

WEEK SEVEN  
USC at NOTRE DAME

**No. 9 Irish ride Jones' 176 yards to 30-27 victory over USC**

SOUTH BEND, Ind. -- Tony Jones Jr. rushed for a career-high 176 yards and Jonathan Doerer kicked three long field goals as No. 9 Notre Dame held off longtime rival Southern California 30-27 Saturday night.

The Fighting Irish (5-1), who rushed for a season-high 308 yards, clinched their third straight victory over the Trojans (3-3) on Ian Book's 8-yard run with 3:33 left. "An exciting football game," coach Brian Kelly said. "Our guys prepared so well for this game. They (USC) were coming off a bye week and we knew there were some things we'd have to adjust to. We took USC's best shot."

Book's touchdown ended a 14-play, 75-yard drive that took 6:54 off the clock after USC had drawn within 23-20.

Book, who rushed for 49 yards and added 165 yards through the air on 17-of-32 passing, credited offensive coordinator Chip Long for "great play calling. They were bringing pressure off the edge, so I just wanted to bring it up the middle. The line did a good job."

The Irish finished with 473 total yards to USC's 426.

The Trojans' Markese Stepp, who ran for 82 yards, scored from the 2 with 1:04 left to make it 30-27. But Notre Dame's Brock Wright recovered the onside kick, and the Irish ran out the clock.

"Notre Dame is a good football team and we are, too, and I can't wait to watch the next six games," said USC coach Clay Helton, who fell to 1-4 against Notre Dame.

Jones' fourth 100-yard game of the season came on 25 carries. He had 12 runs for 120 yards in the first half.

The Irish led 17-3 at half after Book threw a 10-yard TD pass to Cole Kmet, wide receiver Braden Lenzy ran 51 yards on a reverse and Doerer kicked a 43-yard field goal. The half ended with the teams engaging in some pushing and shoving before they headed to their locker rooms.

Doerer added field goals of 52 and 43 yards in the second half to keep the Irish ahead.

USC freshman Kedon Slovis completed 24 of 35 passes for 255 yards in his first game back from a concussion three weeks ago.

Slovis threw touchdown passes of 38 yards to Amon-Ra St. Brown in the third quarter and 5 yards to Tyler Vaughns in the fourth.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

USC: Slovis completed 10 of 17 passes for 74 yards in the first half but was sacked three times and hurried on four other occasions by Notre Dame's defense, which switched between three- and four-man fronts. After intermission, Slovis was 14 of 18 for 181 yards and two touchdowns.

Notre Dame: The Irish punted on their first three series but finished the half with 196 yards on the ground. Jones carried the load, bursting up the middle for 43 yards on a nine-play, 97-yard scoring drive that gave his team a 7-3 lead.

**POLL IMPLICATIONS**

Notre Dame: The Irish likely won't move up even with South Carolina's 20-17 double-overtime victory at No. 3 Georgia. That's because the Irish lost 23-17 at Georgia last month.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
USC	3	0	10	14	27
ND	0	17	3	10	30

**Scoring Summary -----**

	USC	ND
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
USC FG 2:13 Chase McGrath 40 Yd Field Goal		
8 plays, 28 yards, 2:56	3	0
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
ND TD 8:37 Cole Kmet 10 Yd pass from Ian Book (Jonathan Doerer Kick)		
9 plays, 97 yards, 2:32	3	7
ND TD 4:38 Braden Lenzy 51 Yd Run (Jonathan Doerer Kick)		
4 plays, 80 yards, 1:23	3	14
ND FG 0:15 Jonathan Doerer 45 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 29 yards, 2:49	3	17
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
ND FG 12:34 Jonathan Doerer 52 Yd Field Goal		
9 plays, 30 yards, 2:26	3	20
USC FG 8:53 Chase McGrath 27 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 66 yards, 3:41	6	20
USC TD 2:34 Amon-Ra St. Brown 38 Yd pass from Kedon Slovis (Chase McGrath Kick)		
5 plays, 62 yards, 1:54	13	20
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
ND FG 13:47 Jonathan Doerer 43 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 45 yards, 3:47	13	23
USC TD 10:27 Tyler Vaughns 5 Yd pass from Kedon Slovis (Chase McGrath Kick)		
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:20	20	23
ND TD 3:33 Ian Book 8 Yd Run (Jonathan Doerer Kick)		
14 plays, 75 yards, 6:54	20	30
USC TD 1:04 Markese Stepp 2 Yd Run (Chase McGrath Kick)		
9 plays, 77 yards, 2:29	27	30

Team Stats	USC	ND
First Downs	25	25
Passes for First	14	7
Rushes for First	11	17
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	5-12	9-17
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	0-1
Total Yards	426	473
Total Plays	70	80
Avg Gain Per Play	6.1	5.9
Net Yards Rushing	171	308
Rushes	35	48
Yards Per Rush	4.9	6.4
Net Yards Passing	255	165
Comp-Att	24-35	17-32
Yards Per Pass	7.3	5.2
Times Sacked	4	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-26	-1
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	5	3
Punt Average	42.2	40.3
Penalties	2	5
Penalty Yards	44	45
Fumbles	1	1
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	28:36	31:24

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

USC	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Markese Stepp	10	82	8.2	1	25
Vavae Malepeai	8	46	5.8	0	11
Stephen Carr	9	44	4.9	0	14
Kedon Slovis	8	-1	-0.1	0	9
NOTRE DAME	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tony Jones Jr.	25	176	7.0	0	43
Braden Lenzy	1	51	51.0	1	51
Ian Book	12	49	4.1	1	17
Jahmir Smith	5	32	6.4	0	13
Chris Finke	1	7	7.0	0	7
Team	3	-3	-1.0	0	0
Jafar Armstrong	1	-4	-4.0	0	0

**PASSING**

USC	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kedon Slovis	24	35	255	7.3	2	0	50.3
NOTRE DAME	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ian Book	17	32	165	5.2	1	0	57.1

**RECEIVING**

USC	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Amon-Ra St. Brown	8	112	14.0	1	38
Tyler Vaughns	4	47	11.8	1	18
Erik Krommenhoek	5	37	7.4	0	15
Michael Pittman Jr.	4	29	7.3	0	11
Stephen Carr	2	21	10.5	0	15
Vavae Malepeai	1	9	9.0	0	9
NOTRE DAME	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Cole Kmet	6	61	10.2	1	14
Chase Claypool	3	47	15.7	0	26
Chris Finke	5	45	9.0	0	19
Braden Lenzy	1	8	8.0	0	8
Michael Young	2	4	2.0	0	2