



## NOTRE DAME POSTGAME NOTES

*vs. Syracuse \* MetLife Stadium \* East Rutherford, New Jersey \* October 1, 2016*

### TEAM NOTES

- Notre Dame is now 5-3 all-time against Syracuse and 73-24 all-time against current members of the Atlantic Coast Conference.
- Notre Dame is 389-94-8 all-time in October and 19-5-0 under Brian Kelly.
- With a 79-yard touchdown pass from DeShone Kizer to Equanimeous St. Brown on the first play from scrimmage, it marked the first time the Irish struck on the first play of the game from scrimmage since 2010, when Dayne Crist hit Michael Floyd for an 80-yard touchdown pass against Western Michigan. The Irish last scored on their first offensive play of the game against Southern Cal last season, with Kizer hitting Will Fuller for a 75-yard score.
- The 79-yard touchdown pass on the opening play from scrimmage was the longest completion of the season for Notre Dame. The one-play drive and 18 seconds were the quickest in terms of plays and times (with the exception of a one-play scoring drive in overtime against Texas).
- In blocking Syracuse's first point-after attempt of the day and returning it for two points, it marked the second time this season Notre Dame blocked a point-after attempt and returned it for two points of its own. Jarron Jones also blocked a PAT before Shaun Crawford returned it at Texas in the season opener. Prior to that, the Irish had last returned a PAT for a score in 1995, also against Texas.
- Notre Dame has scored first in all five games this season.
- The Irish returned a kickoff for a touchdown for the first time since C.J. Sanders returned a kick 93-yards for a score at Stanford last year.
- The 33 points in the first half marked the most for the Irish since hanging 35 in the opening two quarters against UMass last season.
- Defensively, Notre Dame buckled down after the teams traded scores early. Syracuse scored on three of its five first quarter drives, recording 281 yards on 29 plays (9.69 yards per play). The script flipped in the final three quarters. Over that time, the Irish surrendered 208 yards on 59 plays, or just 3.53 yards per play.
- The Irish defense forced four straight punts and a turnover on downs on the first five drives of the second half by Syracuse. The turnover on downs came on a short field, as SU began on the Notre Dame 34-yard line.
- With the honor of wearing the No. 1 jersey designed to reflect Notre Dame's place atop the college football all-time winning percentage list, no player was selected, as Notre Dame (.7306) dropped behind Michigan (.7307) in all-time winning percentage by a margin of .0001.
- With an attendance of 62,794, it marked the first time the Irish did not play before a capacity crowd since the 2014 contest at USC.

### INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- DeShone Kizer threw for a career-best 471 yards (23-35, 3 TDs). That clip was the third-most in school history, trailing only Brady Quinn's 487 versus Michigan State in 2005 and Joe Theismann's 526 against USC in 1970.
- The 471 passing yards by Kizer were the most by a quarterback during Brian Kelly's tenure at Notre Dame, eclipsing the previous mark of 446 by Everett Golson against Arizona State in 2014.



- Kizer's 20.48 yards per completion were just shy of the NCAA record. BYU's John Walsh holds the mark at 22.9 (minimum 22 completions) in a 1993 contest with UCLA.
- Kizer's 79-yard touchdown pass on the first play from scrimmage was the second-longest of his career (81 yards versus Ohio State in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl). It marked the sixth-longest pass-play of the Brian Kelly era.
- With his rushing touchdown in the second quarter, Kizer now has a score on the ground in each of his last seven games and 10 of his last 11 contests.
- Kizer has thrown for a touchdown in 16 of his 18 career games.
- In 12 career contests, Kizer has recorded touchdowns on the ground and through the air.
- In the first quarter, Kizer was 5-7 for 170 yards and two touchdowns. Coupled with the final three quarters of Everett Golson's performance versus Syracuse at MetLife Stadium in 2014, Irish QBs were 32-38 for 492 yards and six touchdowns over a four-quarter stretch against the Orange in the Meadowlands.
- The 79-yard touchdown catch by Equanimeous St. Brown in the first quarter was the longest reception of his career.
- Adding a 67-yard touchdown reception later in the first quarter, St. Brown had his second career multi-touchdown game (2016 at Texas).
- St. Brown also became the first player with multiple catches of at least 67-yards in one game since Michael Floyd against Nevada in 2009. Floyd had touchdown grabs of 70 and 88 yards in a victory over the Wolf Pack.
- Jarron Jones recorded his sixth-career blocked kick on Syracuse's first point-after attempt.
- Cole Luke returned the blocked PAT for two points. It marked the first points of the senior's career.
- C.J. Sanders had his second career kickoff return for a touchdown, matching a 93-yard return at Stanford last season.
- Josh Adams had the longest reception of his career, making a 44-yard grab in the second quarter.
- Kevin Stepherson's 54-yard touchdown haul was a career-long.
- Nick Weishar had his first catch of the season.