

Quarrie reaches 1,000 yards, Notre Dame thumps Princeton

BY KEVIN MALONEY
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

PRINCETON — The Notre Dame football team began dreaming of an undefeated season since shortly after the Irish's 2008 season came to an end following a loss to St. Augustine Prep in the NJSIAA Non-Public, Group 4 playoffs last November.

Ransford Quarrie and Anthony Perna made sure Notre Dame kept its perfect record in tact.

"It's a senior's dream to go 8-0 your senior year," said Quarrie, shortly after his 15-carry, 154-yard, two-touchdown performance helped boost the Irish to an 8-0 record with a 34-14 victory over Princeton yesterday.

Notre Dame racked up a season-high 296 yards on the ground as Perna added 61 yards on 12 carries and Sam McDermott and Frank Fuccello combined to add 81 more yards.

Quarrie, who became the CVC's second running back to reach the 1,000-yard plateau (Ewing's David Ogbonnaya reached the mark Friday night), broke off a 50-yard touchdown run on his second carry of the afternoon to put the Irish ahead early, 7-0.

Perna capped an eight-play, 52-yard drive early in the second

quarter with a 4-yard touchdown run and Quarrie added his second touchdown, a 25-yarder, on Notre Dame's next possession to take a commanding 21-0 lead.

"Any time it rains we try to keep the ball on the ground," Quarrie, who now has 1,069 yards and 14 touchdowns on 136 carries, said. "We're playing on turf so it really didn't matter so much. The run kept working so we stayed with it."

George Solujich connected on a 24-yard field goal to push the Irish's lead to 24-0 before Princeton finally got on the scoreboard.

The Little Tigers marched 74 yards down the field on six plays, culminating with a 21-yard touchdown pass from Mike Olentine (7-for-27 passing, 107 yards, two interceptions) to Nick Miranda in the left corner of the end zone with 55 seconds left before the half.

But 55 seconds would prove to be too much time for the potent Notre Dame offense as a 26-yard fake-punt pass from Ryan Lynady (five catches, 53 yards) to Blaise Lezynski helped set up a 37-yard field goal by Solujich with two seconds time left in the half.

"We only take it one week at a time," Perna, who completed

7 of 11 passes for 69 yards, said. "Coach (Chappy) Moore always reiterates the Cincinnati Bearcats 'Next man in' (motto). We're on a mission. We just finished step eight, now we're on to step nine."

NOTRE DAME 34, PRINCETON 14

Notre Dame (8-0)	7	20	0	7-34
Princeton (6-2)	0	7	7	0-14

FIRST QUARTER

N— Quarrie 50 run (Solujich kick), 5:59.

SECOND QUARTER

N— Perna 4 run (Solujich kick), 10:18.

N— Quarrie 25 run (Solujich kick), 8:07.

N— Solujich 20 field goal, 2:08.

P— Miranda 21 pass from Olentine (Vieten kick), 0:55.

N— Solujich 37 field goal, 0:02.

THIRD QUARTER

P— Barsamian 6 run (Vieten kick), 0:38.

FOURTH QUARTER

N— Perna 14 run (Solujich kick), 9:19.

	ND	P
First downs	14	14
Rushes-yards	41-296	29-153
Passing yards	95	107
Comp-Att-Int	8-12-1	7-27-2
Punts-Avg	1-40	3-29.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalty-Yards	7-60	3-15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Notre Dame: Ransford Quarrie 15-154, Anthony Perna 12-61, Sam McDermott 6-45, Frank Fuccello 6-36. Princeton: Trevor Barsamian 21-131, Josh Gordon 3-9, Mike Olentine 3-0, Tom Borchert 2-5.

PASSING—Notre Dame: Perna 7-11-1-69, Ryan Lynady 1-1-0-26. Princeton: Olentine 7-27-2-107.

RECEIVING—Notre Dame: Lynady 5-53, Blaise Lezynski 1-26, Justin Adams 2-16. Princeton: Skey Ettin 2-49, Doug Bryant 2-34, Nick Miranda 1-21, Gordon 1-2, Eric Shorter 1-1.