

WEEK FOUR
NOTRE DAME AT WAKE FOREST

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- No. 8 Notre Dame threw the Book at Wake Forest.

Ian Book rushed for three touchdowns and threw for two more in his first start of the season, leading the Fighting Irish past Wake Forest 56-27 on Saturday.

Book replaced Brandon Wimbush in the starting lineup and was 25 of 34 for 325 yards with touchdown passes covering 3 yards to Brock Wright and 7 yards to Chase Claypool, along with three short scoring runs.

"Every week, I've tried to prepare like I'm the starter, and when my name's called, I need to go in there and play at my best and make sure the offense can succeed," Book said.

He helped the Fighting Irish (4-0) more than double their previous season high for scoring and roll up a season-best 566 total yards, surpassing the previous high midway through the third quarter.

Before this one, Notre Dame hadn't scored more than 24 in a game, and its wins over Michigan, Ball State and Vanderbilt came by a total of 20 points.

Coach Brian Kelly said he made the switch because he was concerned that the offense's struggles were starting to weigh on the other parts of the team.

"I didn't sleep great last night, because that's a pretty big decision to make when you're 3-0 and your quarterback that was leading your football team was 13-3 as a starter," Kelly said. "But I had a lot of confidence in Ian and I thought our offense played to the level that it was capable of. That certainly showed itself today."

Jafar Armstrong had touchdown runs of 1 and 30 yards, and Tony Jones Jr. added a short scoring run for the Irish, who will ride their best start since 2015 into next week's showdown with No. 7 Stanford.

Matt Colburn had a 2-yard touchdown run and Nick Sciba kicked two field goals for Wake Forest (2-2), which has lost two straight. Freshman Sam Hartman was 12 of 24 for 110 yards before he exited after taking a hard hit midway through the third.

"Notre Dame outplayed us. They outcoached us. They outprepared us. They were just more ready to go than us today, and they showed it," Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "The score's probably closer than the game was."

THE TAKEAWAY

Notre Dame: So much for that quarterback controversy. It sure looks like the job belongs to Book, whose only previous start came last season in a rout of North Carolina and who led the rally that led to a victory over LSU in the Citrus Bowl. Kelly played it coy in the days before the game, saying both of his QBs would play. But as the points and yards kept piling up for the Irish, Wimbush never saw the field and never even took off his baseball cap.

"I came here to be the starter, and it's up to the coaches, and they'll play the best quarterback to win," Book said. "We're all one team and I'm not worried. I know they'll make the right decision -- whatever that is, both ways. We're here to get wins."

Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons' defense was exposed yet again. A group susceptible to the big play gave up another handful of them at the wrong times, a list led by Armstrong's TD run and a 66-yard catch-and-run by Michael Young that set up another score. The continued inability to prevent explosive plays made it next to impossible to earn the program's first victory against a top-10 opponent since 1946.

KEY STAT

Wake Forest went up 3-0 on Sciba's 30-yard field goal with 5:19 left in the first quarter. That marked the first time this season that Notre Dame trailed. The deficit lasted for all of 2 minutes, 13 seconds, before Armstrong broke off his long scoring run.

QUICK HITS

This was the Irish's highest-scoring road game since a 59-26 rout of Stanford in 2003. The last time Notre Dame had as many as 500 total yards was in its previous meeting with Wake Forest last November.

LOWLIGHT

One chuckle-worthy sequence personified the day for the Demon Deacons. Ten members of the team came out for a first-quarter field goal -- except Sciba was missing. He was still on the sideline warming up and didn't appear to realize it was time to kick. With holder Dom Maggio waving him out, he hurried onto the field and promptly plunked the left upright with the kick.

WELCOME BACK

Kendall Hinton was largely a nonfactor in his first game back for Wake Forest after serving a three-game suspension for violating unspecified team rules. The former starting quarterback lined up mostly at receiver and caught one pass for two yards. He played one snap at QB -- when backup Jamie Newman's helmet came off -- and wound up running 23 yards for a touchdown.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ND	7	21	21	7	56
WAKE	3	10	7	7	27

Scoring Summary -----

	ND	WAKE
FIRST QUARTER		
WAKE FG 5:18		
Nick Sciba 30 Yd Field Goal	0	3
4 plays, 1 yard, 0:42		
ND TD 3:06		
Jafar Armstrong 30 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)	7	3
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:12		
SECOND QUARTER		
WAKE FG 14:56		
Nick Sciba 39 Yd Field Goal	7	6
12 plays, 54 yards, 3:10		
ND TD 11:25		
Brock Wright 3 Yd pass from Ian Book (Justin Yoon Kick)	14	6
10 plays, 80 yards, 3:31		
ND TD 9:19		
Tony Jones Jr. 4 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)	21	6
2 plays, 4 yards, 0:10		
WAKE TD 6:26		
Matt Colburn 2 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)	21	13
10 plays, 75 yards, 2:53		
ND TD 5:24		
Ian Book 2 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)	28	13
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:02		
THIRD QUARTER		
ND TD 9:46		
Chase Claypool 7 Yd pass from Ian Book (Justin Yoon Kick)	35	13
9 plays, 74 yards, 3:18		
ND TD 5:15		
Jafar Armstrong 1 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)	42	13
7 plays, 71 yards, 2:25		
ND TD 4:18		
Ian Book 2 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)	49	13
3 plays, 47 yards, 0:47		
WAKE TD 0:44		
Kendall Hinton 23 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)	49	20
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:34		
FOURTH QUARTER		
ND TD 11:27		
Ian Book 1 Yd Run (Justin Yoon Kick)	56	20
11 plays, 75 yards, 4:17		
WAKE TD 4:53		
Jamie Newman 15 Yd Run (Nick Sciba Kick)	56	27
13 plays, 79 yards, 6:34		

	ND	WAKE
Team Stats		
First Downs	28	27
Total Yards	566	398
Total Plays	76	92
Avg Gain Per Play	7.4	4.3
Net Yards Rushing	241	259
Rushes	40	61
Yards Per Rush	6.0	4.2
Net Yards Passing	325	139
Comp-Att	25-36	16-31
Yards Per Pass	9.0	4.5
Times Sacked	1	3
Yds Lost To Sacks	-4	-18
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	3	6
Punt Average	33.7	41.8
Penalties	4	3
Penalty Yards	37	23
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	26:01	33:59

Individual Stats

RUSHING					
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
ND					
Jafar Armstrong	8	98	12.3	2	30
Ian Book	10	43	4.3	3	11
Avery Davis	9	43	4.8	0	12
Tony Jones Jr.	7	39	5.6	1	14
Jahmir Smith	2	16	8.0	0	12
Phil Jurkovec	1	7	7.0	0	7
Michael Young	1	-1	-1.0	0	1
Team	2	-4	-2.0	0	0
WAKE					
Cade Carney	13	79	6.1	0	23
Jamie Newman	8	73	9.1	1	15
Christian Beal-Smith	10	34	3.4	0	16
Matt Colburn	10	32	3.2	1	17
Kendall Hinton	1	23	23.0	1	23
Sam Hartman	16	11	0.7	0	9
Greg Dortch	1	6	6.0	0	6
DeAndre' Delaney	2	1	0.5	0	1

PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
ND							
Ian Book	25	34	325	9.6	2	0	82.5
Phil Jurkovec	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	3.9
WAKE							
Sam Hartman	12	24	110	4.6	0	0	26.9
Jamie Newman	4	7	29	4.1	0	1	77.4

RECEIVING					
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
ND					
Michael Young	1	66	66.0	0	66
Alize Mack	6	61	10.2	0	24
Chase Claypool	4	51	12.8	1	35
Chris Finke	4	41	10.3	0	15
Kevin Austin Jr.	2	35	17.5	0	29
Tony Jones Jr.	2	32	16.0	0	30
Jafar Armstrong	2	15	7.5	0	8
Avery Davis	2	15	7.5	0	9
Miles Boykin	1	6	6.0	0	6
Brock Wright	1	3	3.0	1	3
WAKE					
Greg Dortch	6	56	9.3	0	18
Scotty Washington	2	24	12.0	0	18
Kendall Hinton	3	23	7.7	0	13
Steven Claude	1	15	15.0	0	15
Alex Bachman	1	12	12.0	0	12
Brandon Chapman	2	7	3.5	0	5
DeAndre' Delaney	1	2	2.0	0	2