

LSU Stalls Irish, Can It Stop Huskers?

By Wally Provost

Notre Dame averaged 33 points per game the past football season, but was held to a 3-0 decision by Louisiana State.

Notre Dame averaged 510.5 yards in total offense, but was limited to 227, a reduction of more than 50 per cent, by Louisiana State.

Considering that Notre Dame's offensive production topped that of Nebraska against three mutual opponents, the severity of the challenge posed by LSU in the Orange Bowl is dramatically emphasized.

Nebraska partisans take heart from the fact Southern Cal defeated Notre Dame, 38-28, whereas N.U. tied Southern Cal, 21-21. Those games, however, were played eight weeks apart, and the comparison is much less than exact.

Here are basic statistics for comparison — and conjecture:

So. Cal. 38, N. Dame 28

Nebraska 21, So. Cal. 21

ND		USC		NU		USC	
First downs	38	17	17	19	22	19	22
Rushing yardage	31	133	133	208	175	208	175
Passing yardage	525	226	226	157	191	157	191
Total offense	557	359	359	365	366	365	366
Passes	33-58-4	15-24-0	15-24-0	12-18-3	14-25-2	12-18-3	14-25-2
Punts	3-36	11-33	11-33	4-41.5	4-37.5	4-41.5	4-37.5
Fumbles lost	4	0	0	3	2	3	2
Yards penalized	23	20	20	42	45	42	45

Notes — Although losing, Notre Dame racked nine more first downs and 192 more yards in total offense than the Cornhuskers. . . . The Irish were crippled by the loss of four interceptions and four fumbles whereas USC was not guilty of a single turnover. . . . Nebraska did much better than Notre Dame in establishing its ground game. . . . The overall NU-USC statistics are remarkably similar.

N. Dame 24, Missouri 7

Nebraska 21, Missouri 7

ND		MO		NU		MO	
First downs	27	12	12	16	10	16	10
Rushing yardage	280	128	128	217	87	217	87
Passing yardage	209	80	80	71	131	71	131
Total offense	489	208	208	288	218	288	218
Passes	15-24-2	8-27-2	8-27-2	9-23-3	9-24-3	9-23-3	9-24-3
Punts	2-31.5	6-40	6-40	10-43	8-46	10-43	8-46
Fumbles lost	3	0	0	2	3	2	3
Yards penalized	49	55	55	42	59	42	59

Notes — Both Notre Dame and Nebraska were guilty of five turnovers. The difference here is in Missouri's "cleaner" play against Notre Dame — only two errors compared with six against the Huskers. . . . NU partisans credit the Lincolnites with "softening up" Missouri for the Irish; the games were played on consecutive weekends. . . . The 71 yards passing was Nebraska's season low. . . . Notre Dame netted 201 more yards and 11 more first downs than the Huskers.

N. Dame 51, Army 0

Nebraska 28, Army 0

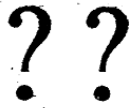
ND		ARMY		NU		ARMY	
First downs	31	12	12	25	13	25	13
Rushing yardage	258	16	16	222	18	222	18
Passing yardage	316	235	235	229	128	229	128
Total offense	574	251	251	451	146	451	146
Passes	22-36-1	21-46-4	21-46-4	17-23-0	14-26-0	17-23-0	14-26-0
Punts	5-40	9-38	9-38	3-36	11-37	3-36	11-37
Fumbles lost	2	1	1	4	0	4	0
Yards penalized	55	29	29	64	15	64	15

Notes — Army had a 1-1 record when it met Nebraska, but was 1-3 and perhaps suffering more sharply from lack of confidence when it faced Notre Dame. . . . Nebraska yielded 18 yards rushing to Army; Notre Dame gave up a comparable 16. . . . Army played errorless football against the Huskers; lost four passes and one fumble to Notre Dame.

N. Dame 3, LSU 0

Nebraska-LSU

ND		LSU	
First downs	14	12	12
Rushing yardage	78	83	83
Passing yardage	149	82	82
Total offense	227	165	165
Passes	14-30-1	6-16-2	6-16-2
Fumbles lost	2	0	0
Yards penalized	20	50	50



Notes — Notre Dame won on a 24-yard field goal with 2:54 remaining. Circumstances: A punt went out on the LSU one. The return punt into a high wind gave Notre Dame the ball on the LSU 36. An interference call helped move the Irish inside the 20, but LSU held and forced the field goal from the 14. . . . LSU missed a 49-yard field goal attempt in the first half; Notre Dame deflected a field goal attempt from the 17 in the second half. . . . Notre Dame netted but one yard in the third period and in one stretch was held without a first down for approximately 25 minutes.

The contest was witnessed by Harry DeVold of the Football News, who then had Nebraska No. 1 in his top 50 ratings. DeVold commented:

"We immediately realized the great respect Notre Dame Coach Ara Parseghian had for the LSU rush defense as Joe Thiesmann hardly bothered with running but immediately began to open up with his passing game.

"He was correct, for no team, and I'll also include Texas, will ever be able to mount a running game against this defense."