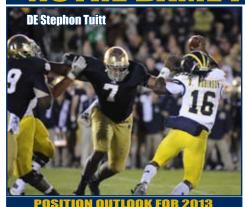
# NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH



QUARTERBACKS - In '10 Dayne Crist (PS#5, 20 att '09) was having a fine season (2033, 59%, 15-7) when he was OFY in gm 9. Tommy Rees (PS#49) hit 33-54 vs Tulsa and became the first ND frosh to have 4 td's in a game. Rees would go 4-0 as the starting QB (1106, 61%, 12-8) as two Irish QB's topped 1,000 for the first time s/83. In 111 they added the more athletic Kelly recruits, rFr Andrew Hendrix (PS#12) and true frosh Everett Golson (PS#20). ND trailed USF 16-0 at the half in the opener, and Crist was replaced by Rees who st'd the rest of the year. Rees threw for 2,871 (66%, 20-14). Hendrix played in 5 (249, 49%, 1-2) and Crist transferred in Dec. LY Rees was susp'd for the opener and Golson won his first 10 sts (2nd best ND history). Hendrix hit 4-5-53 vs Navy in the opener but had just 2 more att's the rest of the ssn. Vs Purdue, with the score tied after a Golson fumble, Rees came off the bench late in the 4Q (3-6-35) and guided the win. Golson took all of the snaps vs Mich St but again vs Mich, Rees (8-11-115) took over after a Golson int mid-2Q. I thought Kelly played the QB position perfectly using the veteran during crunch time early while Golson built confidence. Golson had a conc vs Stan and did not play vs BYU. Rees st'd but att'd just 3 passes in the 2H. Golson showed weekly improvement and in gm 11 vs WF hit 20-30-346. Golson threw for 2,405 (58.8%, 12-6, 298 rush) while Rees threw for 436 (57.6%, 2-2) and TY the unit returns intact.

RUNNING BACKS - From '07-'10, the top RB did not come close to 1,000 yds (highest 697 in '09). Cierre Wood (PS#4) was #1 in '10 with 603 (5.1). In '11 they had to replace their #2 and #3 rushers. Jonas Gray (PS#5) was leading with 791 (6.9) but tore his ACL vs BC (gm 11). Wood (1102, 5.1) became the 10th Irish 1,000 yd rusher and the first s/'06, (Darius Walker). LY they had to replace Gray but had Theo Riddick who was working at both RB and WR (893 rec yd, 252 rush 3Y). Wood missed the first 2 (susp) and Riddick led with 107 and 53. The Irish had 3 RB's top 100 yds a comb 8 times. George Atkinson (123) and Wood (118) became the first duo here s/'00 to top 100 yds in the same gm (Mia). Riddick (143) and Wood (114) also accomplished that feat 2 wks later (BYÚ). Riddick led with 917 (4.8, 370 rec) while Wood was #2 (742, 6.5). Atkinson (fastest on tm) had 915 KR yds (26.1) but just 27 rush yd as a true. LY he improved to 361 (7.1) rush with 222 coming vs Mia and Navy. TY Riddick (#6DC DET) and Wood (UFA, HOU) move on. Added to the mix are rFr Will Mahone (5'11" 214, PS#23) and true Greg Bryant (PS#6). After returning a 1,000 rusher LY, with the loss

of their top 2, they are down a couple of notches.

RECEIVERS - In'11, Michael Floyd broke Golden Tate's '09 season mark (93) for rec's with 100 and was #1 (1147, 11.5). Tyler

Eifert was #2 (803, 12.7) and set the ND ssn record for rec's by a TE w/63 (Ken MacAfee 54, '77). Theo Riddick was #3 (436, 11.5) and TJ Jones (PS#20) was #4 (366, 9.6). LY they had to replace Floyd (#1DC) and Riddick moved to RB. Eifert (685, 13.7) became ND's first ever John Mackey Award Winner. Jones was #2 with 649 (13.0) while rFr DaVaris Daniels (PS#15) had just 3 sts but was #3 (490, 15.8) despite missing 2. Kelly surprisingly moved LB Troy Niklas (PS#49DL, 1 st true) to TE and said, "physically, he can lift a car up," and he actually st'd 7 (5 rec). TY they lose Eifert (#1DC CIN), Robby Toma (6 st, 252, 10.5), John Goodman (1 st, 159, 22.7) and 3 bkps (comb'd 2 rec's). Despite losing their top guy, these talented rec's are more exp'd and the numbers should improve with Golson's added experience.

OFFENSIVE LINE - ND has not had a 1st Tm AA OL in 10 yrs (C Jeff Faine). The Irish OL has shown improvement in each of the L3Y. In '11 they only had to replace one 3Y st'r (9 of top 10 back, 63 car st) and the 160 ypg (4.8) was their best s/'01 (17 sks fewest s/'98). LY they had to replace a 3Y st'g RG and 2Y st'g RT and while they dropped from 4 to 3 ret st'rs, their 65 car sts surpassed '11 and they improved to 189 ypg (4.9, 18 sk). TY they lose 3rd Tm AA C Braxston Cave (13 st, 3Y st'r) and 2nd Tm Ind RG Mike Golic (13 st) but return 2nd Tm AA LT Zack Martin and 1st Tm Ind LG Chris Watt. The career sts rise again to 78 making them at least as strong as the '12 version.

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DEFENSIVE LINE - ND's rush D bottomed out in '09 allowing 170 ypg (4.8) with just 19 sks. Like the OL, they've also shown improvement in each of the L3Y. In '11 they had 5 of the top 6 back and the NCAA's best frosh DL class (Aaron Lynch, Stephon Tuitt, Troy Niklas and Louis Nix). Lynch's 14 qbh were the most s/'06 (Victor Abiamiri 14). Four of their top 6 were frosh but the unit improved to 139 ypg (3.8, 25 sk). LY they had to replace a DE (9 st, 14 tkl), Lynch (6 st, 5.5 sk, trans) and Niklas, who moved to TE. I said even with the unexpected loss of their top pass rusher, this unit should improve again. The Irish all'd just 106 ypg (3.5) rush (best s/'04) with 34 sks (best s/'03) and did not allow a rush td through the first 7 gms (4 all yr). Tuitt had 12 sks and was 2nd Tm AA while Nix led the unit w/50 tkl and also earned 3rd Tm AA. Adding depth TY is Tyler Stockton (5'11" 284 Sr, PS#17) who has not ply'd the L2Y but was the Scout Tm DPOY LY. TY they lose Kapron Lewis-Moore (13 st, 40 tkl, 6 sk, #6DC BAL) but return 5 of the top 6 (Nix turned down NFL) and this is one of the nation's top D-line's.

#1DC to return. They did lose their starting OLB (#5 tkl/r, #5DC) but had 5 of the top 6 back (#1, #6, #10, #13 tkl/rs). The group had 11 VHT's. Te'o had a phenomenal season becoming just the 3rd def player to win the Walter Camp Award in 46 yrs and the 1st def player to win the Maxwell since '80 (Hugh Green). He also finished 2nd in the Heisman voting. TY Te'o moves on (#2DC SD) but The Irish do have 8 of the top 9 back (#4, #6, #9, #12, #14, #15, #17 & #18 tkl/rs). This remains one of the top LB corps in the country, even with the loss of its star.

LB corps in the country, even with the loss of its star. **DEFENSIVE BACKS** - In '11, ND had 7 of their top 8 back and surprisingly only finished #73 in my PDR (60%, 23-8). LY they had to replace S Harrison Smith (#2 tkl'r, #1DC) and both CB's (#5DC, #3 and #4 tkl'rs). They looked to have the #7 and #9 tkl'rs back (both 9 st) but lost one, S Jamoris Slaughter to an Achilles inj in gm 3. KeiVarae Russell (PS#18) became the first ever ND true frosh to start an opener at CB. Bennett Jackson moved from WR to CB in '11 and Matthias Farley from WR to S. Having a great front 7 helped, but it was still surprising to see ND move all the way up to #18 (60.1%, 11-16). This year they lose 1st Tm Ind S Zeke Motta (PS#17, 13 st, #2 tkl'r, #7DC ATL), S Slaughter (8 tkl, #6DC CLE) and 2 bkps (14 tkl). They get Lo Wood back (inj last Aug '12) and

while it will be tough to improve much in my PDR, this is a much more experienced group.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Brian Kelly's ST units

at Cincy were #21, #1 and #8. In '11 the Irish had as many muffed punts in the reg ssn as they had PR yds (3, last FBS). LY they only lost their K. The Irish had just 46 PR yds (2.2) and the KR avg was also below par (19.6). Nick Tausch (PS#6) hit a 34 yd fg vs Navy but inj his groin in practice. Kyle Brindza (PS#1) stepped in vs PU and missed a 40 yd fg but hit the game winning 27 yd'r and took over. He hit 23-31 (L52) incl 5 vs USC. Brindza had



26 TB on 71 KO. 4Y P Ben Turk avg'd 40.8 (38.6 net). TY they lose Turk and PR Neal but add WF P Alex Wulfeck (70 punts, 39.7, 36.1 net '11). After a #74 finish LY they "have to" improve the return numbers with this talent filled unit.

COACHES - Brian Kelly led Cincinnati to B2B BCS bowls incl a 12-0 reg ssn in '09 and replaced Charlie Weis after ND went 16-21 from '07-'09. Kelly had a comb'd 16 wins his 1st 2Y, the 2nd best 2Y stretch s/'97-'98. After LY's Nat'l Championship appearance he entertained NFL offers but signed an ext. 2nd yr OC Chuck Martin coached under Kelly at Grand Valley St (HC from '04-'09). He coached DB and S's his F/2Y here and will call the plays TY. DC Bob Diaco led a Cincy D with 1 ret st'r in '09 to 110 tfl (#3 FBS). Previously he was the LB/ST cch at Virginia (3Y). Diaco was named asst HC LY and won the '12 Broyles Award.

USO ON ROSTER: WR Ryan Liebscher 511\*211 Sr DL Arturo Martinez 64\*254 Sr 18 Charlie Fiessinger 61\*190 Jr TE Joey Brooks 65\*222 Sr S Earnon McDsker 61\*198 So Philisteele.com

## PHIL'S FORECAST

In '05 Charlie Weis stepped into a great situation as he inherited 10 ret sts on offense and led the Irish to a BCS bowl (Fiesta). Weis was named the FWAA COY. In '06 the Irish opened at #2 and got to 10-1 but then lost to #3 USC by 20 and to #4 LSU by 27 in the bowl. In Weis' final 3 seasons ND was just 16-21 incl their disastrous 3-9 year ('07) when they set many records for futility. Brian Kelly had exceeded my expectations all 3 yrs at CM and all 3 yrs at Cincinnati and I thought he stepped into a good situation in 10, but ND was not ranked all year and finished 8-5. In 111 they opened the season #16 but after a bowl loss to Fla St. finished unranked for a 5th str yr. They were 32-31 in that 5 yr span. LY they faced a tough reg ssn schedule battling 10 bowl eligible tms incl 2 that were in the Top 5 at the start of the year. ND entered unranked but, despite the tough schedule, I called for the most wins here s/'06. ND, of course, overachieved everyone's expectations. They beat Navy in Ireland, 50-10, having the off ssn to prep for the option. Then, in a letdown spot, barely got past PU with a 27 yd fg with :07 left for the 3 pt win. Mich St had a streak of 15 str home wins snapped by the Irish and then Denard Robinson had 4 int and a fmbl and ND prevailed 13-6 despite being outgained 299-239. Miami never plays well in the cold and the Irish drubbed them 41-3. ND got a ? stop at the GL in OT to get past Stan on a rainy day and then barely got past BYU by 3. In their big test on the road at Okla, the Sooners had a td called back late in the 1H. It was tied when ND got a td with 5:05 left then ND went on to a 30-13 win. Pitt led 20-6 after 3Q's and the Irish needed 3OT incl a fortuitous missed Pitt fg in the 2OT to escape in a letdown spot. After a lackluster 21-6 win over BC, they pummelled WF 38-0 in the FHG for 26 Sr's. With Oregon and K-St both losing, ND beat USC to get to the Title game. Unfortunately, Bama outgained them 319-124 at half (trailed 28-0) and Kelly said his best shot at winning was if the Tide didn't show up for the 2H. It was still a great season (#4, highest s/93) and this year they have 14 ret sts. They benefitted from 5 net close wins, had a def ypp of 23.9, were +8 in TO's and the Stock Market (pg 29) is a 4th indicator that points downward. The Irish, however, are still clearly a National Title contender and even stronger than the 2012 version.

#### **OFFENSE**

#### JERSEY # In Blue

### 2013 PROJETED STARTING UNEUP

JERSEY #
IN BLUE

DEFENSE

QB 5 EVERETT GOLSON SO. 6-0 186 PS#20. 11 st, 2405 (59%, 12-6), 298 rush (3.2) 1st Tm Ind rFr. 11 Tommy Rees (6'2" 213 Sr) PS#49. 18 st, 4413 (64%, 34-24), 3Y. 12 Andrew Hendrix (6'2" 226 Jr) PS#12. 8 gm, 304 (52%, 1-2) 2Y. RB 4 George Atkinson Jr. 6-1 217 PS#20. 13 gm, 27 (3.0), 915 KR (26.1), 2nd Tm F AA KR true. 3 st, 12 gm, 361 (7.1) LY. Greg Bryant PS#6. 33 Cam McDaniel (5'10" 199 Jr) PS#63. 8 gm, 9 (3.0) true. 13 gm, 125 (5.4) LY. SLOT 3 Amir Carlisle So. 5-10 185 PS#13. 8 gm, 118 (6.2) true at USC. MedRS LY. 20 CJ Prosise (6'2" 220 WR 10 DaVARIS DANIELS SO. 6-2 192 PS#15. 3 st, 11 gm, 490 (15.8) HM Ind rFr. 87 Daniel Smith (6'4" 213 Sr) PS#61. 9 gm, 0 rec, 2Y. 4 st, 13 gm, 47 (6.7) LY. 88 Corey Robinson PS#87. IFS. 14 Luke Massa (6'4" 234 Jr) PS#86. 8 gm 2Y. WR 7 TJ JONES SR. 5-11 192 PS#20.19 st. 672 (11.0) 2Y 11 et 640 (12.0) 1447 - 1448 (14 rFr) PS#56. Tarean Folston PS#19. William Fuller PS#46. 46 Josh Anderson (5'9" 180 So). Gerard Martinez (6'1" 199 So). (6'2" 191 So) PS#77. 4 st, 12 gm, 56 (28.0) true. 17 James Onwualu PS#43. IFS. 37 Eric Lee (5'8" 173 So). 1 gm rFr. TE 85 Troy Niklas Jr. 6-7 259 PS#49DL. 1 st LB, 20 tkl true. 7 st TE, 75 (15.0) LY. 18 Ben Koyack (6'5" 261 Jr) PS#2. 2 st, 24 gm, 44 (11.0), 2Y. 82 Alex Welch (6'4" 245 Jr) PS#10. 10 gm rFr. OFY (ACL) LY Mike Heuerman PS#7 IFS. C 72 Nick Martin So. 6-5 284 PS#71. 13 gm, mostly ST rFr. 77 Matt Hegarty (6'5" 291 So) PS#4. 9 gm, mostly ST rFr. **51** Bruce Heggie (6'5" 286 Jr). 2 gm rFr. 3 gm LY. **LS 61** Scott Daly (6'2" 248 rFr) PS#166. 6-5 309 PS#36. Boasted a 320 lb bench, 5.4 speed out of HS. Prepared RG 65 Conor Hanratty So. when he arrived but still RS.5 gm rFr. **75** Mark Harrell (6'4" 305 rFr) **PS#61.** Also some work at C in spg '13. **LG 66 CHRIS WATT SR.** 6-3 321 **PS#6.** 13 gm bkp OG rFr. 13 st LG '11. 13 st LG, **1st Tm Ind** LY. LG 66 CHRIS WATT SR. John Montelus (6'5" 305 Fr) PS#13. Colin McGovern (6'5" 280 Fr) PS#30. 73 Dan Furlong (6'7" 243 So). W/O. RT 74 CHRISTIAN LOMBARD JR. 6-5 322 PS#14. Impressive in fall camp but still RS 10. 13 gm rFr. 13 st at RT HM Ind LY. Can also play OG. 79 St eve Elmer (6'6" 317 Fr) PS#11. In for spg. Hunter Bivin (6'6" 290 Fr) PS#14. Tm AA LY. 78 Ronnie Stanley (6'6" 318 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Mike McGlinchey PS#26. 67 Kevin Carr (67" 325 Jr).

K 27 KYLE BRINDZA JR.

6-4 308 PS#32. 13 st (11 LT, 2 RT), 1st Tm Ind rFr. 13 st LT '11. 13 st LT, 2nd FS 41 MATTHIAS I linsworth (6'1" 194 Jr) k
27 KYLE BRINDZA JR.

6-4 308 PS#32. 13 st (11 LT, 2 RT), 1st Tm Ind rFr. 13 st LT '11. 13 st LT, 2nd FS 41 MATTHIAS I linsworth (6'1" 194 Jr) k
27 KYLE BRINDZA JR.

6-4 308 PS#32. 13 st (11 LT, 2 RT), 1st Tm Ind rFr. 13 st LT '11. 13 st LT, 2nd FS 41 MATTHIAS I linsworth (6'1" 194 Jr) k
28 PS#1. 71 KO, 12 TB true. 23-31 FG, L/52, 28-29 PAT, 71 KO, 26 TB 1st P Alex Wulfeck Sr. Tm Ind LY. 40 Nick Tausch (6'0" 195 Sr) PS#6. 15-18 FG, L/46, 2Y. DNP '11. 1 gm (inj) LY. 39 Jude Rhodes (5'10" 180 Jr).

DE 91 Sheldon Day So. 6-2 286 PS#23. Arrived spg '12, 13 gm, 23 tkl, 3.5 tfl true. 94 Jarron Jones (6'5 295 rFr) PS#20. Impressive in August. Isaac Rochell (6'5" 265 Fr) PS#23. Jacob Matuska (6'5" 255 Fr) PS#75. NG 1 LOUIS NIX JR. 6-3 357 **PS#19.** 11 st, 45 tkl, 4.5 tfl rFr. 11 st, 13 gm, 50 tkl, 7.5 tfl, 5 pbu, 3rd Tm AA LY. Eddie Vanderdoes PS#3. 96 Kona Schwenke (6'4" 297 Sr) PS#56. 8 gm, 2 tkl, 2Y. 2 st, 11 gm, 5 tkl LY. DE 7 STEPHONTUITT JR. 6-6 322 PS#6. 3 st, 30 tkl, 3rd Tm Fr AA true. 13 st, 47 tkl, 12 sk, 2nd Tm AA LY. 69 Tony Springmann (6'6" 284 So) PS#55. 13 gm, 11 tkl, 2 tfl rFr. 53 Justin Utupo (6'1" 281 Jr) PS#52. 22 gm 2Y. OLB 55 PRINCE SHEMBO SR. 6-2 258 PS#36.8 st, 25 gm, 46 tkl, 8.5 tfl, 2Y. 13 st, 51 tkl, 10.5 tfl, HM Ind LY. 11 Ishaq Williams (6'5" 261 Jr) PS#4. 11 gm, 6 tkl true. 13 gm, 22 tkl LY. 45 Romeo Okwara (6'4" 258 So) PS#83. 13 gm, 7 tkl true. MLB 59 Jarrett Grace So. 6-3 248 PS#33. 13 gm, 12 tkl rFr. 8 Kendall Moore (6'1" 244 Jr) PS#27. 13 gm. 10 tkl rFr. 13 gm, 10 tkl LY. Joe Schmidt (6'0" 228 Jr). 6 tkl rFr. 56 Anthony Rabasa (6'3" 243 So) PS#42. 2 gm, 1 tkl rFr. WLB 48 DAN FOX SR. 6-3 242 **PS#35.** 13 gm, 20 tkl rFr. 13 st, 48 tkl '11. 9 st, 13 gm, 63 tkl, 2 tfl LY. OFS 13. 44 Carlo Calabrese (6'1" 244 Sr) PS#27. 8 st, 11 gm, 60 tkl, 5 tfl rFr. 13 gm, 37 tkl '11. 5 st, 12 gm, 49 tkl, 2 tfl LY. 10.B 13 DANNY SPOND SR. 6-2 248 PS#32. 18 gm, 14 tkl, 2Y. 11 st (ini), 39 tkl, 1 til, 4 pd LY. Jaylon Smith (6'3" 220 Fr) PS#1. 30 Ben Councell (6'4" 248 So) PS#24. 12 gm, 10 tkl rFr. 93 Connor Little (6'3" 222 So). DNP rFr. OLB 13 DANNY SPOND SR. CB 2 BENNETT JACKSON SR. 6-0 183 PS#49. 26 gm, 28 tkl, 2Y. 13 st, 65 tkl, 8 pd, 1stTm Ind LY. 23 Lo Wood (5'11" 195 Jr) PS#65. 21 gm, 9 tkl, 2Y. OFY (inj) LY. Cole Luke PS#32. Devin Butler PS#63. 35 Joe Romano (5'9" 174 Jr). CB 6 KEIVARAE RUSSELL SO. 5-11 190 PS#18.13 st, 58 tkl, 4 pd, 1stTm Fr AA true. 24 Josh Atkinson (6'0" 185 Jr) PS#61. 21 gm, 7 tkl, 2Y. 21 Jalen Brown (6'1" 207 So) PS#102. 7 gm, 3 tkl rFr. 47 Connor Cavalaris (5'11" 190 Jr). SS 22 Elijah Shumate So. 6-0 213 PS#15.13 gm, 9 tkl, 3 pbu true. 29 Nicky Baratti (6'1" 201 So) PS#77 13 gm, 8 tkl, 1 int true. 4 Eilar Hardy (5'11" 190 So) PS#34. DNP rFr. 16 Chris Badger (6'0" 197 rFr) PS#62. FS 41 MATTHIAS FARLEY SO. 5-11 204 PS#91.11 st, 13 gm, 49 tkl, HM Ind rFr. Max Redfield PS#7.28 Austin Collinsworth (6'1" 194 Jr) PS#82.26 gm, 25 tkl, 2Y. RS (inj) LY. 31 John Turner (6'1" 207 rFr) PS#93.42 Ernie Soto (5'9" 188 Jr). FS 41 MATTHIAS FABLEY SO. 5-9 175 PS#35. 72 punts (39.6), L/59, 13 In20, 5 TB, 2Y at WF. 27 Kyle Brindza (6'1" 225 Jr) PS#1. Starting PK, Tm STPOY LY. Andrew Antognoli (6'2" 195 Fr) PS#43. John Chereson (5'10" 153 Fr).

-19' +32 23-24

at

DNO

Navy

Syrácuse at USC - #5

Navy

at Stanford

at Pittsburgh - #8

Connecticut

+6' -6

+10

Utah - #15

† Army at USC

28-3 27-3

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+5<sup>†</sup> -8

**∡**Δ' 20-16 at Wake Forest

Maryland

Boston College Stanford - #4

-20' -24' +7

45-21

16-14 14-28

#4

Wake Forest

at USC

-24 38-0