

NOTRE DAME

Football



FINAL SCORE

(7) No. 3/3 Notre Dame (14-1) 27, (13-3) No. 5/5 Penn State (13-2) 24

TEAM NOTES

- Notre Dame won the toss and deferred its choice to the second half. The Irish kicked off and defended the end zone to the south.
- The game time temperature was 56 degrees, marking the second-coldest temperature to begin an Orange Bowl game.
- Attendance: 66,881
- Notre Dame improves to 10-9-1 against Penn State and 2-0 in bowl games (the 1977 Gator Bowl, a 20-9 Irish win).
- Notre Dame is now 3-3 all-time in the Orange Bowl and 1-2 in Hard Rock Stadium.
- Notre Dame is 3-0 this season against Big Ten Conference teams and 316-169-22 all-time.
- Notre Dame is 13-17-0 all-time in the month of January and are playing their first game ever on January 9.
- Notre Dame leads all FBS teams this season in ranked victories with seven.
- This is the first time Notre Dame has beat back-to-back top-five AP teams since 1988 - at No. 2 Southern Cal and vs. No. 2 West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl. This also occurred in 1943 vs. No. 3 Navy in Cleveland and No. 3 Army in Yankee Stadium
- Marcus Freeman has 14 ranked wins in his first three seasons at Notre Dame
- Riley Leonard's three-yard touchdown run in the third quarter is the 43rd rushing score of the season for Notre Dame, establishing a new program record (previous season high was 42 in 1989).

NOTABLE

- Jack Kiser extended his Notre Dame program record for games played in a career appearing in his 69th game this evening. Howard Cross III ranks second all-time in games played at Notre Dame and appeared in his 65th career contest today.
- Xavier Watts started his 32nd consecutive game today, the second-most for an Irish safety in program history (Jalen Elliott, 39 from 2017-19) and the 15th-most for any defensive player in Notre Dame history.
- Left tackle Anthonie Knapp extended his program-record for starts by a true freshman tonight to 15 games.
- Playing in their home state in tonight's Orange Bowl - WR Jordan Faison (Fort Lauderdale), WR Kris Mitchell (Jacksonville), NT Sean Sevillano Jr. (Clearwater), LB Tre Reader (Tampa) and WR Jack Polian (Ponta Verda).
- Riley Leonard, Jeremiyah Love, Beaux Collins, Anthonie Knapp, Aamil Wagner, Jack Kiser, Drayk Bowen, Adon Shuler and Xavier Watts made their Notre Dame-record-extending 15th start of the season tonight.
- With a two-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter, Jeremiyah Love has now recorded a rushing TD in 14 of 15 games this season, the most games with a touchdown run in a single season in program history.
- Christian Gray's interception late in the fourth quarter gave Notre Dame its 32nd takeaway of the season, the most of any team at the FCS level on the year.

FIRSTS

- Sack in a Notre Dame uniform - and third of his career for Rod Heard II.

CAREER HIGHS

- Five catches for 66 yards - career-high for receptions in a game and receiving yardage for freshman running back Anevas Williams.
- Jaden Greathouse's 105-yard performance is the most in a game in his career.
- 54-yard reception (which also went for a touchdown) - sophomore wide receiver Jaden Greathouse, surpassed his 42-yard reception against Navy this season.