

2022-2023 ND Football Schedule Preview

We are exactly 30 days or 720 hours away from the start of Notre Dame football being back baby. Fuck, that sentence alone makes me so happy and excited. Especially being fortunate enough to live near campus there is quite literally something in the air that changes when we get closer to football season.

On paper, the schedule, minus week 1 of course, does not look that difficult. But as we all know, “on paper” means nothing when it comes to college football. Just ask Clemson fans when they came to South Bend in 2020. Or, to humble us ND fans a tad, the entire 2016 season. Just FYI, I will be using “we” a lot. I am a naive person who thinks I am a part of the team so just bear with me lol.

Notre Dame opens up with Ohio State IN Columbus. That is one helluva season opener. Two of the biggest brands in the entirety of the collegiate landscape. This is Notre Dame’s biggest test of the whole season, plain and simple. In my opinion, if they can somehow win, or worst case scenario lose by single digits, they will make the College Playoff. I am not sure how this game will go. I am very scared of it because Ohio State is THE best team they will face this whole year. I think the result is close no matter what the final outcome is.

Next is Marshall and California, at home. Wins. Neither team scares me. It is cool that we get to play Marshall 52 years after the tragic plane accident that killed most of their entire team.

Then Notre Dame travels to North Carolina and plays Mack Brown. They are better than what they have been historically as of late but nothing to truly worry about. Keenan Stadium is a cool place but the baby blue is the least intimidating thing, unless we are playing basketball but that is a different story.

BYE WEEK. Our bye week is so early this year, and is kind of wild, but it is always nice after the tough season opener.

Next, the Shamrock Series with those SEXY Ice white uniforms that Michael Mayer, Isaiah Foskey, Coach Freeman, and the Golic’s unveiled so appropriately. BYU is nothing that I am overly concerned with but at a neutral site and what will be their biggest game of the year, again, anything can happen.

Stanford and UNLV at home after the Cougars of BYU. Wins. I mean David Shaw just turned 50 and has not done anything with the Cardinal since the Andrew Luck and Kevin Hogan administrations.

Syracuse, easy win.

Clemson at home. Finally another test for the Irish. Easily the second best team that the Irish will face this season. The Tiger defense is projected to have at least three if not more first round NFL picks in Bryan Bresee, Myles Murphy, and Trenton Simpson. Their offense is not like those with Taj Boyd, Deshaun Watson or Trevor Lawrence at the helm. But DJ Uiagalelei is no slouch. He has a rocket for an arm while being built like an All-American linebacker. This game also scares me because for as fake as Dabo is, man can he coach. 'This is way too early but watch for him to become the next Alabama HC once Saban retires'. He always recruits well and gets the right guys. Will be interesting to see if Notre Dame can repeat the same success as they had in 2020.

Navy in Baltimore, Boston College at home, then USC to finish the season two days after Thanksgiving and one day after the USA men's national soccer team plays, and beats, England. The last three weeks will be important for style points, and of course, wins for the Irish. Navy is always scary because Ken Niumatalolo runs the triple option and runs it well, for the most part. BC at home should be similar to Georgia Tech in 2021, an easy and dominant win for the Irish. But BC starter, and former ND backup, Phil Jurkovec might have something to say about that. Nonetheless, I think the Irish get the W. Last but not least, USC. My least favorite team in the collegiate world besides Michigan. The Trojans always play the Irish tough and see the Irish as their National Championship game. Clay Helton is no longer at the helm which sucks because their AD finally hired, or should I say, bought, someone with some competence to run that program in Lincoln Riley. I think Lincoln will have success in Southern California, but not this year, and certainly not against this Irish team.

My final prediction is that Notre Dame goes 11-1, with the sole loss being to Ohio State in the first weekend of the season. But they will have close games with Clemson, USC, and unfortunately, someone like Navy. Tyler Buchner will be our QB1. Wild, almost out there prediction is that Marcus Freeman plays some of these HUGE freshman recruits that he, and the rest of the coaching staff, brought in this off season. Notre Dame will also make the College Football playoff. If that happens, I will do another blog talking about that.

For now, let's just enjoy the fact that we get college football, and the NFL, back this month and will have it every week, or almost every week, from now until the middle of February. What a nice sentence.

Go Irish.