

WEEK ONE
 NOTRE DAME at LOUISVILLE

No. 9 Notre Dame pulls away from Louisville 35-17

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Briefly caught off guard by Louisville's intensity, Notre Dame turned up its energy as well to take control with big plays.

Ian Book ran for one touchdown and threw for another, Jahmir Smith rushed for two scores and the No. 9 Fighting Irish beat Louisville 35-17 on Monday night.

Tony Jones Jr. rushed 15 times for 110 yards, including an 11-yard TD, as the Fighting Irish worked harder than expected to put away the rebuilding Cardinals in Scott Satterfield's debut as coach.

Figuring it out in time pleased Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly.

"There's a litany of things we can get better at," he said. "We still won the game, and we have some good things to take away."

Starting good was important to the Irish in their first game since a 30-3 Cotton Bowl loss to Clemson last December in the College Football Playoff semifinal. Besides wanting to put that defeat behind them and mounting another national championship run, Kelly was interested to see how his team replaced key players in many phases, especially on defense.

Their answer to Louisville's challenge might have been the most impressive part.

Notre Dame trailed 14-7 in the first before Jones' score tied it, and Book followed with an 11-yard score just before halftime.

Book's TD came after a bizarre sequence featuring three consecutive fumbles between the teams, the last of which Notre Dame recovered at Louisville's 20. The Irish forced five fumbles overall and recovered three.

"We just had to focus on some smaller details," said Book, who rushed for 81 yards on 14 carries. "They were there. Just had to execute what was called. We trust the coaches to put in the right decision and we just had to execute it. All 11 guys."

Book hit Tommy Tremble with a 26-yard TD pass midway through the third for a 28-14 lead. He finished 14 of 23 passing for 193 yards. Smith rushed for touchdowns of 3 and 1 yards and totaled 24 on eight carries.

Louisville junior quarterback Jawon Pass rushed for touchdowns of 8 and 17 yards in the first quarter, but the Cardinals struggled after that and managed only Blanton Creque's 46-yard field goal midway in the fourth quarter.

Louisville freshman Javian Hawkins rushed for 122 yards on 19 carries.

Playing before a record home crowd of 58,187, the Cardinals were outgained 425-383.

Satterfield nonetheless found bright spots in the Cardinals' performance against Notre Dame, a storied program coming off a quest for a national championship.

"I was extremely proud of the way our guys played," he said. "The fight, the energy they had was awesome to see. The one thing coming into this game that we didn't know about was when they faced adversity, how were they going to react to it. And they did a great job."

KICK STARTERS

Notre Dame freshman punter Jay Bramblett averaged 39.3 yards on six kicks, with a long of 46 and two inside the 20. Junior place-kicker Jonathan Doerer made all five extra points and averaged 61.8 yards on six kickoffs. Both were taking over for record-setters in Tyler Newsome and career scoring leader Justin Yoon, respectively.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Pass started his second consecutive opener for Louisville and contributed with his feet and arm. He rushed 16 times for 67 and both scores while completing 12 of 27 passes for 134 yards. There were also three lost fumbles, one of which Notre Dame converted into the go-ahead score.

"I did alright, but we didn't win," he said. "I didn't do enough to help us win. We just have to go back to work and get better."

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Irish struggled, but should remain in the Top 10.

THE TAKEAWAY

Notre Dame: The defense initially looked shaky before adjusting to keep Louisville out of the end zone after the first quarter. Four sacks highlighted that performance, along with the fumble recoveries that stopped drives and momentum. Book's feet helped set the offensive tone as the Irish rushed for 232 yards. He then threw the key touchdown for a cushion they never lost.

Louisville: The Scott Satterfield Era got off to an exciting start as the Cardinals showed more energy and execution on both sides of the ball than during a 2-10 season in grabbing an early lead. They have more work ahead after failing to sustain the effort, struggling to move the ball and coughing it up five times. They did outrush the Irish by 19 yards, though.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ND	14	7	7	7	35
LOU	14	0	0	3	17

Scoring Summary -----

	ND	LOU
FIRST QUARTER		
ND TD 12:39 Jahmir Smith 3 Yd Run (Jonathan Doerer Kick)	7	0
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:21		
LOU TD 7:27 Jawon Pass 8 Yd Run (Blanton Creque Kick)	7	7
12 plays, 88 yards, 5:12		
LOU TD 4:08 Jawon Pass 17 Yd Run (Blanton Creque Kick)	7	14
6 plays, 75 yards, 2:14		
ND TD 0:29 Tony Jones Jr. 11 Yd Run (Jonathan Doerer Kick)	14	14
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:39		
SECOND QUARTER		
ND TD 0:17 Ian Book 11 Yd Run (Jonathan Doerer Kick)	21	14
4 plays, 20 yards, 0:46		
THIRD QUARTER		
ND TD 8:06 Tommy Tremble 26 Yd pass from Ian Book (Jonathan Doerer Kick)	28	14
2 plays, 57 yards, 0:36		
FOURTH QUARTER		
LOU FG 13:25 Blanton Creque 42 Yd Field Goal	28	17
10 plays, 59 yards, 5:19		
ND TD 8:15 Jahmir Smith 1 Yd Run (Jonathan Doerer Kick)	35	17
12 plays, 75 yards, 5:10		

Team Stats	ND	LOU
First Downs	18	21
Passes for First	9	6
Rushes for First	9	14
Penalties for First	0	1
Third Down Efficiency	5-12	6-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	1-2
Total Yards	423	383
Total Plays	65	75
Avg Gain Per Play	6.5	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	230	249
Rushes	42	47
Yards Per Rush	5.5	5.3
Net Yards Passing	193	134
Comp-Att	14-23	12-28
Yards Per Pass	8.4	4.8
Times Sacked	3	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	-14	-28
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	6	5
Punt Average	39.3	41.4
Penalties	4	8
Penalty Yards	20	50
Fumbles	2	5
Fumbles Lost	1	3
Time of Poss	28:00	32:00

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
NOTRE DAME							
Tony Jones Jr.	15	110	7.3	1	35		
Ian Book	14	81	5.8	1	37		
Jahmir Smith	8	24	3.0	2	12		
Jafar Armstrong	2	10	5.0	0	5		
C'Bo Flemister	3	5	1.7	0	7		
LOUISVILLE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Javian Hawkins	19	122	6.4	0	44		
Hassan Hall	11	69	6.3	0	16		
Jawon Pass	16	67	4.2	2	22		
PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
NOTRE DAME							
Ian Book	14	23	193	8.4	1	0	76.8
LOUISVILLE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jawon Pass	12	27	134	5.0	0	0	41.7
Tutu Atwell	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	2.9
RECEIVING							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
NOTRE DAME							
Chase Claypool	5	94	18.8	0	34		
Tommy Tremble	3	49	16.3	1	26		
Jafar Armstrong	1	16	16.0	0	16		
Lawrence Keys III	2	15	7.5	0	10		
Javon McKinley	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Jahmir Smith	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Chris Finke	1	2	2.0	0	2		
LOUISVILLE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tutu Atwell	5	47	9.4	0	16		
Marshon Ford	2	43	21.5	0	37		
Seth Dawkins	1	18	18.0	0	18		
Josh Johnson	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Dez Fitzpatrick	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Tobias Little	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Jawon Pass	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		