



# Horn Top 20 presented by Altstadt: #10 Notre Dame Fighting Irish



We’ve reached our top 10 in the Horn Top 20 presented by Altstadt and at No. 10 comes the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Marcus Freeman took over head coaching duties for Brian Kelly and has the blue and gold ready for a return to the College Football Playoff. But, they’ll have to go through Ohio State and Clemson to get there.

## Horn Top 20 Roundtable Discussion

Horn Top 20 presented by Altstadt Roundtable Discussion: ...

## Pete Sampson from The Athletic Joins B&E to Discuss Fighting Irish

Trey Elling audio

Pete Sampson Notre Dame Beat Writer For The Athletic Joins B&E


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Rod and Hardge talking Marcus Freeman and Notre Dame



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The Horn 104.9 & AM 1260 · Pete Samson Notre Dame Beat Writer For The Athletic Joins B&E

What You Need to Know

AP Poll Ranking: #5

2021 Record: 11-2

2021 Bowl Result: Lost to Oklahoma State 35-37 in the Fiesta Bowl

NCAA Championship Winner Odds: +4500

Regular Season Win Total: O/U 8.5

To Make CFB Playoff: Yes +1000/No -2000

2022 Schedule

Sep. 3- at Ohio State

Sep. 10 – Marshall

Sep. 17 – California

Sep. 24 – at North Carolina

Oct. 8 – BYU (Las Vegas)

Oct. 15 – Stanford

Oct. 22 – UNLV

Oct. 29 – at Syracuse

Nov. 5 – Clemson

Nov. 12 – Navy (Baltimore)

Nov. 19 – Boston College

Nov. 26 – at USC

Player to Watch

Tyler Buchner, QB

The new starting quarterback for the Fighting Irish has plenty of unknowns surrounding him. For starters, Buchner finished with more rushing yards than passing yards last season. But the dual-threat QB has the backing of Marcus Freeman and OC Tommy Rees. We'll see if Buchner is up to the test right away with a week one battle against the Ohio State Buckeyes. If so, only Clemson presents a challenge to Notre Dame the rest of the way.

Breakdown *Marcus Spears*

Last season the Fighting Irish dominated with an 11-2 record, finishing #8 in the AP poll after a close loss to the Oklahoma State Cowboys in the Fiesta Bowl, with interim coach Marcus Freeman taking the reins after head coach Brian Kelly left for LSU. After the game, Notre Dame would announce defensive coordinator Freeman would permanently take the head coaching position. The hopes are the Irish can remain one of the top teams in college football.

In his first year, Coach Freeman decided to add experience to his coaching staff, adding former Miami Hurricanes head coach Al Golden as defensive coordinator. On the offensive side of the ball, Tommy Rees remains the offensive coordinator, with some new additions to the staff, adding Deland McCullough and Gerad Parker to the staff. Coach McCullough adds 11 years of experience as a running back coaching college and the NFL with Indiana, USC and the Kansas City Chiefs. As tight ends coach, Coach Parker adds 15 years in college football to the staff. Defensively with the additions to Golden, the coaching staff also added Al Washington, who’s coached several defensive positions in college football as the defensive line coach.

There is some talent to work with for the Irish, with recently announced sophomore quarterback Tyler Buchner as the starter. Wide receivers Lorenzo Styles, Avery Davis and Lenzy Braden, will be there to throw to. The hopes are one can fill the void left by Kevin Austin, who led the core last season. The three combined for 83 receptions and 1080 yards with eight touchdowns. Buchner will still have safety net junior tight end Michael Mayer to throw to, who caught 71 passes for 840 yards with seven TDS. RB Chris Tyree will get an opportunity to take the reins as the starter replacing Kyren Williams. In limited time last season, Tyree had success as a dual three back rushing for 222 yards and receiving 24 receptions for 258 yards as the backup last season.

Defensively senior pass rusher Isaiah Foskey led the Irish in sacks last season with 10 and returns to continue his success. JD Bertrand led the Irish in tackles with 102 and wants to continue his success in finishing plays around the line of scrimmage.

At 35 years old, Coach Freeman is currently the third youngest FBS head coach in the country and the second ever African American to lead the Irish. With high expectations, experienced staff and the ability to relate to younger players, things will surely be interesting in South Bend this season.

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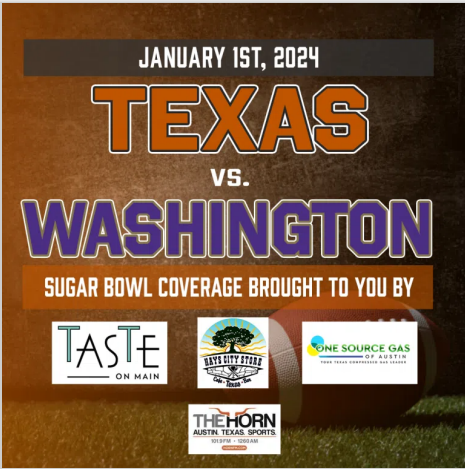
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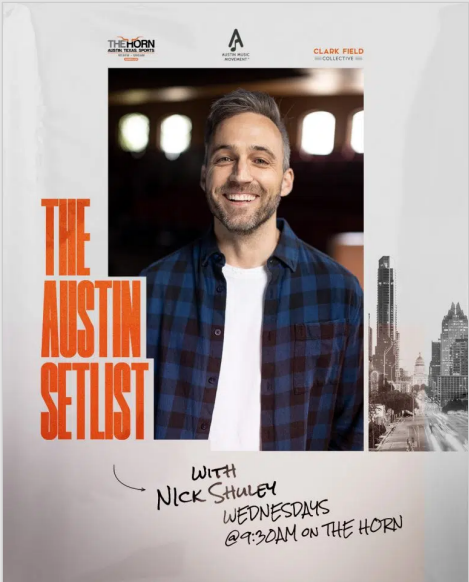
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- 1
- 2
- oh no!
- zero

Voting Ends: Never

# CONTESTS

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