

WEEK Three  
**VANDERBILT AT NOTRE DAME**

SOUTH BEND, Ind. -- On a day when No. 8 Notre Dame's offense remained a work in progress, the Fighting Irish got another big play from its defense to hold off upset-minded Vanderbilt in a 22-17 victory Saturday.

Safety Jalen Elliott knocked the ball loose from Vanderbilt receiver Kalija Lipscomb with 1:07 remaining to give Notre Dame a fourth-down stop against the Commodores. Last week, Elliott had a pair of interceptions in 3-0 Notre Dame's win over Ball State.

"I'm proud of the effort and the way we competed," Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said. "We're trying to find our identity on offense. We're far from where we want to be on the offensive line and as an offense. Our defense is good but not a great defense yet. But there are a lot of positives to take from this."

Kyle Shurmur threw for 326 yards and one touchdown for Vanderbilt (2-1), rallying his team back from a 16-3 halftime deficit. His fourth-and-4 pass from the Notre Dame 31 to Lipscomb, who caught a game-high 11 passes for 89 yards, was grabbed by the receiver at the Irish 11.

But Elliott, with some help from the ground, knocked the ball loose and incomplete.

"I threw it a little high to him (Lipscomb) and he had to make a great play, but it just didn't shake out our way," Shurmur said.

Vandy managed just a last-play field goal in the first half by Ryley Guay to go into the locker room trailing 16-3.

"Kyle did a great job in the second half," coach Derek Mason said. "I thought we were going to go down there and win. But the untimely turnovers cost us. For us it was another slow start and missed opportunities."

Vanderbilt finished with 420 yards to 380 for the Irish, who forced three turnovers. Notre Dame, which entered the game 104th in rushing offense at 124.5 yards per game, finished with 245 on the ground.

"That's an SEC team and we ran well today," Kelly added.

Tony Jones Jr. finished with 118 yards on 17 carries for Notre Dame (3-0). He also caught two passes for 56 yards.

"I feel like I'm in high school again, getting a lot of carries," Jones said.

Notre Dame quarterback Brandon Wimbush, who had 297 passing yards but three interceptions in the 24-16 victory against 34 1/2-point underdog Ball State, threw for 122 yards and added 84 yards on the ground, including a 13-yard scramble for a touchdown.

Wimbush was not sacked and did not commit a turnover.

"I think we're still trying to find our identity," Wimbush said of offense. "We fought play in and play out."

Notre Dame got a 2-yard TD pass from backup quarterback Ian Book to tight end Nic Weishar early in the fourth quarter for a 22-10 lead.

"We have to keep our foot on the pedal for all four quarters," Wimbush added.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Vanderbilt: The Commodores couldn't get anything on the ground early against the defense coordinated by Clark Lea, a former Vanderbilt fullback. They finished with 27 yards on 11 carries in the first half and trailed 16-3. For the game, Vandy had 94 yards rushing.

Notre Dame: After a strong start with 161 total yards while taking a 10-0 lead in the first quarter, the Irish struggled over the next two, totaling 111 with just 25 yards in the third quarter as Vanderbilt closed the deficit to 16-10.

**HOT POTATO**

With Notre Dame leading 13-0 midway through the second quarter, Vanderbilt had its first good drive of the first half ended on a weird play that resulted with Irish corner Justin Love recovering the football in the end zone.

Shurmur completed a 20-yard pass to Donaven Tennyson near the Irish end zone. As Tennyson attempted to score, safety Alohi Gilman stripped the ball out high into the air, with players from both sides going for it before the football ended in the end zone. Vanderbilt running back Khari Blasingame attempted to recover for a Commodore TD, but the ball squirted loose where Love recovered it for a touchback with 5:10 left before halftime.

"It's just not one guy making the plays -- we're spreading the love," said Love, who broke up four passes for the second straight week and now has 31 for his career, one fewer than all-time leader Clarence Ellis (1969-71).

**GETTING HIS KICKS**

Justin Yoon, who started his football career as an eighth-grader at Nashville's Harding Academy, kicked three first-half field goals (26, 33 and 46 yards) to pass Craig Hentrich (1989-92) and become the school's all-time leading placekicking scorer with 297 points. He did miss a short field-goal attempt in the fourth quarter that would have made the lead eight.

<b>Final</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>VAN</b>	0	3	7	7	17
<b>ND</b>	10	6	0	6	22

**Scoring Summary -----**

	<b>VAN</b>	<b>ND</b>
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
ND FG 11:02		
Justin Yoon 26 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 74 yards, 3:58	0	3
ND TD 0:58		
Brandon Wimbush 12 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)		10
15 plays, 94 yards, 5:21	0	10
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
ND FG 7:33		
Justin Yoon 33 Yd Field Goal		
6 plays, 49 yards, 1:10	0	13
ND FG 1:15		
Justin Yoon 46 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 51 yards, 3:55	0	16
VAN FG 0:00		
Ryley Guay 21 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 72 yards, 1:15	3	16
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
VAN TD 0:11		
Ke'Shawn Vaughn 3 Yd Run (Ryley Guay Kick)		16
5 plays, 47 yards, 2:44	10	16
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
ND TD 11:04		
Nic Weishar 2 Yd pass from Ian Book (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
11 plays, 75 yards, 4:07	10	22
VAN TD 7:22		
Jared Pinkney 18 Yd pass from Kyle Shurmur (Ryley Guay Kick)		22
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:42	17	22

<b>Team Stats</b>	<b>VAN</b>	<b>ND</b>
First Downs	23	24
Total Yards	420	380
Total Plays	70	74
Avg Gain Per Play	6.0	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	94	245
Rushes	27	48
Yards Per Rush	3.5	5.1
Net Yards Passing	326	135
Comp-Att	26-43	16-26
Yards Per Pass	7.6	5.2
Times Sacked	1	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-9	0
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	4	5
Punt Average	46.0	59.6
Penalties	5	6
Penalty Yards	60	63
Fumbles	3	0
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Possession	29:12	30:48

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

	<b>Rush</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>
<b>VAN</b>					
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	10	54	5.4	1	18
Khari Blasingame	13	49	3.8	0	14
Jamauri Wakefield	2	9	4.5	0	6
Cam Johnson	1	-6	-6.0	0	0
Kyle Shurmur	1	-12	-12.0	0	0
<b>ND</b>					
Tony Jones Jr.	17	118	6.9	0	20
Brandon Wimbush	19	84	4.4	1	17
Jafar Armstrong	11	46	4.2	0	9
Ian Book	1	-3	-3.0	0	0

**PASSING**

	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Y/A</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>QBRat</b>
<b>VAN</b>							
Kyle Shurmur	26	43	326	7.6	1	1	52.9
<b>ND</b>							
Brandon Wimbush	13	23	122	5.3	0	0	70.2
Ian Book	3	3	13	4.3	1	0	85.0

**RECEIVING**

	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Long</b>
<b>VAN</b>					
Jared Pinkney	5	111	22.2	1	26
Kalija Lipscomb	11	89	8.1	0	20
C.J. Bolar	2	43	21.5	0	30
Donaven Tennyson	1	21	21.0	0	20
Chris Pierce	1	20	20.0	0	20
Sam Dobbs	2	19	9.5	0	18
Cam Johnson	1	13	13.0	0	13
Trey Ellis	1	6	6.0	0	6
Khari Blasingame	1	2	2.0	0	2
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	1	2	2.0	0	2
<b>ND</b>					
Tony Jones Jr.	2	56	28.0	0	32
Alize Mack	3	25	8.3	0	10
Chase Claypool	1	17	17.0	0	17
Miles Boykin	1	14	14.0	0	14
Brock Wright	1	9	9.0	0	9
Chris Finke	5	6	1.2	0	8
Nic Weishar	2	4	2.0	1	2
Kevin Austin Jr	1	4	4.0	0	4