Showers dampen OK Go performance

The band played through the rain during Friday's B1 Block Party

By ERIN THOMASSEN
News Writer

Alternative rock band OK Go returned to Notre Dame Friday for a high-energy performance, but rain and wild behavior by band members underwhelmed students.

Though rain and lightning postponed the concert for one hour, the band was still “pretty high energy” when they came out, freshman Nate Marti said. Marti said first year students mostly attended the concert. The event, held outside Legends of Notre Dame, featured a rock wall and trampoline in addition to the concert. Because it was held outdoors, inclement weather challenged concert-goers and performers alike.

“Due to the rain, they should have moved the concert inside because it was a small enough crowd,” senior Alex Penler said. Penler said the event did not draw a large crowd, though he said he enjoyed the concert.

“There wasn’t as much dancing as one might expect, because the crowd was so small,” Penler said. “If it hadn’t been game weekend with all the Irish shenanigans, more students would have attended.”

Senior Deborah Parks said she is happy she attended “[due to the rain], they should have moved the concert inside because it was a small enough crowd,” senior Alex Penler said. Penler said the event did not draw a large crowd, though he said he enjoyed the concert.

“There wasn’t as much dancing as one might expect, because the crowd was so small,” Penler said. “If it hadn’t been game weekend with all the Irish shenanigans, more students would have attended.”

Senior Deborah Parks said she is happy she attended

Seating policy evokes mixed feelings

By CHARLIE DUCEY
News Writer

Though within the Notre Dame community the appeal of Notre Dame football seems all but universal, the new seating policy enacted during Saturday’s football game garnered mixed reactions from students.

Through the 2012 season, students sat in assigned seats during home football games. After a group of students decided they would sit together during games, they would sign up as members of the same group and receive assigned seats together.

The new seating policy for the 2013 season mandates that students will receive tickets based on class year, but that within each section the seats will be general admission. Sophomore Marissa Bowman said she initially thought that the new seating arrangement would generate undue stress among peers.

“I thought that the tailgaters would be upset about getting bad seats,” she said. Sophomore Matt O’Brien said his feelings remained mixed regarding the new seating policy at Notre Dame.

Lacrosse house burns

Observer Staff Report

A house inhabited by nine members of Notre Dame’s women’s lacrosse team was destroyed in a fire Friday afternoon, according to a WSBT report.

No one was injured in the blaze on the 200 block of East Marion St., just east of Memorial Hospital. The fire was out by late afternoon, the report said. Notre Dame’s Office of Student Life notified the Notre Dame lacrosse program’s minor courses and education programming throughout the year.”

To begin the year, the department launched a series of discussions titled “Justice Fridays,” Lyles-Chockley said. Each meeting will look at justice through a different lens, where students coordinate the dialogue.

“Justice Fridays will be during lunch on Friday before every home football weekend,” Lyles-Chockley said. Last Friday’s discussion looked at justice through a gendered lens and was led by junior Clare Maher and senior Galicia Guerrero, she said.

“Saint Mary’s students are exceptional in their commitment to justice and I think they need to be a part of the development of the program this year,” Lyles-Chockley said.

Both Maher and Guerrero said they felt the topics of sexual assault and the media’s portrayal of women were important topics worth covering in the first Justice Friday discussion.
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What was your favorite program to watch on TV this summer?

Alec Sievern
freshman
Dillon Hall
“Breaking Bad.”

Claire Hackman
senior
Welsh Family Hall
“So You Think You Can Dance?”

Veronica Martinez
senior
Welsh Family Hall
“Digimon.”

Juan Rangel
junior
Siegfried Hall
“Monsters University.”

Lauren Morisseau
junior
Breen-Phillips Hall
“Mad Men.”

Jessica Creager
sophomore
Lewis Hall
“Merlin.”

Leprechaun Johnny Romano leads the Notre Dame cheerleaders onto the field during Saturday’s game at Notre Dame Stadium. Quarterback Tommy Rees threw for a career high of 346 yards as the 14th-ranked Irish rolled to a 28-6 victory over the Temple Owls.

THE OBSERVER | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2013 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Monday
Register for Swim Lessons
Rockne Memorial
9 a.m.-11:55 a.m.
Learn how to swim.

CSC Panel Discussion
Geddes Hall
7 p.m.
Panel: “Dignity and Justice for Migrants and Refugees.”

Tuesday
Lector Training
Baslica of the Sacred Heart
8 a.m.
Read at Baslica Mass.

Classic Films
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
8 p.m.
Silent films: “Where Are My Children?” and “Justice for Migrants.”

Wednesday
Freshman Night at the Snite
Snite Museum of Art
4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Reception and tours.

RGIA Information Session
Coleman-Morse Center
10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Interdenominational, student-led Christian fellowship.

Thursday
Momix
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Contemporary dance.

Iron Sharpens Iron
Coleman-Morse Center
10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Interdenominational, student-led Christian fellowship.

Friday
“Can Notre Dame Women Have It All?”
South Dining Hall
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Panel discussion.

Women’s Volleyball
Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
The Irish take on Bowling Green in the Golden Dome Invitational.

Want your event included here?
Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Today’s Staff

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Meg Hambolman
Charrisa Iravu
Nicole Biros

Graphics
Maria Masa

Photo
Grant Isham

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Brian Hartnett
Issac Loetsch
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Corrections
The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We, therefore, recognize that we may make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
the concert, despite the poor weather. "The rain made it kind of gross," she said. "But they were a good band." Despite the rain, she "would choose to go again."

The band used Notre Dame fans' pre-game excitement to its advantage, heightening the crowd's energy by telling them Notre Dame was "going to smash Temple," Marti said. "I think we were a good band." Marti also said she felt Notre Dame was "going to smash Temple," a sentiment echoed by fans.

"The band was obviously drunk... and used the f-word more than was appropriate for Catholic school," Penler said. Still, some of the students who turned out for the show said they were long-time fans of the band. Junior Kenny Krynik said he listened to the band in middle school. He said a highlight for him was when the band broke out handbells and played their normal songs "with cool harmonies."

OK Go filmed their music video, "This Too Shall Pass," while on campus with the Notre Dame Marching Band in 2010. Before they left, OK Go tweeted a picture of the music video and a message that read, "Thank you to the marching band who stayed at school over fall break so they could be in the video."

Contact Erin Thomassen at ethomass@nd.edu

**Notre Dame Students**

Transportation Services will be offering two Driver Training Sessions for Notre Dame students.

If you have not attended a Driver Training session conducted by Transportation Services, and you plan on driving a University owned, leased, or rented vehicle, you must attend a Driver Training session BEFORE you operate a vehicle.

Training will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in Geddes Hall (CSC Building) in B001 Andrews Auditorium.

The sessions will last approximately 45 minutes.

Please bring your driver's license and a pen.

Transportation Services rents vehicles to students, faculty, and staff who are in need of transportation while on official University business.

See our website at: transportation.nd.edu

If you have any questions on the Driver Training sessions or the Motor Pool you may contact Transportation Services at 631-6467

**Irish novelist reflects on changing times**

By CATHERINE OWERS

Irish novelist Patrick McCabe drew on his personal experience growing up in Ireland to address the effects of technological development Friday in a talk titled, "Irish Village Life Over 100 Years: From Brass Band to Broadband." The Keough- Naughton Institute for Irish Studies sponsored McCabe's talk in the Hesburgh Library's Rare Books Room.

McCabe quoted the poem, "A Sofa in the Forties" by Seamus Heaney, the recently deceased Irish poet to emphasize the changes that have taken place in society over the last century. He said he agrees with Seamus Heaney and others who argue the core of Irish society always has been the family and the parish, and then the county. "Everything radiates out from that," McCabe said.

McCabe said modern society is not without God, but a profusion of gods. Quoting G.K. Chesterton, he said, "When man stops believing in something, he starts believing in everything." McCabe said he is amazed that in today's society, "the apostholis of achievement is eating live bugs and worms on television" and "authority which for so long had held sway is now openly flouted."

McCabe said he cautions that in today's society, "the apostholis of achievement is eating live bugs and worms on television" and "authority which for so long had held sway is now openly flouted."

"Familiarity and neighborliness is written into DNA."

McCabe said his mother's awareness of everything going on in their neighborhood evidenced that community orientation so dominant within Irish society. "I thought what a gap exists between [my mother's awareness] and a person who lived all his life in Wexford town. He could decompose merrily in the Christmas season, right through the spring and not be discovered until St. Patrick's Day," he said.

McCabe said a story from a March edition of the Irish Times demonstrated this decreased sense of community. "The neighbors decided to pay a visit — they knocked on the door and there was no reply. They opened the door, and the[Christmas] lights were there, wishing the season along its merry way, and there was a skeleton there, sitting in the easy chair," he said. "And it got me to thinking how times have changed."

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McCabe said he cautions against willingly submitting to a kind of impersonal, godless society, "where the life of the sidewalk and the front yard will have all but disappeared."

“These are challenging times, and choices will have to be made," he said.

Contact Catherine Owers at cowers@nd.edu
Fencer represents U.S. in ‘Jewish Olympics’

By LESLEY STEVENSEN
News Writer

For junior Madison Zeiss, this summer revolved around only one event: the Maccabiah, an international competition for Jewish athletes around the world. Zeiss, a first-team All-American fencer, collected a gold medal in both the individual and team foil events in the open division for athletes of all ages.

Despite her successful individual performance, Zeiss said she felt more proud to represent the United States in the Maccabiah, which is frequently hailed the “Jewish Olympics,” according to the game’s website.

“I definitely felt like I was competing for the U.S.; all of us [on the U.S. team] did,” she said. “That’s what we were there for and it wasn’t about the individual medal. That was awesome but it was about the team.”

Although the Maccabiah is a competition, Zeiss said learning more about Israel and Israeli culture filled much of her time abroad.

“It was more about bringing awareness to Israel and showing us exactly what the country has to offer. … The times that we weren’t competing we were always just constantly touring and sightseeing around the country and meeting people.”

Zeiss described a trip to an Israeli Defense Force base where she met adults her age completing their compulsory two- or three-year military service requirements.

“It was so eye-opening to see that because it’s normal for us to go to college, this is just not normal for them.”

She also noted that despite the political turmoil in Israel, Palestine and neighboring Syria, she never believed she was in danger.

Junior Irish fencer Madison Zeiss received gold medals in the individual and team foil events at the Maccabiah.

“There wasn’t even one point that I felt uncomfortable,” Zeiss said. “To me the people were amazing.”

Zeiss said her primary focus for the summer was preparing for the Maccabiah. For that reason, she stayed in South Bend for the summer to continue training with Notre Dame fencing associate head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia.

“I was here this summer, so I trained a lot really closely with my coach,” Zeiss said. “Probably every other day we’d go to the gym and train. So that definitely helped a lot. It was mainly just being here and being able to focus on getting ready.”

College fencers tend to meet each other through competition, Zeiss said, so she knew many of her US teammates before competing with them at the Maccabiah.

“We all know each other, but we obviously weren’t as close as we were when we left,” she said. “We immediately meshed as a team. … There was no conflict or anything.”

According to the Maccabiah website, about 10,000 Jewish athletes come to Israel from across the globe to compete in the games, which are “the world’s largest Jewish athletic competition.”

The Maccabiah offers competitions in Olympic sports like basketball, volleyball, soccer and cycling as well as other events such as bridge, chess, karate and bowling.

The U.S. ranked second in the overall medal count for the open division. With 170 medals total, American athletes earned 56 gold, 53 silver and 61 bronze, fat behind the 498 total medals won by Israeli athletes. Russia finished third in that division with 38 medals.

Contact Lesley Stevensen at lsteven1@nd.edu

Joyce

Seating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The new seating system is a step forward, but it could be improved. I would like to be able to sit with people in different classes, since I have an older brother and older friends at the University,” O’Brien said. “There are a lot of people in this situation. Over the last twenty years, we have always sat together, and it is extremely unfortunate that it is no longer the case.”

Sophomore Brian Lach said he approves of the new stadium seating setup.

“There is more manageability with general admission because there are fewer constraints on where you can sit, as opposed to assigned seating,” he said.

Senior Chris Andrews said he felt unsure about the changes. He said that students who arrived late to the games were unable to sit in their assigned sections.

“I felt that people were unwise when to arrive at the stadium to get seats that they wanted, which made group coordination more difficult,” Andrews said.

When Wake Forest Legion president Matt Cunningham spoke to The Observer about the group’s intentions behind the new seating policy, he said the goal was to create a “mutually beneficial” situation for players and students, facilitating a better game day experience for everyone involved.

“This new system allows people who want to be there to get close to the game, and it gets rid of the chance that they might be stuck in the top row,” Cunningham said in an April 10 interview.

Some fans said they felt concerned that the most spirited sections would not end up at the stadium. This is something that was taken into consideration with the new arrangement, as the Leprechaun Legion hoped. However, freshman Gretchen Bruggeman, did not feel that this was the case.

“I think that it made more people more excited about being in the front row,” she said. “There were a lot of freshmen there an hour early to get the best spots.”

She said she thinks the system was less hectic and better organized than her past experiences attending games as a visitor.

Junior Irish fencer Madison Zeiss received gold medals in the individual and team foil events at the Maccabiah.

“Let’s take a look at the media and pop culture,” Guerrero said. “The song ‘Blurred Lines’ for instance. Just in this song you can see a media that is promoting a culture where sexual assault is okay and it really is not.”

Maher said Saint Mary’s is a place where gendered issues can be discussed over a proper dialogue, but encouraged their audience to bring that dialogue outside of campus grounds.

“As bystanders and active individuals in society, we have a duty to inform others of injustices going on in the world,” Maher said. “Gender justice issues are around us all the time and we cannot sit back and let them go without a proper discussion.”

Guerrero said it is important for individuals to find an issue they are passionate about and work to promote justice in that issue.

Both Guerrero and Maher are involved with the Belles Against Violence Office (BAVO) on campus.

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U.S. seeks approval for action again Syria

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration geared up for the biggest foreign policy vote since the Iraq war by arguing Sunday that new physical evidence shows the Syrian government used sarin gas in a deadly August attack.

With its credibility on the line, the United States must respond, the country’s top diplomat said.

Members of Congress, deadlocked on just about everything these days and still on summer break, expressed sharply divergent opinions about whether to give President Barack Obama the go-ahead he requested to retaliate with military force against the Assad regime, and what turning down the commander in chief could mean for America’s reputation.

Presenting Obama’s case for military action, Secretary of State John Kerry gave a series of interviews on Sunday news shows outlining the latest information the administration has received about the Aug. 21 attack in the Damascus suburbs that the U.S. says killed 1,429 civilians, including more than 400 children. He said samples collected by first responders added to the growing body of proof that Syria’s government launched a chemical weapons attack.

“Samples of hair and blood have been tested and they have reported positive for signatures of sarin,” Kerry said. “Each day that goes by, this case is even stronger.” We know that the regime ordered this attack. We know they prepared for it. We know where the rockets came from. We know where they landed. We know the damage that was done afterwards.”

Sarin, which affects the nervous system and is toxic in liquid or gas form, can be delivered in missiles, bombs, rockets or artillery shells. The gas is outlawed under international rules of warfare. The reference to hair and blood samples were the first pieces of specific physiological evidence cited by any member of the administration, which previously spoke only about an unnamed nerve agent.

Kerry’s assertion coincided with the beginning of a forceful administration appeal for congressional support, now that the administration has received new physical evidence cited by any member of Congress of the use of chemical weapons. The reference to hair and blood samples was the first pieces of specific physiological evidence cited by any member of the administration, which previously spoke only about an unnamed nerve agent.

The United Nations on Sunday asked the head of its chemical weapons inspection team to expedite the analysis of tests from samples it collected from Syria last week.

Assad’s government, which has denied allegations of chemical weapons use, revealed in Obama’s decision to defer any immediate action. Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad claimed that the move reflected the lack of evidence of government culpability.

With Navy ships on standby in the eastern Mediterranean sea ready to launch missiles, Congress began a series of meetings that will take place over the next several days in preparation for a vote once lawmakers return from summer break, which is scheduled to end Sept. 9.

Dozens of members attended the two-hour classified briefing Sunday in the Capitol, though many emerged saying they needed to see more details of Obama’s plan and more facts about the alleged chemical weapons attack. Many feared placing a vote would provide greater authority for military action.

On selling the strategy to Congress, Rep. Rep. Bennie Thompson, the senior Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said, “They have a case to make.”

“They also have work to do with respect to shoring up the facts of what happened,” Thompson said.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee plans a meeting Tuesday, according to its chairman, Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J. The Senate Armed Services Committee will gather a day later, said Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe, the top Republican on the panel.

Kerry confidently predicted that lawmakers would back him, saying, "This is just too high here, he said.

Kerry was asked repeatedly in the broadcast interviews what the August attack meant for America’s reputation. "We are not going to lose this vote," Kerry said. "The credibility of the United States is on the line."
The debate we’re still waiting for

Connor Roth
Think. It’s Not Illegal Yet

Throughout the hot summer days, Americans have seen quite a bit of action on the political front. Revelations regarding invasive seizures of telecommunications and metadata collection from the proclaimed “most transparent administration ever,” heated shots fired back and forth with the Republican Party, the nauseating portrayal of Trayvon Martin’s court case and attacks on whistleblowers Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden have certainly provided for a dynamic summer, if it can be described as such without dire solemnity. All of these events have stimulated quite a bit of conversation among the American people, even in the midst of the fiascos we call Miley Cyrus and Amanda Bynes.

But as it usually is in American politics, the times can’t be static for too long. Americans recently discovered that the National Security Administration delved into “love interests” and broke privacy rules “thousands of times” according to an audit published on the Washington Post’s website. But this time, instead of overhead intruding on the lives of Americans, the current administration is thinking about getting involved in Syria. The New York Times recently reported that President Obama is considering “limited” strikes against Syria’s current regime, led by President Bashar Al-Assad. Not only would that interventionism be foolish, I believe it would also be unconstitutional without the authorization of Congress. Many people have questioned why it’s taken the President so long to call together Congress for a formal debate on Syria, which is quite a legitimate question. Many might point to the pressure particular Congressmen have put on Obama, repeating the fact that a strike invoked by the executive alone would be entirely unconstitutional.

Article one, section eight of the U.S. Constitution reads that, “No State shall… engage in war, unless… or if there is a national emergency declaration of war, he receives ‘limited’ strikes against Syria’s current regime, led by President Bashar Al-Assad. Not only would that interventionism be foolish, I believe it would also be unconstitutional without the authorization of Congress. Many people have questioned why it’s taken the President so long to call together Congress for a formal debate on Syria, which is quite a legitimate question. Many might point to the pressure particular Congressmen have put on Obama, repeating the fact that a strike invoked by the executive alone would be entirely unconstitutional.

The War Powers Resolution of 1973 was an additional law passed to protect the nation from rushing into military excursions, although it has been ignored by Republican and Democratic presidents alike. The Resolution states that if the commander in chief sends troops into action abroad, they must be home within 60 days unless Congress approves of the military force and declares war. Unfortunately, many people read this bill out of context and suggest that the President can send military force abroad at will and then just get Congress’s approval later. This is an incorrect interpretation of the law. The War Powers Resolution specifically states in section 1541(c) that the executive can only send our troops abroad if one of the three following criteria is met: he receives a Congressional declaration of war, he receives other specific legal authorization or if there is a national emergency caused by an attack on the United States, as happened on Sept. 11. This means that if the President wants to send troops into Syria or simply bomb them from home, he would need Congressional approval before advancing, since there has not been a direct attack on the United States. Unfortunately, the current administration has already drone-bombed Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, Algeria and Libya, so practicing peace would actually be a new precedent.

On the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 31, President Obama stated he would call together Congress to discuss and vote on intervention in Syria by Sept. 9 or 10. It is important to note that the use of chemical weapons by a foreign regime is a legitimate concern. There are times where war is necessary — certainly no people (or an extremely small few) would have protested our involvement in World War II. However, there are serious costs and benefits that we as a country need to measure before continuing our occupation and bombing of the Middle East. People making these decisions need to further consider the CIA’s term “blowback,” describing how aggressive foreign policy can lead to unfavorable consequences.

A new Reuters poll found that only 9 percent of Americans support a multi-national invasion of Syria and only 25 percent would support U.S. intervention, even if it’s proven that Assad used chemical weapons. Clearly the affairs in Iraq and Afghanistan have weighed heavily on our nation not only financially, but mentally as well. Based on the numbers, we can say most people are sick of war and are even more tired of our government attempting to be the policeman of the world. It’s good to see the president follow the Constitution and seek Congress’s approval for an attack, but I’m interested to see what he will do if Congress refuses to give him the authority to strike, but he feels the need to do so anyways. Will he abide by the law?

Connor Roth is a junior studying economics and constitutional studies. He lives in Duncan Hall, hails from Cleveland, Ohio and is currently participating in the London abroad program through Notre Dame. He can be contacted at croth1@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Welcome home, fellow tree-huggers and green enthusiasts. I hope you all had restful and fulfilling summers; I know I did. Having heard some hubbub about all the pollution problems in China, I, your beloved Greenman, decided to visit the other side of the world.

I didn’t experience any language barriers during my time in China because as my fans know, I don’t speak, and as my stalkers know, I have been literate in Mandarin since the age of three. However, I did have a serious crisis: There wasn’t any Mexican food. None. I couldn’t believe it. A month without my fresh garden salads was almost enough to make me go mad, but I was on a mission.

The Chinese capital of Beijing is covered by a permanent hazy cloud cover. I am not talking about the “perma cloud” that envelopes South Bend every December (although the weather during my summer in Beijing did seem almost as gloomy as my winters in the Bend). This cloud was a sign of the industry that has so rapidly developed China but which is also slowly killing its natural wonders. You see, while in China, I also had the opportunity to climb Mount Hua. Do you know that absurdly steep mountain with the two foot wide wooden planks sprouting from the side of it? No? Well, I did make it to the top of Mount Hua, but I must admit the reward was a bit lacking. The view was not as epic as my expectations, instead it was grey. You see, western China’s largest coal power plant is located about 30 miles north of Mount Hua.

China’s air pollution problem stems from its electrical production, not its factories. About 70 percent of China’s electricity comes from coal-fired power plants. By comparison, the United States only gets 37 percent of its electricity from coal. These plants also produce PM2.5 particles that are as small as specks of dust. However, when lots of coal is burned in an area like Beijing (which is protected from heavy winds), the PM2.5 forms huge clouds that block out the sun and cause lung problems for residents. After discovering the cause of this problem, I did what any green hero would do: I went to the beautiful Beihai Park in Beijing, pulled out my laptop and looked up what China was doing to solve the problem. Turns out, last year China invested $58.4 billion in renewable energy sources while the United States added $30.4 billion. Not only that but between 2006 and 2007, China shut down 350 outdated coal plants. Surprisingly, China stands as not only a strong example of how serious the consequences of pollution can be but also as a role model for countries trying to solve their own pollution issues.

I’ve heard of students studied abroad over the summer. Shoot me an email and let me know what your travels were like and what environmental wonders or struggles you saw during your time abroad.

Combatting the federal Leviathan

Steven Begakis
Guest Columnist

At every sporting event, we all join together in song for our national anthem, hailing the stars and stripes that “yet wave … o’er the land of the free.” But do we still live in a free country?

In his New York Times best selling book, The Liberty Amendments: Restoring the American Republic, constitutional lawyer Mark Levin argues our society is currently grounded on a post-constitutional soft despotism, and proposes a solution for returning to constitutional government. At this you may be rolling your eyes. “I can go to a football game, go to the bar, go out to dinner, go to the movies, watch Netflix and do all sorts of things,” you respond. “Of course I’m free.”

Free, unless you’re an entrepreneur trying to start a business. Unless you’re a Christian photographer who objects to trying to start a business. Unless you’re a Catholic business owner who refuses to pay for your employee’s abortion procedures. Unless you’re a conservative or Tea party group trying to get an exemption from the internal revenue service. Unless you’re a Christian lawyer who objects to the insurance mandates. Unless you’re a non-profit attempting to start a religious school. Unless you’re an athlete wanting to wear prayer jerseys. Unless you’re a Christian photographer who objects to being forced to take photos of gay weddings. Unless you’re a co-owner of a business that’s about to be shut down because you’re in violation of an ordinance. Unless you’re a Medicaid recipient who was denied coverage because of your religious beliefs.

The federal government spends 25 percent of the GDP, which is 25 percent of our private property, the wealth we produce through our labor. In addition, it has borrowed over $17 trillion — about 100 percent of the GDP — and has unfunded welfare liabilities that exceed $90 trillion — over 500 percent of the GDP. All of these debts and promises will have to be paid for in taxes, which means the government owns us — five times over. Washington has enshrouded us, our children and our children’s children to a boundless and miserable future with no sign of letting up.

The federal government, Levin explains, “is the nation’s largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, contractor, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, healthcare provider and pension guarantor. Moreover, with aggravated police powers that does not respect, directly it bans or mandates by regulation.” The ubiquitous nature of the federal tyrant is such that “nearly all will be basically unaffected by the events of the evening, sentient, ambivalent and disbelieving.”

Nineteenth century French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville predicted this ominous state and the damage that it would do to liberty and human progress. He stated, “[The supreme power] covers the surface of society with a network of small complicated rules, minutely uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate, to rise above the crowd. The will of man is not shattered, but softened, bent and guided, men are seldom forced by it to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents the existence, it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes and stultifies a people until each nation is reduced to no better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd.” Does that not describe 21st century America? More importantly, does that describe a free country?

There are those who seek to reform Washington by electing more federal politicians, but often they encounter a maddening truth: once so-called “reformers,” whether Republican or Democrat, reach Washington, they no longer make good on their promises to reform Washington. The absolute legislative power seized by Congress, the monopolistic executive power maintained by the president and his legions of unaccountable bureaucrats, the oligarchical judicial power of nine lawyers in black robes, will never be willingly handed back to the people by the very rulers who do profit from it. Consequently, voting has taken on a quixotic character.

But Levin offers a concrete solution: He calls for two-thirds of the state legislatures — 34 total — to invoke Article Five of the Constitution, calling a national convention for proposing constitutional amendments. There, the state delegates could propose a series of “liberty amendments” to restore constitutional limits on power and reaffirm individual liberties, including term limits, a balanced budget, limits on taxes and spending, limits on the bureaucracy and much more. These amendments would then be ratified by three-fourths of the states — 38 total. Congress, the president and the Supreme Court would be completely bypassed. It is a “hail mary” pass — the last gasp of a once great republic now on the verge of abandoning the principles of the American Revolution.

In order to see the wisdom of this strategy, one must first comprehend the tyranny we face. On Mar. 23, 1775, after the British attack at Lexington and Concord, Patrick Henry issued a resounding call to arms at the Virginia convention, in which he said, in part:

“Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth, to know the worst, and to provide for it.

If we shut our eyes to the truth of what is happening in this country and surrender our unalienable rights without a fight, as President Ronald Reagan warned, spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States, where men were free. “Is life so dear,” asked Henry, “or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slav- ery? Forbid it, Almighty God.”

It’s time to take back our country, to demand that our state legislatures call an Article Five constitutional convention and pass a new Bill of Rights for the 21st century that will restore self-government. Let us, the people, set aside meager party distinctions and work together to reclaim our birthright, the blessings of liberty, for ourselves and our posterity.

Christian Nofziger
Ask the Greenman

Interested in writing a Viewpoint column? Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

Steven Begakis is a first-year student at the University of Notre Dame Law School. He can be reached at sбегakis@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Legends of Notre Dame threw the B1 Block Party last Friday night, the annual kick off to the new school year that adds a bit of flare and excitement to the student body’s first Saturday together. Legends’ unofficial congratulatory celebration rewarding the newly christened freshmen on the completion of their first week of classes saw the return of the popular four-man alternative rock band from Chicago, OK Go.

OK Go has had an impressive history with Notre Dame. Back in 2004, the band started as simply the latest “up-and-coming” band to perform at Legends. Then, they rose to prominence as they made their return to Notre Dame in 2007 for “The Show” at the Joyce Center, this time as the co-headliner with Lupe Fiasco (side note: based on Lupe’s rapid fall to irrelevancy and disgrace, the staying power and quality of OK Go’s music career is quite impressive in its own right).

They played themselves right into the hearts of the student body, as they included the Notre Dame Marching Band in the music video of their single “This Too Shall Pass,” while also returning to Legends for another energetic performance. Needless to say, Notre Dame just can’t get enough of OK Go.

However, the real story at this year’s B1 Block Party came courtesy of another up-and-coming band to perform through Legends. Royal Teeth, a band from Louisiana that doesn’t even have their own Wikipedia page, stole the show on Friday night. Featuring lead vocalists Gary Larsen and Nora Patterson, the band performed with high energy and fervent passion the entire set.

This was an impressive feat at any rate, but on Saturday even more so. They were burdened with the task of opening the entire event and with playing for a crowd that was still filing into the venue despite the fact that they were halfway through their set, but they overcame these challenges by playing with an “amateur” style. I say that they played with an “amateur” style with absolute admiration, because I appreciated the way they played with joy and genuine pleasure on the stage, looking and feeling as if they were simply happy to be there.

A simple look around the crowd was all it took to vindicate their performance. What was once a hesitant and, frankly, inattentive audience gradually transformed into a one that was clapping along. As their performance climaxed with their biggest hit “Wild,” which was featured on EA Sports’ “FIFA Soccer 13” soundtrack, the audience was enthralled.

Legends obtained large “Jumbotron” displays that sat on the stage, displaying text messages from audience members. Amidst some of the typical “can’t wait to see OK Go!” texts, there were just as many — if not more — messages that reflected audience members’ roaring approval and appreciation for Royal Teeth’s performance.

OK Go will probably forever hold a special spot in Notre Dame’s heart, as their continued involvement with the campus speaks highly to their regard for their fans and Notre Dame and this campus’ continued appreciation for the band.

Even though fans came to see the star power of OK Go, this year’s B1 Block Party treated them to an extra helping of musical entertainment in the form of the impressive up-and-comer, Royal Teeth.

Contact Miko Malabute at mmalabut@nd.edu
Improving college football’s rules

Mary Green
Sports Writer

What’s that, you say? College football is back? Wow, I never would have guessed, based off the thousands of tweets on my Twitter newsfeed counting down the hours until the kickoff of Thursday night’s games. But now that America’s favorite Saturday obsession has returned, I’ve noticed some things that could use adjustment. Since the postseason system will (finally) undergo a little facelift next season, here are some more suggestions on how to make the sport even better this year and in years to follow.

Rule No. 1: BCS-eligible teams must play BCS-eligible teams

Obviously, the phrasing of this requirement will have to change next season after the BCS system gives way to a more logical playoff system, but the concept is simple—if you’re a major program, you must play other major programs.

Now, I understand that when smaller schools go to Gainesville, Tuscaloosa and Columbus and play perennial powerhouses, those smaller schools make more money than they would playing another small school. But it’s also a tad embarrassing if you’re Nicholls State (.000 winning percentage in the world is Nicholls State!) and you roll into Eugene knowing you’ll be crushed by No. 3 Oregon before the game even kicks off.

So here’s the caveat: schools from major conferences, including the American Athletic Conference (even though some of us want to pretend they’re not a “real” conference) can play a mid-major or smaller team one game a year. But it’s also a tad embarrassing if you’re Nicholls State and you’re in Eugene knowing you’ll be crushed by No. 3 Oregon before the game even kicks off.

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By MERI KELLY
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s lost a hard-fought game in its season opener against Bethel 1-0 on Friday in Mishawaka, Ind.

After controlling possession for much of the first half, the Belles (0-1-0) looked to break through early in the second half. Freshman midfielder Jenn Jarmy shot from inside the 18-yard box, but her attempt was turned away.

In the 75th minute, freshman forward Rosie Bielh attempted a shot, only to see it sail just above the crossbar.

The game appeared to be heading to overtime, when a ball cleared from the Belles’ offensive half along the left side of the field went to Bethel senior forward Nicole Stellor in the 90th minute. Stellor’s attempt from 30 yards out soared right under the crossbar and into the net.

“It was a long game for all of us, and it literally came down to the last three minutes of the game,” sophomore defender Kate Looney said. “But it didn’t really take our spirits, we tried to keep up the intensity and play until the very end of the game.”

The Belles couldn’t respond in the final seconds of action, and Bethel (1-1-1) came away with the victory.

Although the outcome of the game wasn’t favorable for the Belles, the team boasted several strong performances. Junior goalie Chanler Rosenberg had nine saves in goal for the Belles. Bielh had five shots, while junior defender Katie Hussey took three shots.

Belles senior midfielder Mollie Valencia fights for the ball in the Belles’ 1-0 loss against Calvin last season Sept. 27.

By MERI KELLY
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Contact Meri Kelly at mkelly29@nd.edu

SMC SOCCER | BELTEL 1, SAINT MARY’S 0

SMC women’s soccer lost a tough 1-0 decision at Bethel on Friday, Sept. 27.

“The game was a physical one, overall we played well,” coach Dominic Arcus said. “We need to continue to improve our defensive commitment and work on adjusting to the quick pace we saw.”

SMC was outshot 9-6 by Bethel, with one of those shots scoring the game-winning goal in the first half.

The Belles had three shots on goal in the second half, and Bethel also had three shots on goal.

SMC out-rebounded Bethel 12-4.

While watching Friday night’s matchup between Texas Tech and SMU, it seemed that the announcers couldn’t go ten minutes without talking about the West Virginia snowstorm polarizing figure in college football. If I heard the name “Johnny” one more time, I probably would have ripped my ears off. Yes, his half-game performance was laughable, and, yes, the NCAA is more than a little fickle in doling out penalties, but there’s no need for the media to debate a single player ad nauseum.

Friday’s announcers discussed the Texas A&M quarterback, who, by the way, was not playing in their game, more than they did Texas Tech’s puntlinger, a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman by the name of Baker Mayfield who walked in as a true freshman.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Sunday’s highly-anticipated top-10 match up lived up to the hype, as the Bruins and Irish battled to a stalemate for most of the game. Neither team seemed able to create scoring opportunities in the first half, as the Bruins got off seven shots and the Irish took only one.

UCLA junior midfielder Sam Mewis led the Bruins with three shots in the first half and was aggressive in pushing the ball throughout the game. Waldrum said he believes that UCLA’s midfielders, some of whom he’s coached on the United States Under-23 National Team, won the battle in the midfield.

“Mewis and [UCLA junior midfielder Sarah] Killion, they outplayed our midfield today,” Waldrum said. “I think that’s where the game is won and lost when you play against good teams, in the midfield. As a player, you always want to play against good players and good teams, so hopefully ours will take it and learn from it.”

Mewis, Killion and the rest of the Bruins challenged the Irish, rarely allowing them to maintain any prolonged possessions. Notre Dame’s best two scoring chances both ended in narrow misses. In the 75th minute, Bruins junior goalie Katelyn Rowland snagged sophomore defender Brittany Von Rueden’s cross just before Andrews could head it in for the Irish.

In the 80th minute, Andrews knocked it away from Rowland to a wide-open Thomas, who knocked it in. Seconds later, however, the goal was negated by an offside call. Five minutes later, the Bruins scored the only official goal of the game when freshman forward Darian Jenkins collected a rebound off the crossbar and sent it back from point-blank range past Little for her fourth goal of the season. The Irish were unable to mount any sort of response in the final five minutes, even after switching out a defender for some extra firepower.

Despite the 1-0 loss, Waldrum believes the game showed the Irish what they have to work on to challenge top teams like UCLA. “UCLA deserved it, they were the better team,” he said. “What we want to do is learn from that, that’s why we play good team. We needed to get exposed, we needed to have that kind of game today. We’ll be better for it.”

The Irish return to action at home against Detroit next Sunday at 7 p.m.

Contact Casey Karnes at wkarnes@nd.edu

SMC VOLLEYBALL | OHIO NORTHERN INVITATIONAL

Belles drop three in tournament

Observer Staff Report

The Belles opened the 2013 season by traveling to Ada, Ohio, for the Ohio Northern Invitational.


Throughout the tournament, several Belles had impressive performances. In the tournament opener against Ohio Northern (4-0), sophomore outside hitter Katie Hecklinski had 10 kills with five digs, while freshman setter Clare McMillan had 16 assists.

After dropping the first set to Thiel (0-4), the Belles bounced back behind the play of Hecklinski and junior middle hitter Melanie Kuczek, who each compiled 12 kills, while McMillan added 26 assists and 10 digs of her own.

In the tournament finale against DePauw (2-1), Schneider had nine kills and junior outside hitter Brooke Fowler added six kills. Schneider also had 13 digs, and Mersits led all players in the game with 16 digs.

At the conclusion of the tournament, Kuczek was named to the All-Tournament Team. The Belles (1-3) will open their conference season against Kalamazoo in Kalamazoo, Mich., on Tuesday at 7 p.m.
By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

After a disappointing first two matches that saw the Irish fall to new conference foe North Carolina and host Middle Tennessee State, Notre Dame (1-3) rallied on Saturday evening to dispatch San Francisco in the final match of the Blue Raider Bash in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Up two sets to none against the Dons (0-3), the Irish watched their lead evaporate in the following two sets before taking command of the fifth, cruising to a 15-9 victory.

“We hung in there and fought really hard,” Irish coach Debbie Brown said. “It was a really positive thing. We got away from the errors that hurt us in our first two matches and really played much better. When you play three matches in 24 hours, it’s grueling. I was happy with our toughness in taking that fifth set.”

After struggling offensively against North Carolina (3-0) and Middle Tennessee (2-1), Notre Dame hit with greater precision in its first victory of the season. Led by senior setter Maggie Brindock and junior outside hitter Toni Alugbue, the Irish hit .260 against Middle Tennessee and North Carolina.

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After struggling offensively against North Carolina (3-0) and Middle Tennessee (2-1), Notre Dame hit with greater precision in its first victory of the season. Led by senior setter Maggie Brindock and junior outside hitter Toni Alugbue, the Irish hit .260 against the Dons. Brindock continued her role as the distributor of choice for the Irish, notching 47 assists and jumping into the offense with nine kills of her own. Alugbue led the Irish with 15 kills on Saturday night and was named to the All-Tournament team for her efforts over a weekend in which she collected 35 kills.

“We expect Alugbue to be one of our top point scorers as she was last season. That’s her role for us,” Brown said. “We changed the lineup around a little bit, and she did a great job adjusting to those changes. She played a number of positions and did everything we needed her to do.”

Despite Alugbue’s solid overall performance, Notre Dame struggled offensively in losses to North Carolina and Middle Tennessee. The Irish managed to hit just .060 combined in the season’s first two matches. To Brown, the problem was apparent.

“There’s no question we were disappointed with how we played offensively in our first two matches,” Brown said. “We were just making uncharacteristic unforced errors and shooting ourselves in the foot. By the time we played USF, we were playing much better and making better hitting choices.”

While the Irish were disappointed in taking only one of three matches on the weekend, Brown said that the experience against top teams was worthwhile and can only improve her team as it prepares for the season.

“Middle Tennessee and North Carolina are perennial NCAA tournament teams,” Brown said. “Obviously we went down there to beat them, but I think that we overcame some obstacles and put ourselves in a better position going forward.”

Notre Dame will be back in action this weekend at home for the Golden Dome Invitational. The Irish will take on Bowling Green at 7 p.m. Friday at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu
The observer | Monday, September 2, 2013 | ndsmcobserver.com

Sports

Soccer continued from page 16

The Irish. “They are free to create a lot of opportunities. Ciccariello is very dangerous. We played well in everything except scoring goals. We had a few chances, but we didn’t convert.”

Clark said he wasn’t too worried about Notre Dame’s lack of scoring. “I think the most important thing is that we created chances,” Clark said. “If we hadn’t created chances, I would have been more concerned.”

The Irish converted two chances against SMU (0-2-0) on Sunday, as senior forward Leon Brown scored both goals.

The first came early in the first half when Brown received a pass from senior forward Alex Priede, took three dribbles from midfield and shot.

“The first, he picked up the ball and shot from about 25 yards. His striker partner, Priede, fed him the ball. The goalkeeper was diving, and it was a really good kick in the low corner of the goal,” Clark said. “Hodan picked up the ball in the right flank.” Clark said. “He beat and weaved past the defense and cut the ball back to Leon, who just hammered it in.”

SMU threatened the Irish lead in the 70th minute when sophomore forward Will Smith fed a pass to sophomore midfielder Brenden Lee, who shot from the left corner of the box for the Mustangs’ only goal.

Notre Dame and UCLA finished the tournament with the same record of 1-0-1, but the Irish took the title by winning the goals scored tiebreaker.

“It’s nice to win a tournament,” Clark said. “We should’ve beaten UCLA. No question, we were the more dominant team. There were a lot of positives. The team played well, but there are things to improve like finishing and playing under pressure. Overall, it was a solid weekend.”

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

Kelly continued from page 18

today, I just wanted to take a minute on behalf of Father Jenkins and the rest of the University of Notre Dame, to say how thrilled we are that on a day where our head football coach becomes one of the youngest coaches in history to achieve the 200-win milestone, that we can also announce that we have entered into a new agreement that ensures that Brian will continue to provide the leadership that has fundamentally changed this program, restored it, given it the foundation that it needs for continued success in the future,” Swarbrick said.

Kelly had previously signed a contract extension that was set to take him through the 2016 season. The new deal will take Kelly through 2017.

With the win over Temple, Kelly became the second youngest coach — at 51 years and 310 days — to hit the 200-win mark. “I haven’t really taken the time to think about it, other than a lot of the coaches that are with me today have been part of a lot of those wins,” Kelly said. “And that’s really, for me, pretty special.”

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu

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Soccer continued from page 16

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Brian Kelly
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Irish shut down UCLA, edge Mustangs

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Sports Writer

The No. 7 Irish endured hot, humid conditions Friday night to force a 0-0 draw against No. 9 UCLA, and then bounced back Sunday to record their first shutout of the season with a 4-0 victory over Oakland.

Irish coach Bobby Clark said the warm weather during Friday’s matchup tested Notre Dame’s endurance. “It was a very warm night,” Clark said. “It was 93 degrees when we started the game and very humid. Our fitness was very good, and they played very well and kept their energy, so I give credit to them.”

The Irish (1-0-1) and Bruins (1-0-1) remained scoreless after regulation and two overtimes. Senior defenders Andrew O’Malley and Grant Van De Casteele prevented Bruins scoring opportunities, as UCLA managed only nine shots, compared to Notre Dame’s 18. Senior goalkeeper Patrick Wall contributed five saves to the Irish defensive effort.

“Our defense was very solid,” Clark said. “I think our goalkeeper was excellent — Pat was very calm and collected. O’Malley and Van De Casteele have a very good chemistry together.”

Notre Dame splits weekend

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

No. 7 Notre Dame had a weekend full of firsts. The Irish recorded their first shutout of the season with a 4-0 victory Friday against Oakland and their first victory in 2013. Irish coach Randy Waldrum said he believes Andrews’ goal is just the first of many for the highly-acclaimed freshman.

“She’s getting better every game,” Waldrum said of Andrews. “You know, seeing her get her first goal Friday night, I think she’s going to be a handful for years to come.”

Andrews wasn’t the only freshman that stood out this weekend, as goalie Kaeda Little continued to excel in her starting role. Little saved four shots against the Grizzlies and was strong against UCLA (4-0), as the Bruins only managed one goal in 20 shots. Her performance pleased Waldrum, but he said he still saw room for improvement.

“I think [Little’s] doing great,” Waldrum said. “I thought in the second half [against UCLA] she gave a couple balls away with her distribution, but that’s the kind of mistake young players are going to make. We’re going to have to coach that up a little bit, but overall, we’re really pleased with her.”

Kelly and Notre Dame reach contract extension through 2017

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

Editor’s Note: A version of this article appeared online Aug. 31.

After the No. 14 Irish opened up their 2013 campaign with a 28-6 victory over Temple, Notre Dame announced a five-year contract extension for head coach Brian Kelly.

Though the University did not disclose specific terms of the deal, Kelly did confirm the contract would extend through the next five seasons, including 2013. Kelly, who reached 200 career victories with the win over the Owls, said the new contract was less about improving perks and more about the future of the program.

“Obviously, [Notre Dame Director of Athletics] Jack Swarbrick, [University President] Father Jenkins, we’ve all been in discussion about the future of the program,” Kelly said. “So when we come to an agreement, it’s not necessarily that within it I get a lunch stipend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It’s about that we’re all in it together, and that’s what I was looking for.”

Kelly said in early August that the two sides were close to an agreement but were still finalizing details. During the second half of Saturday’s contest, news broke on the NBC broadcast that Notre Dame would announce the extension after the game. Swarbrick then spoke to reporters after the game to confirm the news.

“While I know that the news has made its way out into the public during the broadcast, I would like to officially announce that Notre Dame and Brian Kelly have reached agreement on a new contract that extends his agreement through the 2017 season,” Swarbrick said.

The next two goals were sandwiched by a lightning delay. Freshman midfielder Patrick Hodan dribbled down the field in the 69th minute.

Gilbertson scored her second goal of the season with a near-perfect game for the Irish (3-1), who scored four goals for the third consecutive game.

Oakland (1-3) played very conservatively in an attempt to stem the Irish onslaught, even dropping back extra defenders. Their efforts proved fruitless, as four different players found the back of the net for the Irish.

Junior forward Lauren Bobaboy opened the scoring in the third minute with her fourth goal of the season. Sophomore Crystal Thomas assisted on Bobaboy’s goal and earned another assist after her pass led to a goal by junior forward Karin Simonian in the 48th minute.

The next two goals were sandwiched around a 35-minute lightning delay. Freshman midfielder Morgan Andrews scored her first collegiate goal in the 54th minute, and after the rain delay sophomore forward Anna Maria Gilbertson scored her second goal of the season in the 68th minute.

Waldrum said he believes Andrews’ goal is just the first of many for the highly-acclaimed freshman.

“She’s getting better every game,” Waldrum said of Andrews. “You know, seeing her get her first goal Friday night, I think she’s going to be a handful for years to come.”