fighting Irish nor Navy's Midshipmen. As expected, the Irish dominated the game, defeating the Midshipmen by a final score of 38-7 for their 29th consecutive win over them. Describing a methodical dismantling of one team by another is boring at best, informative at least. Read on and realize that nearly every player on the Irish roster on both sides of the ball and on the special teams had a hand in disposing a the Midshipmen.

The Irish defense was able to halt the Midshipmen offense from their first possession. Linebacker and co-captain Demetrius DuBose, defensive end Karmeeleyah McGill, cornerback Greg Lane, and defensive tackles Brian Hamilton, Jim Flanigan and Bryant Young all played key roles for the Notre Dame defense. The Midshipmen defense, however, was not so fortunate. Notre Dame took the lead about nine minutes into the first quarter with its first possession. The Irish offense remained strong even without key players like full-

back Jerome Bettis, offensive guard Todd Norman and tight end Oscar McBride, all of whom were sidelined with injuries.

After one incomplete pass, quarterback and co-captain Rick Mirer passed to flanker Lake Dawson who completed the 18-yard pass on the Navy 31-yard line. Tailback Reggie Brooks then made three carries, the first for 15 yards, followed by one for three yards and a final carry for six yards. Full back Ray Zellars then carried for two yards, bringing the ball to the Navy 5-yard line. Free safety Jeff Burris, platooning at fullback, rushed five yards to make the first touchdown for the Irish. Kicker Craig Hentrich's extra point was successful, rounding the score off to 7-0.

The Midshipmen failed to score on their next two ball possessions of the first quarter. Navy quarterback Jason Van Matre and fullback Duke Ingraham had a hard time breaking down the Notre Dame defense with Irish free safety Jeff Burris, defensive back Bobby Taylor, defensive end Nick Smith, DuBose, Lane and Young swarming about the field in a frenzy.

The Irish were also unsuccessful in their next two possessions as Middie defensive back and co-captain Chad Chatlos, linebacker Javier Zuluaga and defensive tackle

Robert Kuberski kept the first quarter at one touchdown for the Irish, despite being physically dwarfed by the Irish front line.

The second quarter offered much more excitement for Irish fans. The Irish brought the score up to 10-0 with a successful 32-yard field goal by Hentrich.

On their first possession of the second quarter, the Midshipmen suffered another unsuccessful touchdown attempt at the hands of DuBose and Hamilton who split the tackling duties on the drive.

Notre Dame scored again on its next possession. After an incomplete pass by Mirer, Brooks rushed up the middle for two yards, putting the ball on the Notre Dame 33-yard line. Mirer then passed to flanker Adrian Jarrell for 16 yards, but Jarrell fumbled the ball out-of-bounds at the Notre Dame 49-yard line. The next two plays were unsuccessful passing attempts by Mirer to wide receiver Derrick Mayes and Zellars. Mirer then ran the ball for 14 yards, running out-of-bounds at the Navy 37-yard line. Brooks rushed the ball for three yards. Becton then made an unsuccessful rushing attempt, keeping the ball at the Navy 34-yard line. Split end William Pollard caught Mirer's 9-yard pass to bring the ball to the Navy 25-yard line. Brooks rushed for one

more yard before catching Mirer's 24-yard pass for a touchdown. Once again Hentrich's extra point was successful, bringing the Irish to a 17 point lead.

The Midshipmen were once again successfully held off by the Irish defense, with McGill and Flanigan leading the tackling brigade this time.

The Irish's next ball possession was yet another successful touchdown drive. Mirer started off the drive with an 11-yard pass to Dawson, bringing the ball to the Notre Dame 46-yard line. Brooks rushed for nine yards but was then pushed back for a loss of one yard on the next play. Brooks carried the ball four yards to bring the ball to the Navy 42-yard line. Split end Ray Griggs caught a 23-

point was good, increasing the Irish's lead to a comfortable 24 points.

The Midshipmen gained no points on their next possession. Meanwhile, the Irish's last possession of the third quarter was yet another success. Irv Smith, a tight end, caught an 11-yard pass to get the ball to the Notre Dame 42-yard line. After two incomplete pass attempts, Mirer completed a pass to reserve tight end Pete Chryplewicz for 16 yards. Mayes then caught a 25-yard pass from Mirer putting the ball on the Navy 17-yard line. Brooks then set up Mirer's touchdown pass, rushing the ball for 14 yards. Mirer completed his final touchdown of the second quarter with a 3-yard pass to Smith. Hentrich's extra point was successful, bringing Notre Dame's lead to 38-0.

Navy's final possession of the second quarter was a disaster, with Irish defensive tackle Brian Hamilton sacking Van Matre at the Navy 27-yard line.

The third quarter held little excitement for either team, as both the Irish and the Midshipmen remained scoreless. The Irish were penalized four times in their first possession alone for a false start, holding (twice) and pass interference. Hentrich punted the ball for the Irish, putting it on the Navy 16-yard line. Navy's

touchdown attempt was once again left unfulfilled as defensive end Devon McDonald took it upon himself to wreak havoc in the Navy backfield and drop the opposition's backs for a pair of losses behind

the line of scrimmage. Navy punted the ball for 46 yards, putting it on the Notre Dame 21-yard line. The Irish were again unsuccessful in their attempt for a touchdown. Hentrich punted again for the Irish, and put the ball on the Navy 6-yard line.

Navy ended the quarter with another uneventful possession. The Irish, having suffered a bad quarter, were still secure in their 31 point lead.

Sophomore Paul Failla stepped in as quarterback on the Irish's first possession of the fourth quarter. Becton rushed the ball up the middle for a 13-yard gain, putting the ball on the Notre Dame 29-yard line. In the next play, Becton ran the ball again for a gain of two yards. Failla made a 12-yard pass to Pollard. On the next play, Chatlos intercepted Failla's pass, but gained no yardage on the return, putting the ball on the Navy 45-yard line for the Midshipmen.

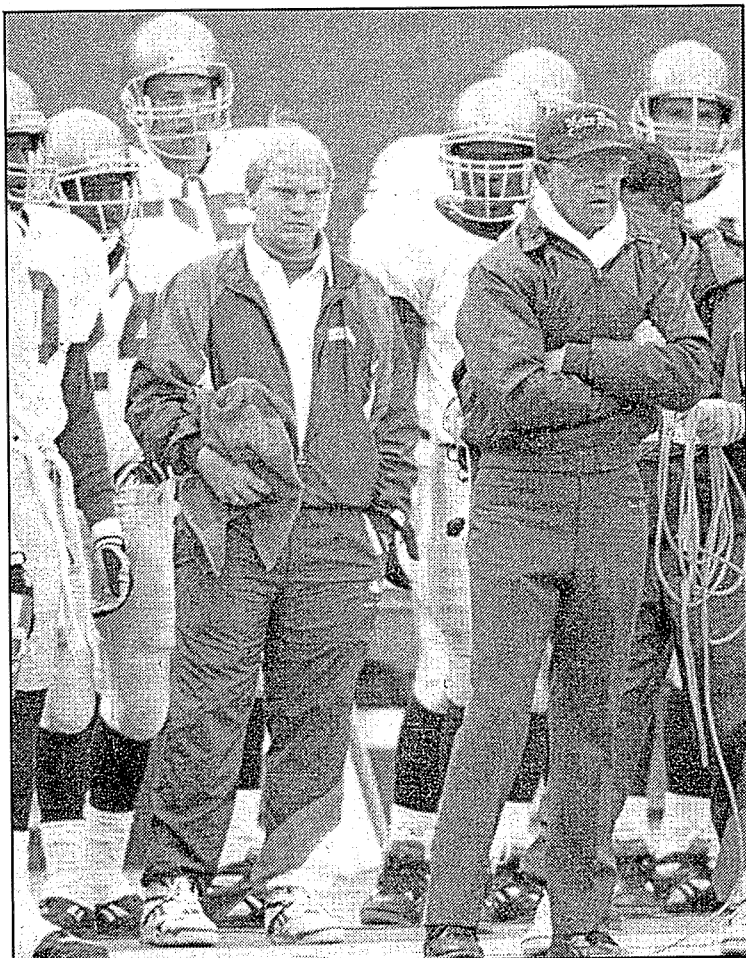
The next attempt for a touchdown by the Midshipmen was once again shot down by the seemingly unsurmountable Irish defense. McGill, Bryant and strong safety John Covington each made two tackles. Defensive back Brian Magee closed the possession for Navy by pushing Van Matre back three yards.

Next, Kevin McDougal stepped in as quarterback, the third signal caller for the Irish on the day. On the first play, he was pushed back four yards by Navy's defensive tackle Stacey Yopp. Then McDougal's next pass was intercepted by defensive end David Shaw. This set up Navy's possession of the ball on the Notre Dame 22-yard line.

With five minutes left in the final quarter, Van Matre passed to Pritchard for 22 yards, giving the Midshipmen their first touchdown of the game. Kicker Tim Rogers extra point was successful, bringing Navy's point total to seven and avoiding the humiliation of being shut out.

Matt Tate kicked off for 47 yards, putting the ball on the Notre Dame 18-yard line. Mike Miller showed a little shake and bake and returned the ball for 40 yards before being pushed out-of-bounds at the Navy 42-yard line.

Zellers carried the ball up the middle for a gain of two yards. Becton followed this with three rushes for a total gain of 12 yards. With the ball on the Navy 28-yard line, split end Clint Johnson carried the ball for 14 yards.



Mike Bennett

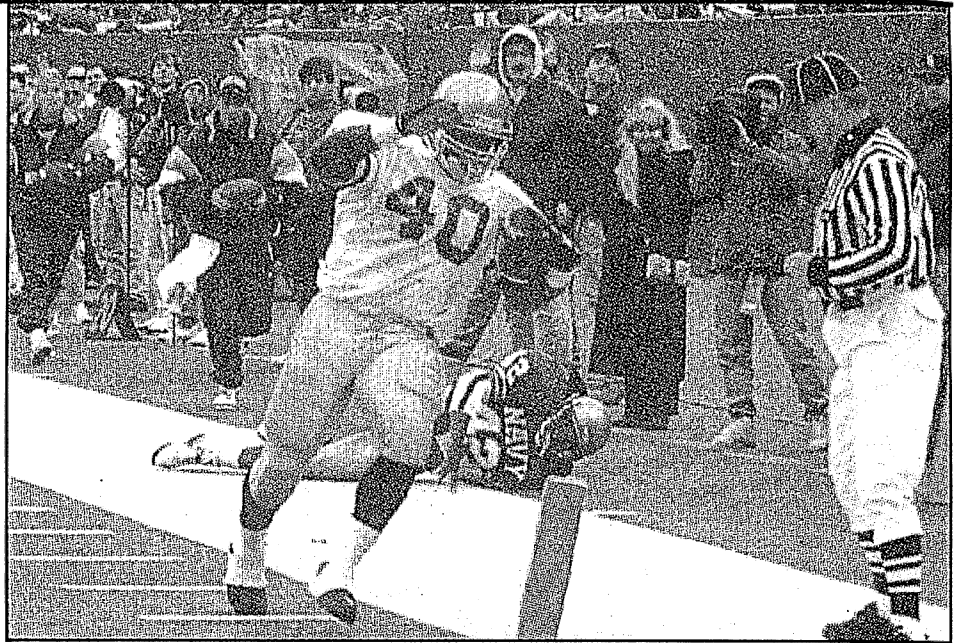
**Lou Holtz stands silent, shocked by the ease with which Navy scored their only touchdown, a 22-yarder in the fourth quarter.**

yard pass from Mirer on the next play to put the ball on the Navy 19-yard line. Zellers then carried the ball for nine yards. Mirer followed with a 6-yard run to set up Brooks' 4-yard touchdown rush. Hentrich's extra

Zellars once again rushed the ball for a gain of five yards. Finally Becton carried the ball up the middle for nine yards and a touchdown. Kevin Pendergast, who stars for Notre Dame's soccer team and was acquired as a back up kicker by Irish head coach Lou Holtz, booted the extra point to bring Notre Dame to its final total of 38 points on its last possession of the game.

The Midshipmen's final possession was once again scoreless. Cornerback LaRon Moore, linebacker Pete Bercich, Lane and Magee held the Irish's final defensive attempt strong. McGill sacked Van Matre on one of the final plays of the game for a Navy loss of two yards.

The Irish returned from the Meadowlands with another win to latch under their belts. They had defeated what was said to be a greater foe than the Midshipmen themselves, namely the cockiness and complacency that accompanies any game between one of the best teams in the country and one of the worst teams in the country. With Notre Dame's current winning streak against the Midshipmen at 29 games, the Irish had a lot



Mike Bennett

**Reggie Brooks scores on a 24-yard pass from Rick Mirer. This was the first of three touchdowns that the Irish would score in their explosive 24-point second quarter**

to celebrate. But with tough games ahead against number 11 Boston College and number 14 Penn State at home and number 13

Southern Cal on the road, the Irish had to keep themselves on track and prepare for the grueling schedule ahead. □

## GAME SUMMARY

### Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Notre Dame	7	24	0	7	38
Navy	0	0	0	7	7

1st Quarter ND: Burris 5 run (PAT) at 8:45  
 2nd Quarter ND: Hentrich 32 FG at 14:57  
 ND: Brooks 24 pass from Mirer (PAT) at 9:02  
 ND: Brooks 4 run (PAT) at 4:21  
 ND: Smith 3 pass from Mirer (PAT) at :19  
 4th Quarter NA: Pritchard 22 pass from Van Matre (PAT) at 4:55  
 ND: Becton 9 run (PAT) at 1:44

### Team Statistics

	ND	NA
First Downs.....	30	15
Rushing.....	15	12
Passing.....	15	3
Penalty.....	0	0
Rushing.....	223	160
Passing.....	253	93
Total Net Yards.....	476	253
Average Gain Per Play.....	6.1	3.6
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-0	4-0
Penalties-Yards.....	7-64	2-15
Punts-Averages.....	3-41.0	7-40.6
Kickoff Returns.....	1-40	5-113
3rd Down Conversions.....	10-14	4-16

### Individual Statistics

**Rushing:** ND - Brooks 20-95-1, Becton 14-63-1, Mirer 3-31, Zellars 6-22, Johnson 1-14, Burris 1-5, McDougal 4-(-7)  
 NA - Van Matre 25-70, Ingraham 13-59, Smith 8-18, James 6-13, Hines 1-6, Smart 2-(-6)  
**Passing:** ND - Mirer 24-15-221-2-0, McDougal 3-1-20-0-1, Failla 2-1-12-0-1 NA - Van Matre 14-9-93-1-0, Seoane 1-0-0-0-0  
**Receiving:** ND - Dawson 3-38, Jarrell 2-27, Griggs 2-47, Smith 2-14-1, Pollard 2-21, Mayes 2-45, Miller 1-1, Brooks 1-24-1, Chryplewica 1-16, Johnson 1-20 NA - James 3-23, Screen 3-25, Pritchard 2-31-1, Jefferson 1-14