



SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Indiana	0	3	0	14	17
Notre Dame	7	10	3	7	27

SCORING SUMMARY

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	10:57	UND - #4 J.Love 98 yd rush (#98 M.Jeter kick), 1-98, 00:14	0-7
2nd	12:52	UND - #83 J.Thomas 5 yd pass from #13 R.Leonard (#98 M.Jeter kick), 16-83, 09:08	0-14
2nd	03:26	IND - #39 N.Radicic 34 yd FG, 9-48, 04:00	3-14
2nd	00:07	UND - #98 M.Jeter 49 yd FG, 12-52, 03:13	3-17
3rd	04:21	UND - #98 M.Jeter 33 yd FG, 11-28, 06:42	3-20
4th	04:50	UND - #13 R.Leonard 1 yd rush (#98 M.Jeter kick), 9-78, 05:44	3-27
4th	01:27	IND - #4 M.Price 7 yd pass from #9 K.Rourke (#13 E.Sarratt pass from #9 K.Rourke), 12-76, 03:17	11-27
4th	00:25	IND - #3 O.Cooper Jr. 23 yd pass from #9 K.Rourke (#13 E.Sarratt pass from #9 K.Rourke failed), 8-50, 00:59	17-27

TIME DETAILS

Kickoff time: 08:10 PM
 End of Game: 11:36 PM
 Total elapsed: 03:26

OFFICIALS

Referee: David Alvarez
 Umpire: Marlow Fitzgerald
 Linesman: Andy Warner
 Line judge: Kelly Deterding
 Back judge: Donnie Aultman
 Field judge: Gabriel DeLeon
 Side judge: Fulton Carson
 Center judge: Dan Scanlan
 Replay Official: Eugene Semko

WEATHER

Weather: Cloudy 27 F



FULL GAME

INDIANA

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Justice Ellison	11	43	6	37	0	15	3.4
Ty Son Lawton	10	37	3	34	0	22	3.4
Myles Price	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
Kurtis Rourke	5	8	18	-10	0	7	-2.0
Totals:	27	90	27	63	0	22	2.3

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Kurtis Rourke	20-33-1	215	2	28	3
TEAM	0-1-0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	20-34-1	215	2	28	3

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Myles Price	6	5	56	34	1	17
Ke'Shawn Williams	8	5	45	12	0	16
Elijah Sarratt	7	4	67	16	0	28
Justice Ellison	2	2	6	9	0	7
Omar Cooper Jr.	3	1	23	3	1	23
Ty Son Lawton	1	1	10	4	0	10
Zach Horton	1	1	7	2	0	7
Miles Cross	4	1	1	1	0	1
Andison Coby	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	33	20	215	81	2	28

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Evans	6	202	33.7	49	1	0
Totals:	6	202	33.7	49	1	0

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Solomon Vanhorse	0	0	0	1	18	18	0	0	0
D'Angelo Ponds	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3
Totals:	0	0	0	1	18	18	1	3	3

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Nicolas Radicic	2nd	03:26	34	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Derek McCormick	2	125	62.5	0	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Elijah Sarratt	0	67	0	0	0	67
Myles Price	2	56	0	0	0	58
Ke'Shawn Williams	0	45	0	0	0	45
Ty Son Lawton	34	10	0	0	0	44

FUMBLES

Indiana - Jailin Walker 1-0
Notre Dame - Mitchell Evans 1-0

NOTRE DAME

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jeremiah Love	8	115	7	108	1	98	13.5
Jadarian Price	11	40	8	32	0	20	2.9
Riley Leonard	11	36	6	30	1	8	2.7
Aneyas Williams	4	24	0	24	0	12	6.0
TEAM	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0
Totals:	35	215	22	193	2	98	5.5

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Riley Leonard	23-32-1	201	1	44	2
Totals:	23-32-1	201	1	44	2

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Jordan Faison	10	7	89	35	0	44
Aneyas Williams	5	4	15	16	0	9
Beaux Collins	4	2	18	6	0	10
Jeremiah Love	2	2	18	17	0	10
Mitchell Evans	3	2	17	12	0	9
Jayden Thomas	2	2	13	12	1	8
Kris Mitchell	1	1	11	1	0	11
Jadarian Price	1	1	8	9	0	8
Jaden Greathouse	1	1	8	2	0	8
Eli Raridon	1	1	4	0	0	4
Deion Colzie	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	31	23	201	110	1	44

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Rendell	2	68	34.0	37	1	0
Totals:	2	68	34.0	37	1	0

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Max Hurleman	1	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jayden Harrison	0	0	0	2	22	17	0	0	0
Jordan Faison	0	0	0	0	43	43	0	0	0
Xavier Watts	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals:	1	9	9	2	65	43	1	0	0

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Mitch Jeter	2nd	00:07	49	GOOD
Mitch Jeter	3rd	04:21	33	GOOD
Mitch Jeter	4th	12:12	37	BLOCKED

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Eric Goins	6	353	58.8	0	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Jordan Faison	0	89	43	0	0	132
Jeremiah Love	108	18	0	0	0	126
Jadarian Price	32	8	0	0	0	40
Aneyas Williams	24	15	0	0	0	39



FULL GAME	IND	UND
FIRST DOWNS	17	20
Rushing	6	8
Passing	10	11
Penalty	1	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	63	193
Rushing Attempts	27	35
Average Per Rush	2.3	5.5
Rushing Touchdowns	0	2
Yards Gained Rushing	90	215
Yards Lost Rushing	27	22
NET YARDS PASSING	215	201
Completions-Attempts-Int	20-34-1	23-32-1
Average Per Attempt	6.3	6.3
Average Per Completion	10.8	8.7
Passing Touchdowns	2	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	278	394
Total offense plays	61	67
Average Gain Per Play	4.6	5.9
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	5-46	6-35
PUNTS-YARDS	6-202	2-68
Average Yards Per Punt	33.7	34.0
Net Yards Per Punt	32.2	34
Inside 20	1	1
50+ Yards	0	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	1	1
KICKOFF-YARDS	2-125	6-353
Average Yards Per Kickoff	62.5	58.8
Net Yards Per Kickoff	30	40.2
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair Catch Yards	0	94
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-9-0
Average Per Return	0.0	9.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-18-0	2-65-0
Average Per Return	18.0	32.5
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-3-0	1-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	15	0
Possession Time	24:17	35:43
1st Quarter	07:03	07:57
2nd Quarter	07:29	07:31
3rd Quarter	03:45	11:15
4th Quarter	06:00	09:00
Third-Down Conversions	4-12	7-13
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	0-0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-3	3-4
Touchdowns	1	2
Field goals	1	1
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-6	3-18
PAT Kicks	0-0	3-3
2Pts Conversions	1-2	0-0
Field Goals	1-1	2-3
Points off Turnover	0	7



FULL GAME
INDIANA

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
4	Aiden Fisher	5	5	10	0.0-0	1.5-3	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2	Jailin Walker	4	6	10	0.0-0	1.0-3	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
99	James Carpenter	6	1	7	1.0-5	2.0-9	0	0-0	0-0	1	1	1
1	Shawn Asbury II	3	4	7	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
25	Amare Ferrell	2	5	7	0.5-1	2.0-8	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
8	CJ West	2	4	6	0.0-0	1.5-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
12	Terry Jones Jr.	2	2	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
22	Jamari Sharpe	2	2	4	0.5-0	0.5-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
21	Rolijah Hardy	1	3	4	0.0-0	0.5-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
6	Mikail Kamara	0	3	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
97	Mario Landino	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
5	Ke'Shawn Williams	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
5	D'Angelo Ponds	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-3	0	0	0
46	Isaiah Jones	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
41	Lanell Carr Jr.	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
9	Jamier Johnson	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
24	Bryson Bonds	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		32	40	72	2.0-6	10.0-26	1	0-0	1-3	3	1	1

NOTRE DAME

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
0	Xavier Watts	5	5	10	0.0-0	0.5-0	0	0-0	1-0	0	0	0
1	Jordan Clark	5	0	5	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
24	Jack Kiser	4	1	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
8	Adon Shuler	3	2	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
4	Jaiden Ausberry	2	1	3	0.0-0	2.0-3	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
40	Joshua Burnham	2	0	2	0.0-0	1.0-3	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
99	Rylie Mills	2	0	2	1.0-8	1.0-8	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
3	Jaylen Sneed	2	0	2	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10	Loghan Thomas	2	0	2	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
29	Christian Gray	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
34	Drayk Bowen	1	1	2	0.0-0	1.5-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
2	Rod Heard II	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
15	Leonard Moore	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
97	Gabriel Rubio	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
30	Bryce Young	1	0	1	1.0-8	1.0-8	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
26	Chris Salerno	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9	RJ Oben	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
1	Jaden Greathouse	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
4	Jeremiah Love	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
0	Deion Colzie	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
44	Junior Tuihalamaka	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
56	Howard Cross III	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
13	Ben Minich	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		35	20	55	3.0-18	10.0-28	0	0-0	1-0	3	0	2



INDIANA

Pos	##	OFFENSE
WR	13	Sarratt, Elijah
WR	3	Cooper Jr., Omar
WR	4	Price, Myles
TE	44	Horton, Zach
OL	56	Katic, Mike
RB	6	Ellison, Justice
OL	65	Smith, Carter
OL	74	Lynch, Bray
OL	75	Wedig, Trey
OL	77	Stephens, Tyler
QB	9	Rourke, Kurtis

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DB	1	Asbury II, Shawn
LB	2	Walker, Jailin
LB	21	Hardy, Rolijah
DB	22	Sharpe, Jamari
DB	25	Ferrell, Amare
LB	4	Fisher, Aiden
LB	41	Carr Jr., Lanell
CB	5	Ponds, D'Angelo
DL	6	Kamara, Mikail
RB	8	Black, Kaelon
DL	99	Carpenter, James

Indiana

0-Coby, Andison, 12-Jones Jr., Terry, 13-Doss, Cedarius, 17-Lawton, Ty Son, 18-Vanhorse, Solomon, 19-Sanguinetti, Josh, 19-Cross, Miles, 24-Bonds, Bryson, 34-Utzinger, Jeff, 39-Radicic, Nicolas, 43-McCormick, Derek, 45-Walker, Trey, 46-Jones, Isaiah, 47-Langston, Mark, 5-Williams, Ke'Shawn, 7-Mangum-Farrar, Jacob, 78-Jones, Cooper, 8-West, CJ, 80-Becker, Charlie, 86-Foley, Brody, 88-West, Sam, 9-Johnson, Jamier, 91-Ndukwe, Daniel, 92-Burris Jr., Marcus, 94-Evans, James, 95-Tucker, Tyrique, 97-Landino, Mario

Notre Dame

0-Colzie, Deion, 1-Greathouse, Jaden, 10-Thomas, Loghan, 13-Minich, Ben, 16-Rendell, James, 2-Heard II, Rod, 2-Harrison, Jayden, 20-Williams, Aneayas, 21-Young, Kedren, 22-Ford, Devyn, 23-Urlacher, Kennedy, 24-Price, Jadarian, 25-Zinter, Preston, 25-Devezin, Dylan, 26-Salemo, Chris, 28-Talich, Luke, 3-Sneed, Jaylen, 30-Young, Bryce, 35-Tafelski, Jake, 35-Rezac, Teddy, 37-Hurleman, Max, 38-Sherwood, Davis, 39-Monteforte, Rino, 4-Ausberry, Jaiden, 41-Hinish, Donovan, 44-Tuihalamaka, Junior, 55-Terek, Chris, 6-Faison, Jordan, 72-Pendleton, Sam, 75-Absher, Sullivan, 77-Chan, Ty, 79-Baker, Tosh, 83-Thomas, Jayden, 84-Bauman, Kevin, 88-Evans, Mitchell, 90-Goins, Eric, 96-Vinci, Joseph, 97-Rubio, Gabriel, 98-Jeter, Mitch

NOTRE DAME

Pos	##	OFFENSE
WR	10	Mitchell, Kris
QB	13	Leonard, Riley
RB	4	Love, Jeremiyah
WR	5	Collins, Beaux
OL	50	Spindler, Rocco
OL	54	Knapp, Anthonie
OL	59	Wagner, Aamil
OL	74	Schrauth, Billy
OL	78	Coogan, Pat
TE	87	Flanagan, Cooper
TE	9	Raridon, Eli

Pos	##	DEFENSE
S	0	Watts, Xavier
S	1	Clark, Jordan
CB	15	Moore, Leonard
LB	24	Kiser, Jack
CB	29	Gray, Christian
LB	34	Bowen, Drayk
LB	40	Burnham, Joshua
DL	56	Cross III, Howard
S	8	Shuler, Adon
DL	9	Oben, RJ
DL	99	Mills, Rylie



INDIANA

Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
IND	1st	IND25	15:00	Kickoff	IND22	14:06	Punt	3 - -3	00:54
IND		UND41	13:23	Interception	UND17	11:11	Interception	4 - 24	02:12
IND		IND25	10:57	Kickoff	UND37	07:00	Punt	8 - 38	03:57
IND	2nd	IND25	12:52	Kickoff	UND50	09:30	Punt	6 - 25	03:22
IND		IND36	07:26	Punt	UND16	03:26	*FIELD GOAL	9 - 48	04:00
IND		IND25	00:07	Kickoff	IND31	00:00	End of half	1 - 6	00:07
IND	3rd	IND12	13:15	Punt	IND03	11:03	Punt	3 - -9	02:12
IND		IND25	04:21	Kickoff	IND27	02:48	Punt	3 - 2	01:33
IND	4th	IND40	12:12	FieldGoalMissed	UND48	10:34	Punt	5 - 12	01:38
IND		IND24	04:44	Kickoff	UND00	01:27	*TOUCHDOWN	12 - 76	03:17
IND		IND50	01:24	Kickoff	UND00	00:25	*TOUCHDOWN	8 - 50	00:59

Indiana	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	Total
Time of possession	07:03	07:29	03:45	06:00	14:32	09:45	24:17
3rd down conversions	2-4	1-3	0-2	1-3	3-7	1-5	4-12
Average field position	IND36	IND29	IND19	IND38	IND33	IND30	IND31
4th down conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1	1-1

NOTRE DAME

Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
UND	1st	UND41	14:06	Punt	UND40	13:23	Interception	2 - -1	00:43
UND		UND02	11:11	Interception	IND00	10:57	*TOUCHDOWN	1 - 98	00:14
UND		UND17	07:00	Punt	IND00	12:52	*TOUCHDOWN	16 - 83	09:08
UND	2nd	UND22	09:30	Punt	UND27	07:26	Punt	4 - 5	02:04
UND		UND17	03:20	Kickoff	IND31	00:07	*FIELD GOAL	12 - 52	03:13
UND	3rd	IND47	14:48	Kickoff	IND43	13:15	Punt	3 - 4	01:33
UND		IND43	11:03	Punt	IND15	04:21	*FIELD GOAL	11 - 28	06:42
UND		UND31	02:48	Punt	IND19	12:12	Missed FG	11 - 50	05:36
UND	4th	UND22	10:34	Punt	IND00	04:50	*TOUCHDOWN	9 - 78	05:44
UND		IND50	00:24	Kickoff	UND49	00:00	End of half	1 - -1	00:24

Notre Dame	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	Total
Time of possession	07:57	07:31	11:15	09:00	15:28	20:15	35:43
3rd down conversions	3-3	2-4	1-5	1-1	5-7	2-6	7-13
Average field position	UND20	UND20	UND47	UND36	UND20	UND43	UND31
4th down conversions	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0



Drive Chart By Quarter report
Indiana vs Notre Dame (Dec 20, 2024)

Date: Dec 20, 2024
Site: Notre Dame , Indiana
Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium
Attendance: 77622

Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
IND	1st	IND25	15:00	Kickoff	IND22	14:06	Punt	3 - -3	00:54
UND		UND41	14:06	Punt	UND40	13:23	Interception	2 - -1	00:43
IND		UND41	13:23	Interception	UND17	11:11	Interception	4 - 24	02:12
UND		UND02	11:11	Interception	IND00	10:57	*TOUCHDOWN	1 - 98	00:14
IND		IND25	10:57	Kickoff	UND37	07:00	Punt	8 - 38	03:57
UND		UND17	07:00	Punt	IND00	12:52	*TOUCHDOWN	16 - 83	09:08
IND	2nd	IND25	12:52	Kickoff	UND50	09:30	Punt	6 - 25	03:22
UND		UND22	09:30	Punt	UND27	07:26	Punt	4 - 5	02:04
IND		IND36	07:26	Punt	UND16	03:26	*FIELD GOAL	9 - 48	04:00
UND		UND17	03:20	Kickoff	IND31	00:07	*FIELD GOAL	12 - 52	03:13
IND		IND25	00:07	Kickoff	IND31	00:00	End of half	1 - 6	00:07
UND	3rd	IND47	14:48	Kickoff	IND43	13:15	Punt	3 - 4	01:33
IND		IND12	13:15	Punt	IND03	11:03	Punt	3 - -9	02:12
UND		IND43	11:03	Punt	IND15	04:21	*FIELD GOAL	11 - 28	06:42
IND		IND25	04:21	Kickoff	IND27	02:48	Punt	3 - 2	01:33
UND		UND31	02:48	Punt	IND19	12:12	Missed FG	11 - 50	05:36
IND	4th	IND40	12:12	FieldGoalMissed	UND48	10:34	Punt	5 - 12	01:38
UND		UND22	10:34	Punt	IND00	04:50	*TOUCHDOWN	9 - 78	05:44
IND		IND24	04:44	Kickoff	UND00	01:27	*TOUCHDOWN	12 - 76	03:17
IND		IND50	01:24	Kickoff	UND00	00:25	*TOUCHDOWN	8 - 50	00:59
UND		IND50	00:24	Kickoff	UND49	00:00	End of half	1 - -1	00:24



1st Quarter

Notre Dame wins toss and defers; IND will receive; UND will defend North end-zone.

(15:00) #90 E.Goins kickoff 59 yards to the IND06 fair catch by #18 S.Vanhorse at IND06.

Indiana drive starts at 15:00

- 1-10 IND25 (15:00) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush middle for 3 yards loss to the IND22 (#40 J.Burnham).
- 2-13 IND22 (14:22) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete deep right to #3 O.Cooper Jr. thrown to IND45.
- 3-13 IND22 (14:19) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short middle to #19 M.Cross thrown to IND31.
- 4-13 IND22 (14:16) #94 J.Evans punt 37 yards to the UND41.

3 plays, -3 yards, 00:54

Notre Dame drive starts at 14:06

- 1-10 UND41 (14:06) Shotgun #4 J.Love rush left for 1 yard loss to the UND40 (#8 C.West).
- 2-11 UND40 (13:31) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass intercepted by #5 D.Ponds at UND44 broken up by #99 J.Carpenter #5 D.Ponds return 3 yards to the UND41 (#4 J.Love; #0 D.Colzie).

2 plays, -1 yards, 00:43

Indiana drive starts at 13:23

- 1-10 UND41 (13:23) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush middle for 4 yards gain to the UND37 (#0 X.Watts) PENALTY IND Holding (#65 C.Smith) 10 yards from UND41 to IND49. NO PLAY.
- 1-20 IND49 (13:02) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush middle for 3 yards gain to the UND48 (#99 R.Mills).
- 2-17 UND48 (12:19) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush right for 3 yards gain to the UND45 (#44 J.Tuihalamaka; #24 J.Kiser).
- 3-14 UND45 (11:41) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete deep left to #13 E.Sarratt caught at UND17, for 28 yards to the UND17 (#29 C.Gray), 1ST DOWN. P1
- 1-10 UND17 (11:15) No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass intercepted by #0 X.Watts at UND02, End Of Play.

4 plays, 24 yards, 02:12

Notre Dame drive starts at 11:11

- (11:11) Timeout.
- 1-10 UND02 (11:11) Shotgun #4 J.Love rush left for 98 yards gain to the IND00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 10:57, 1ST DOWN. R1
- IND03 #98 M.Jeter kick attempt good (H: #26 C.Salerno, LS: #39 R.Monteforte).

Indiana 0, Notre Dame 7.

1 plays, 98 yards, 00:14

(10:57) #90 E.Goins kickoff 59 yards to the IND06 fair catch by #18 S.Vanhorse at IND06.

Indiana drive starts at 10:57

- 1-10 IND25 (10:57) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush left for 2 yards loss to the IND23 (#4 J.Ausberry).
- 2-12 IND23 (10:20) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush middle for 10 yards gain to the IND33 (#0 X.Watts).
- 3-2 IND33 (09:38) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush left for 6 yards gain to the IND39 (#0 X.Watts; #29 C.Gray), 1ST DOWN. R2
- 1-10 IND39 (09:00) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short left to #13 E.Sarratt thrown to IND50.
- 2-10 IND39 (08:57) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush left for 22 yards gain to the UND39 (#1 J.Clark), 1ST DOWN. R3
- 1-10 UND39 (08:16) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush middle for 1 yard gain to the UND38 (#56 H.Cross III; #97 G.Rubio).
- 2-9 UND38 (07:38) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush left for 1 yard gain to the UND37 (#8 A.Shuler).
- 3-8 UND37 (07:09) No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short left to #13 E.Sarratt thrown to UND18.
- 4-8 UND37 (07:06) #94 J.Evans punt 20 yards to the UND17, out of bounds at UND17.

8 plays, 38 yards, 03:57

Notre Dame drive starts at 07:00

- (07:00) Timeout.
- 1-10 UND17 (07:00) Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 4 yards gain to the UND21 (#4 A.Fisher).
- 2-6 UND21 (06:27) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short left to #6 J.Faison thrown to UND20.
- 3-6 UND21 (06:25) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #5 B.Collins caught at UND25, for 10 yards to the UND31 (#12 T.Jones Jr.), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. P2
- 1-10 UND31 (05:42) No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 0 yards to the UND31 (#6 M.Kamara; #4 A.Fisher).
- 2-10 UND31 (05:07) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #24 J.Price caught at UND30, for 8 yards to the UND39 (#25 A.Ferrell; #4 A.Fisher).
- 3-2 UND39 (04:22) No Huddle-Shotgun #20 A.Williams rush middle for 6 yards gain to the UND45 (#1 S.Asbury II), 1ST DOWN. R3
- 1-10 UND45 (03:43) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #88 M.Evans caught at UND47, for 8 yards to the IND47 fumbled by #88 M.Evans at UND50 forced by #2 J.Walker recovered by UND #6 J.Faison at IND47, End Of Play.
- 2-2 IND47 (03:15) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #20 A.Williams caught at IND44, for 5 yards to the IND42, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN. P4
- 1-10 IND42 (02:39) No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 2 yards gain to the IND40 (#99 J.Carpenter).
- 2-8 IND40 (02:04) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #6 J.Faison caught at IND43, for 9 yards to the IND31 (#25 A.Ferrell; #2 J.Walker), 1ST DOWN. P5
- 1-10 IND31 PENALTY UND False Start (#88 M.Evans) 5 yards from IND31 to IND36. NO PLAY.
- 1-15 IND36 (00:58) Shotgun #24 J.Price rush left for 20 yards gain to the IND16 (#12 T.Jones Jr.; #9 J.Johnson), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. R6
- 1-10 IND16 (00:24) No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 2 yards gain to the IND14 (#8 C.West; #2 J.Walker).

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Indiana	0	07:03	2	1	0	3	2-4	0-0	9-41	1-6-1-28	1-10
Notre Dame	7	07:57	3	3	0	6	2-2	0-0	8-131	5-7-1-40	1-5



FIRST QUARTER	IND	UND
Score	0	7
FIRST DOWNS	3	6
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	9-41	8-131
PASSING YDS (NET)	28	40
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	1-6-1	5-7-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	15-69	15-171
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	1-3	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-28.5	0-0.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	1-10	1-5
Possession Time	07:03	07:57
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 4	2 of 2
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-1	1-1

INDIANA

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Ty Son Lawton	5	30	0	30	0	22	6.0
Justice Ellison	4	16	5	11	0	10	2.8

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Kurtis Rourke	1-6-1	28	0	28	0

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Elijah Sarratt	3	1	28	0	0	28
Omar Cooper Jr.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Miles Cross	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ke'Shawn Williams	1	0	0	0	0	0

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Evans	2	57	28.5	37	1	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Aiden Fisher	1-2	3	0.0	0.0
Jailin Walker	1-2	3	0.0	0.0
Amare Ferrell	0-2	2	0.0	0.0
CJ West	1-1	2	0.0	1.0

NOTRE DAME

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jeremiah Love	2	98	1	97	1	98	48.5
Jadarian Price	5	28	0	28	0	20	5.6
Aneyas Williams	1	6	0	6	0	6	6.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Riley Leonard	5-7-1	40	0	10	0

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Beaux Collins	1	1	10	6	0	10
Jordan Faison	2	1	9	12	0	9
Jadarian Price	1	1	8	9	0	8
Mitchell Evans	1	1	8	6	0	8

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Christian Gray	1-1	2	0.0	0.0
Xavier Watts	1-1	2	0.0	0.0
Adon Shuler	1-0	1	0.0	0.0
Deion Colzie	0-1	1	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	10:57	UND - #4 J.Love 98 yd rush (#98 M.Jeter kick), 1-98, 00:14	0-7



2nd Quarter

		(07:00) Timeout.	
2-8	IND14	(14:57) Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #6 J.Faison caught at IND12, for 7 yards to the IND07 (#25 A.Ferrell).	
3-1	IND07	(14:15) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush middle for 4 yards gain to the IND03 (#24 B.Bonds; #8 C.West), 1ST DOWN.	R7
1-G	IND03	(13:34) No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 2 yards loss to the IND05 (#4 A.Fisher).	
2-G	IND05	(12:55) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #83 J.Thomas caught at IND00, for 5 yards to the IND00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 12:52.	
	IND03	#98 M.Jeter kick attempt good (H: #26 C.Salerno, LS: #39 R.Monteforte).	

Indiana 0, Notre Dame 14.

16 plays, 83 yards, 09:08

		(12:52) Timeout.	
		(12:52) #90 E.Goins kickoff 58 yards to the IND07 fair catch by #5 K.Williams at IND07.	
Indiana drive starts at 12:52			
1-10	IND25	(12:52) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke rush right for 1 yard gain to the IND26 (#24 J.Kiser).	
2-9	IND26	(12:14) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #5 K.Williams caught at IND35, for 10 yards to the IND36 (#0 X.Watts; #8 A.Shuler), 1ST DOWN.	P4
1-10	IND36	(11:37) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush left for 15 yards gain to the UND49 (#24 J.Kiser), 1ST DOWN.	R5
1-10	UND49	(10:58) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush right for 0 yards to the UND49 (#0 X.Watts).	
2-10	UND49	(10:19) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short right to #3 O.Cooper Jr. thrown to UND50 broken up by #44 J.Tuihalamaka.	
3-10	UND49	(10:15) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush middle for 1 yard loss to the UND50 (#3 J.Sneed).	
4-11	UND50	(09:35) #94 J.Evans punt 28 yards to the UND22, out of bounds at UND22.	

6 plays, 25 yards, 03:22

Notre Dame drive starts at 09:30

1-10	UND22	(09:30) Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #10 K.Mitchell caught at UND32, for 11 yards to the UND33 (#22 J.Sharpe), 1ST DOWN.	P8
1-10	UND33	(08:56) No Huddle-Shotgun #4 J.Love rush right for 1 yard loss to the UND32 (#1 S.Asbury II).	
2-11	UND32	(08:17) No Huddle-Shotgun #4 J.Love rush left for 5 yards loss to the UND27 (#25 A.Ferrell; #2 J.Walker).	
3-16	UND27	(07:38) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short left to #5 B.Collins thrown to UND24 broken up by #41 L.Carr Jr..	
4-16	UND27	(07:36) #16 J.Rendell punt 37 yards to the IND36.	

4 plays, 5 yards, 02:04

Indiana drive starts at 07:26

		(07:26) Timeout.	
1-10	IND36	(07:26) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #19 M.Cross caught at IND36, for 1 yard to the IND37 (#0 X.Watts).	
2-9	IND37	(06:49) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush middle for 1 yard loss to the IND36 (#34 D.Bowen; #0 X.Watts).	
3-10	IND36	(06:12) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #13 E.Sarratt caught at UND49, for 15 yards to the UND49, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN.	P6
1-10	UND49	(05:49) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short middle to #4 M.Price thrown to UND43 PENALTY UND Holding (#1 J.Clark) 10 yards from UND49 to UND39, 1ST DOWN. NO PLAY.	X7
1-10	UND39	(05:48) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short left to #13 E.Sarratt thrown to UND21.	
2-10	UND39	(05:44) Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #4 M.Price caught at UND29, for 17 yards to the UND22 (#1 J.Clark), 1ST DOWN.	P8
1-10	UND22	(05:24) No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #4 M.Price caught at UND23, for 6 yards to the UND16 (#1 J.Clark), out of bounds.	
2-4	UND16	(04:50) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush middle for 1 yard loss to the UND17 (#4 J.Ausberry).	
3-5	UND17	(04:04) Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush middle for 1 yard gain to the UND16 (#0 X.Watts).	
		(03:30) Timeout by IND.	
		(03:30) Timeout.	
4-4	UND16	(03:30) #39 N.Radicic field goal attempt from 34 yards GOOD (H: #94 J.Evans, LS: #47 M.Langston), clock 03:26.	

Indiana 3, Notre Dame 14.

9 plays, 48 yards, 04:00

		(03:26) Timeout.	
		(03:26) #43 D.McCormick kickoff 65 yards to the UND00 #2 J.Harrison return 17 yards to the UND17 (#46 I.Jones).	
Notre Dame drive starts at 03:20			
1-10	UND17	(03:20) Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush left for 3 yards gain to the UND20 (#99 J.Carpenter), out of bounds.	
2-7	UND20	(02:45) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush middle for 1 yard gain to the UND21 (#99 J.Carpenter; #1 S.Asbury II).	
		(02:00) Timeout.	
3-6	UND21	(02:00) Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #6 J.Faison caught at UND31, for 10 yards to the UND31, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN. The previous play is under automatic review - "Pass completion". PLAY CONFIRMED.	P9
1-10	UND31	(01:36) Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush middle for 6 yards gain to the UND37, End Of Play.	
2-4	UND37	(01:10) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush middle for 6 yards gain to the UND43 (#4 A.Fisher), 1ST DOWN.	R10
1-10	UND43	(00:50) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #20 A.Williams caught at UND48, for 9 yards to the IND48 (#4 A.Fisher; #5 D.Ponds).	
		(00:42) Timeout by UND.	
2-1	IND48	(00:42) Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete deep right to #6 J.Faison thrown to IND12.	
3-1	IND48	(00:36) No Huddle-Shotgun #20 A.Williams rush middle for 12 yards gain to the IND36 (#1 S.Asbury II; #25 A.Ferrell), 1ST DOWN.	R11
1-10	IND36	(00:27) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short middle to #20 A.Williams thrown to IND34.	
2-10	IND36	(00:23) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short middle to #6 J.Faison thrown to IND30 QB hurried by #99 J.Carpenter.	
3-10	IND36	(00:20) No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #20 A.Williams caught at IND40, for 5 yards to the	



IND31 (#2 J.Walker).
(00:11) Timeout by UND.

4-5 IND31 (00:11) #98 M.Jeter field goal attempt from 49 yards GOOD (H: #26 C.Salerno, LS: #39 R.Monteforte), clock 00:07.

Indiana 3, Notre Dame 17.

12 plays, 52 yards, 03:13

(00:07) #90 E.Goins kickoff 58 yards to the IND07 fair catch by #18 S.Vanhorse at IND07.

Indiana drive starts at 00:07

1-10 IND25 (00:07) Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush left for 6 yards gain to the IND31 (#24 J.Kiser).

1 plays, 6 yards, 00:07

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Indiana	3	07:29	1	3	1	5	1-3	0-0	8-20	5-7-0-49	0-0
Notre Dame	10	07:31	3	2	0	5	3-5	0-0	9-24	6-10-0-47	1-10



SECOND QUARTER	IND	UND
Score	3	10
FIRST DOWNS	5	5
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	8-20	9-24
PASSING YDS (NET)	49	47
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	5-7-0	6-10-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	15-69	19-71
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	1-17
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-28.0	1-37.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	0-0	1-10
Possession Time	07:29	07:31
Third-Down Conversions	1 of 3	3 of 5
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	0-0

INDIANA

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Justice Ellison	4	16	1	15	0	15	3.8
Ty Son Lawton	3	6	2	4	0	6	1.3
Kurtis Rourke	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Kurtis Rourke	5-7-0	49	0	17	0

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Myles Price	2	2	23	14	0	17
Elijah Sarratt	2	1	15	0	0	15
Ke'Shawn Williams	1	1	10	1	0	10
Miles Cross	1	1	1	1	0	1

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Evans	1	28	28.0	28	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Aiden Fisher	2-1	3	0.0	1.0
Amare Ferrell	1-2	3	0.0	0.5
Shawn Asbury II	1-2	3	0.0	1.0
Jailin Walker	1-1	2	0.0	0.5

NOTRE DAME

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Riley Leonard	5	20	0	20	0	6	4.0
Aneyas Williams	1	12	0	12	0	12	12.0
Jadarian Price	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Jeremiah Love	2	0	6	-6	0	0	-3.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Riley Leonard	6-10-0	47	1	11	0

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Jordan Faison	4	2	17	5	0	10
Aneyas Williams	3	2	14	13	0	9
Kris Mitchell	1	1	11	1	0	11
Jayden Thomas	1	1	5	0	1	5

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Rendell	1	37	37.0	37	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Jayden Harrison	1	17	0	17

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Xavier Watts	3-2	5	0.0	0.5
Jack Kiser	3-0	3	0.0	0.0
Jordan Clark	2-0	2	0.0	0.0
Adon Shuler	0-1	1	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
2nd	12:52	UND - #83 J.Thomas 5 yd pass from #13 R.Leonard (#98 M.Jeter kick), 16-83, 09:08	0-7
2nd	03:26	IND - #39 N.Radacic 34 yd FG, 9-48, 04:00	3-7
2nd	00:07	UND - #98 M.Jeter 49 yd FG, 12-52, 03:13	3-10



3rd Quarter

#43 D.McCormick kickoff 60 yards to the UND05 #2 J.Harrison return 5 yards to the UND10 lateral to #6 J.Faison for 43 yards gain to the IND47 (#1 S.Asbury II).

Notre Dame drive starts at 14:48

- 1-10 IND47 PENALTY UND Delay Of Game 5 yards from IND47 to UND48. NO PLAY.
- 1-15 UND48 Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #4 J.Love caught at UND50, for 8 yards to the IND44 (#1 S.Asbury II; #5 K.Williams).
- 2-7 IND44 No Huddle-Shotgun #4 J.Love rush middle for 1 yard gain to the IND43 (#21 R.Hardy; #6 M.Kamara).
- 3-6 IND43 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short middle to #5 B.Collins thrown to IND31.
- 4-6 IND43 #16 J.Rendell punt 31 yards to the IND12 fair catch by #4 M.Price at IND12.
3 plays, 4 yards, 01:33

Indiana drive starts at 13:15

- (13:15) Timeout.
- 1-10 IND12 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke sacked for loss of 8 yards to the IND04 (#99 R.Mills).
#99 R.Mills injured on the play.
(12:57) Timeout.
- 2-18 IND04 Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush left for 1 yard gain to the IND05 (#3 J.Sneed) PENALTY UND Offside (#40 J.Burnham) 5 yards from IND04 to IND09. NO PLAY.
- 2-13 IND09 Shotgun #4 M.Price rush left for 2 yards gain to the IND11 (#40 J.Burnham).
- 3-11 IND11 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke sacked for loss of 8 yards to the IND03 (#30 B.Young).
- 4-19 IND03 #94 J.Evans punt 49 yards to the UND48 #37 M.Hurleman return 9 yards to the IND43 (#4 A.Fisher).
3 plays, -9 yards, 02:12

Notre Dame drive starts at 11:03

- 1-10 IND43 Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 2 yards gain to the IND41 (#4 A.Fisher; #8 C.West).
- 2-8 IND41 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #6 J.Faison caught at IND36, for 8 yards to the IND33 (#22 J.Sharpe; #12 T.Jones Jr.), 1ST DOWN. P12
- 1-10 IND33 No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 9 yards gain to the IND24 (#1 S.Asbury II; #2 J.Walker).
- 2-1 IND24 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #9 E.Raridon caught at IND20, for 4 yards to the IND20, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN. P13
- 1-10 IND20 No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 1 yard gain to the IND19 (#21 R.Hardy; #6 M.Kamara).
- 2-9 IND19 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard sacked for loss of 5 yards to the IND24 (#99 J.Carpenter).
- 3-14 IND24 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush left for 0 yards to the IND24 (#99 J.Carpenter), out of bounds PENALTY IND Personal Foul (#99 J.Carpenter) 12 yards from IND24 to IND12, 1ST DOWN. X14
- 1-10 IND12 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #83 J.Thomas caught at IND16, for 8 yards to the IND04 (#2 J.Walker).
- 2-2 IND04 No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush right for 2 yards loss to the IND06 (#21 R.Hardy; #4 A.Fisher).
- 3-4 IND06 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #20 A.Williams caught at IND11, for 4 yards loss to the IND10 (#25 A.Ferrell).
(04:25) Timeout by IND.
- 4-8 IND10 PENALTY UND False Start (#72 S.Pendleton) 5 yards from IND10 to IND15. NO PLAY.
- 4-13 IND15 #98 M.Jeter field goal attempt from 33 yards GOOD (H: #26 C.Salerno, LS: #39 R.Monteforte), clock 04:21.

Indiana 3, Notre Dame 20.

11 plays, 28 yards, 06:42

(04:21) Timeout.
#90 E.Goins kickoff 60 yards to the IND05 fair catch by #18 S.Vanhorse at IND05.

Indiana drive starts at 04:21

- 1-10 IND25 Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush right for 1 yard loss to the IND24 (#1 J.Clark).
- 2-11 IND24 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #5 K.Williams caught at IND24, for 8 yards to the IND32 (#2 R.Heard II; #97 G.Rubio).
- 3-3 IND32 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short right to #19 M.Cross thrown to IND47 QB hurried by #34 D.Bowen.
- 4-3 IND32 PENALTY IND False Start (#1 S.Asbury II) 5 yards from IND32 to IND27. NO PLAY.
- 4-8 IND27 #94 J.Evans punt 42 yards to the UND31 fair catch by #37 M.Hurleman at UND31.
3 plays, 2 yards, 01:33

Notre Dame drive starts at 02:48

- (02:48) Timeout.
- 1-10 UND31 Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #5 B.Collins caught at UND39, for 8 yards to the UND39 (#5 D.Ponds; #2 J.Walker), out of bounds.
- 2-2 UND39 No Huddle-Shotgun #4 J.Love rush left for 7 yards gain to the UND46 (#4 A.Fisher), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. R15
- 1-10 UND46 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #88 M.Evans caught at UND49, for 9 yards to the IND45, End Of Play.
- 2-1 IND45 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short left to #4 J.Love caught at IND46, for 10 yards to the IND35 (#21 R.Hardy), 1ST DOWN. P16
- 1-10 IND35 No Huddle-Shotgun #24 J.Price rush middle for 4 yards loss to the IND39 (#99 J.Carpenter).

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Indiana	0	03:45	0	0	0	0	0-2	0-0	4--15	1-2-0-8	2-17
Notre Dame	3	11:15	1	3	1	5	0-3	0-0	9-9	8-9-0-51	3-15



THIRD QUARTER	IND	UND
Score	0	3
FIRST DOWNS	0	5
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	4--15	9-9
PASSING YDS (NET)	8	51
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	1-2-0	8-9-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	6--7	18-60
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-9
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	1-48
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-45.5	1-31.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-17	3-15
Possession Time	03:45	11:15
Third-Down Conversions	0 of 2	0 of 3
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	1-2

INDIANA

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Myles Price	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
Ty Son Lawton	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0
Kurtis Rourke	2	0	16	-16	0	0	-8.0
Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack		
Kurtis Rourke	1-2-0	8	0	8	2		
Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long	
Ke'Shawn Williams	1	1	8	8	0	8	
Miles Cross	1	0	0	0	0	0	

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Evans	2	91	45.5	49	0	0
Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long		

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Aiden Fisher	2-2	4	0.0	0.5
Rolijah Hardy	1-3	4	0.0	0.5
Jailin Walker	1-2	3	0.0	0.0
James Carpenter	3-0	3	1.0	2.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play

NOTRE DAME

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jeremiyah Love	2	8	0	8	0	7	4.0
Jadarian Price	5	12	6	6	0	9	1.2
Riley Leonard	2	0	5	-5	0	0	-2.5
Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack		
Riley Leonard	8-9-0	51	0	10	1		
Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long	
Jeremiyah Love	2	2	18	17	0	10	
Mitchell Evans	1	1	9	6	0	9	
Beaux Collins	2	1	8	0	0	8	
Jordan Faison	1	1	8	3	0	8	

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Rendell	1	31	31.0	31	1	0
Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long		

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Bryce Young	1-0	1	1.0	1.0
Gabriel Rubio	0-1	1	0.0	0.0
Jordan Clark	1-0	1	0.0	1.0
Joshua Burnham	1-0	1	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H

3rd 04:21 UND - #98 M.Jeter 33 yd FG, 11-28, 06:42

0-3



4th Quarter

(02:48) Timeout.
 2-14 IND39 Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush middle for 8 yards gain to the IND31 (#41 L.Carr Jr.).
 3-6 IND31 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #1 J.Greathouse caught at IND25, for 8 yards to the IND23 (#12 T.Jones Jr.), 1ST DOWN. P17
 1-10 IND23 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #10 K.Mitchell caught at IND17, for 6 yards to the IND17, out of bounds at IND17 PENALTY IND Offside (#99 J.Carpenter) 5 yards from IND23 to IND18. NO PLAY.
 1-5 IND18 Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short left thrown to IND17.
 2-5 IND18 Shotgun #13 R.Leonard sacked for loss of 1 yard to the IND19 (#25 A.Ferrell, #22 J.Sharpe).
 3-6 IND19 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass incomplete short left to #88 M.Evans thrown to IND13 broken up by #1 S.Asbury II.
 4-6 IND19 #98 M.Jeter field goal attempt from 37 yards NO GOOD blocked by #99 J.Carpenter (H: #26 C.Salerno, LS: #39 R.Monteforte), clock 12:12 recovered by IND #2 J.Walker at IND22 #2 J.Walker return 15 yards to the IND25 fumbled by #2 J.Walker at IND25 recovered by IND #1 S.Asbury II at IND25 (#26 C.Salerno), out of bounds.
11 plays, 50 yards, 05:36

Indiana drive starts at 12:12

1-10 IND40 Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush right for 3 yards gain to the IND43 (#15 L.Moore).
 2-7 IND43 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #4 M.Price caught at IND50, for 10 yards to the UND47 (#8 A.Shuler; #0 X.Watts), 1ST DOWN. P9
 1-10 UND47 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete deep right to #0 A.Coby thrown to UND20 broken up by #8 A.Shuler.
 2-10 UND47 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short left to #5 K.Williams thrown to UND44 QB hurried by #34 D.Bowen.
 3-10 UND47 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short right to #6 J.Ellison caught at UND48, for 1 yard loss to the UND48 (#34 D.Bowen).
 #30 B.Young injured on the play.
 (10:45) Timeout.
 4-11 UND48 #94 J.Evans punt 26 yards to the UND22.
5 plays, 12 yards, 01:38

Notre Dame drive starts at 10:34

1-10 UND22 Shotgun #4 J.Love rush middle for 2 yards gain to the UND24 (#8 C.West).
 2-8 UND24 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short right to #6 J.Faison caught at UND30, for 12 yards to the UND36 (#99 J.Carpenter), 1ST DOWN. P18
 1-10 UND36 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete short middle to #6 J.Faison caught at UND32, for 1 yard loss to the UND35 (#2 J.Walker; #8 C.West).
 2-11 UND35 No Huddle-Shotgun #4 J.Love rush middle for 7 yards gain to the UND42 (#5 K.Williams).
 3-4 UND42 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush left for 7 yards gain to the UND49 (#2 J.Walker), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. R19
 1-10 UND49 No Huddle-Shotgun #20 A.Williams rush middle for 6 yards gain to the IND45 (#97 M.Landino).
 2-4 IND45 No Huddle-Shotgun #13 R.Leonard pass complete deep middle to #6 J.Faison caught at IND07, for 44 yards to the IND01 (#22 J.Sharpe), 1ST DOWN. P20
 1-G IND01 No Huddle-Shotgun #20 A.Williams rush middle for 0 yards to the IND01 (#97 M.Landino).
 (04:54) Timeout by UND.
 2-G IND01 Shotgun #13 R.Leonard rush right for 1 yard gain to the IND00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 04:50.
 IND03 #98 M.Jeter kick attempt good (H: #26 C.Salerno, LS: #39 R.Monteforte).

Indiana 3, Notre Dame 27.

9 plays, 78 yards, 05:44

#90 E.Goins kickoff 59 yards to the IND06 #18 S.Vanhorse return 18 yards to the IND24 (#4 J.Ausberry; #13 B.Minich).

Indiana drive starts at 04:44

1-10 IND24 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short right to #17 T.Lawton caught at IND30, for 10 yards to the IND34 (#3 J.Sneed), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN, PENALTY IND UNR: Unnecessary Roughness (#12 T.Jones Jr.) 14 yards from IND34 to IND20. P10
 1-10 IND20 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #6 J.Ellison caught at IND18, for 7 yards to the IND27 (#9 R.Oben).
 2-3 IND27 Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush middle for 4 yards gain to the IND31 (#8 A.Shuler), 1ST DOWN. R11
 1-10 IND31 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #5 K.Williams caught at IND35, for 7 yards to the IND38 (#1 J.Clark).
 2-3 IND38 No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #5 K.Williams caught at UND46, for 16 yards to the UND46, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN. P12
 1-10 UND46 No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete deep right to #5 K.Williams thrown to UND16.
 2-10 UND46 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete deep right to #19 M.Cross thrown to UND12 PENALTY UND Offside (#44 J.Tuihalamaka) 5 yards from UND46 to UND41. NO PLAY.
 2-5 UND41 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #4 M.Price caught at UND33, for 16 yards to the UND25 (#0 X.Watts), 1ST DOWN. P13
 1-10 UND25 Shotgun #17 T.Lawton rush left for 1 yard gain to the UND24 (#24 J.Kiser).
 (02:00) Timeout.
 2-9 UND24 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete deep right to #4 M.Price thrown to UND03.
 3-9 UND24 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short middle to #13 E.Sarratt caught at UND18, for 17 yards to the UND07 (#15 L.Moore; #0 X.Watts), 1ST DOWN. P14
 1-G UND07 No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete short left to #19 M.Cross thrown to UND05 broken up by #56 H.Cross III.
 2-G UND07 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short right to #4 M.Price caught at UND09, for 7 yards to the UND00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 01:27.
 UND03 #13 E.Sarratt pass attempt Successful.

Indiana 11, Notre Dame 27.

12 plays, 76 yards, 03:17

#39 N.Radicic onside kickoff 15 yards to the IND50.

Indiana drive starts at 01:24

1-10 IND50 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke sacked for loss of 2 yards to the IND48 (#10 L.Thomas).
 (01:13) Timeout by IND.
 2-12 IND48 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short right to #13 E.Sarratt caught at IND50, for 7 yards to the UND45 (#1 J.Greathouse).
 3-5 UND45 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #5 K.Williams caught at UND41, for 4 yards to the UND41, End Of Play.



The previous play is under automatic review - "Short of the line to gain". PLAY OVERTURNED. (Original Play: Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #5 K.Williams caught at UND40, for 5 yards to the UND40, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN). (00:52) Timeout by UND.

- 4-1 UND41 Shotgun #6 J.Ellison rush middle for 4 yards gain to the UND37 (#2 R.Heard II), 1ST DOWN. R15
- 1-10 UND37 No Huddle-Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete short left to #44 Z.Horton caught at UND32, for 7 yards to the UND30 (#8 A.Shuler), out of bounds.
- 2-3 UND30 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke rush middle for 7 yards gain to the UND23 (#10 L.Thomas), 1ST DOWN. R16
- 1-10 UND23 #9 K.Rourke pass incomplete, Spike.
- 2-10 UND23 Shotgun #9 K.Rourke pass complete deep right to #3 O.Cooper Jr. caught at UND03, for 23 yards to the UND00 P17
 TOUCHDOWN, clock 00:25, 1ST DOWN.
- UND03 #9 K.Rourke pass attempt failed.

Indiana 17, Notre Dame 27.

8 plays, 50 yards, 00:59

#39 N.Radicic onside kickoff 15 yards to the IND50, End Of Play.

Notre Dame drive starts at 00:24

- 1-10 IND50 Kneel down by #13 R.Leonard at UND49 for loss of 1 yard.
1 plays, -1 yards, 00:24

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Indiana	14	06:00	3	6	0	9	1-3	1-1	6-17	13-19-0-130	2-19
Notre Dame	7	09:00	1	3	0	4	2-3	0-0	9-29	4-6-0-63	1-5



FOURTH QUARTER	IND	UND
Score	14	7
FIRST DOWNS	9	4
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	6-17	9-29
PASSING YDS (NET)	130	63
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	13-19-0	4-6-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	25-147	15-92
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-18	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-26.0	0-0.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-19	1-5
Possession Time	06:00	09:00
Third-Down Conversions	1 of 3	2 of 3
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	1-1

INDIANA

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Justice Ellison	3	11	0	11	0	4	3.7
Kurtis Rourke	2	7	2	5	0	7	2.5
Ty Son Lawton	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Kurtis Rourke	13-18-0	130	2	23	1
TEAM	0-1-0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Myles Price	4	3	33	20	1	16
Ke'Shawn Williams	5	3	27	3	0	16
Elijah Sarratt	2	2	24	16	0	17
Justice Ellison	2	2	6	9	0	7

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Evans	1	26	26.0	26	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Solomon Vanhorse	1	18	0	18

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
CJ West	1-1	2	0.0	0.5
Jailin Walker	1-1	2	0.0	0.5
Jamari Sharpe	1-1	2	0.5	0.5
Mario Landino	2-0	2	0.0	0.0

NOTRE DAME

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Riley Leonard	4	16	1	15	1	8	3.8
Jeremiyah Love	2	9	0	9	0	7	4.5
Aneayas Williams	2	6	0	6	0	6	3.0
TEAM	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Riley Leonard	4-6-0	63	0	44	1

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Jordan Faison	3	3	55	15	0	44
Jaden Greathouse	1	1	8	2	0	8
Mitchell Evans	1	0	0	0	0	0

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Adon Shuler	2-1	3	0.0	0.0
Xavier Watts	1-2	3	0.0	0.0
Leonard Moore	1-1	2	0.0	0.0
Loghan Thomas	2-0	2	1.0	1.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
4th	04:50	UND - #13 R.Leonard 1 yd rush (#98 M.Jeter kick), 9-78, 05:44	0-7
4th	01:27	IND - #4 M.Price 7 yd pass from #9 K.Rourke (#13 E.Sarratt pass from #9 K.Rourke), 12-76, 03:17	8-7
4th	00:25	IND - #3 O.Cooper Jr. 23 yd pass from #9 K.Rourke (#13 E.Sarratt pass from #9 K.Rourke failed), 8-50, 00:59	14-7

CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Indiana Hoosiers

Coach Curt Cignetti

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame - 27, Indiana - 17

CURT CIGNETTI: All good things come to an end. And when you're my age, you've seen it all. And I have a lot of guys hurting in there but a part of life is learning how to deal with disappointment the proper way and come back a stronger person because of the experience. You never get everything you want in life. That's how life is.

But it doesn't diminish what these guys accomplished, for sure this season which everyone in this room can detail out what this team's accomplished. A lot of firsts.

So proud of them. It's easy to say we didn't play our best game, but a lot of that was probably because of who we played. I thought Riley Leonard was excellent handling the pressure, getting rid of the ball.

Defensively they pretty much suffocated our offense until the last minute and a half of the game. And their skill guys made good plays. They played well. And they beat us (indiscernible).

And I am happy that our guys didn't give up and pounded those two scores in on two-minute drives at the end. You just never know. You make that two-point play and you recover one more kick, it's just a crazy game, right? I mean, the way it was going, you're looking at the game saying to yourself, well, this is probably going to end up about 40-3 or something like that. I'm not saying that, but you're probably thinking that.

Here you are scoring, 27-17, with an opportunity to make a two-point conversion, kick another onside kick to tie the game.

So, Notre Dame is a good football team. Wish them the best of luck moving forward. And I'm proud of our guys.

Q. Curt, just in terms of, I don't know if you would pin



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it on any one thing, whether it's the offense, the pick, maybe some of the third downs, did you feel like your team never got off its heels?

CURT CIGNETTI: Absolutely, we completed that long pass to Sarratt early in the game. Got down there and threw that interception on a tempo play. They came out, a 98-yard, guy in the wrong gap. You know what I mean? We can't catch them -- bigger, stronger, faster. It was tough sledding.

Q. You hinted what your answer might be, but in terms of -- you mentioned missed tackles during every interview during the game. What do you attribute some of those things to? They didn't crop during the season, but tonight was it just their skill players being faster --

CURT CIGNETTI: When you play good people who move faster, quicker change of direction, they're harder to tackle. I think that was the case tonight a lot of times.

Q. Notre Dame was 5-of-7 on third down in the first half. What were they doing to make it difficult to keep them from getting off the field?

CURT CIGNETTI: Well, I can't remember every single play off the top of my head, to be honest with you. I do remember Riley Leonard, us having Riley Leonard in our grasp and him still being able to complete the throw with the receiver making a nice catch to extend drives. I think they made a number of nice catches that I can recall -- low, here, there.

There was a point in the game it appeared we were starting to put some pressure on Riley Leonard, near the end of the first half, we were getting closer and closer. But, again, I give him a lot of credit. He's a really good athlete with a quick release that played a lot of football. He's got body quickness and twitch. And he's able to get rid of that ball and throw the check-down to the running back and get a positive play. Not everybody who plays that position can make that play.

I'm not sure that really answers your question, but they made plays and we didn't.



Q. When you think about everything that this team accomplished this year, how do you think this team should be remembered?

CURT CIGNETTI: You are what your record says you are. So, 11-2. Tied for second in the Big Ten. Made the College Football Playoff. And packed the stadium. Made a lot of people proud. And had a historic season. So set the foundation for hopefully what's to come.

Q. Right now what do you think the biggest difference between a team like Notre Dame and a team like Indiana is right now?

CURT CIGNETTI: They've probably got more depth than we do. They probably have some front-line guys that are just a little bit bigger, stronger, faster than our guys.

Q. You guys were down 23, I think 11, 12 minutes to go, three scores behind you. You decided to punt there. What went through your mind not going for it?

CURT CIGNETTI: I didn't want to punt, but I didn't want to go fourth-and-10. It's like you're wishing and hoping. You have nothing to base it on that you can convert fourth-and-10 at that point. And there's still time to punt if you win the game.

So that was the reason why. I didn't want to do it. But I felt like it was the best move.

Q. Your offense just getting three points until the last minute and a half, whatever it was, what were the biggest issues? Was it Notre Dame playing well or were there things you look back maybe we could have done A, B or C?

CURT CIGNETTI: I think they played well. There were probably some pretty ordinary things that we normally would execute that we didn't get done very well.

I can remember Miles Cross coming wide open on a corner route. We overthrow them. There were things like that. But they put the pressure on us. They have good players. And they won the line of scrimmage. They won the one-on-one match-ups on the perimeter. They affected the quarterback and they swarmed to the ball.

Q. I want to say you mentioned that you want the whole year to kind of just set the stage. Why is this stage and a height like this achievable?

CURT CIGNETTI: This team earned it -- the right to be here. I'm not sure we proved tonight to a lot of people.

Repeat your question again.

Q. Long term, as you look ahead, why are heights like this (indiscernible)?

CURT CIGNETTI: Everything is about recruitment and development and now retention. Every year you've got to start over now in college football. It's not quite the NFL but it's getting close.

So you can change a lot of things in a year. Now, the one thing about the way the calendar is set right now if you do make the College Football Playoff, you're kind of penalized in the portal recruiting area because, like, we didn't have official visits this week because I wanted 100 percent focus in preparation for Notre Dame.

So that's time that last year we were spending on the portal. But we've got a good nucleus coming back, and we'll be okay.

Q. What is the plan for the next week or so in terms of getting the portal, everything dialed in?

CURT CIGNETTI: We'll get back at 3:50 in the morning. We have seven recruits on campus tomorrow morning on official visits. And Saturday and Sunday we can have them on. Monday is dead; it's a dead period, all the way until January the 5th.

And then we have one week we can bring portal guys in for official visits from the 6th to the 12th of January. But understand that probably 80 percent of the portal guys that are good players have made their decisions already. That's just where we're at.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports.

CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Indiana Hoosiers

DC Bryant Haines

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame - 27, Indiana - 17

Q. Bryant, it seemed like there were a lot of moments when the pressure almost gets there and either Leonard slips away, gets the ball out, a tough catch somewhere. Did you feel like it was kind of one where a lot of the plays that you've been making that have set teams really far behind the chains this season were kind of just maybe an inch a little too far away at times tonight?

BRYANT HAINES: Yeah, that's exactly how I felt. I thought the guys competed, played hard.

All credit to Notre Dame. That's a good football team. I thought that quarterback played really well. I thought he would make a few errors here and there. But he didn't seem to. He seemed composed. And, like you said, we weren't able to rattle him. We didn't get home -- we came close to getting home.

Especially against a good athlete, getting close to getting home just wasn't enough. He wasn't affected and stood in the pocket, delivered the throws he needed to throw and took what we gave him. He was very composed and had a great game.

Q. Along that same theme, I mean, I think it was 5 of 7 in third down in the first half. How demoralizing is that? And how tough is it to come back from the demoralizing effect when Leonard is able to make plays with his legs and keep third down drives alive?

BRYANT HAINES: That's the most frustrating thing that you can do have to a defense is they keep the drive going. They did a good job staying on schedule. Some of the third downs were third-and-three and third-and-four. Those are a little tougher to win than your third-and-11 and third-and-12s. They stayed in rhythm and kept us on the field. We got a little bit tired and just didn't make the plays



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we had to make.

But yeah, credit goes to them. That's a really good football team. I was probably maybe a hair more conservative than, looking back, wish I would have been. Maybe I should have brought that one extra guy. Maybe that would have been the difference.

Q. When you're looking at a team like Notre Dame or even back to that loss against Ohio State, what's the biggest difference in your eyes between teams like that and a team like your Indiana team right now?

BRYANT HAINES: The thing I notice is the margin for error is just so small. They get the ball on the minus-2-yard line. I put in a simple kind of gapped-out call. I was thinking of being even more aggressive. I was talking to Aiden Fisher; you want to go attack them, maybe we can get two points here?

No, let's put in a nice conservative call. You misfit it a little bit and the thing rips you for 98 yards and six points. That's how small the margin for error is against elite teams. I felt that way against Ohio State. I felt that way again tonight.

Q. Did you get a chance to talk to James Carpenter after the game? He's called for the penalty, obviously not on purpose, mistake. It's his last game. You've been with him forever. What do you tell him? And how tough in that moment just to see it happen to a guy who's worked so hard for you?

BRYANT HAINES: I'm sure he's down on himself. I got a chance to give him a quick hug. But I'm sure there's a lot of emotional guys in the locker room and guys I've been with a long time and love.

Do I fault him for making that mistake? No. That guy is going to play as hard as he can possibly play every single snap on the field. How can you hate that? Do I wish he had pulled off? Sure, but I love him for who he is and how hard he plays.

Q. How do you manage the emotions of a year where you re-energize a town, completely change a mindset



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and then ultimately end like this?

BRYANT HAINES: I think you just try to build off of it. I think what we have here is a foundation. I think that -- I told some of the guys that are hurting in that locker room, like, we built something here. This is a building block. This is a foundation that's laid. And now the standards are up.

I'm just proud. I'm proud of the unit. And I'm bummed about tonight, they're bummed about tonight. We could have done a lot of things better. But it doesn't take away from what we've accomplished. It's the first step to many.

Q. The season on the whole you had a lot of really good performances, holding Nebraska to, I think, one score, shut out Purdue, number of other things. Why do you think you guys played at the level you did this year? And is this a level that you can tell future recruits, this is how you do it at Indiana?

BRYANT HAINES: To your last question, that's 100 percent what I'm going to tell recruits. I'm going to say this is Indiana football, Indiana defense. Do you want to be a part of this? We stop the run. We harass quarterbacks.

Tonight doesn't change that. Yeah, that's what I'm going to tell recruits. Just thankful for the season along the way -- the ups and the downs, and just a good season overall.

I'm bummed about the night, again. But credit to Notre Dame. They did the things they needed to do. We just couldn't make the plays we had to.

Q. What would you remember most about this team, this group of players? And what should, I guess, fans remember most about this team?

BRYANT HAINES: That's a good one. There's a lot of good memories there. I think I'll look back and just remember how much they've changed things. And, again, this is coming from a guy that was here before. I was in those locker rooms. I was at Indiana. I know what it meant to be an Indiana football player in 2012. It's a different era now, and these guys changed it forever.

Q. You said you were a little bit more conservative than you wanted to be. Did you go into the game wanting to be aggressive, and then it sort of changed based on how the game was going? Or how would you explain that?

BRYANT HAINES: I mean, that's exactly it. In my mind I saw a chance of being aggressive. But, again, a lot of it for me is the flow of the game. Whether it be like how was the offense doing? What's the field position?

I wanted to be aggressive against Ohio State. Maybe they get the ball on the 30-yard line. That changes things. There's some situational football in there.

But I guess, all said and done, looking back at it, especially on third down, I had intentions of being a little more aggressive. But that 35 seconds goes fast. You've got to come up with a call, put it all together. And hindsight is 20/20.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Indiana Hoosiers

OC Mike Shanahan

Postgame Press Conference



PLAYOFF FIRST ROUND

Notre Dame - 27, Indiana - 17

Q. Kurtis Rourke, his struggles through first three-quarters of the game, what do you attribute to that, them getting pressure, him not feeling comfortable in the pocket? What did you see from Kurtis tonight?

MIKE SHANAHAN: I thought we actually did a pretty good job of protection for most of the game. They made it really challenging on you to get completions and get him in rhythm.

I think we had a drop early on on an RPO. And credit to Notre Dame's defensive backs. That's a really good unit, one of the better units we faced all year long. And we weren't able to win some of those 50/50 contested catches that we knew we were going to have to win a good amount of those in this game to have success.

Again, credit to Notre Dame. They challenged us and they got the better of us on those kind of throws.

Q. I know that everyone -- you respected Notre Dame's defensive line, but tonight they just looked quicker as opposed to out-manning the offensive line and causing those problems they were causing for Kurtis.

MIKE SHANAHAN: That's a good unit. They're just a really good defense. They did some movement stuff up front. They were blitzing one or two backers a lot throughout the game as well.

And I thought we cracked some runs. It made it hard whenever we got behind schedule. And we were trying to run the ball at times on third down to get us in a fourth-and-manageable or obviously we felt like those runs could convert as well.

It was a combination of some of the movement and the

blitzing that they had in their plan. And I thought we were a little bit inconsistent in picking that it up at times. But I know our guys up front battled. They made it hard on us, they really did.

Q. Not asking you to second-guess necessarily, but you guys have been so good at getting Kurtis in that rhythm that you talk about, especially with the RPOs, letting him make those decisions and just get a good feel of the game. As a play caller, what's the difficulty in maybe the balance in a game like this where you see your quarterback's not in rhythm between persisting with what's gotten him all season versus trying to change something up, trying to throw something different at them, maybe seeing if that maybe breaks his funk.

MIKE SHANAHAN: All year long, we tried to have that good balance of RPOs but run at runs where he might be reading somebody or we're using a receiver in motion to block, the extra hat in the box and create misfits.

Along with RPOs, along with the quick game, along with us trying to throw the ball down the field and create explosive plays in that way, that was our plan in this game as well.

I thought Kurtis made some good decisions. The D line batted one or two of his passes away where he had guys open, and that's sort of the give and takes at times that you have.

But I felt like Kurtis was seeing it well out there on the field. I thought he was making the right decision. There may have been one or two throughout the game, especially early on. But once he got settled in, I didn't think his decision-making was the issue at all.

Again, they did a good job switching up their coverages. Just when we thought we had something, then they would change it up. And that was that cat-and-mouse game that we were playing?

Q. You guys got the interception and the pass to Elijah early on and got down in the red zone. Went pretty quick on the next play and he threw the pick. Looked like there was double coverage there. Did you



... when all is said, we're done.®

mean to go that quick? And what did you see and what happened on the interception?

MIKE SHANAHAN: Part of our plan was to change up the tempos. And that's something that we do every game. And you just want to keep the defense on their heels. If I remember correctly, I think they subbed -- they were in their third down defense, and we were trying to catch them in a substitution after a big play.

Kurtis, I think, the first read was there. He worked through the progression. And he has made that throw a thousand times, a little bit off the target. And No. 0, he's been making great plays all year long for those guys. And he made another great catch.

That was the one thing about that first half. We had the ball, I think, in the red zone twice. Came away with three points. And against a good team like this you've got to capitalize on those things.

Q. You mentioned red zone, but you guys were at the 50 or in Notre Dame territory four drives in that first half. What did they do to prevent you from getting into scoring zones or making the most of those opportunities?

MIKE SHANAHAN: I think it refers back to the question earlier. The D line created some penetration. We were trying to establish the run, which we were doing a good job of. We had some runs come out early in the first half. And whenever we went back to it, maybe it was a one-yard gain or they were in the backfield for a TFL. Kind of got off schedule there, and weren't able to overcome whenever we got behind the chains.

Again, credit to their defense and their plan. Yeah, that was tough whenever we couldn't capitalize on good field position.

Q. Big picture, with everything this team accomplished this season, how should this team be remembered?

MIKE SHANAHAN: I hope they're remembered for the way they played all year long and not just this one game. But I know that these guys have really battled and I think you saw that there in the fourth quarter. There was no give-up.

And just really proud of the way they came in and approached their work all year long. It was a really fun group to coach. Everybody bought in.

But I guess the record and the history books kind of speak for themselves. And hopefully they're a team that's

remembered for a long time.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports



CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Indiana Hoosiers

Mike Katic

Kurtis Rourke

Justice Ellison

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame - 27, Indiana - 17

Q. Mike, I'll ask you to pull together six years in 30 seconds probably, but you saw this program rise and then dip and then rise again. How do you sort of, if you are giving someone the elevator speech of what Indiana football is capable of based on what you've experienced and been a part of, what is it?

MIKE KATIC: I know the history of Indiana football and I'm really excited about the future of it. But just a gritty group of guys that come to work every day and put everything into their body of work and just really proud of this team and how we came out this season.

Q. Kurtis, it looked like it was just difficult to get in the kind of rhythm that you're accustomed to being in this year. What was Notre Dame doing to make it difficult to achieve the rhythm?

KURTIS ROURKE: Just there wasn't really anything new that we expected them to do. They came out and did what we expected. And just a lack of execution on my part and just didn't help finishing some drives. I just gotta be better in finishing those drives like we were able to in the fourth quarter, but I just need to be better.

Q. Kurtis, what did you see in the early interception? Did it take you a minute to get back in sync after that or a little while to kind of get in the flow of the game?

KURTIS ROURKE: Yeah, it was just man-to-man coverage. Just trying to get them just with a tempo play. And just threw it a little bit too far and the defender made a nice play. But didn't need to make that throw in that situation.



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Q. Justice, you said you came to Indiana to be a part of something bigger than yourself. Do you feel you set the future for the Indiana football now?

JUSTICE ELLISON: Without a doubt. I got a little emotional at the end of the game because I feel like Indiana university, Bloomington, it gave me an opportunity. I was on my full fifth year, and I took a chance and I came to a town, I was like, hey, I want to be able to make something out of it.

So I believe that this year it's hard as a competitor to kind of like be settled with what you've done in the past. But we've done a lot. I think the foundation is something that I wanted to start. Leave a legacy with the guys that come in every single day working hard, loving each other, sacrificing -- blood, sweat, tears, every single day. And I plan to come back and see how far the foundation has grown.

Q. Mike, what are you proudest of?

MIKE KATIC: As a whole, I'm so proud of how this team has played this season as usually the underdog. A lot of people doubted us all year, but we kind of stuck to us. We kind of just relied on each other in each room. And we proved a lot of people wrong.

And there's so much more to be proud of. But I don't want to get too emotional up here.

Q. What made Notre Dame's defensive front so difficult to deal with tonight?

MIKE KATIC: I think up front, they're not the biggest group, but they're super twitchy and fast. And they're bringing a lot of different packages and movements and bringing the linebackers, cross dogs, arrows, kind of all that different things.

And up front they really didn't play us straight all game. They were always moving and doing different things. But that's kind of what I saw up front.

Q. Kurtis, I guess what are you most proud of? And



how emotional is it that it's over?

KURTIS ROURKE: I'm just proud of the guys and this journey. A lot of us have been new to this program this year. And the guys that have been here for years, like Mike, just so proud of how we've come together as a team and been able to make a memorable season like it has been.

Although it wasn't the way we wanted to end it, glad we were able to do it together and kind of start the dynasty of Indiana as it moves forward. And I was looking forward to watching it, but it really hasn't set in for me that this was lit for me in college. But it definitely hurts.

Q. Kurtis, you mentioned lack of execution tonight. Was that something that they were doing specifically defensively that led to that?

KURTIS ROURKE: I just didn't play in rhythm myself. My eyes weren't in the best spots sometimes, and it's easier to play when you're in rhythm. And I didn't help myself that way. And Notre Dame definitely has some great players and schemed well. But I feel like I hurt the offense more than they stopped us.

Q. Mike, what would you remember most about this team, this group of guys? And how should fans remember this team?

MIKE KATIC: I'm going to remember this team as the closest team that I've ever been a part of. Just a group of guys that came to work every day and left everything out there.

I'm so happy that I could have been a part of it. I'm so happy that I made the decision to come back.

And I think fans and everyone should see what we did this year. We changed the trajectory of Indiana football. We changed the way people think about Indiana football.

And I'm just so happy that I could have been a part of it. I'm so thankful to all these guys and all my teammates and coaches that we -- it's just awesome to be a part of and I'm so happy and blessed.

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Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Indiana Hoosiers

Aiden Fisher

Jailen Walker

James Carpenter

Postgame Press Conference



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the front four, just good lanes, good pass rush lanes, stuff like that. And we just didn't do a good enough job of that tonight.

Q. Aiden, the theme has kind of been you guys set the foundation for what's to come next year. Do you believe that this year set that foundation for a better future for Indiana football?

AIDEN FISHER: Yeah, for sure. You look at the track that Indiana football is on previously before we got here. Then you look now, it's kind of a full 180. I think we've laid a foundation of what Indiana football can be and what it is now, and I expect to be right back here next year.

Q. Jailin or James, either one of you, you talked so much about the identity you brought from James Madison. Aiden talks about leading the foundations there. Do you feel like you leave behind you, not just the success of this season, but the identity of this defense, the way you were able to pressure quarterbacks, stop the run, be aggressive the way Coach Haines talks about, do you feel that's something that imprints on this program and stays even as you guys move on?

JAILIN WALKER: 100 percent. That's the image of the defense being fast. When James and I are leaving, we still have Aiden Fisher and Mikail Kamara, we still have leaders on this team that's been with the system. It will still keep going. We're not letting up.

JAMES CARPENTER: He said it well. It's kind of our identity of the defense, play fast, get up field, make plays in the backfield. That's kind of what this defense is built on, and I know Coach Haines will keep that going.

Q. Aiden, when you look at the only two losses this season against Notre Dame and Ohio State what's difference about those teams and what makes them so good and tough to play?

AIDEN FISHER: Definitely two great teams. They definitely played a great football game tonight, as did Ohio State. We played them. I would just say we made a lot of critical errors that was hard to play two teams playing

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Q. Aiden, what did you sort of see on the 98-yard run there early in the game?

AIDEN FISHER: Just a misfit on the front seven really. We knew what we were going to get. We played it a little too aggressive. Some guys jumped out of their gaps. I'll take the fall for that one. We have to play our gaps better and play more disciplined.

Q. James, you get called for penalty, how tough is it in that moment on this big stage to have that happened and then stay focused credit for the blocked field goal, what were the emotions like in that second half, the ups and downs, highs and lows for you?

JAMES CARPENTER: It was disappointing, I can't be doing that. It was full speed, kind of bang, bang play. But as a senior leader I can't be doing that. But this team, we don't quit. That's what we're built on. And, yeah, I mean, we're going to fight until the end.

Q. James, Notre Dame was good on third down tonight especially in the first half. When you have a quarterback like Riley Leonard, how difficult is it to account for that as he's kind of keeping plays alive and keeping things going?

JAMES CARPENTER: One of our main focuses going into this game was to limit him on the ground. When the play breaks down we know he can get out. He's super athletic and super fast. It's a big part of his game.

We didn't do a good enough job of that tonight. You really have to be sound when it comes to that. It's (indiscernible)



against yourself and playing against the opposing team.

A lot of things I think we could control and we kind of let it affect us a lot. Just looking back on it, just two great teams. I'm not really going to compare them. But they'll both be making a run here in the playoffs. So good for them; they deserved to win today, they played a better game today than we did.

Q. James, last week you called it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be in a position like this. Obviously it didn't go your way tonight. On the whole, what will you remember about this season and this group of guys and what should everybody else remember most about this team?

JAMES CARPENTER: Coming into this year, no one thought we'd be here. A lot of doubters, a lot of haters. For us to kind of make this run, get to this point, it's been surreal. It's been unbelievable. Something I'll remember for the rest of my life. These guys up here, the rest of the guys on the team, hopefully they'll be at my wedding, brothers for life.

That's the kind of bond we have. And this program is only going up. Coach Cig is just getting started here. He wins. He's going to get it done and this program's on the right track.

Q. Aiden, just big picture, the way you guys played defense all year, why do you feel you were so successful? And what are the things that need to stay for the defense to sort of make this a level you maintain?

AIDEN FISHER: First, you start with the scheme. We had a really good scheme. Coach Haines puts us in, he puts us in positions to succeed. We're a fast defense. A lot of people look at our defense, you know, we're not the biggest guys. But we do have speed, which kind of combats a lot of the things that these offenses do.

And then moving forward, I would just say we've got to stay disciplined. You look at the two losses we had last year, we're just getting outleveraged in angles.

We're just one guy just trying to do a little too much and he doesn't need to. We got to this point just being ourselves and playing the way that we play, and in these big games you can't defer from that; you've got to just play your game and just be disciplined in the way you play, and just things like that, just the little things that ultimately amounted to the big things.

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CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Marcus Freeman

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

MARCUS FREEMAN: ... and about what this team did to achieve the outcome that we all desired. I want them to celebrate that. I want them not to look past tonight. Celebrate tonight. Celebrate this victory that they worked tremendously hard to achieve and obtain.

Then I told them they'll have tomorrow off. They can take one day off and we'll get them back on Sunday. Then we'll start thinking about the Sugar Bowl and the opportunity we have at hand.

You don't get enough time in life and enough time in situations like this not to enjoy it. I was reminded of that by a couple people I talked to but also just talking to the team. Enjoy this. Enjoy this. Don't look ahead. Enjoy this, and then we'll move forward.

Proud of the way they played. I told Coach Cignetti after the game, I think that's a heck of a football team we faced that obviously showed wouldn't quit until the end. Some good teaching opportunities for us. We're going to use that fourth quarter defensively. Special teams-wise we've got to learn from some of those situations that happened in this game because we have to be better because of it.

I'm actually kind of glad it did happen because it's going to be a chance for us to humble ourselves and get back to work and work on ways to improve as we get ready for this next opportunity.

With that, I'll open it up for questions.

Q. How big is a run like the one that Jeremiyah had as a tone setter right out of the gates?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Huge. Backed-up situation. We just threw an interception the drive before, and it was 0-0 at that time. Just threw an interception, we get an



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interception on defense, and that first play to go 98 yards was huge just for everybody. Yes, the offense, but the overall confidence of our team. To go up 7-0 with that type of touchdown.

We know he's not 100 percent. We're just going to keep getting him healthy. But he showed on that play whatever percent he is, once he breaks through that third level, it's hard to catch Jeremiyah Love.

Q. You mentioned the interception, Xavier Watts. How good was he tonight in setting the tone for the defense?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Yeah, he was major. He made some big-time tackles, tracked the ball carrier well, was close to getting a couple balls out, had the interception. He's a leader out there. He gets everybody lined up. He communicates. He plays the game the way you need him to play. He is a huge part of what we're trying to do and a very important piece.

Q. Marcus, along those similar lines, you've talked often about complementary football and that first sequence was about as complementary as it gets. How do you assess the way this team has absorbed all the challenges to have the identity that you want from them?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Yeah, you had a lot of good from all three phases tonight, and you've seen that throughout the season. No one phase was perfect, and that's what we strive for is perfection. No one phase was perfect. But what happens is when one's phase isn't getting the job done, another phase picks it up, and we'll need that as we continue to move throughout these playoffs.

That's what it's going to take to achieve the goals that we aspire to have. It's not going to be offensive, defense or special teams, it's going to be all three phases playing complementary football.

Q. You started the season in the tunnel at Texas A&M sort of getting the attention off your team and getting it to -- taking the pressure off them and being emotional in that moment and then your team adopted your



personality over the course of the season. The way they played so physically tonight, how much does that reinforce the way that you guys are coaching and preparing them?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Yeah, I believe in playing this game with a physicality that hopefully is unmatched. That's just what I believe in as a head coach, and we demand it. We practice that way.

These guys at the end of the day, these guys are pleasers. You ask them to do something, they're going to give you everything they've got to try to please you as a coach and do what you ask.

In order to achieve the things we want, you're going to have to play a physical brand of football, and that's our mentality. That's our culture. That's what they display on that field.

Q. Marcus, you've talked about having confidence in Mitch Jeter for a while now. To see those kicks go through, obviously the one later was blocked, but what did that do for you guys to see him make those field goals tonight?

MARCUS FREEMAN: It was huge, especially the one I think was 49 yards before half. That was huge because not only was it an important field goal, but the length of that. He's been doing it in practice, but to go out and do it in a game in cold weather, we needed that confidence in him and he needed that confidence in himself. It was pleasing. It was really good to see him make those big field goals today. We've got to fix the one that was blocked. I watched it on the sideline, looked a little low. I think that's what ended up being the issue.

But we've got to attack that and fix that because that can't happen as we move forward.

Q. Jordan Faison made big plays on offense and special teams. What allowed him to impact the game the way he did tonight?

MARCUS FREEMAN: He's a playmaker, man. I often tell you that stats sometimes do not tell you the impact somebody makes on a game. The wide receiver position is one that is so important to understand. He can grade out 100 percent and have one catch, and perception is he maybe had one catch, but the reality is he did exactly what he was supposed to do on every single play.

Today obviously he was rewarded and targeted intentionally in certain situations, and he made some big-time contested catches. He is a weapon for us. We

obviously used him on the kickoff return reverse, and we had a little bit of doubt saying, okay, there might be a guy that can see it. Well, the guy saw it, but we had a lot of faith that Faison can make him miss, and that's what he ended up doing.

Q. After struggling defensively at USC, what were the biggest keys for that unit to snap back to form tonight, and how much was Howard Cross a part of it?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Yeah, Howard is a huge piece. I've said this before, I believe you have to be strong up the middle. To have Howard and Riley in there really being disruptive up the middle was huge for us.

We knew going into the game we were going to have to control the perimeter. They were a perimeter running team with so much stretch plays, some screens, and our mindset controlling the perimeter was attacking and having all three levels defeat blocks in the perimeter, and then we wanted to be aggressive.

We have an aggressive mindset. We called the game aggressively. They played aggressively. It was good to see our guys on defense play well today for the majority of the game.

Q. Now that this is complete, now the first home game of the playoff, all the extras that went into it, how did it work from your perspective as a head coach? What was the experience like?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Unbelievable. Probably should have shouted out everybody that had a part in creating that environment. I've never been a part of an environment like that. It was special.

The crowd played a factor. The noise played a factor. It was a special thing to be a part of.

I didn't really get to take it all in because you're focused on doing your job, but pregame I did. I took a minute to take it in, and obviously right now just thinking about what we were able to experience, it's something special.

Not many times in life you're the first to do something, and as I told the group in there, we were the first to win and play a playoff game in Notre Dame Stadium. That's historic. Something we'll cherish for the rest of our lives.

Q. This isn't technically a first, but I think 12 wins matches the most wins ever by a Notre Dame football program. Curious what that means to you right now.

MARCUS FREEMAN: You know, we wouldn't be in this

situation if we didn't have 12 wins, so I'm grateful to be a part of a program and a team that has been able to accomplish this.

But you know I'm greedy, and my focus is -- although I don't want their focus to be on it, my focus is going to be on find a way to get 13. That's what matters. That's what's going to be important is to enjoy this thing but get ready for the next opportunity.

But you know what, I'm fortunate to be a part of a special, special football program, a special group of people from top down, from our president, to our chairman of the board, to our athletic director, on down to the people in our football program. This is a special place. It's a special program, and I'm fortunate just to be a part of it. I know I'm the head coach. You're going to get some praise. You're going to get some criticism when things are down. But I'm a part of something special with a special group of guys.

Q. This larger playoff we're in is new for everybody, but how important do you think momentum is for the teams still playing and how much momentum do you think you have right now?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Yeah, momentum is going to be important, but more importantly it's going to be elevating, getting better. You're going to have I don't know how many days, January 1st -- today is December 20th, so 11 days, 12 days. So that's crucial because it's not a normal game week. We have to find ways to elevate and improve during that week.

I told these guys when we got ready for this game, I said, there has to be a consistency into the way we prepare, the way we prepare for a game. We know it's a big game, but with that consistency, how do we do it a little bit better. Every week, how do we do it a little bit better.

To get 13, as you mentioned 12, to get 13 we're going to be a little bit better, and we're going to have to find a way to prepare in a way that makes this team better.

Q. When we first talked to you when you became a head coach, you talk about offensive line/defensive line driven programs. Can you speak to how that showed up tonight, especially with missing a piece for a big chunk of the game on each side of the line?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Yeah. That's what I'm always going to believe in is O-line/D-line driven program. Being able to run the ball on offense and to be able to stop the run on defense with your guys up front.

Our offensive line had a huge challenge. That was a heck

of a rushing defense. One of the best I've seen as I prepared for a game. Some of the unique things they do, some of the players that they have, and our offensive line did a heck of a job of finding a way -- I know they had the big run, but the rest of the yardage was ugly. You had to claw and scratch for every yard you got, and they battled, and they battled, and they battled, and they battled.

Really pleased by that group, Sam coming in and filling in, and defensively the D-line did a heck of a job stopping the run. Riley made some huge plays, Howard obviously made some plays. We're going to continue to be an O-line/D-line driven program through recruiting, high school recruiting, and if we've got to supplement in the portal we will, but we are going to be an O-line/D-line driven group.

Q. Your wide receiver group came out without their shirts on in the warmup. I'm wondering if that was the kind of statement you wanted to make?

MARCUS FREEMAN: They must not have been cold because as I told you, there's no such thing as cold tough guys. They'd better not have been cold. They'd better not have been out there shivering. I'm glad they put some clothes on for the game. It got kind of cold out there at a certain point, but man, when you're into that game and you're enjoying that moment, you don't really think about the weather, you just think about enjoying this thing, and that's what I'm going to think about the rest of the game. I'm going to enjoy this thing.

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CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Mike Denbrock

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. Mike, you ran a lot of pistol. You were trying to do some screen stuff. I don't know if Riley Leonard was as decisive running the football as he normally is. What were you trying to do with what you were running?

MIKE DENBROCK: Yeah, I think coming in, they were a defensive unit, obviously, that had done an incredible job all season stopping the run. Their scheme in some ways, at least from our film study, was predicated off where you put the back in relation to the tight ends and where you move the tight ends and how you shift around and different things, so we were trying to throw them off the scent a little bit by being more in pistol and not having a clear answer to what side we were running the ball to or what type of scheme we were going to use. We used pretty multiple schemes out of the pistol as well as out of the shotgun.

I thought it gave us an opportunity to be a little bit more versatile, maybe take some of their stunting and movement out of the game, which it didn't. That was a miscalculation, obviously, because they continued to do it anyway.

But proud of the kids on offense and proud of finding a way, making enough and doing enough with obviously the support of an unbelievable defensive unit that had our backs all day.

Q. All year you've talked about how explosive Jordan Faison is. You got him a little bit more involved tonight, or at least Riley did. Was that part of the plan?

MIKE DENBROCK: Definitely. He's a guy for us offensively that's got to touch the football. I called the same play a couple different times hoping they would get into the coverage that they ended up in when we made the explosive pass down the field. I was right on some of them and wrong on some of them, and I thought their defensive



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coordinator did a really nice job of trying to keep me off balance.

They're a talented defense, and as I said, really, really proud of the way our guys hung in there and battled and just believed, and the result was obviously what we were all after.

Q. Mike, Riley has talked a lot this season about taking what the defense gives him. How did you feel like Indiana was defending the passing game, and how was Riley able to stay patient and keep chipping away until he got a big one at the end?

MIKE DENBROCK: Yeah, really with their coverage scheme, they force you to be patient. I thought we tried to really program in the prep time that we had the idea that we were going to have to use the backs and the tight ends and drop the ball down and take what they were allowing us to have. Then when it does present itself, we've got to be able to hit some shots down the field, and fortunately for us, the game really kind of played out that way.

Q. Coach Freeman was talking about getting into a scratch-and-claw game besides the long one Jeremiyah had on the offensive line in the run game. It feels like it's been a while since you were in a game like that. How did you feel like the run game responded?

MIKE DENBROCK: You know, I thought we had our moments, and I thought they had their moments. That's indicative of a very well-coached defense and some guys that are veteran in the scheme that they run. So they're able to be really, really multiple.

I thought they won some battles, but thank the good Lord we won a few of ours, as well.

Q. One of those battles that you won was that early one with Jeremiyah. The line really opened some big holes there, especially I think Anthony Knapp kicked his guy out. How important was it to send that kind of physical message early on?

MIKE DENBROCK: I mean, you're backed up on your one



... when all is said, we're done.®

and a half yard line and you call something that you hope is protected on the edges and the guys understand and do a nice job of executing, and here comes No. 4. Anthonie Knapp did an unbelievable job. I thought the tight ends did a nice job of wiping out the front side of it. We did a good job of building a wall on the backside, which is something we spent a lot of time working on over the course of the last two weeks, and if you give this guy an inch, he's going to take a mile, and God bless him for doing so.

Q. At this point, how do you explain or describe what Jeremiyah Love does week in and week out?

MIKE DENBROCK: Yeah, he is the engine that kind of sparks this thing to go in a real positive direction. Every week he seems to find a way to make an explosive play, hurdle somebody, run for 98 yards. What do you want? It's kind of dealer's choice, and I'm honored to have him around.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports.

CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish Al Golden

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. Al, at the start of the game you have a three-and-out, negative three yards, then the pick, then out of the gate at the second half you get another three-and-out. How important was it to come out of the gate and start fast at the beginning of the game and at the beginning of the second half like that?

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, it was great. I think obviously we played complementary football in all three phases there. The offense held the ball and had some drives and scored. We changed the field on special teams, and then obviously we were able to do our part there, which was huge. The Watts interception was great because it just nullified that, and obviously we went down and turned the field there shortly after. So that was great.

Q. How did this game show how important Xavier Watts is to everything you guys do?

AL GOLDEN: Well, he's just a competitor. He just has a great look no matter what the situation is. He just attacked, executed and finished no matter what. Just really proud of the guys. They just played really well together and really executed at a high level.

Q. Al, even though you didn't have the Howard-Riley combination for the full game, when you did have them in there, how impactful was it to have that back?

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, we needed that. That meant a lot. Obviously it meant a lot to the run game, and then we were getting off the field on 3rd down, which was terrific.

There was a long stretch there where those guys -- we were in control. They got some plays, but it felt like the guys had a good grasp on what we were trying to get done and executing at a high level, and it started with those two inside.



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Q. USC was kind of an aberration when you look at the season performances defensively. How quickly did you feel like you were done with that?

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, like I said, I didn't really worry about it too much. That was a tall task, to go from Army defense to SC and then face those wide receivers, and I didn't do a good enough job in the transition, and I didn't do a good enough job calling the game for those guys and giving them some different looks.

Those guys executed a lot of different looks today, and that helped us.

Q. We know you're a 60-minute type of guy, every yard matters. What happened there at the end? How much do you take away from that --

AL GOLDEN: I don't. We had the game in control the whole game, so I'm not worried about the end of the game. There's things that we can learn from it. Obviously we've got to finish better and I've got to make some calls there, but at that point, I just didn't think continuing to show elaborate pressures in that situation was to our benefit, to be quite honest with you.

I could have called a better game at the end there for the guys and helped them out.

Q. Marcus was in here talking about controlling the perimeter. How well do you feel like you did that tonight?

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, they did a good job. Just a couple plays, like the tunnel screen, Rod Heard, his play in the tunnel screen, it was Rod, Gabe, Rubio coming from inside, and then Adon, that was tremendous, the reverse, a lot of the bubbles and things of that nature early in the game. That was a big part of the game. We needed to do that.

Obviously we didn't get to plus two I don't think, but we did get off the field on 3rd down quite a bit, which helped.

Q. The benefits and maybe the dangers of extra



preparation time; how do you keep it simple but change it enough that the next opponent --

AL GOLDEN: You're saying for moving forward here?

Q. Just the way you guys have --

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, again, a lot of the --

Q. How do you use those --

AL GOLDEN: Sure, I think a lot of the things coming out of the USC game was -- a lot of the questions the other day were relative to that. That's the first thing we do. I'm sure Coach would say the same thing, just quality control yourself, and can we change this technique a little bit, can we play the post player here. Just little things. I thought our guys executed those changes really well from SC to now.

But more importantly we played fundamentally sound and we played collectively, all three phases. You can't win at this time of year unless all three phases contribute.

Is it perfect? Nope, but we'll get back to work tomorrow and get ready for Georgia.

Q. How does it make you better as a coordinator to have an OC in Denbrock in the building? Do you guys bounce ideas off each other?

AL GOLDEN: Mike knows how I feel about him. I think he's an incredible asset. I think the whole operation here changed when he walked in the door, just his experience, his wisdom, the way he runs it, the way he calls it.

I think all of that, obviously it makes you better. It makes everybody around you better.

As I said, we're not sitting here right now -- again, I'm sure Mike will talk about the other side and they're superlatives, but the superlatives we were facing coming into the game was 44 points a game and 440 yards, and we cut both of those markedly. We can't do that by ourselves. We changed the field position on the opening kickoff. We get an interception, they get a big run.

It takes the whole operation to win these games, and it's going to take that moving forward.

Q. Bryce Young's continued development, how much has that helped to have his presence on the edge, especially in the pass rush?

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, we've been banged up a little bit on

the D-line, which is unfortunate, but the silver lining there is it's forced guys into roles, and they've responded. Bryce is no different. He's the next guy in this evolution. I thought he played really well today. Obviously getting the sack there in the backup situation led to points.

I think he's just doing a really good job of just doing what he needs to do every day to get better.

Q. As the defensive coordinator, to have a home crowd behind you in a playoff game, what did that mean to you?

AL GOLDEN: It was awesome. They were just awesome. You can't say enough. They were just awesome. You could feel it, the energy, and execution fuels emotion.

The first 3rd down and the place is going wild and you get off the field, big, huge. The next time you get an interception, then you're off the field again on 3rd down. So execution fuels emotion, but they were just awesome. I thought the stadium was awesome. What a great environment. Just really, really a great environment. Great to be a part of that.

Q. You talked about Xavier, all his improvement in the different areas. What stood out the most from last year where he's a national award winner to what he's doing for you now late in the season?

AL GOLDEN: Yeah, the three things that -- I think his post breaks have improved, his man-to-man has improved dramatically, and just his overall control of the defense, his operation. It's been phenomenal. There's a bunch of other things, but those are the three that jump out.

Q. There's not a lot of new firsts around here, but to be part of this --

AL GOLDEN: It's huge, and I said that last week. When you're walking around the buildings you see all these things, the banners that are hung and all that, and there's so much tradition and the lineage is so strong and so storied that it's hard to come about something that's the first. So everybody in that locker room, everybody that's a part of it can say that for the rest of their life, which is a great thing.

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Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Jordan Faison

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. Jordan, Mike Denbrock has been talking about wanting to get you involved for a long time. What happened during the prep for this game? Was it your body that's finally feeling well, your mind, or everything is just kind of syncing up for you?

JORDAN FAISON: Yeah, I think it was just the same old thing, week in, week out. We've had plays prepped, and then this week I had a lot of opportunities to make plays, and God blessed that I did, and I just took it and ran with it.

Q. I've got to ask you whose idea it was to make the fashion statement with the no shirts among the wide receivers?

JORDAN FAISON: We were talking about it. We weren't really going to go through with it because one of our practices during the week it was a little too cold. The hands were a little too cold. Then someone in the locker room was like, don't go out with shirts on. Like yo, it's a little too cold out there right now. But no, if one person does it, we've all got to do it, so we went out there.

Q. You had the drop early, but how do you come back from that because it didn't seem to faze you the rest of the game?

JORDAN FAISON: Yeah, you can't let things like that affect you. The ball is going to keep coming to you. You've got to be able to make plays, and then it catapults you into making more plays during the game.

Q. This is the second straight postseason game that you've really played well. What is it about these moments and these stages that allows you to thrive under this pressure?

JORDAN FAISON: Yeah, the whole team loves playing on



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the biggest stages, so when everyone is watching, people are performing. When the opportunity comes my way again, just got to make the plays that I was able to do tonight.

Q. You've obviously been a part of a National Championship winning team at Notre Dame. A few games to go to get there, but do you feel some of those same locker room vibes? Is it comparable to the togetherness that that group had and maybe that you have with this group, as well?

JORDAN FAISON: Yeah, 100 percent. It's funny, Coach asked me to talk to the team, Coach Landau, after one of our lifts, kind of give the spiel of what it was like going to the National Championship for lacrosse, and I was just telling the guys, we were literally in the same role. We lost to Georgetown, a team we were supposed to beat, we lost to NIU, a team we were supposed to beat, and then had to win out from there to make the playoffs, and kind of that same journey. It was like, yo, this is a real chance, and if you don't think we have a chance, it's time to lock in, it's time to go.

Q. Obviously that catch from Riley, he joked about it, but how good of a route, a throw, a catch was that, of all the catches you've had at Notre Dame?

JORDAN FAISON: Yeah, we worked on it all week, multiple weeks. I ran the route as we practiced, I look back and I see Riley kind of moving and jumping, throwing the ball, and it's still a freaking dime, so I'm like, I've got to make this play for him. I was able to catch the ball, wasn't able to score, of course. More worried about getting the ball and then scoring.

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CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Jack Kiser

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. Jack, your final game here at Notre Dame Stadium. What are the emotions right now?

JACK KISER: Yeah, when we were coming up the tunnel into the staircase, I kind of turned around and took one last look of what that scene is like, and I made sure Rylie Mills got that and Riley Leonard got that view, too. When we're singing the alma mater out there and just understanding how much people, one, love this university and what this university has done for me over a quarter of my life, it's pretty special to be in an environment like that and walk out of here satisfied and happy and ready to keep playing.

Q. What does it mean to get that first ever home playoff win for the University of Notre Dame?

JACK KISER: Yeah, I think you look at the state of the program right now, and it's the first of hopefully a lot more to come. This program is elevating, and I think that's evident in the buy-in in the university and the facilities, the recruiting, the coaching staff. So it's just a lot of excitement and to kind of be part of that first in program history is a big deal.

Q. You guys are one of a handful of teams now that gets to move on. How much confidence do you take into the next round?

JACK KISER: Yeah, I mean, all season it feels like every game has been one life, one game, one game, one life, just going in and making sure you're doing your process, you're going through everything, you're preparing the right way. It's not going to change. The last two weeks we've been preparing for Indiana but also knowing that we have to elevate as a program ourselves. We're competing when we're out there, going good-on-good, we're going against the offense, making sure -- that's not Indiana's true scheme, but we're still getting good reps in and just trying



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to get better.

So I don't think that changes just because the opponent changes or you're one step further in the playoffs. It's just that mentality that what's important now, it's the moment. It's the moment you're in. So that's kind of the mentality we're going to have going forward.

Q. Do you believe in momentum, and if so, do you think you guys have it right now?

JACK KISER: Yeah, I mean, I'll tell you what, when you walk on to that field and a snap hasn't even taken place yet and the crowd is going crazy, you're able to capture that momentum right off the bat. So that was a really awesome environment to be in. Hopefully that can be the standard here at Notre Dame for forever now. But that was truly an incredible environment to get to play in front of, so that was awesome.

Q. The two-play sequence there of Xavier's interception and Jeremiyah's 98 yards, how much does that help everyone take a deep breath and settle in after what felt like a chaotic first couple minutes of the game?

JACK KISER: I don't think it was necessarily chaotic at all. I think if you look around the sideline, no one was concerned or anything. Everybody just knew, we've got to do our job. I don't think it was too chaotic. But certainly big plays were made, and the momentum really shifts, and it is huge when you can get an interception in your red zone and then take one to the crib like J-Love did, so certainly that was a huge turning point in the game and something I don't think we looked back on.

Q. You won two state titles at Pioneer. Is this like a third?

JACK KISER: To be able to play Purdue early in the year and get a win against them, then Indiana, as an Indiana guy, that's a big deal. To feel like you own the state, that's pretty cool. Certainly an important win for me, that's for sure.

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CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Riley Leonard

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. That throw that you made to Jordan Faison, the long one down the middle gets you guys down to the 1. Where does that rank among all the passes that you've thrown this season?

RILEY LEONARD: It would have been up there if he could have got in, but he didn't.

Our QBGA was like, boy, you need to step up in the pocket next time, you get these high-edge rushers, and then I did it, and this guy got open for me. But I was itching for it to come open because we called that play earlier and they spun to two, but that time it was quarters, so got to take advantage of it.

Q. Then a couple plays later the feeling that you have when you walk into the end zone and everyone in the stadium knows at that point that that's kind of it right there, just that moment that you had with your teammates, what was that like?

RILEY LEONARD: That's special. It's kind of hard for me sometimes, my head is always spinning all week. It's hard for me to take a second and take it all in. But that was kind of the first time where I was able to look out into the crowd and really embrace this moment because it really is special. My mind is just always spinning; I'm always so stressed out all the time. It was very important for me to take it all in. That was a special moment.

Q. Riley, you're obviously Jeremiyah Love's biggest advocate. I know you talked about him. If he had your touchdowns, possibly in the Heisman Trophy conversation, what does tonight say -- what does his performance say about him?

RILEY LEONARD: Yeah, I got the best view in the house. Every time I hand him the ball, I'm just watching, like what's



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he going to do now. He just continues to impress me. It's like the little things. It's that second or 3rd down where he's stiff-arming guys and getting 1st downs for us. It's these little plays that might be five-yard gains, but for anybody else it might be a five-yard loss possibly. I mean, he's just a freak athlete.

Like I say, if we didn't have a rushing quarterback, how many more touchdowns would this guy have, and he'd be in conversations nationwide. Obviously I think people are starting to see how special he is.

Q. What was going through your mind as you saw him run down the sideline on that 98-yard touchdown run?

RILEY LEONARD: Yeah, once he creases the gap, it's like, all right, head over to the sideline, he's gone. We've seen it time and time again, but once he gets to that secondary, there's no catching him.

Q. Coach Freeman was talking about the need to enjoy it. I'm wondering, is that challenging amid a playoff run, that you guys kind of just became an answer to a trivia question, first time to do this, or is that an easy thing to do, even amid the bigger goal that you're chasing?

RILEY LEONARD: That's a good question. I think this is special for us. A lot of us, me being a guy who -- my freshman year I went 3-9 and didn't have -- was just begging to make a bowl game. To be playing in a Sugar Bowl right now, I've got to go full circle now, and it's really cool.

But at the same time, it's another football game, and we're just staying alive, and we're just trying to play as many games as we can because we love the game, we love preparing for it, and we love representing this university.

Q. Riley, a lot of the talk coming into this game was how you would do as a passer, not just a runner of the football. Why do you think that -- how did you get ready for the moment tonight? How were you ready for the moment?

RILEY LEONARD: Yeah, I think this was one of my better



weeks passing in practice, and then you get out there, and the first throw was a pick. So I was like, bro, are you serious? Like Coach always says, practice like you play, and then this happens. But I had to bounce back kind of like I've been doing all year and kind of like we've been doing all year.

My confidence is just continuing to grow. The better these guys play around me, the more confidence I have in getting them the ball. They're showing out every week, and we're continuing to develop in the passing game.

Q. When you're backed up like that on the Love touchdown run, you're backed up in your own end zone, did it feel like that just set the tone for the whole night?

RILEY LEONARD: Absolutely. Everybody wanted to talk about how great their rushing defense was, and obviously our rushing offense is pretty good. To be able to get that early kind of set a statement, like all right, we're not backing down, we're going to run the rock and kind of punch you in the mouth up front.

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CFP First Round: Notre Dame vs Indiana

Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish Jeremiyah Love

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. Jeremiyah, you've done a lot of national media spotlights since that USC game. They interviewed you before the game on College Gameday, but what do you think this game, having your performance on a national stage really says about Jeremiyah Love?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: I think it says a lot. I came into this game battling a few things. I probably sound pretty terrible.

But I came off of a little injury. I'm sick. Being able to come into this game and do what I've got to do for this team, it was special. I want to do anything for my brothers, to help this team succeed.

Q. Obviously you're battling something, but what were you really fighting toward the end of that long touchdown run?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: I was just out of breath. I was gassed.

Q. Talk about the first playoff game in Notre Dame Stadium. What was it like running through the tunnel for the first time?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: It was a great experience. I don't think that I'd be able to match any other experience with that. Being able to do that with people that I train with day in and day out was great. It was really special to see all the fans cheering for us, just rooting for us, and just helping us play to our best abilities.

Q. The chemistry with the running back room, no matter who gets the ball, what is it like to see those guys no matter who goes in put some points on the board there?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: It was great. We got a lot of dawgs in the room, obviously have some stallions. We've got me,



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J.D., Kedren, Aneyas, Devyn, all great backs, all got different types of roles. Everybody executes when their name is called, and we've got a great room of backs.

Q. You talked about being out of breath at the end of that run. It looked like maybe for a sliver of a second one of those guys might have a chance. Did you feel him there? Did you see him on the video board?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: I was looking up on the video board. He wasn't going to catch me. I slowed down. I slowed down. I knew I was going to score. But yeah, I did see it.

Q. We saw you out there at practice Monday, you had that brace on. Did you have to wear that tonight?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: No. I decided not to wear it. It was my decision, and I just felt like it helped me play more free.

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Friday, December 20, 2024

Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

Notre Dame Stadium

Notre Dame Fighting Irish Xavier Watts

Postgame Press Conference

Notre Dame 27, Indiana 17

Q. The defense made big plays tonight. Can you talk about your perspective of the challenge tonight in Indiana?

XAVIER WATTS: Yeah, coming into the season they had a good run game, and they were able to throw the ball around, so they had good talented receivers, so just being prepared all week, just practicing the balanced approach that they were going to come out, and I think we did a good job of practicing all week, and it helped us today.

Q. Being one of the captains, having the first home playoff game at Notre Dame, what was it like to have the fans as a factor tonight for the defense?

XAVIER WATTS: Yeah, the fans were great tonight. They were really loud. I think the towels was a good addition, pumping up the crowd. Every defensive drive was really fun. The crowd played a good part in tonight's win.

Q. How important was it to start fast both at the start of the game and the start of the second half and kind of get the crowd into it and set the tone for the rest of the night?

XAVIER WATTS: Yeah, it's important just to start fast. It just sets the tone for the rest of the game. It gives the defense momentum and the offense momentum, so just starting fast is a big factor.

Q. Can you take us through the interception? How important was it to come up with that on the heels of an interception of your own?

XAVIER WATTS: Yeah, just cover one. Just over the top, just reading the quarterback. I just ended up being one. It was cover one, yeah.



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Q. Xavier, a lot of guys that have a season like you did last year would kind of put it on cruise control. What's motivated you to get even better in all elements of your game this year?

XAVIER WATTS: Yeah, I just think with me, everyone knows my story. I've bounced back and forth between receiver and DB, and I just feel like I have so much more room to grow, just continuing to improve. So just coming into the season, I just really wanted to improve in all aspects of my game. I just feel like I have a lot more room to grow, so I was just excited to continue growing.

Q. What's your comfort level even in a game like this, given your entire journey to be able to play here for a final time?

XAVIER WATTS: Yeah, I mean, at the end of the day, it's just regular football. Obviously it's got the playoff tag with it, but it's just a regular football game to me. I go out there with the utmost confidence in myself and my teammates that we're going to go out there and do our jobs, and like I said, it's just regular football to me.

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