

## USC vs. Notre Dame College Football Picks

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USC vs. Notre Dame - College Football Picks: The 6th-ranked USC Trojans (4-1) and the 25th-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish (4-1) meet for their annual showdown (3:30 pm, NBC) at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend on Saturday. USC can't afford another loss if it hopes to stay alive in the national championship chase. And Notre Dame needs a signature win to upgrade its bowl credentials. Southern Cal has won seven straight in the rivalry with the Golden Domers, the last two by a combined score of 76-3.

College football picks oddsmakers at Sportsbook.com list the Trojans as double-digit (-10) chalk favorites ATS and -400 moneyline favorites versus the Irish with a 50 total. Notre Dame backers are getting +320 moneyline odds as a home underdog.

USC has won its last 7 games against the Fighting Irish, including the last 3 times in South Bend (and 4 of the past 6 there). USC also has won its last 14 non-conference games and its past 10 non-conference road contests, as well as its last 9 games against AP Top 25 teams. The game is a battle between schools with perhaps the country's most glorious gridiron heritages.

Both teams enjoyed a bye win week 6 but in week 5 USC won big at California, while Notre Dame went into overtime at home to beat Washington (a team that defeated the Trojans earlier this year). The game will pit the nation's passing efficiency leader, Irish QB Jimmy Clausen, against a Trojan defense that is ranked in the national Top 8 in every stat category. USC has yet to allow a passing touchdown in 2009.

Current betting trends show 57% of early public betting is on the side of the Irish for a SU win while 59% are wagering on USC ATS. A heavy majority (76%) believe the betting total will go OVER the posted 50.

College Football Picks: We like Notre Dame to cover as a double-digit (+10) home dog.

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