Notre Dame Team Notes

No. 1 Notre Dame (12-0)

- The only undefeated team in the BCS standings.
- Notre Dame is seeking its 12th national championship and first since 1988
- Notre Dame is looking to finish a season without a loss for the 23rd time.
- The Fighting Irish are playing in a BCS bowl for the first time since facing LSU in the 2007 Sugar Bowl.
- Notre Dame leads the nation in scoring defense (10.33 ppg), ranks fourth in rushing defense (92.42 ypg), sixth in total defense (286.83 ypg) and third in red zone defense (64%)

- 2012 signature regular season wins:
  - Sept. 22 vs. Michigan, 13-6
  - Oct. 13 vs. Stanford 20-13 (OT)
  - Oct. 27 at Oklahoma 30-13
  - Nov. 24 at USC 22-13

- Notre Dame has made five previous Orange Bowl appearances (2-3):
  - 1973: 40-6 loss to Nebraska
  - 1975: 13-11 win over Alabama
  - 1990: 20-6 win over Colorado
  - 1991: 10-9 loss to Colorado
  - 1996: 31-26 loss to Florida State

- Notre Dame has 11 players from the state of Florida, three are key players
  - Zeke Motta (S) – Vero Beach (Vero Beach High School)
  - Louis Nix III (NG) – Jacksonville (Raines High School)
  - Ben Turk (P) – Davie (St. Thomas Aquinas High School)

- Head Coach Brian Kelly
  - Coached Cincinnati to a berth in the 2009 Orange Bowl against Virginia Tech
  - Trying to be the fifth Notre Dame head coach to win a national championship in his third year in South Bend (Frank Leahy, Ara Parseghian, Dan Devine and Lou Holtz)

- AP All-Americans
  - LB Manti Te’o (first team); TE Tyler Eifert (second team); DE Stephon Tuitt (second team); C Braxston Cave (third team)

- AFCA (American Football Coaches Association) first-team All-American
  - Manti Te’o (LB)

- National Awards
  - Manti Te’o (LB)
    - Walter Camp Award Winner
    - Nagurski Award Winner
    - Butkus Award Winner
    - Lombardi Trophy Winner
    - Maxwell Award Winner
    - Bednarik Award Winner
  - Tyler Eifert (TE)
    - Mackey Award Winner
  - Heisman Award Finalist
  - Lott Trophy Finalist
  - Capital One Academic All-American – First Team
  - ARA Sportsmanship Award Recipient
  - NFF National Scholar-Athlete Recipient
- Mike Golic Jr.
  - Capital One Academic All-American – First Team
- Bob Diaco (Assistant head coach/defensive coordinator/linebackers coach)
  - Frank Broyles Award Winner for National Assistant Coach of the Year
- Head Coach Brian Kelly
  - Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award Finalist
  - Home Depot Coach of the Year Award Winner