



BYU	7	14	0	7	28
NOTRE DAME	3	7	6	8	24

OCT. 17, 2026
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

TEAM NOTES

GAME INFO

Weather: 68 degrees, clear skies

Attendance: 65,179

Series Results: 3-7

Captains: OL Bruce Mitchell, LB Isaiah Glasker, LB Cade Uluave, WR Jojo Phillips

Coin Toss: Notre Dame won the toss and deferred to the second half

Uniforms: White helmet, royal face mask, royal jersey, white pants, royal trim

BYU Flag Bearers

USA: OL Jeff Lewis

Utah: S Joe Douglas

Team: LB Gage Tanner

Alumni: Rich Kaufusi (DL; 1989-1990), John Walsh (QB; 1991-1994), Jamal Willis (RB; 1991-1994), Kaipo McGuire (WR; 1992-1996)

KALANI ERA

- > BYU is now 58-10 (.853) under head coach Kalani Sitake when scoring first in a game. The Cougars are 14-1 (.933) in those games since last season.
- > With the 28-24 victory over Notre Dame, BYU improves to 6-0 for the fourth time under Kalani Sitake, and third season in a row.
- > BYU is 45-1 (.978) when leading after 3 quarters at home under Kalani Sitake (since 2016)

STARTING ON THE RIGHT FOOT

- > BYU's opening drive touchdown is just the second such touchdown allowed by the Notre Dame defense this season. The other came against North Carolina in week five.
- > The Cougars led the Fighting Irish 7-3 after the first quarter, snapping Notre Dame's 10-game streak of leading after the opening frame, previously the longest active streak in FBS.
- > With 5:52 left in the first half, Kyler Casper tossed a 15-yard touchdown pass to Bachmeier, the first receiving touchdown of his career, to take a 14-10 lead. He is also the first BYU quarterback in the last 30 seasons to record a receiving and rushing touchdown in the same game.

GROUND AND POUND

- > BYU had 87 rushing yards against the Fighting Irish in the first half. The Cougars finished with 121 rushing yards, the most given up by the Notre Dame this season. (Previous: 77 yards vs. North Carolina)

THE MIDDLE EIGHT

- > Bachmeier scored his second rushing touchdown of the night with 1:29 left in the first half. With six seconds remaining in the opening half, Notre Dame QB CJ Carr fumbled on the BYU six-yard line, killing a 69-yard Fighting Irish drive. BYU then held the without a score on their opening drive of the second half.
- > BYU led by 11, 21-10, at halftime. The largest deficit for Notre Dame entering the second half since the CFP National Championship game against Ohio State on Jan. 20, 2025.

CARDIAC COUGS

- > This is BYU's 5th comeback win against a ranked opponent with 2 minutes or less remaining in regulation since 1996: vs. No. 24 Georgia Tech (12/27/25), vs. No. 20 Boise State (9/12/15), vs. No. 20 Wyoming (12/7/96), vs. No. 13 Texas A&M (8/24/96).

PLAYER NOTES

QB BEAR BACHMEIER

- > On BYU's opening drive, Bachmeier went 5-for-6 for 49 yards, and had three rushes for 10 yards, including a five-yard touchdown run.
- > Bachmeier's two TD runs mark his fifth and sixth of the season, 16th and 17th of his career. Also, his fourth career game with two or more rushing scores.
- > With his second-quarter receiving touchdown, Bachmeier became the only FBS QB over the last 30 seasons to have a rushing TD and a receiving TD against an AP Top 2 opponent.
- > Bachmeier became the first quarterback since Steve Young in the 1983 Holiday Bowl to record a passing, rushing and receiving TD in the same game.

TE WALKER LYONS

- > Walker Lyons had 37 receiving yards in the 1st quarter, his most rec. yards in any single quarter of his career. He finished with five catches for 49 yards, and the game-winning score, his first touchdown as a Cougar.

WR KYLER CASPER

- > With his 15-yard passing TD to Bachmeier, Casper becomes the sixth Cougar wide out with a passing TD in the last 30 seasons joining Parker Kingston (3), Toby Christensen (1), Alea Hifo (1), Chase Roberts (1) and Micah Simon (1).
- > Kyler Casper's 6 receptions are the most by a BYU WR against an AP Top 5 team since Cody Hoffman had 8 catches on October 20, 2012 against then No. 5 Notre Dame.

WR LEGEND GLASKER

- > This is Legend Glasker's 3rd game with 5+ receptions, tied for the 4th most by an active FBS true freshman this season.
- > He is the only Big 12 true freshman with even 1 game of 5+ catches this season.

NOTABLE FIRSTS/CAREER HIGHS

CAREER HIGHS/FIRSTS

- > WR Kyler Casper (career-high 6 receptions)
- > RB Preston Rex (career-high 66 rushing yards)



For a live feed of in-game notes follow [@BYUGameNotes](#) on X (Twitter) throughout gameday. Track milestones, news, notes and more.



Find more game materials including box scores, postgame audio/video files and more at byucougars.com/pressbox



POSTGAME QUOTES BYU

OCT. 9, 2026
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

KALANI SITAKE, BYU HEAD COACH

Opening Statement

"Really happy with the win. What a great game. I have to give a lot of credit to Notre Dame for taking this game and being out here in Provo. The spotlight was on this game and on our guys, and I thought our guys embraced the opportunity. We made some mistakes, but that was probably more on me than anything else. I probably got a little too risky and aggressive, but we'll be alright. I can learn from some lessons and be better. The fake punt was on me. I thought we had a good call there, but Notre Dame had a better one. If you look at the stats, they're very similar on both sides with the run yardage and the pass yards, so it was a tight game. Even on that last drive, I need to give Notre Dame a lot of credit. Those guys made plays when they needed to, and it just seems like we could have got off the game on certain fourth downs, but it went down to the final one. I'm glad it worked out in our favor. Notre Dame is a great team, and they got the most out of us."

On Bear's performance ...

"It's nice to be able to use him in so many different ways. A-Rod, Fesi, TJ, just the entire offensive staff did a great job planning this one, and I feel like they were on point. I'm proud of Bear's skills. We can do a lot of different things with him. When Kyler threw the ball, it was a little nerve-wracking, but for Bear to have the presence and the patience to work with his blocks, it made for a good play call."

On the atmosphere ...

"That was awesome. I love the stadium, and I love that it's named after my mentor, a man I love so much. I was here at the Miami game when that happened with Ty Detmer, and I stormed the field, so I'm just really happy for all the fans. These fans have been up early. I got a power nap in, but I don't know if they did. They've been here all night waiting in line. The ROC line was amazing, and I've never seen the stadium full with 45 minutes to kickoff. The electricity was so thick. Ups and downs, but I'm glad we made the one more play than they did."

On the sideline when BYU was down 24-21 ...

"We knew that our offense could score and could get us in a position to get the lead. We had some third-down conversions to move the chains, and I think the guys were just manifesting it, alongside positivity. They worked so hard, and we've been in these tight games before, so it felt normal for us. I was checking the clock, trying to figure out if we scored too early, but I didn't care. I just wanted to score and let the defense try to find a way to win the game. It took all the way to the bitter end, but it just added to the drama of the storming and all that stuff. I want some boring wins. That's my job."

On Marcus Freeman ...

"Marcus is a great coach and his staff did a great job. I think a lot of things just went our way."

On giving the fans a good experience ...

"I got really emotional in the locker room just thinking about it. I have so much gratitude that I get to be the head coach during this and have the best seat in the house, and I just have a lot of really good people around me that sacrificed for me to be here. I'm the result of a lot of other people's hard work and sacrifice, and even though there's a fan part of me, I just need to make sure that I follow through as a coach and don't jeopardize all the sacrifices that other people have made for me."

On emulating LaVell in his coaching today ...

"He is the father of BYU football, so I have tons of notes and memories. I got to see a bunch of guys from the '94 team that I played with, and it was cool to reflect. The more I get together with the alumni and the fraternity of BYU football, we share stories about LaVell, and half of them are just super funny. He was such a great person, and I miss him. Hopefully he and his family are really proud of us."

On the team being led by Bear ...

"He's tough, resilient, a great leader and he's having fun. He's grown so much, and he's an excellent teammate that the boys love to be around. It's been amazing to see him lead and control the offense."

On whether or not he thinks BYU should be ranked No. 1 in the AP Poll ...

"No, I'm not going to worry about that. I hope a lot of people watched the game, but I'm not really worried about that stuff. I just have to try and go 1-0 every week and try to be humble. ... These guys, I want them to play and have fun. I need to do a better job leading and managing the game, and not put us in risky positions like I did tonight. I'll learn from it."

On the red-zone performances from both sides ...

"I saw there was a hesitation on the spike. So the whole time I'm just worried about everything. I'm like, 'Watch out for the fake spike. Don't believe it.' That was all the things I was saying. Then the timing wasn't there. I just thought that maybe he could have lost control of it. But honestly, I was just super biased. I was just taking shots in the dark. I said, 'Well, did he spike it? Did he lose it?' Then some of the guys were saying, 'Yeah, he actually lost control of the ball.' So I wasn't going to move off the field until they reviewed it. I've been wrong many times before, especially with the refs. So on that one I was more prayerful than anything. It's unfortunate for Notre Dame, but great for us. I mean, the game is odd. It comes down to those things adding up and costing you, or benefiting you, at the very end."

On Preston's performance ...

"Preston did some really good things. I thought even as a receiver and in pass pro and things like that, he did a great job. I've just been really proud of all those guys. They practice, all of our guys who have the opportunity to play. There are a lot of guys that didn't play at all who were ready. So I love the fact that we have a bunch of guys that are ready to play. And when they don't get the opportunity to play, they are so happy for their brothers that make plays on the field. It was a lot of fun. This is a very close team. These guys love each other, man, and I'm just going to try and not get in the way of all of that."

POSTGAME QUOTES BYU

OCT. 17, 2026
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

On playing on a field as two faith-based institutions ...

"First of all, I just want to thank Notre Dame and the fans. I mentioned that in '94 when I played there, I was impressed with the way Notre Dame fans treated us. They were very Christ-like, and they set this great example. I felt like that's who we should try to be, the way they handle themselves with class. I had never seen it before my freshman year at Notre Dame. That fits in line with what we're trying to do, what LaVell was trying to do when he was the coach here. I hope that our fans can appreciate the fact that Notre Dame wanted to play this game with us. Obviously, we have to go there next year. I'm just really grateful that they were able to give us that chance to compete."

On the message in the locker room after the game ...

"We talked about being humble. Those are the same things that we're always going to say, no matter who the opponent is. This is a big one though, so you have to be proud and happy about that. So we wanted to celebrate and be happy, but we still need to progress. We still need to get better week-to-week as a team, and that's my job as a coach. My job is to keep them all humble, and their job is to make sure that I don't get entitled either as a head coach. We are a program of love and learn. We're about humility and hunger. Those things all need to work. Part of that is remembering that we have an amazing platform, and we can still serve and help others. As we try and apply the Gospel of Jesus Christ in football, it definitely works. I wish I could take credit for all this stuff, but this is applying Christ-like principles into our program and our guys fit the model perfectly."

BEAR BACHMEIER, BYU QUARTERBACK

On earning respect with this win...

"We are tired of being disrespected. We know who we are, and this was a great win for sure."

On the game in as a whole...

"What a great team win. I am so proud of this team. The defense played outstanding, Preston played his heart out and the boys up front played gritty and physical. I love this team and I love these guys."

On what was going through his head on the last drive...

"Score. Ebbs and flows down at the goal line, but it's a game at the end of the day, but I was just thinking: score."

On the last touchdown with Walker...

"We had a penalty right before that and again ebbs and flows down at the goal line. We dialed that play up, and we were executing it well in practice, and I was very confident in the play call. They brought the house, and Walker just made a great play and touchdown."

On if he has ever had a game where he throwing, rushing and receiving touchdowns...

"No, maybe in my youth days, but actually Coach McDaniel was talking about that at practice and manifested it."

On going 4/4 in the red zone...

"That is super important. We always harp on the four-point plays. Last week we were horrible down in the red zone, and when you want to beat good teams you have to have that four-point swing for sure."

On getting emotional with his family after the game...

"I saw my little brother and gave him a hug and just wanted to be the best role model for him. I love my family, so it was great celebrating with them."

On eight different guys catching passes...

"I know I wear the number 47, but at the end of the day I am a point guard and want to be a distributor. When you get a lot of guys touching the ball, good things happen."

On the environment...

"Yeah, every home game is the best, because we have the best fans in the country, and it showed tonight."

On what Kalani means to him...

"Coach doesn't just make you a better player but also a better young man. The culture that he instills, why wouldn't you want to play your heart out for Kalani?"

PRESTON REX, BYU RUNNING BACK

On his performance with LJ being out...

"I give all the credit to the o-line. They blocked well tonight and gave me some gaps to follow through. We had a great scheme and a great blocking plan. It really helps when you have a quarterback like Bear, who they have to respect and opens some looks up for me."

On his preparation coming into the game...

"We know the looks they were going to show. It was a little different [at] game time because they didn't want to give up those QB runs that have killed defenses in the past."

On being disrespected nationally...

"If you come to our house, we are going to defend it. We can play with anyone in the nation, but the job is not finished. It was a great win, we are going to celebrate it over the weekend but come Monday we are going to make the necessary preparations for UCF."

On how you refocus on league play...

"We just watch the film. There are areas we can improve a ton. We had a great first half, but then had a bit of a slump, so there are things to be fixed."

POSTGAME QUOTES BYU

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LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

On the messages given inside the RB room...

"I think in the Kalani era we've had to go 4-5 deep at running back. It's a physical position, so it is just a next-man-up mentality. LJ believes in each one of us. He is a great role model, and it is easy to improve when you have the best player in the Big 12 in your running back room."

CADE ULUAVE, BYU LINEBACKER

On what it took for the defense to get on top and secure the win...

"It took everybody on the defense, and I'm super proud of the guys and how we responded. I think Coach Poppinga dialed it up right. We said, 'Let's do it. We're going to put pressure on the quarterback and go.' It took everybody. I'm super proud of the guys. They played their hearts out and came out with the win."

On the defense's focus on stopping Notre Dame in the red zone...

"If you were to ask anybody on defense, that was almost our entire emphasis this week. We have to win the red zone. We knew that was something that we needed to improve, and I'm just so proud of the guys. Everyone stepped up and made some plays when we needed them, and it was fun. It was probably the most fun game I've ever played in. It was awesome."

On stepping up with the game on the line...

"That's just part of the game. Something changed, and the offense was rolling. They took a shot, and it didn't work out, and that's fine. That's what we do. We have the offense's back. Whatever happens on the field, like if Bear throws a pick, that's the time for us to step up. We thrive in those moments, and we want those moments. I just have to give credit to the guys for going out there and balling. Bear probably wanted that one back, and he redeemed himself. He's a baller through and through. The defense was stepping up, and it was awesome."

On playing in a wild environment...

"This was probably the most incredible moment of my life. After the last play where everyone was rushing on the field, I literally just fell to my knees and started crying. It means a lot, and that's why I came to BYU, to experience things like this. I'm just honored and blessed to be here, and I'm so proud. The environment out there was insane and unmatched. Shout out to Cougar Nation for showing up. It was incredible."

On showing the country what BYU can accomplish...

"A lot of people weren't respecting us. That's just flat-out truth. A lot of people thought we were flukes. Some people didn't think we were all that. We just went out and beat the No. 2 team in the nation. Hopefully, we put some respect on our name. I think Coach Kalani says it best: 'we've got to stay humble and hungry.' It was a great win for us, but there's always stuff to improve defensively and things we can do better. Every game is a learning experience, so we're thankful for the opportunity to come out here and play. We're thankful for the win, but we still have to be humble and hungry, look forward to our next opponent and prepare like we have been. We have to play with effort and just do our thing."

RAIDER DAMUNI, BYU SAFETY

On being back on the field...

"It was such a blessing to be back. The training staff got me right and helped me to set the goal to come back for this game. It was great to be back out there in front of the best fans in the nation. There's no better feeling than that. It felt really good to go out and hit again after six weeks of not hitting anybody."

On beating Notre Dame and what it means to him personally...

"Growing up watching college football, especially BYU, you dream of playing in these kinds of games. You dream of not just playing in them but coming out victorious. Having the opportunity to go out there, that was the funnest game of college football I have ever played. I feel super blessed to be in this position and to play at BYU and have teammates who love the university as well."

On being part of a moment that will be remembered for a long time...

"This game and these moments are something I will always remember. Things I will tell my kids about. My family being from Provo, it was awesome to experience it together with them all here. We understand how big this was for us, and we are going to continue to get better and not let this take over our whole season, because we didn't come here to just beat Notre Dame. We have bigger goals."

On the difference this year facing top-10 teams vs. last year...

"Those losses from last year, they sting. So we know that people look at BYU and they believe BYU can get to big games, but it can't win those big games. We had that in the back of our mind this whole offseason and knew this was a game we wanted. We wanted to play Notre Dame and knew it was an opportunity to earn respect. The next stepping stone for us is to continue to win these big games and remember what happened in the past because that's what continues to motivate us to be better."

On Evan Johnson...

"You know when Evan Johnson is playing man-to-man, I'm taking Johnson to win that matchup every single time. It helps the whole defense, because when you have someone locked down, you can let him go and can help other sides of the field. Having him is such a blessing for our defense. He is a really good player in space and is one that can tackle really well. I don't think there's a better player at his position in the country than him. So having him is a huge help for the defense as a whole."

On his dad...

"My dad has been there with me throughout my whole life with sports, especially football, and to be able to play at this university and have him witness me myself chasing my dreams in such a big moment, it makes me a little emotional. I am super grateful to be here at BYU and for Cougar Nation and all they do for us."



POSTGAME QUOTES
BYU

OCT. 17, 2026
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

On what they were able to do to hold CJ Carr back...
“I want to shout out Matthias Leach and Jordan Criss. They came in and didn’t take a step backwards. We are able to continue to trust those guys, and it really speaks to the depth we have on the defensive side and offensive side of the ball. I am proud of those guys. They played mad. They locked up their assignments, came up and made hits. So proud of those two guys.”

POSTGAME QUOTES NOTRE DAME

OCT. 17, 2026
LAVELL EDWARDS STADIUM

MARCUS FREEMAN, NOTRE DAME HEAD COACH

Opening Statement

"I want to give a lot of credit to Coach Sitake and the BYU team. They're a tough, resilient, physical team. We had them on the ropes, and we couldn't find a way to finish. They found a way to get a stop when they needed it the most, and so I want to make sure to give them that credit. Obviously we're disappointed. We didn't play to our standard across the board. Part of it is because of the things they were doing, and part of it is some things that we did to Notre Dame that we can't allow to happen. So there's a lot of things we have to use from this game to attack as we go into the bye week, and we'll move forward from there."

On the final play

"It was chaos. I'm obviously going to probably feel some type of way when I'm out there. We'll watch it, but it is what it is. I know people are going to look for me to put blame on somebody else. That's not what we do around here. We own it. We've got to be better and we got to execute in our situation.... "We made a call, thinking they were possibly going to be in the last coverage they were in the play before. They came out in a little different look, so we checked it. That was what we felt was the best check to build side pressure we were getting, and we weren't."

On the final play

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On CJ Carr's struggles

"I don't know. It wasn't the preparation. You know, some of those big plays that he usually hits we weren't executing on. We weren't hitting on them. I don't know if it's CJ's fault, I don't know if it's the wide receivers' fault or an accumulation of both. But we weren't hitting on those types of plays that we've been doing with as much success as we've been doing."

On first-half defense

"You know, they were doing a lot of misdirection and some of those trick plays. When you face an offense that's doing some of those things, you have to have discipline. We were lacking some discipline in the first half with our eyes. You know, when the ball goes away, you've got to stay back for something. You can run the same call 10 times in a row, and nine times you're chasing after the ball, and they never run a burst or throw back. And guess what? On the 10th one, you don't stay backside, and you'll get burned. So a couple times that happened in the first half. We just weren't playing disciplined. I thought they cleaned it up and played better in the second half."

On settling for field goals

"They were stopping the run and put us in some difficult passing situations, so they were playing well. I'm more worried about us and what we do in those situations. You've got to score touchdowns in the red zone, and we weren't able to do that."

On watching Bear on film and then seeing him in person...

"He's exactly what I saw on film. He's a competitive football player, smart, tough and you can hit him, but you won't break him."

On the fumble/spike at the end of the half...

"It was a crucial play. I've never seen it happen to us, but we just can't let it happen. We can't allow a play like that to end the half with zero points when you have the ball inside the five."

On the crowd and atmosphere...

"We did a good job. I think we had one false start. We prepared for a loud atmosphere, and it was loud. I think our preparation should make sure, no matter how loud it gets, it doesn't affect our operation"

CJ CARR, NOTRE DAME QUARTERBACK

On what he saw on the final play of the game...

"They just happened to score there. Good throw. Good catch. Keep his head up. He's young. Just keep working. That wasn't the touchdown that lost us the game. There were many plays before that we could have played a lot better on. For him, just keep his head up and make sure he's okay."

On moving forward from this loss...

"Just gotta go back to work, do what we do, practice well all week. We'll try to continue to string things together through the bye week and to bounce back with whoever we've got next."

On what BYU did to make things difficult...

"I thought we moved the ball well, just didn't punch it in on some of those red zone opportunities we had. Credit to BYU for holding their own down in the red zone. They are a tough team that plays really tough and physical."

DRAYK BOWEN, NOTRE DAME CORNERBACK

On his words of encouragement for Joey O'Brien (safety who covered Walker Lyons on BYU's final TD)...

"I feel like we did okay, but I feel like we could always be better. There's some plays that I could have made that could have helped us, but it all just comes back to being connected."



POSTGAME QUOTES NOTRE DAME

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On BYU's success on offense in the first half...

"They used a lot of things we hadn't seen on film: a quarterback throw-back, different types of reverses, sweeps, just routes that they threw in last week that we hadn't seen before. They kind of used a little bit of our weaknesses against us, and now we'll be able to go back, look at it and say, 'We really need to improve these areas.' It'll be a good bye week for us."

On Bear Bachmeier's performance...

"He played really well. He was able to identify coverage really well and keep us off-balance with the run game. That was the biggest thing. We didn't necessarily shut him down like we needed to in the first half, and in the second half we kind of took his legs away and made him throw the ball. He made some good throws. It was our plan to make him throw the ball and that's where we felt like we had the advantage. He made some really good plays, and I have to give it to him. He did what he needed to do for their offense."

On how Boubacar Traore's targeting penalty and subsequent ejection impacted Notre Dame's defense...

"It's something that happens. You don't want it to happen, but that's why you practice two or three guys at a spot. You trust the next guy coming in just as much as Boubacar. He's helped all those dudes get ready, and he was over on the sideline helping them out. It's never something you want to have. The way he handled it and made sure those dudes were ready to go on the field and see what they needed to see – that's what you want from someone like Boubacar."