



Notre Dame at Pittsburgh September 24, 2011 Fighting Irish Post Game Notes



A VICTORY OVER PITTSBURGH ...

- ▶ Evens Notre Dame's overall record at 2-2 and road record at 1-1.
- ▶ Gives the Irish consecutive victories over the Panthers in the all-time series for the first time since 2002-03.
- ▶ Gives Notre Dame a victory in three of its four meetings with Pittsburgh at Heinz Field.
- ▶ Gives the Irish a victory over the Panthers in 14 of the last 18 meetings overall and seven of the last nine meetings on the road.
- ▶ Improves Notre Dame to 46-20-1 (.694) in the all-time series with the Panthers.
- ▶ Improves the Irish to 26-10-1 (.716) in the all-time series with Pittsburgh on the road, including 3-1 (.750) at Heinz Field.
- ▶ Improves Notre Dame's all-time record to 847-297-42 (.732).
- ▶ Improves the all-time record on the road for the Irish to 280-144-23 (.652).
- ▶ Improves Notre Dame to 58-25-1 (.696) all-time against the BIG EAST, including 29-11-1 (.719) on the road.
- ▶ Improves the unranked Irish (post 1936) to 12-8 (.600) all-time against Pittsburgh.
- ▶ Improves unranked Notre Dame (post 1936) to 7-4 (.636) all-time against the Panthers on the road.
- ▶ Improves the unranked Irish (post 1936) to 8-4 (.667) all-time against unranked Pittsburgh.
- ▶ Improves unranked Notre Dame (post 1936) to 4-2 (.667) all-time against the unranked Panthers on the road.
- ▶ Improves Kelly's record to 181-64-2 (.737) overall.
- ▶ Improves Kelly's record to 63-29 (.685) in FBS games.
- ▶ Improves Kelly's record to 53-17 (.757) over the last six seasons.
- ▶ Improves Kelly's record to 4-1 (.800) all-time against Pittsburgh, including 2-1 (.667) on the road.
- ▶ Improves Kelly's record to 18-6 (.750) all-time against the BIG EAST, including 10-2 (.833) on the road.
- ▶ Gives Kelly a victory over a BIG EAST foe for the 14th time in the last 15 meetings.

ANOTHER FULL HOUSE

- ▶ Notre Dame has played in front of sellout crowds in 273 of its previous 308 games, including 117 of its last 152 games away from the friendly confines of Notre Dame Stadium dating back to the start of the 1986 season.

ON THIS DATE

- ▶ Notre Dame has played 11 games in its history on Sept. 24. The Irish are 10-1 all-time on this date. The Irish were ranked in the top 20 on seven of the 11 occasions.

Season	Site	ND Coach	W/L/T	Score	ND Rank	Opponent	Opp. Coach	Opp. Rank
1921	HOME	Knute Rockne	W	56-0	--	Kalamazoo	Ralph H. Young	--
1949	HOME	Frank Leahy	W	49-6	--	Indiana	Clyde Smith	--
1955	HOME	Terry Brennan	W	17-0	11	SMU	Chalmer Woodward	NR
1960	HOME	Joe Kuharich	W	21-7	NR	California	Marv Levy	NR
1966	HOME	Ara Parseghian	W	26-14	6	Purdue	Jack Mollenkopf	8
1977	AWAY	Dan Devlin	W	31-24	11	Purdue (1:39)	Jim Young	NR
1983	AWAY	Gerry Faust	L	0-20	13	Miami (Fla.) (NT)	Howard Schnellenberger	NR
1988	HOME	Lou Holtz	W	52-7	8	Purdue	Fred Akers	NR
1994	HOME	Lou Holtz	W	39-21	9	Purdue (R)	Jim Colletto	NR
2005	AWAY	Charlie Weis	W	36-17	16	Washington	Tyrone Willingham	NR
2011	AWAY	Brian Kelly	W	15-12	NR	Pittsburgh	Todd Graham	NR

NT indicates night game. 0:00 indicates time remaining in games decided in the final minutes.

NOTRE DAME - PITTSBURGH SERIES HISTORY

- ▶ Today's matchup marked the 67th meeting between Notre Dame and Pittsburgh, with the Irish holding a 46-20-1 series lead.
- ▶ Notre Dame has won 14 of the last 18 meetings with the Panthers, including three of the last four games in Heinz Field.
- ▶ The Irish own a 26-10-1 mark against Pittsburgh away from Notre Dame Stadium.
- ▶ Notre Dame has won 28 of their last 37 contests against the Panthers, dating back to 1964 (Ara Parseghian's first year as Notre Dame's head coach).

IRISH IN NFL STADIUMS

- ▶ Notre Dame is 17-6-2 (.720) when playing in a current NFL stadium (Soldier Field 9-0-2, Heinz Field 3-1, Gator Bowl/Alltel Stadium 1-2, Superdome 1-2, Ravens/M&T Bank Stadium 2-0, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium/FedEx Field 1-0, New Meadowlands 0-1).
- ▶ Overall, the Irish are 69-20-3 (.766) when playing in a NFL Stadium (Baltimore Municipal Stadium 18-4-0, Briggs Stadium 1-0-0, Cotton Bowl 1-1, Cleveland 9-1-1, Foxboro 1-0-0, Sun Devil Stadium 1-3-0, Meadowlands 11-0-0, Soldier Field 9-0-2, Gator Bowl/Alltel Stadium 1-2, Superdome 1-2, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium/FedEx Field 1-0, Hoosier/RCA Dome 0-1, Orange Bowl 2-3, JFK/Veterans Stadium 10-1-0, Heinz Field 3-1, New Meadowlands 0-1).

NOTRE DAME IN SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Notre Dame is 128-56-4 (.691) all-time during the month of September.
- ▶ Notre Dame has an all-time mark of 46-31-2 (.595) in road games during September.

Notre Dame's Record When...

	Kelly Career	Kelly at ND	2011
At Home	98-25-1	5-4	1-1
On The Road	78-36-1	3-2	1-1
Neutral Site Games	5-3	2-1	0-0
In Overtime	4-3	0-1	0-0
Coming off a loss	37-20	3-4	1-1
Coming off a win	130-34-1	6-3	1-0
Coming of an open date	12-1	1-0	0-0
Vs. AP top 25	10-5	2-1	1-0
Both teams are AP-ranked	4-2	0-0	0-0
Neither team is ranked	38-21	7-5	0-1
Ranked higher	23-4	0-1	0-1
Opponent is ranked higher	5-5	2-1	1-0
Vs. In-state Opponents	71-22	1-0	0-0
In August	3-2	0-0	0-0
In September	54-28	3-5	2-2
In October	61-21	3-2	0-0
In November	51-13	3-0	0-0
In December	9-1	1-0	0-0
In January	0-1	0-0	0-0
On Television	40-15*	10-7	2-2
On NBC	6-4	6-4	1-1
On ABC	5-1	3-1	1-0
On ESPN	8-3	0-1	0-1
On ESPN2	7-2	0-0	0-0
On CBS	1-1	1-1	0-0
Afternoon Games	123-48-2	7-5	2-1
Night Games	55-15	3-2	0-1
Decided By 3 or Less	34-14-2	1-3	1-1
Decided By 7 or Less	58-28-2	3-5	1-2
Scoring First	119-22	5-4	1-1
Opponent Scores First	60-42-2	5-3	1-1
Leading At Halftime	142-12	10-2	2-1
Tied At Halftime	25-46-2	0-1	0-0
Trailing At Halftime	11-6	0-4	0-1
Leading After 3 Qtrs.	153-10	8-2	1-1
Tied After 3 Qtrs.	8-2	0-1	0-0
Trailing After 3 Qtrs.	18-52	1-4	1-1
Scoring 40+ Points	48-1	1-0	0-0
Scoring 30-39 Points	49-6	3-2	1-1
Scoring 20-29 Points	47-26-1	5-3	0-1
Scoring 0-19 Points	16-33-1	1-2	1-0
Allowing 40+ Points	6-14	0-0	0-0
Allowing 30-39 Points	11-25	0-4	0-1
Allowing 20-29 Points	49-20	1-3	0-1
Allowing 0-19 Points	115-5-1	9-0	2-0
Outrushing Opponent	146-22-1	9-1	2-1
Getting Outrushed	32-40-2	1-6	0-1
Passing For More Yds	116-39-1	3-6	1-1
Passing For Fewer Yds	64-23-1	7-0	1-0
Outgaining Opponent	151-21-1	6-4	1-2
Getting Outgained	28-40-1	4-3	1-0
Winning Time of Poss.	93-23	4-1	1-1
Losing Time of Poss.	86-39-2	6-6	1-1
Scoring a Def./ST TD	61-4	2-0	1-0
Allowing a Def./ST TD	14-23	0-4	0-1
Fewer Penalty Yards	44-29-1	6-4	1-1
More Penalty Yards	129-33-1	4-3	1-1
Winning Turnover Battle	109-12	6-1	0-0
Losing Turnover Battle	45-34-1	4-6	2-2
Individual 100-yard rusher	83-19-1	0-2	0-2
Individual 100-yard receiver	72-23	2-6	0-2
Individual 200-yard passer	120-31-1	6-6	0-2
Opponent 100-yard rusher	32-32-1	0-4	0-0
Opponent 100-yard receiver	58-29	2-4	1-1
Opponent 200-yard passer	72-28-1	5-4	1-1

COIN TOSS

► Pittsburgh won the opening coin toss and elected to defer. Notre Dame will receive and the Panthers will defend the South endzone.

TAILS IT IS

► Notre Dame has opened 15 of its last 17 games with the football. The only exceptions? Notre Dame won the coin toss against USC in '10 and Michigan earlier this season, but elected to defer each time.

THE 2011 CAPTAINS

► Notre Dame reinstated an old tradition in 2010, designating captains on a game-by-game basis for only the third time in school history. Back in 1946, legendary head coach Frank Leahy elected to choose captains for each game – the result was an 8-0-1 record and the fifth of Notre Dame's 11 national championships. The Irish also designated captains on a game-by-game basis from 2002-04 as well, but the team voted on season captains following the regular season.

► Senior S **Harrison Smith** is Notre Dame's lone season captain. He is the first Irish lone season captain since 1999 when Jarious Jackson held the individual honor. The other single individual captains for Notre Dame in the last 40 years include Jarious Jackson (1999), Rodney Culver (1991) and Mike Kovaleski (1986).

► In addition to Smith, the Irish will continue to name gameday captains. The 2011 gameday captains have been as follows:

USF: Harrison Smith, Robert Blanton and Trevor Robinson

Michigan: Harrison Smith and Zack Martin

Michigan State: Harrison Smith and Ethan Johnson

Pittsburgh: Harrison Smith and Taylor Dever

NOTRE DAME DEBUTS

► Freshman TE **Ben Koyack**, from Oil City, Pa., registered his first career reception. Koyack hauled in a five-yard pass on Notre Dame's opening drive of the game.

CONTINUED FIRST QUARTER DOMINANCE

► Notre Dame continued its trend of quick starts. After Notre Dame outgained USF (152-62), Michigan (145-27) and Michigan State (95-36) in the first quarter, the Irish also outgained Pittsburgh, 72-31, in the opening quarter. Notre Dame has now outgained its first four opponents of the 2011 season in the opening period by a 464-156 margin.

IRISH CHURN UP YARDS IN FIRST HALF

► Notre Dame owned statistical advantages in just about every offensive category in the half. The Irish had more first downs, rushing yards, passing yards, total yards and time of possession.

Notre Dame	Category	Pittsburgh
15	First Downs	8
154	Rushing Yards	75
7.7	Yards Per Rush	4.7
104	Passing Yards	68
258	Total Yards	143
18:14	Time of Possession	11:46

► Notre Dame's 154 yards on the ground in the opening half is the most in a half for the Irish this season. In fact, it is the most rushing yards in a half for Notre Dame under second-year head coach Brian Kelly. The previous single-half high for the Irish was 153 yards in the second half against Western Michigan on Oct. 16, 2010.

► Notre Dame senior RB **Jonas Gray** had 80 yards rushing on two carries, including 79-yard scoring run, and junior RB **Cierre Wood** had 69 yards on 16 carries.

TURNOVERS STILL A BONE OF CONTENTION

► Notre Dame committed two more turnovers in the first half against Pittsburgh, one inside the Irish 25-yard line and another at the Panthers five-yard line. The Irish have now turned the football over 15 times over their first four games of the season.

► As if the 15 turnovers were not costly enough, but in addition to the six inside the opponents' 20-yard line, eight others have come in Notre Dame's half of the field, including five inside the Irish 20-yard line.

IRISH DEFENSE ANSWERS THE BELL FOLLOWING TURNOVERS

► Notre Dame's defense again answered the challenge following a turnover in the first quarter. The Irish had three turnovers last week against Michigan State – all inside Notre Dame territory – and two of which occurred inside 25-yard line. The Irish defense only allowed a field goal. Notre Dame also answered with a pair of forced turnovers of its own on the other two possessions.

► Pittsburgh opened a drive at the Irish 23-yard line following a fumble, but only managed a field goal.

► Notre Dame's defense allowed a total of 12 yards on 14 plays – and one first down – on the four drives following an Irish turnover (prior to the Irish interception at the Pittsburgh five-yard line midway through the second quarter).

IRISH DEFENSE DOES IT AGAIN

► Notre Dame's defense stepped up again. The Irish limited the Panthers to 268 total yards. Pittsburgh managed just 103 yards rushing on 38 carries – good for an average of 2.7 yards per carry.

► The Panthers managed just 3.8 yards per offensive play.

► Notre Dame's defense has allowed one offensive touchdown or less in seven of its last nine games.

► Notre Dame has given up exactly two rushing touchdowns over its last nine games (dating back to the Tulsa game in 2010). Even more amazing, neither of those rushing touchdowns have come from an opposing running back. USC's Mitch Mustain and Michigan's Denard Robinson each snuck in from one-yard out (Robinson's following a Wolverine fumble). Even crazier, each of the last four rushing touchdowns against the Irish have come from quarterbacks (when you include Ricky Dobbs' two rushing touchdowns in the third quarter of the game against Notre Dame on Oct. 23, 2010).

► Notre Dame registered 8.0 tackles for loss and 6.0 sacks. The 6.0 sacks are the most for the Irish under second-year head coach Brian Kelly and most since Notre Dame had 8.0 against Hawai'i in the Hawai'i Bowl to close the 2008 season.

IRISH TWO-HEADED RUSHING MONSTER

► Notre Dame senior RB **Jonas Gray** had 84 yards rushing on three carries, including 79-yard scoring run, and junior RB **Cierre Wood** had 94 yards on 23 carries.

GRAY HITS PAYDIRT

► Senior RB **Jonas Gray** registered the first touchdown run of his career. He raced 79 yards with 13:44 to go in the second quarter to give the Irish a 7-3 lead.

► The 79-yard run was the longest by an Irish player since Terrance Howard went 80 yards for a touchdown at West Virginia on Oct. 21, 2000.

REES DOES HIS PART

► Sophomore QB **Tommy Rees** hooked up with junior TE **Tyler Eifert** on a six-yard touchdown pass with 6:48 remaining in the game to give the Irish a 13-12 lead. Rees then spotted Eifert again on the ensuing two-point conversion play to push the Notre Dame lead to 15-12.

► Prior the 11-play, 85-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter, Rees was just 15-of-32 for 135 yards, but the sophomore signal caller went 8-of-8 for 74 yards on the drive.

► Rees connected with Eifert four different times on the drive, including the touchdown pass and two-point conversion.

► The touchdown pass for Rees' was his seventh of 2011 and 19th of his career.

EIFERT COMES UP BIG, ESPECIALLY ON FOURTH QUARTER SCORING DRIVE

► Junior TE **Tyler Eifert** set a career-high with eight receptions, including four on the 11-play, 85-yard go-ahead touchdown drive in the fourth quarter. Eifert's four grabs totaled 34 yards. He also added a two-point conversion receptions.

► The touchdown catch for Eifert was his first of 2011 and third of his career.

► Eifert's previous career-high was six catches in the season opener against USF.

TE'O LEADS THE WAY

► Te'o registered a team-high 10 tackles in the victory over Pittsburgh. He has now eclipsed 10 or more tackles in three of Notre Dame's four games in 2011 and 12 different times over his career.

► Te'o finished with a game-high 14 tackles in the season opener against USF. He had seven solo stops, seven assisted tackles and one sack. The 14 tackles were the second-most in his career.