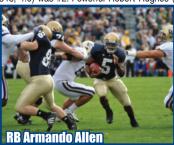
OMARTERBACKS - Since Lou Holtz left following 1996, the Irish have signed a total of 16 QB's. Just 3 - Jimmy Clausen. Evan Sharpley and Brady Quinn played their entire college career as a ND QB. Quinn left after '06 as the career passing leader. With a veteran offense in '06 he threw for 3,426 (62%, 37-7). Quinn's backup, Sharpley (PS#13) played in 8 (2 att) and battled true frosh Clausen (PS#5) in '07. Clausen underwent elbow surgery in June and was not 100% in Aug. Demetrius Jones (PS#6) started the opener but was benched and then transferred to Cincy to play for Brian Kelly. Clausen (8th frosh QB to start S/51) started in Wk2. Clausen (1254, 56%, 7-6) became physically worn down and was benched for a few games. Sharpley had 2 sts (736, 55%, 5-3). Clausen added 20 lbs in '08 and threw for 3,172 (61%, 25-17). Sharpley played in just 3 (5 att). Clausen played his way into being an AA contender in '09 throwing for 3,722 (68%, 28-4) despite a nagging foot inj. RFr Dayne Crist (PS#5) was the backup (4 gm, 20 att) before a torn ACL vs Wash St. Sharpley had 0 att. This year they lose Clausen (#2DC CAR) and Sharpley. Battling Crist will be true frosh Tommy Rees (IFS) and Andrew Hendrix (PS#12) along with soph Nate Montana who opted to play at Pasadena CC last year but could not win the starting job (31-88 for 324, 2-5). He did receive 40% of the snaps in spring with Kelly wanting to prep 3 QB's and Crist was less than 100%. Not listed below are Matt Mulvey (6'2" 191 Jr) and Brian Castello (6'2" 210 Sr). Naturally there is a large drop off but do keep in mind that Brian Kelly (great QB developer) won the Big East Title playing 4 different QB's in 2008 and Crist is talented enough to become the 4th QB to stick in South Bend.

RUNNING BACKS-In 2006, Darius Walker led with 1,267 (5.0) however the top RB has not come close to reaching 1,000 the last 3 yrs. In '07 the leading rusher was James Aldridge (PS#2) who had just 463 (3.8) while Armando Allen (PS#13, 348, 4.0) was #2. Powerfùl Robert Hughes (PS#9) had 294



len led with 585 (4.4) and had 50 rec's while Hughes added 382 (3.4) and Aldridge had 357 (3.9). Last year Allen missed 3 but still led with 697 (4.9). Hughes had 131 (5.5) vs

(5.5). In '08 Al-

Wash St and finished #2 (416, 4.7). Aldridge moved to FB (17 yds, 6 gm, inj). Jonas Gray (5'10" 225 Jr, PS#5) has 209 (3.8) in 2 years. This year the only loss is Aldridge and added to the mix is rFr Cierre Wood (PS#4). Just once at Cincy did Kelly have a back avg more than 10 att's per game but this should be the most productive ND RB corps since '06.

**RECEIVERS** - The Irish's career reception leader was Tom Gatewood (1969-'71) and he was also the team's last 1,000 yard rec until Weis arrived in '05. Weis produced five 1,000 yard receivers in his 5 years. Jeff Samardzija left after '06 as the school's career leader. In '07 ND had inexp'd WR's and was led by TE John Carlson (372, 9.3). In '08 WR Golden Tate (PS#27) led with 1,080 (18.6) and 6'3" Michael Floyd (PS#2) was #2 with 719 (15.0). TE Kyle Rudolph had 340 (11.7). Last year I called them the #1 receiving corps in the country. Tate became the first Irish WR to win the Biletnikoff Award (1496, 16.1). Some of ND's struggles happened after Floyd was ini'd against Michigan (miss last 6:00) and again vs MSU (collarbone) and he DNP

in 5 gms. Floyd finished with 795 (18.1) while Rudolph added 364 (11.0) despite missing 2. This year they lose their top guy Tate (#2DC SEA) and Robby Parris (6 st, 227, 9.1). They have plenty of VHT's ready to step in including Duval Kamara (PS#8) who has 781 (10.4) in 3 yrs plus 3 who played as frosh last year (comb 20 rec,11.2). Not listed below are Dan Franco (5'10" 188 Sr), Chris Gurries (5'10" 186 Sr), Patrick Coughlin (6'0" 195 Sr), Derry Herlihy (6'0" 198 Sr) and TE's Bobby Burger (6'2" 245 Sr, 1 st) and Jake Golic (6'4" 230 rFr, PS#21). This still looks like a premier group even with the loss of their top guy.

OFFENSIVE LINE - The Irish OL is made up almost exclusively of VHT's but despite fielding exp'd fronts from '02-'06, their best year was '03 with 157 ypg and 4.0 ypc. The other 4 yrs were just 3.4, 3.3, 3.6 and 3.9 ypc. In '07 they had to replace 3 st'rs (#3, #7 DC's) and 2 bkps. They had three first time st'rs and the inexp'd OL struggled. They set a school record by allowing an NCAA worst 58 sks (14.9%) and only avg 75 ypg (2.1) rush. That total was 50 ypg less than in any other season in the last 60 years. In '08 they had to replace 2 st'rs and they improved (110 yds, 3.3, 22 sk). Last year they only had to replace 1 st'r (1 st'r lost to inj) In Weis' schemes the RG was the most isolated position and he felt Trevor Robinson was best suited for that spot. Robinson did miss Navy and parts of others. They only improved to 128 ypg rush (3.8) with 25 sks (5.6%). This year they lose RT Sam Young (12 st, 4Ý st'r, #6DC DAL), LT Paul Duncan (12 st, 2Y st'r) and C Eric Olsen (12 st, 3Y st'r, #6DC DEN). Naturally 9 of the 10 in the 2 deep are VHT's. This is a less exp'd line and must learn new schemes but this is also the top OL talent-wise that Kelly has coached and he usually produces a solid group.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - In 2007 the Irish had to replace 3 st'rs (#2, #5DC's) and switched to a 3-4 (2 ret st'rs). The less exp'd front allowed 195 ypg rush (4.3) which was the most here since 1991 (D just 19 sks). In '08 they only had 18 sks until they added 8 in the bowl. They did improve the rush D to 134 ypg (4.1). Last year they moved back to a 4-3 and had to replace 2 st'rs but added in rFr Kapron Lewis-Moore (PS#40). who coaches compared to former #1 overall NFL DC Steve Emtman. The D played well early but collapsed over the final 4 giving up 263 rush ypg and 5.7 ypc. That dropped the season totals to 170 ypg (4.8). This year they lose DE John Ryan (7 st, 20 tkl, 2 sk) and again switch back to the 3-4. I would expect significant improvement from the Irish front.

**LINEBACKERS**-Last year the Irish had just 1 ret st'r ('08's #5 tkl'r) to a new 3 man LB unit. They added in PS#1 true frosh Manti Te'o and he lived up to his advanced billing starting 9 gms with 57 of his 63 tkls (#4 tkl'r) in the last 8 gms. This year they only lose Toryan Smith (3 st, 15 tkl) and Scott Smith (21 tkl). Three st'rs return (#2, #4, #10 tkl'rs) to the much improved new 4 man group which made my Top 20 (see pg 14)

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - In 2007 ND had to replace 2 st'rs (#6 & #7 DC's) but moved up to #26 in my PDR allowing just 162 ypg (53%), their lowest total since 1996. In '08 they had to replace one starter (#3DC) and then CB Darrin Walls (11 st '07) DNP. The Irish slipped to #32. LY they had to replace 2 st'rs (#4DC) but moved LB Harrison Smith (#4 tkl'r '08) to FS. Thev also faced 3 true frosh QB's but unfortunately 2 of them (Forcier and Barkley) earned the Davey O'Brien QB of the Week Award vs them. The veteran unit dropped to #81. This year they lose S Kyle McCarthy (12 st, 101 tkl, 5 int, 5 pbu) and CB Raeshon McNeil (1 st, 9 tkl) but return 4 who started 7+ last year. Adding depth are James Redshaw (5'9" 175 Sr) and Ryan Sheehan

(5'10" 177 Sr). They can only improve upon LY's PDR.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Charlie Weis' units finished #39, #64 #93, #30 and #74 in my ST rankings. P Eric Maust (35.1 net '08) struggled and split duties with true frosh Ben Turk (PS#10) LY. The 2 combined to avg just 37.2 (33.6 net). K Brandon Walker (14-24 in '08) had back problems and lost his job to true frosh Nick

Tausch (PS#6). Tausch missed his first FG but then connected on a school record 14 in a row. He missed his last 2 and DNP in the final 3 when David Ruffer hit 5-5 FG's. The Irish have had just 4 TB's in the last 3 yrs (2nd fewest in FBS). Theo Riddick was the top KR (22.9) while Golden Tate improved his PR avg to 14.2. This year they only lose Tate. Brian Kelly's ST units at Cincy were #21, #1 and #8 in his 3 yrs there! The Irish should have their best finish in my ST rankings since 2000 (#2).

COACHES - Charlie Weis' 3 Super Bowl rings didn't spell

success in the college game and he was ousted after a mediocre 35-27 record in 5 years. Brian Kelly takes over after leading Cincinnati to B2B BCS bowls including a 12-0 regular season last year and he was named the BE COY all 3 seasons there. He boasts a 171-57-2 record in 19 years as a HC with 13 yrs as HC of Grand Valley St (Div II), 3 yrs at C Mich and then 3 yrs at Cincy. Kelly hired Charley Molnar as his OC. Molnar has coached with Kelly the last 3 yrs at Cincy (WR cch/pass gm coor) and was the QB/WR coach at CM under Kelly in '06. Bob Diaco takes over as DC after leading a Cincy defense with 1 returning starter in '09 to 110 tfl (#3 NCAA). Prior to that he was the LB coach/ST coor at Virginia for 3 years. Diaco also coached under Kelly as co-DC of CM in '05'

## HEH

When Ty Willingham took over in '02, he converted the team from an option-style rush attack to a pro-style pass attack and that is usually a 3-to-4 year process. In '05 Charlie Weis stepped into a great situation as it was the 4th year after the change of offense and the team possessed a pro-style QB, pro-style WR's and an OL that was used to pass blocking. He also inherited 10 ret st'rs on offense and they rolled up 36.7 ppg. They upended #3 Mich on the road, the highest ranked team that ND had beaten since 1993, and got the Irish to a BCS bowl (Fiesta) where they were outgained by Ohio St 617-348 in their 8th straight bowl loss. Weis was named the FWAA COY. In '06 they had 16 ret st'rs and the Irish opened at #2 (AP). The Irish rolled to a 10-1 record (#6) but lost to #3 USC by 20 then were thrashed in the bowl by 27 vs LSU. They also had a 26 pt home loss to Mich. It looked like a rebuilding vear in '07 but Weis refused to use those words. The Irish went from a veteran unit to one with just 9 ret st'rs and a true frosh QB. It ended up being a record breaking year for all of the wrong reasons. They opened the season 0-5 (all 5 by DD) and finished 3-9. Nine true frosh started at some point. It was their 4th losing season since 1999 (13th school hist). In '08 the Irish were my #1 Most Improved Team and went from a losing season to a bowl. Three times however the Irish blew a DD lead. They did get their first bowl win since 1993. Heading into last year their 15 losses the previous 2 years were the most in school history and Weis had 15 ret st'rs and a very manageable schedule. It was another frustrating year for the Irish. Things started out well with a 35-0 shutout of Nevada but then despite outplaying Michigan, they allowed a late TD and lost by 4. They had a narrow escape vs Mich St and then got a TD with :25 left to escape at Purdue (Clausen missed about half). They had another narrow escape vs Wash with the Huskies blowing 11 shots at the EZ from inside the 5 on 2 poss which could have put it away and ND won in OT. Against USC they were at the 4 and fired incomplete 3 times to end it. After escaping vs BC, they steamrolled Wash St and were talking BCS bowl (6-2). Amazingly they blew 3 chances inside the 10 vs Navy and lost by 2 and came up 5 pts short vs Pitt. They led Conn 14-0 but lost in 20T and once again vs Stanford, had the ball at the end but came up short. At 6-6 they opted not to go to a bowl and got rid of Weis, who actually had a weaker win percentage than his predecessors, Bob Davie and Tyrone Willingham. All six of the Irish's losses were by 7 or less but they did also had 4 close wins. The D with veteran DC Tenuta calling the plays allowed a program worst 398 ypg. This year they do have 14 ret st'rs incl WR Floyd. Of course Kelly knows how to produce top-notch QB's and has a solid talent to work with in Dayne Crist. I feel he steps into a tremendous situation here after the Irish have underperformed the

last 3 seasons, ND has only had 2 DD winning seasons since '93 while their new HČ Kelly has produced 3 straight 10+ winning years at Cincy, a team that had only one (1951) in their 120 year history prior to his arrival.

## JERSEY # IN BLUE DFFENSE а DEFENSE IN BLUE

QB 10 Dayne Crist So. 6-4 235 PS#5. 4 gm (ACL), 130 (50%), 1-1 ratio as rFr. 13 Tommy Rees PS#49. IFS. Andrew Hendrix PS#12. 16 Nate Montana (64\*215 Jr). #2 spg. HB 5 ARMANDO ALLEN SR. 5-10 201 PS#13. 12 st, 933 (4.2) 2Y.7 st, 697 (4.9) LY. 20 Robert Hughes (5'11" 245 Sr) PS#9. 6 st, 1092 (4.3) 3Y. WR 3 MICHAEL FLOYD JR. 6-3 220 PS#2.10 st, 719 (15.0), 2ndTm Fr AA true. 7 st (inj) 795 (18.1) LY. 11 Shaquelle Evans (6'1 205 So) PS#9. 61 (8.7) true. Barry Gallup (5'11" 185 Sr) PS#16 6-4 220 PS#8. 15 st. 563 (10.8) 2Y. 5 st. 12 am. 218 WR 18 Duval Kamara Sr. (9.5) LY. 32 Theo Riddick (5'11" 190 So) PS#24. 1 st RB, 160 rush (5.5), 43 rec (7.2) true. 7 Tai-ler Jones Fr. 5-11 185 PS#20.81 John Goodman (6'3" 205 So) PS#10. 1 st, 104 (17.3) rFr. 1 Deion Walker (6'3" 195 So) PS#13. 1 rec rFr. Roby Toma (5'9" 175 So). 6-6 265 **PS#2.** 13 st. 340 (11.7). **1stTm Fr AA** true. 9 st (ini) TE 9 KYLE BUDOLPH JR. 364 (11.0) LY. 83 Mike Ragone (6'4" 250 Jr) PS#2. ACL '08.7 st LY. Tyler Eifert (6'6" 240 rFr) PS#24. 6-3 309 PS#39. 12 gm rFr. 51 Dan Wenger (6'4" 297 Sr) C 52 Braxston Cave So. PS#24. 5 st rFr. 13 st C '08. 1 st RG LY. LS Jordan Cowart (6'2" 215 So) PS#326. 11 gm true. RG 75 Taylor Dever Jr. 6-5 301 PS#149. 12 gm rFr.6 gm LY.66 Chris Watt (6'3" 313 rFr) PS#6. 57 Mike Golic, Jr (6'3" 283 So) PS#38. 3 gm at C rFr. Bill Flavin (6'3" 260 Sr). LG 59 CHRIS STEWART SR. 6-5 344 PS#14. 6 gm rFr. 10 st RG '08. 12 st LG LY. 76 Andrew Nuss (6'5" 303 Jr) PS#58. 12 gm 2Y. 65 Mike Hernandez (6'2" 275 Jr) PS#430. RT 78 TREVOR ROBINSON JR. 6-5 300 PS#13.3 st RG, 11 gm true. 11 st RG (inj) LY 68 Alex Bullard (6'3" 290 rFr) PS#28. Christian Lombard PS#14. Tate Nichols PS#123 6-4 280 PS#32.77 Matt Romine (6'5" 298 Jr) PS#18. LT 70 Zack Martin rFr. 5 gm rFr. 8 gm mostly special LY. 73 Lane Clelland (6'5" 290 So) PS#19. 5 gm rFr. 6-0 190 **PS#6**. 14-17 FG's, L/46, 35 KO's in 10 gm as **P** 

DE 89 KAPRON LEWIS-MOORE SO. 6-4 275 PS#40.9 st, 46 tkl, 7 tfl rFr. 91 Emeka Nwankwo (6'4" 280 Jr) PS#27 2 tkl 27 Brandon Newman (6'0" 297 So) PS#46 62 Christopher Skubis (6'2" 232 Sr) NG 95 IAN WILLIAMS SR. 6-2 301 PS#45. 9 st, 25 gm, 85 tkl 2Y. 10 st, 39 tkl LY. 98 Sean Cwynar (6'4" 281 So) PS#13. 1 st, 3 tkl rFr. 92 Tyler Stockton (6'0" 290 rFr) PS#17. DE 90 ETHÁN JÖHNSON JR 6-4 280 **PS#11**. 4 st. 18 tkl true. 11 st. 32 tkl LY. 79 Hafis Williams (6'1" 290 So) PS#33. 6 gm rFr. Louis Nix PS#19. 61 Martin Quintana (6'0" 232 Sr). OLB 45 DARIUS FLEMING JR. 6-2 245 PS#26.3 st, 24 tkl true.8 st, 29 tkl LY.56 Kerry Neal (6'2" 244 Sr) PS#38. 14 st, 45 tkl, 6 tfl, 2Y. 6 st, 25 tkl LY. 48 Dan Fox (6'3" 230 rFr) PS#35. ÌLB 5 MANTITE'O SO. 6-2 250 PS#1.9 st, 63 tkl true. 44 Carlo Calabrese (6'1" 245 rFr) **PS#27.30** Steve Paskorz (6'1" 245 Jr) **PS#30.**12 gm FB 2Y. ILB spg. Evan Wray (6'0" 215 Sr). ILB **54 Anthony McDonald So.** 6-2 230 **PS#14.** 10 tkl rFr. **36** David Posluszny (6'0" 225 So) PS#82. 3 tkl rFr. Kendall Moore **PS#27**. Prince Shembo **PS#36**. Sean Oxley (6'2' OLÉ 58 BRIAN SMITH SR. 6-3 234 PS#34. 12 st, 79 tkl, 2Y. 12 st, 71 tkl LY. 46 Steve Filer (6'3" 235 Jr) PS#1, 1 tkl true, 18 tkl LY, Danny Spond PS#32, Steve Botsford (6'2" 220 Sr) CB 4 GARY GRAY JR. 5-11 190 PS#12 15 tkl rFr. 7 st. 28 tkl LY. 12 Robert Blanton (6'1" 190 Jr) PS#22. 3 st, 33 tkl true. 9 st, 38 tkl LY. Lo Wood is IFS. Andrew Plaska (5'11" 185 Jr). CB 2 DARRIN WALLS SR. 6-0 185 PS#5. 13 st, 36 tkl, 2Y. RS '08. 7 st, 27 tkl LY 27 EJ Banks (5'11" 180 rFr) PS#52. 6 Spencer Boyd is IFS. 42 Nick Lezynski (5'9" 180 Jr). SS 22 HARRISON SMITH JR. 6-2 212 PS#22. 9 st. 57 tkl rFr. 11 st. 69 tkl LY. 17 Zeke Motta (6'2" 210 So) PS#17. 12 tkl true. 24 Chris Badger is IFS. Thomas Smith (6'1" 215 Sr). FS 26 Jamoris Slaughter So. 6-0 195 PS#35. 1 st, 14 tkl rFr. 15 Dan McCarthy (6'2' 205 So) PS#6. 5 gm, 1 tkl rFr. 29 Michael Garcia (6'2" 195 Sr). 33 Chris Salvi (5'10" 180 Sr). K 40 NICK TAUSCH SO. 6-0 190 PS#6. 14-17 FG's, L/46, 35 KO's in 10 gm as P 35 BENTURK SO. 5-11 196 PS#10. 26 punts (38.2), 2 TB, Tm net 33.6 true. true. 14 Brandon Walker (6'3" 210 Jr) PS#5. 20-36 FG's 2Y. RS LY. David Ruffer (6'1" 176 Sr). 43 Eric Maust (6'2" 190 Sr) PS#357. 94 punts (40.2), L/54, 11 TB 3Y. Pat Kramer (5'11" 160 Jr).

Christian Lombard 6-5 293 PS#14 Louis Nix 6-3 315 PS#19 Tai-ler Jones 5-11 185 PS#20 Andrew Hendrix 6-3 226 PS#12 Alex Welch 6-5 225 PS#10 Kendall Moore 6-3 235 PS#27 Kendall Moore 6-3 235 PS#2/ Danny Spond 6-3 232 PS#32 Prince Shembo 6-2 232 PS#36 Cameron Roberson 6-1 220 PS#36 Kona Schwenke 6-4 227 PS#45 Bennett Jackson 6-1 170 PS#49 Chris Badger 6-0 195 PS#62 Justin Utupo 6-3 250 PS#52 Lo Wood 5-10 175 PS#65 Daniel Smith 6-4 215 PS#61 Tommy Rees 6-2 200 PS#49 Austin Collinsworth 6-1 195 PS#82 Spencer Boyd 5-10 175 PS#94
Tate Nichols 6-7 291 PS#123
Luke Massa 6-5 205 PS#86
Derek Roback 6-3 225 PS#75

Cincinnati Bowl '06 '07-'09

er (574) 651-282

#6

Syracuse

at Stanford

34-10

38-3

#6

Army at USC - #3

-29 +8' 41-9

at Stanford

Syrácuse at USC - #5

30-33

Connecticut at Stanford

23-24

3-38

DEPEND