‘Notre Dame Football 101’

Sept 2012 Edition

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Mendoza College of Business
1. “Flip right double-X jet 36 counter naked waggle seven X quarter”
   – Does anyone know what this is?
   – You **still** won’t know at end of this session!
   – Not covering the *game* of football today

2. There are more important things than football.
   – But football is important part of Notre Dame!
   – Want you to have basic tools to engage the culture
What We WILL Cover...

Notre Dame Football

– History
– Traditions
– Typical Weekend
– Upcoming Season

**There will be a quiz**
Audience Poll

• How many Notre Dame undergrads?
  – Boot camp?

• How many have been to a college football game before?

• How many have been in Notre Dame Stadium before?
Notre Dame Football
(History)

Many thanks to Mike Sullivan, Notre Dame Development Office for template!
National Champions

- 1924
- 1929
- 1930
- 1943
- 1946
- 1947
- 1949
- 1966
- 1973
- 1977
- 1988
Heisman Trophy – awarded annually to “most outstanding player in collegiate football”
Notre Dame Football History

Heisman Trophy Winners

1943 - Angelo Bertelli
1947 - Johnny Lujack
1949 - Leon Hart
1953 - Johnny Lattner
1956 - Paul Hornung
1964 - John Huarte
1987 - Tim Brown
Notre Dame Football History

2 and 3

2\textsuperscript{nd} in all-time win %
(.731 winning percentage, behind Michigan's .735)

3\textsuperscript{rd} in all-time wins
(853 total wins, behind Michigan & Texas)

\textbf{Note} – We could overtake Michigan for win % this season if we have better record!
Notre Dame Football History

96
Consensus All-Americans

Majority of votes among media as best player at a given position
- Most of any school

And just for good measure...

All-Americans – 186

Unanimous All-Americans – 32 (Most of any school)

Academic All-Americans – 43 (2rd most)

Most recent – Golden Tate, 2009
Notre Dame Football History

43 College Football HOF Inductees

More CFHOF inductees than any other school

And just for good measure...

Pro Football HOF – 9 inductees (2nd most)
Cultural Impact

• Early teams were source of immigrant / Catholic pride
  – Crowds of local Catholics would greet team at train stops on way to/from games on coasts

• Academic Success + Athletic Excellence
  – Players live in dorms, go to class, etc
  – Consistently lead the nation in graduation rates
    • 99% graduation rate since 1962
    • Tops in nation in all sports in 2011
  – Consistent record of producing Academic All-Americans
“Millions of Catholics—whether Irish, Italian, German or Pole — lived vicariously through the wins and losses of Notre Dame’s football teams. For that vastly immigrant population Notre Dame football symbolized the triumphs of an ostracized people.”
- Kerry Temple / Notre Dame Magazine

“The reach defies logic. From a Catholic university in north central Indiana to the corners of the United States and far beyond. But the reach is real. Many have been portrayed as America’s Team...yet only the Yankees come close, and even they come up short. Notre Dame football stands alone in American sport.”
- Tim Layden / Sports Illustrated
Cultural Impact

- Knute Rockne All-American
- “Win One For The Gipper”
- Rudy
- The West Wing
- “Superfans” – Regis & Vince
- Shrek
  - “Duloc Castle” / Far-quad /
• **Rick Reilly, ESPN** *(not worth quoting)*

• **Pat Forde, Yahoo Sports**
  - “Look at the current Notre Dame roster and you find 5 players who already have undergraduate degrees, and a whopping 26 who are in the Mendoza College of Business. BusinessWeek merely ranked Mendoza the nation’s No. 1 undergraduate business school for 2012, while U.S. News & World Report had it way down at No. 14. So, no, they are not storing all the football players in lightweight majors at Notre Dame. Nor are they segregating them from the rest of the campus. There is no jock dorm at Notre Dame, and no off-campus housing for incoming freshmen. In fact, most players wind up rooming with non-players as freshmen.”

• **HBO’s “The Newsroom”**
  - [YouTube Clip](#)
Emerald Isle Classic *(Dublin, Ireland)*

- “Pep Rally” in O2 Arena
  - Prime Minister of Ireland spoke!
  - Broadcast live on TV in Ireland
Notre Dame Football (Traditions)
Notre Dame Stadium

– Built in 1930, originally sat nearly 60,000 (12x enrollment!)
– Expanded in 1997, now seats 80,795
– Preserved original structure
– Sellout streak (225 consecutive / 273 of last 274 since ‘66)
– No logos / No “Dumbotron” / Stadium music in 2011
– Student Section
Notre Dame Football Traditions

The Gold Helmets

- Iconic image, meant to evoke connection to Dome
- Paint on helmet includes actual gold from Dome
- Historically, helmets painted by students / recent change
- New version in
The “Fighting Irish”

– Nickname formally adopted in 1927
– Exact origins disputed; all agree it was derogatory
– Most likely origin is related to fame of Irish-American boxers at turn of 20th century
  - John L. Sullivan
  - Jim Corbett

“The fame of these Irish-American fighters is probable source of the Notre Dame nickname, but ... 19th century boxing was attached to a drinking, gambling, brawling and disreputable subculture...”
- Murray Sperber, Shake Down The Thunder
Knute Rockne

- Graduated magna cum laude in 1914
- Highest win % in **football** history
  - .881 (105-12-5 record)
- Great motivator
  - Gipper
  - “Little Billy”
- Died in plane crash (1931)
  - Immortalized in movie

*He was the prototype of the big-time college coach, not only in his ability to promote his team and himself but ... in his development of new commercial areas for college coaches ... Rockne was the first great entrepreneurial coach ...”*  
- Murray Sperber, *Shake Down The Thunder*
The Band of the Fighting Irish

• Oldest university band in continual existence; formed in 1845 – have never missed home football game.
• Recipients of the 2011 Sudler Trophy – musical equivalent of the Heisman
• Popularized / perfected “picture formations”
• Video of gameday routine
The Victory March
  – Often called “fight song”
  – Written by 2 brothers / both alumni
    • Michael Shea (1904)
    • John Shea (1906)
  – Chorus is well known; but there are 2 preceding verses

In fact, so many Americans can recognize “The Notre Dame Victory March” that it is considered one of the nation’s four best known songs – along with the “Star Spangled Banner,” “God Bless America,” and “White Christmas.”
- Murray Sperber, Shake Down The Thunder, p. 24
Notre Dame Football Traditions

The Irish Guard
- Formed in 1949; they clear a path for band
- Raise flag pre-game; perform “Victory Clog”
- Only 10/yr; min. height requirement of 6’2
- Wear the “Notre Dame Plaid”
Notre Dame Football Traditions

The Leprechaun

• Live version of logo
• Actual student
• Rigorous tryout process
  – Mock media interview
  – Cheering / pushup tests
• Athletic scholarship
• 100’s of appearances
  – Athletic events
  – Charity
Notre Dame Football Traditions

Play Like A Champion Today
- Last thing players hit leaving locker room
- Instituted by Lou Holtz in 80’s
- Has become iconic
- [ESPN video link]
"Regardless of the won-loss record, regardless of the problems you have, when you walk out on that field you have an obligation to your teammates and the fans to play to the best of your ability - to play like a champion and to think like a champion... (I asked) my players that every time they hit that sign, to think about all the sacrifices your family has made; your teammates made in high school; the sacrifices your teachers have made; and you also think of the thousands of people who would love to be in your position. Just think about how fortunate we are. "All of these thoughts should go through your mind when you hit that sign”

- Lou Holtz, former head football coach, Notre Dame
Notre Dame Football Traditions

“The Shirt”

- Charity fundraiser
- Student-created
- Available in bookstore
- See history in LaFortune
Notre Dame Football Traditions

• The Word of Life Mural
  – “Touchdown Jesus”

• Moses & Ten Commandments
  – “#1 Moses / 1st Down Moses”

• Rev. William Corby C.S.C.
  – “Fair Catch Corby”
Notre Dame Football Traditions
The Rivals

• USC
  – Only “national” rivalry
  – Two accomplished programs (11/7)

• Michigan
  – Geographic neighbors; “taught” us football
  – Discouraged other Midwest teams from playing ND

• Navy
  – U.S. Navy kept ND afloat during WWII
  – “The Streak” snapped in 2007

• Boston College
  – Not really.
  – 1993, 2002
Notre Dame Football
(Typical Weekend)
Football Weekend Itinerary

Friday Morning
• Study / Career Development

Friday Afternoon
• Tunnel Tours (10am to 5pm)
• Football Luncheon (Noon)
• Trumpets Under The Dome (4pm)
  – Band marches by MCOB around 4:30pm
• Pep Rally
  – Check weekly handout for time/location

Friday Evening
• Hit the town for dinner, feel the “buzz”.
• Drum Circle (Midnight)
Football Weekend Itinerary

Saturday
- Team walk to stadium from “Gug”  
  – 2 hrs before kickoff
- Band “steps off” from Bond Hall  
  – 1 hr before kickoff
- Tailgate!  
  – Do it for “old Notre Dame!” (research)  
  – Words of wisdom...
- Game Time!  
  – You know what they say about the grad students...
- After the game, candlelight dinner in South Dining Hall
Notre Dame Football
(Upcoming Season)
Upcoming Season

• **Head Coach:** Brian Kelly
  – 3rd season as head coach; expectations growing.

• **125th Season!**

• **Schedule Highlights**
  – Sept. 1st  v. Navy  Dublin
  – Sept. 8th  v. Purdue  Home
  – Sept. 22nd  v. Michigan  Rivalry (Night Game)
  – Oct. 6th  v. Miami (FL) ‘Shamrock Series’ (Chicago)
  – Oct. 27th  @ Oklahoma  Historical Significance
  – Nov 24th  @ U$C  Rivalry
Upcoming Season

97 & 98 Consensus All-Americans?

Manti Teo, LB, Senior

Tyler Eifert, TE, Senior
Final Exam

• How many national championships does Notre Dame have?

• How many Heisman trophy winners?

• What’s the biggest home game this coming season?
Questions?

GO IRISH!

http://youtu.be/ECTL1NVssaU
http://youtu.be/1ZjrzneMv2U
http://youtu.be/Wb1Q7mDr1qE
http://youtu.be/YV7gYhrgAlg
http://youtu.be/KDiUsPBhofg