

2007 Notre Dame Football Post-Game Notes

Notre Dame vs. Stanford
November 24, 2007

TEAM

□ Notre Dame won the toss and elected to receive. The Cardinal defended the south end zone in the first half.

□ The following Notre Dame players extended streaks for consecutive starts: senior ILB **Maurice Crum, Jr.** (37), senior DE **Trevor Laws** (37), sophomore OT **Sam Young** (24), senior CB **Terrail Lambert** (21) and senior SS **Tom Zbikowski** (18).

□ With freshman HB **Robert Hughes** earning his first career start for Notre Dame, 28 different Irish players (13 on defense, 15 on offense) have registered their first career starts this season.

Sr., OLB, Anthony Vernaglia Jr.	Jr., FS, David Bruton Jr.
Jr., NT, Pat Kuntz	Jr., OT, Paul Duncan Jr.
Jr., OG, Michael Turkovich	Jr., OG, Dan Wenger
So., QB, Demetrius Jones	So., WR, George West
So., OLB, John Ryan	Fr., QB, Jimmy Clausen
Fr., HB, Armando Allen	So., ILB, Toryan Smith
Sr., DE, Dwight Stephenson	So., WR Robby Parris Jr.
So., RG, Matt Carufel	Jr., DT, Derrell Hand
So., HB, James Aldridge	Fr., OLB Kerry Neal
So., DB Raeshon McNeil	Fr., WR Golden Tate
So., TE, Will Yeatman	So., OG, Eric Olsen
Fr., WR, Duval Kamara	Jr., QB, Evan Sharpley
Jr., FS, Kyle McCarthy	Fr., OLB, Brian Smith
Fr., NT, Ian Williams	Fr., HB, Robert Hughes

□ Freshman HB Robert Hughes became the eighth Notre Dame freshman to start this year, joining QB **Jimmy Clausen**, HB **Armando Allen**, WR **Golden Tate**, WR **Duval Kamara**, OLB **Kerry Neal**, OLB **Brian Smith** and NT **Ian Williams**.

□ Notre Dame started six freshmen for the second consecutive week (NT **Ian Williams**, QB **Jimmy Clausen**, HB **Robert Hughes**, WR **Duval Kamara**, OLB **Kerry Neal** and OLB **Brian Smith**), including three on each side of the football.

□ The six rookie starters (each of the last two weeks) topped the previous school record for freshmen starters in a single game. The Irish started five freshman against Air Force on Oct. 13, 1979.

First-Year Starters (NCAA Bowl Subdivision)

1.	Temple	11
2.	Notre Dame	10*
3.	Buffalo	9
	Marshall	9
4.	North Carolina	8
	Georgia	8
7.	Florida	6
	Iowa	6
	Middle Tennessee State	6
	USC	6

* includes eight true freshman and two other players in their first year of athletic eligibility

□ The Irish have been victimized by points off turnovers all season. Notre Dame had been outscored, 89-61, off of turnovers entering today's game, but the Irish turned a Stanford interception into a touchdown to give Notre Dame a 7-0 first quarter lead. The Irish also used a pair of Duke turnovers in the first half of last week's game into 14 points.

□ Notre Dame totaled 223 total yards (including 153 passing yards) in the first half this afternoon. Including the first half of last week's game against Duke, Notre Dame has combined for 461 total yards and 322 yards in the air in the first half over the past two weeks.

□ Notre Dame's starting offensive line today consisted of three sophomores (OT **Sam Young**, C **Dan Wenger**, OG **Eric Olsen**) and two juniors (OT **Paul Duncan** and OG **Mike Turkovich**). Young is the only member of the group who had started a game prior to this season.

□ With the three first-half fumbles, Notre Dame has fumbled 26 times in

2007, losing 16. The Irish fumbled only 13 times (losing seven) over the entire 2006 season. The 26 total fumbles in a single-season are the most for Notre Dame since 2002 (when the Irish fumbled 28 times). The 16 lost fumbles are the most since 1996 (when the Notre Dame lost 23 fumbles).

□ Notre Dame, which entered the game ranked fifth in the NCAA in pass defense, limited Stanford quarterback Tavita Pritchard to 102 yards in the air and a 41.7% completion percentage (10-of-24). The Irish limited the Cardinal as a team to 45.4% (15-of-33) completion percentage and 152 yards.

□ Boston College quarterback Matt Ryan (32-of-49 for 291 yards) was the only opposing quarterback to complete 60% of his passes (minimum of 20 attempts) against the Irish this season. He also was the only opposing signal caller to surpass 255 yards in the air. Excluding Ryan, the Irish passing defense has limited opposing quarterbacks to a combined completion percentage of 50.8% (149-of-293). Here is a look at the opposing starting quarterbacks that have failed to complete 60% of their passes against Notre Dame.

Name, School	Comp.-Att.	Comp. %	INT
Taylor Bennett, Georgia Tech	11-of-23	.478	0
Anthony Morelli, Penn State	12-of-22	.545	1
Ryan Mallett, Michigan	7-of-15	.467	0
Brian Hoyer, Michigan State	11-of-24	.458	1
Curtis Painter, Purdue	22-of-37	.594	2
Ben Olsen, UCLA	4-of-10	.400	0
McLeod Bethel-Thompson, UCLA	12-of-28	.429	4
Mark Sanchez, USC	21-of-38	.553	0
Thaddeus Lewis, Duke	16-of-33	.483	0
Tavita Pritchard, Stanford	10-of-24	.417	2

□ Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis improved to 18-2 entering when leading or tied at the end of three quarters. The only two defeats for the Irish when leading or tied at the end of the third quarter came on Oct. 15, 2005 against USC (game was tied, 21-21) and earlier this season against Navy (Irish led 21-20).

TODAY'S WIN ...

□ Was the second straight victory for Notre Dame.

□ Gives the Irish victories over their final two games of the season for the first time since 1992.

□ Was the sixth consecutive victory over Stanford and third straight win against the Cardinal in Palo Alto.

□ Improves Notre Dame to 16-6 (.727) in the all-time series with Stanford.

□ Improves the Irish to 6-4 (.600) in the all-time series with the Cardinal in Palo Alto.

□ Improves Weis' Notre Dame record to 22-15 overall, 3-0 against Stanford, 2-0 against the Cardinal in Palo Alto and 6-3 against the Pac-10.

□ Improves Weis' Notre Dame road record to 10-4 (.714).

□ Improves Weis' Notre Dame record to 10-3 (.769) in November games.

□ Improves Weis' Notre Dame record to 15-2 (.882) following a victory.

□ Improves an unranked Notre Dame squad to 4-4 (.500) all-time against Stanford.

□ Improves an unranked Notre Dame squad to 2-4 (.333) all-time against the Cardinal in Palo Alto.

□ Improves Notre Dame to 15-3 (.833) all-time against an unranked Stanford squad.

□ Improves Notre Dame to 6-2 (.750) all-time against an unranked Stanford squad in Palo Alto.

□ Improves Weis' record to 16-12 (.571) in afternoon games.

□ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 824-278-42 (.739).

□ Improves the Irish all-time road record to 289-137-22 (.670).

□ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record against the Pac-10 Conference to 78-41-6 (.648).

□ Improves Notre Dame's all-time road record against the Pac-10 Conference to 31-24-5 (.558).

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☐ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record in the regular season finale to 64-43-12 (.588).

INDIVIDUAL

☐ Senior NT **Trevor Laws** registered his third blocked kick of the season and sixth of his career. Laws is tied with Dominique Faust of Louisiana Tech for the most in the country.

☐ **Laws** nearly single-handedly forced a Stanford punt midway through the second quarter. Laws picked up his fourth sack of the season (10th of his career) on the Cardinal's first play of the series, then was in-line to make the second down tackle when he was held (which was declined to set up 3rd-and-13) and Stanford was unable to convert on the third-and-long.

☐ **Laws**, who is the fifth Notre Dame defensive tackle ever to reach 100 tackles in a single season, fell just one tackle shy of tying Steve Niehaus (113; in 1975) for the school record for tackles by an Irish defensive lineman.

Most Tackles by a Front-Four Lineman (since 1956)

1.	113, Steve Niehaus	1975
2.	112, Trevor Laws	2007
3.	104, Ross Browner	1977
4.	103, Melvin Dansby	1997
5.	101, Jeff Weston	1975

☐ Senior SS **Tom Zbikowski** registered his second interception of the season. Zbikowski now has been involved in a total of 19 turnovers (seven forced fumbles, eight interceptions, four fumble recoveries) during his four-year career, including seven this season (three forced fumbles, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries).

☐ **Zbikowski** recorded a 60-yard punt return early in the third quarter to give the Irish great field position. Notre Dame opened the drive at the Stanford 31-yard line.

☐ The 60-yard punt return for **Zbikowski** was not only a season-high for the Irish, but the longest punt return for **Zbikowski** since he took a punt back 78 yards for a touchdown against Tennessee on Nov. 5, 2005.

☐ The punt return for **Zbikowski** was the fifth of his career that exceeded 45 yards.

☐ **Zbikowski** registered nine tackles this afternoon. The nine tackles move him sole possession of eighth place on the all-time Notre Dame tackle list. Zbikowski, who already owns the school record for tackles by an Irish defensive back, passed Courtney Watson (294, 2000-03), Greg Collins (295, 1972-74) and Brandon Hoyte (297, 2002-05) on Saturday afternoon.

Career Tackles

1.	Bob Crable (LB)	521 (1978-81)
2.	Bob Golic (LB)	479 (1975-78)
3.	Steve Heimkreiter (LB)	398 (1975-78)
4.	Bob Olson (LB)	369 (1967-69)
5.	Tony Furjanic (LB)	361 (1982-85)
6.	Mike Kovaleski (LB)	353 (1983-86)
7.	Ross Browner (DE)	340 (1973, 1975-77)
8.	Tom Zbikowski (SS)	300 (2004-07)
9.	Brandon Hoyte (LB)	297 (2002-05)
10.	Greg Collins (LB)	295 (1972-74)
11.	Courtney Watson (LB)	294 (2000-03)
12.	Steve Niehaus (DT)	290 (1972-75)

☐ Freshman QB **Jimmy Clausen** moves into third place on games played list (single season) by freshman quarterbacks. He shares the school record for starts by an Irish freshman quarterback and finished second second on single-season passing yards list by freshman quarterbacks.

Games

12, Brady Quinn (2003)
11, Blair Kiel (1980)
10, Jimmy Clausen (2007)
10, Steve Beuerlein (1983)

Starts

9, Brady Quinn (2003)
9, Blair Kiel (1980)
9, Jimmy Clausen (2007)

Attempts

332, Brady Quinn (2003)
245, Jimmy Clausen (2007)
145, Steve Beuerlein (1983)

Completions

157, Brady Quinn (2003)
138, Jimmy Clausen (2007)
75, Steve Beuerlein (1983)

Yards

1,831, Brady Quinn (2003)
1,254, Jimmy Clausen (2007)
1,061, Steve Beuerlein (1983)

Touchdowns

11, Matt LoVecchio (2000)
9, Brady Quinn (2003)
7, Jimmy Clausen (2007)

Completion Percentage (min. 100 attempts)

.584 (73-of-125), Matt LoVecchio (2000)
.563 (138-of-245), Jimmy Clausen (2007)
.517 (75-of-145), Steve Beuerlein (1983)
.473 (157-of-332), Brady Quinn (2003)
.387 (48-of-124), Blair Kiel (1980)

☐ **Clausen** recorded his second career rushing touchdown to give Notre Dame a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Clausen's other touchdown rush came on Oct. 6 at UCLA.

☐ **Clausen** completed 7-of-8 passes in the first quarter for 46 yards, including a 16-yard completion to fellow freshman WR **Duval Kamara** on 3rd-and-12.

☐ **Clausen** connected with freshman WR Duval Kamara on a 35-yard pass play early in the second quarter.

☐ **Clausen** hit senior HB Junior Jabbie for a 44-yard completion -- it was his longest pass completion of the season. It was Clausen's 12th completion of over 20 yards this season and fifth of 35 yards or more.

☐ **Clausen** completed 12-of-17 passes for 153 yards in the first half against Stanford. He has completed 45-of-78 (.577) for 539 yards against Air Force (second half), Duke and the Cardinal (first half) or a total of eight quarters.

☐ **Clausen's** interception midway through the fourth quarter was his first in 101 pass attempts. He had not thrown an interception since Oct. 13 against Boston College.

☐ In his first career start, freshman HB **Robert Hughes** rumbled 45 yards on the game's opening play. The 45-yard rush was not only the longest carry for the Irish this season, but the longest offensive play from scrimmage. The previous longest play for Notre Dame was 43 yards (a 43-yard run from sophomore HB **James Aldridge** and a 43-yard reception from freshman WR **Golden Tate**).

☐ **Hughes** totaled 55 yards on eight carries in the first quarter, including 54 yards on the game's opening drive.

☐ **Hughes** finished the afternoon with 136 yards on 18 carries. It was his second career 100-yard rushing game and second in as many weeks (Hughes rushed for 110 yards last week against Duke).

☐ **Hughes** is the first Notre Dame freshman running back to eclipse 100 yards on the ground in consecutive weeks since Allen Pinkett during the 1982 season. Pinkett rushed for 129 yards against Navy (Oct. 30) and 112 yards against Pittsburgh (Nov. 6).

☐ **Kamara's** 35-yard grab was a career-long, topping his previous long of 25 yards set last week against Duke.

☐ Senior HB **Junior Jabbie** and **Clausen** connected on a critical third down late in the first half. Clausen found Jabbie for 44 yards on a screen pass. Notre Dame would score the tying touchdown, 14-14, just three plays later when senior HB **Travis Thomas** rumbled in from the one-yard line.

☐ The touchdown for **Thomas** was his fifth of the season and 12th of his career.

☐ The 44-yard reception was a career-long for **Jabbie**. His previous

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career-best was an 18-yard reception against Air Force on Nov. 10.

□ The 44-yard passing play was a season-long for the Irish. Notre Dame's previous long completion was 43 yards from sophomore QB **Evan Sharpley** to freshman WR **Golden Tate** against Purdue on Sept. 29.

□ Sophomore DB **Raeshon McNeil** picked up his first career sack.

□ Senior ILB **Joe Brockington** finished the afternoon with a team-high nine tackles. He eclipsed 100 tackles for the season and ended the year with 108 stops.

□ Senior TE **John Carlson** finished the afternoon with three catches for 29 yards. His 100 career receptions are second-most ever by a Notre Dame tight end, while his 1,093 career receiving yards rank third, ahead of Dean Masztak's 924 and now only nine behind former teammate Anthony Fasano.

Receptions – Career (Tight End)

1. Ken MacAfee 128 (1974-77)
2. **John Carlson 100 (active)**
3. Anthony Fasano 92 (2003-05)
4. *Tony Hunter 70 (1979-82)
5. Derek Brown 62 (1988-91)
Dean Masztak 62 (1978-81)
7. Mark Bavaro 55 (1981-84)

Receiving Yards – Career (Tight End)

1. Ken MacAfee 1,759 (1974-77)
2. Anthony Fasano 1,102 (2003-05)
3. **John Carlson 1,093 (active)**
4. Dean Masztak 924 (1978-81)
5. *Tony Hunter 904 (1979-82)
6. Derek Brown 899 (1988-91)
7. Mark Bavaro 771 (1981-84)
*played TE only in 1981-82