



NOTRE DAME POSTGAME NOTES

*Shamrock Series vs. Army West Point * Alamodome * San Antonio, Texas * November 12, 2016*

TEAM NOTES

- Notre Dame leads the all-time series with Army West Point, 39-8-4. The Irish also hold a 24-5-3 edge in the series when the teams meet on a neutral field.
- Against fellow FBS independents, Notre Dame holds a 46-10-4 record, with all but nine of those contests coming against the Black Knights (6-2 vs BYU, 1-0 vs. Massachusetts).
- The Irish are 139-27-5 against the three service academies (Navy, Army West Point and Air Force), including a 71-13-4 mark at neutral sites.
- The Irish have scored first in all but one game this season. The only exception was the 10-3 loss at NC State played in the deluge of Hurricane Matthew.
- Dating back to the final two drives of the Miami game, Notre Dame has scored points on 14 of its last 17 drives.
- The Notre Dame defense surrendered 13 passing yards to Army West Point, the fewest yards through the air that the Irish have yielded in the **Brian Kelly** era.
- Army West Point entered the game ranked fifth nationally in passing yardage allowed (166.6 per game), sixth in total defense (286.4 yards per game) and 13th in scoring defense (18.1 points per game). Notre Dame gained 476 yards (215 by pass) and scored 44 points on Saturday against the Black Knights.
- Notre Dame outrushed Army West Point 261-229. The last time the Irish outgained a triple option team on the ground was Navy (293-149) on September 1, 2012 in Dublin, Ireland.
- Notre Dame scored on the opening play of the game when **C.J. Sanders** returned the Army West Point kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown. It was the first time the Irish have brought back an opening kickoff for a score since **Allen Rossum** covered 93 yards to begin the game at Pittsburgh on October 11, 1997.
- Notre Dame's 21-0 lead after the first quarter was its first 21-0 lead entering the second quarter of a game since November 17, 2012 vs. Wake Forest.
- Notre Dame's 21 first-quarter points were its most points in a quarter since they scored 23 in the opening frame vs. Syracuse on October 1.
- Notre Dame's 38 first-half points were its most points in a half since they scored 42 in the opening stanza vs. Air Force on October 8, 2011.
- Notre Dame's 32-point halftime lead was its largest lead at intermission since the Irish led Stanford 34-0 on November 29, 2003.
- Notre Dame had 11 different players register a catch, a team season high.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- WR **C.J. Sanders** returned the opening kick 92 yards for a score, giving him three career kickoff returns for a touchdown. Adding a punt return for a TD, Sanders owns four combined kick/punt returns for touchdowns to rank fourth all-time at Notre Dame.
- Sanders became the first Notre Dame player with multiple kickoff return touchdowns (93 yards earlier in 2016 against Syracuse) in the same season since **George Atkinson III** in 2011, and just the fourth player to accomplish the feat overall since 1980 (Atkinson; **Allen Rossum**, 1997; **Raghib Ismail**, 1988 and 1989).
- QB **DeShone Kizer** moved into fifth place all-time at Notre Dame with 43 career touchdown passes thanks to three tosses for a score. Next in his sights is current director of player development **Ron Powlus**, who threw 52 touchdown passes in his Notre Dame career.



- LB **Greer Martini** continued his success against the option. In five games against option teams in his career (Army West Point, 2016; Navy, 2014-16; Georgia Tech, 2015), Martini totaled 46 tackles (9.2 per game) and 21 solo (4.2 per game) tackles.
- TE **Durham Smythe** recorded his third touchdown of the season on a 10-yard catch from Kizer in the second quarter.
- Of Smythe's first eight receptions of the season, four of those catches came in the red zone, including his first three touchdown grabs.
- Smythe added a score in the second quarter on a 31-yard pass, giving him his first career multi-touchdown game.
- WR **Kevin Stepherson** hauled in his fourth touchdown grab of the season, scoring from 37 yards out in the first quarter. Stepherson also finished with a career-best five receptions.
- RB **Josh Adams** recorded his third touchdown rush of the season and ninth of his career on a two-yard run in the first quarter.
- RB **Tarean Folston** logged his second touchdown rush of the season and 11th of his career on a four-yard run in the third quarter.
- DL **Jonathan Bonner** made his first career start.
- OL **Mark Harrell** made his first career start at right guard.
- Freshman **Julian Love** recorded his first career start at free safety following five starts at cornerback this season. Love snagged his first career interception to stall an Army West Point drive in the fourth quarter.