CHESTER, Pa. — It started with hands but finished with fingerprints.

No. 3 Notre Dame endured questionable hand ball calls to beat No. 5 Maryland 2-1 and claim the program’s first national championship, putting its fingerprints all over the 2013 season and the championship trophy.

Senior forward Leon Brown and senior defender Andrew O’Malley scored for the Irish in the victory at PPL Park in Chester, Pa., on Sunday.

“Being able to take the program from somewhere it’s never been, like an Elite Eight win, to a national championship win, is a huge jump,” O’Malley said. “It wasn’t the prettiest game; I think it’s hard to play two games of that intensity in a period of two or three days, but I thought both teams put in a good shift.”

The referees did not call a hand ball – despite the protests of several Terrapin players – but Maryland’s senior forward Patrick Mullins grabbed the rebound, turned around in a crowd of Irish defenders, and knocked the ball into the back of the net to put his team ahead.

It was Mullins’s 19th goal of the season, but after the game he said he used his hand to bring down the ball.

“That’s not who I am, and I’m very disappointed in how that play resulted,” Mullins said. “All I can control is my actions, and I’m not happy with that action.”

The Maryland supporters, who spent much of the game singing songs like, “when the Terps go marching in,” erupted in a roar of approval, but they were soon chastened by the Irish.

Five minutes later, Irish sophomore midfielder Connor Klekota headed a throw-in from senior defender Luke Mishu to Brown, who was waiting in the goal box. Brown slid and sent the ball sailing into the goal, past the reach of diving freshman goalkeeper Zack Steffen to tie the game at one.

“As a team, one of the mantras we had was to respond to what happened during the game,” O’Malley said. “Not everything is going to go your way as a team, so you try to make sure that you’re mentally strong enough to come back from something like that. Leon [Brown] came in and responded really well with a goal.”

Brown came into the game in the 10th minute as a substitute for junior forward Vince Cicciarelli, who broke his collarbone when he fell over a Maryland defender and landed on his left shoulder. It was Brown’s first goal since Notre Dame’s 3-0 win over Michigan on Sept. 17, and his fifth of the season.

“When we lost our big striker [Vince Cicciarelli] with a broken collarbone, that was a blow, but Leon Brown came in and got the equalizing goal,” Clark said. “We went behind, and that was definitely a blow, but we equalized fairly quickly, and that was Leon that did that.”

A spectacular save from senior keeper Patrick Wall in the 41st minute prevented the Terrapins from entering halftime with the advantage. Shinsky’s header came oh-so-close to crossing the goal line, but Wall grabbed the ball from out of the air and fell the to the ground with the ball just in front of the goal. Wall finished the game with three saves.

The Irish took their first lead of the match in the 60th minute with a header from senior forward Leon Brown and senior center back Andrew O’Malley.

The Irish ended the game on top, the first time in program history, and it was the first time the Irish had won the national championship.

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It was a season of firsts for Notre Dame. It was the first time the Irish went to the College Cup. It was the first time the Irish played in the National Championship game.

And for the first time ever, the Irish are national champions. No. 5 Maryland was a veteran in the College Cup, winning two National Titles since 2005. But the No. 3 Irish must have missed that memo.

Notre Dame captured the College Cup with a 2-1 comeback win over Maryland. The score was unseeded between the two teams from the regular season. On Oct. 8, the Irish and Maryland tied 1-1, even through double-overtime. It was fitting that the two ACC teams got to slug it out in the biggest game of the year.

However, the Irish have a Hermann Trophy finalist in their midst—Andrew O’Malley. Maryland’s senior defender missed the contest against Notre Dame, but the victory was paved for the Irish when O’Malley’s third goal on headed home the game-winner.

On the delivery and O’Malley weewizard worked his magic on the left side of the pitch, the fielder evan panken was fouled on a left-foot shot past irish senior goalkeeper Patrick Wall.

Notre Dame’s most prolific scorer in the past five games, was Notre Dame’s most prolific scorer throughout the tournament. Both teams hesitated thinking the “hand ball” would be called. everyone paused, except for Mullins. He didn’t hesitate.

The Dutch were without two stars in the season and Ship’s 8th assist and 34th point. Once Notre Dame got the lead, it was stifling defense led by senior center back Grant Van De Casteele, took over and shut down the Terrapins.

The spark they needed on a complete hustle-and-muscle play, for his sixth goal of the season. With a man at his heels, Brown shrugged off two goals and push es of the Maryland defender and then narrowly slipped the ball past Maryland freshman keeper Zack Steffen for the equalizer.

Notre Dame’s first and only goal ever conceded in the College Cup finals came in the 90th minute, to go down 1-0. And of course it was to Maryland senior Patric Mullins.

Off of a Maryland corner, the ball was bouncing around the box and a Terrapin shot was put on net, Irish sophomore Patrick Hodan may or may not have used his arm to keep the ball out of the net. Maryland scored anyway.

Yet, Notre Dame is extremely lucky to not have that “hand ball” called. Hodan would have been automatically red-carded, the Terrapins awarded a penalty kick and Notre Dame would have had to play a man down for the remainder of the game. Hodan, who had scored six goals in the past five games, was Notre Dame’s most prolific scorer throughout the tournament.

Andrew O’Malley stuck that goal away … he missed a few all season, I can tell you, but he saved that goal for the right time,” Clark said. “It was a great goal. It would have been nice, we’d had a couple of chance to make it 3-1 just after that, but we somehow scored these and I think they just tried to add to my gray hairs.”

Maryland’s last chance at forcing overtime came with one minute left on the clock when they lined up for a free kick. But Mullins’ last-ditch effort missed its mark and sailed away.

Cirovski acknowledged that it was a small consolation that he lost to Clarke. The two first met when Clarke was a veteran goalkeeper at Aberdeen and Cirovski was a young player trying to find his footing in the professional ranks. “Let me congratulate Bobby Clark and Notre Dame on their first soccer championship,” Cirovski said. “They are worthy winners. I’m genuinely happy for Bobby, for all he’s done for college soccer, and I hope he enjoys this one. To lose today to a great Notre Dame team is no disgrace, nor any shame. There’s heartache and disappointment in our locker room right now, but that will pass.”

The Irish now have a 25-4-3 record in the NCAA tournament, including a 15-10-1 mark at Notre Dame.
Senior center back Andrew O’Malley, left, hoists the trophy after the Irish won the national title.

O’Malley, a Philadelphia-area native, scored the game-winning goal in the 60th minute.

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

CHESTER, Pa. — For the friends and family of senior defender Andrew O’Malley, the only way to see him play in Sunday’s NCAA Championship Game could have been shorter was if the final were held in his backyard in West Chester, Pa.

But PPL Park in nearby Chester, Pa., the home of the Philadelphia Union, can accommodate many more well-wishers, and O’Malley said he tried to round up as many as possible for Sunday’s game, a 2-1 victory over No. 5 Maryland that gave the No. 3 Irish their first ever national championship.

“I got as much of my family out as I could,” O’Malley said. “I think they ran a tailgate, stuff like that;” O’Malley said. “It was really good to get a goal in front of them. The goal itself was really emotional to see a full dared at the end of the game, and we started to that last January and throughout the whole spring, summer, fall, I think we realized that if we wanted to make that next jump it was everyone together, all 30 guys on the team, not just the 11 that played or the 21 that dressed, it was those goals, starting with the freshmen walk-ons and end- ing with me, Grant and O’Malley as captains. I think we showed that throughout the year and throughout the tournament.

“I thought it was his shoulder,” Mullins said. “When we build my stadium, I’ve seen that many coaches over the years, but I don’t think there’s a better man than him in the business. He did it with class, and we’ll miss him a lot.”

The irish would go on to score twice more winning the title 2-1 and rendering the legiti- macy of Mullins’s final collegiate goal moot. But the Maryland star still said he was embarrassed by his action, which could have war- ranted a caution had the referees called the violation.

“It’s definitely hard for me to swallow because I don’t think that’s the type of player I am,” Mullins said. “Especially here at the college cup.”

“Maryland senior forward Patrick Hodan said it was ‘a little bit’ frustrating that had not yet seen the play on video, but he was able to make the jump to the next level. “I think this senior class was different from previous senior classes in that we really tried to not think of ourselves as bigger or better than all the other classes,” Shipp said. “We tried to make it more equalized, and we started to last January and throughout the whole spring, summer, fall, I think we realized that if we wanted to make that next jump it was everyone together, all 30 guys on the team, not just the 11 that played or the 21 that dressed, it was those goals, starting with the freshmen walk-ons and end- ing with me, Grant and O’Malley as captains. I think we showed that throughout the year and throughout the tournament.

“Being a senior is a really good refe- ree; these things happen.”

“Obviously the ref- eree is a great referee, and I’m sure he’ll look back unfortunately on that play, too, because it was just a lot of plays that I’m sure players and refs will want to take back. I will regret that one for the rest of my life, but I’ll move forward. People make mistakes.”

The coach was impressed by his public apology, and said that Mullins’s public show of reg- ret revealed the senior’s strong character.

“When we build my stadium, we’re going to bronze a statue of him in the front because he’s made of the best stuff on Earth,” Maryland coach Sasho Cirovski said. “It affected him a lot after that moment. … His conscience was hurting. He put too much on himself. There were many players that had intentional hand balls in the game. I’ll be a learning lesson for him, but his character shining through is worthy of a championship.”

Mullins was not the only one whose actions on that play were called into question. Repay clear- ly showed that Irish sophomore midfielder Patrick Hodan was standing in front of the goal when a shot bounced off his elbow, pre- venting a goal (although Mullins did score off the ricochet). If the officials believe that such a move is done purposefully with the inten- t of preventing a goal, the play can be shown a red card and ejected from the game.

Hodan acknowledged that the ball did touch his arm, but denied that he consciously moved his el- bow to stop the shot.

“I guess a little bit,” Hodan said when asked if he was surprised he was not shown a red card. “It was a nice header from the Maryland player, and it was just kind of a re- action. It wasn’t anything deliber- ately. It was closer to the shoulder, I’d like to say, but they ended up scoring anyway so it wasn’t too big of a deal.”

Although Notre Dame coach Bobby Clark acknowledged he had not yet seen the play on video, he backed Hodan.

“I thought it was his shoulder,” Clark said. “I knew our guys were annoyed at something else. They thought [Mullins] had brought the ball down with his hand and shot it. Maybe you say it was two hand balls, makes it even.

“戏剧中的手球创造了争议

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

CHESTER, Pa. — It’s not very often that a player apologizes for scoring a goal. Then again, it’s not very often two apparent hand balls are committed in the same scoring play — or that both viola- tions to go unpunished.

But that seems to be what hap- pened Sunday afternoon at PPL Park during the national cham- pionship game.

“That was definitely a crazy play,” Maryland senior forward Patrick Mullins said. “A lot of things happened in a short period of time. From what I can remem- ber, a cross came in, our player — I’m pretty sure (Alex) Shinsky — had a great shot. It did hit the kid’s hand on the line, it bounced out, came back out and I made a mistake on my part. I’m very dis- appointed in myself for doing that, but in the heat of the moment, I hit it down my hand, and like any good forward, I put in the net.”

That goal put the No.5 Terrapins (17-3-5, 7-4-3 ACC) ahead, 1-0, against No. 3 Notre Dame (17-1-6, 7-1-3). The Irish would go on to score twice more winning the title 2-1 and rendering the legiti- macy of Mullins’s final collegiate goal moot. But the Maryland star still said he was embarrassed by his action, which could have war- ranted a caution had the referees called the violation.

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Notre Dame celebrates after winning the national championship Sunday at PPL Park in Chester, Pa. The Irish defeated Maryland, 2-1, to claim their first title in program history in their 37th season as a varsity program. Notre Dame finished the season 17-1-6.

For the first time in program history, Notre Dame won the national championship, defeating Maryland, 2-1, on Sunday at PPL Park in Chester, Pa. Senior forward Leon Brown netted an equalizer in the 40th minute and senior center back Andrew O’Malley scored the eventual game-winning goal in the 60th minute to give the Irish their first title in their 37th season as a varsity program.

Finally 
Champions

Senior goalkeeper Patrick Wall blasts a goal kick during Notre Dame’s 2-1 victory over Maryland on Sunday. Wall tallied two saves and improved his career record to 26-2-6.

Senior captain Harry Shipp, right, speaks to Irish fans at Heritage Hall after arriving back on campus.

Senior forward Harry Shipp was named the Most Outstanding Offensive Player of the College Cup.

The No. 1 atop Grace Hall was lit up after Notre Dame defeated Maryland to win the national championship.