

Soren saves the day

Penalty save propels soccer to victory over DePauw

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • Last season's top goal scorer Coledon Johnson '23 made his return to the field, but goalkeeper Soren Russell '26 was the star of the Little Giants' shutout victory over DePauw on October 19. Russell's 16th minute penalty kick save changed the course of the game and propelled Wabash to a 1-0 win.

The Little Giants opened the scoring early on, but it wasn't without controversy. In the ninth minute of the game, striker Caleb Castaño '26 skipped past three DePauw defenders and struck a shot low into the bottom left corner. The ball evaded the reach of Tigers goalkeeper Alexander Lundin, but on first glance also appeared to have drifted wide of the post. There was a moment of confusion as Castaño looked eagerly toward the referee, who eventually decided that the ball had fallen through a hole in the net and awarded the goal.

But disaster almost struck immediately thereafter. In the 16th minute, a DePauw attacker pushed over Wabash center back Hugo Garcia '24 on a free kick routine. However, as Garcia fell, he brought the attacker down with him in the area and the referee awarded a penalty kick to the Tigers.

Up stepped San Thiel, DePauw's prolific junior striker, to take the spot kick against Russell. Thiel, who had already scored seven goals on the season, took a short run up and aimed towards the bottom right corner. Fortunately for Wabash, Russell was more than equal to the shot. The Little Giant keeper dove spectacularly to his left and, with perfect technique, tipped the shot around the post to keep the score at 1-0.

"The save felt great, it was amazing to support the team in that way," said Russell. "It also really helped that the entire bench was pointing for me to dive to my left."

Neither team had many clear-cut opportunities in the remainder of the first half. The best chance fell in the 36th minute to Jackson Grabill '24 whose low shot was easily saved by the Tigers custodian.

In the second half, the Little Giants battled hard to fend off the Tigers. Early

on, top goal scorer Alexis Delgado '23 had two good opportunities saved and then, in the 55th minute, Castaño fired a shot over the bar. Wabash played their usual attacking game, getting seven shots on goal in the second period compared to DePauw's two.

The biggest news pregame was the return of striker Johnson to competitive action. Johnson, last season's top goal scorer, has been out all year with an ankle injury. He started the match and played 53 minutes, managing one shot on goal.

"Today was my first day back, so I don't think they [DePauw] were expecting to see me start up top," said Johnson. "That threw them off a bit. We were looking to play through the middle because we thought we had an advantage there to hold it up top, lay it off and play through the back. Those are the things we were focused on, and that's what we did today."

Tensions boiled over in the 80th minute when, aggravated by an exchange of heated words, Sam Thiel pushed Hayden Eaton '25 in an off-the-ball incident. Eaton retaliated, earning himself a yellow card and igniting a brawl in the middle of the field. When things calmed down, Wabash got back to business and saw the game out, sealing a 1-0 victory.

"I thought in spurts we completely dominated the play," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "We executed our game plan, we kept our composure in the final third and we created more opportunities. As usual in a DePauw-Wabash game, things got frantic and insane, but we were very composed; didn't panic."

The Little Giants' triumph over the Tigers was a much-needed good result after two consecutive defeats to Kenyon College and Denison University. Against Kenyon on October 8, Wabash fell to a lone goal scored early on in the second half. But despite the result, the feeling among supporters after the match was overwhelmingly positive.

"I don't like moral victories, but if you look at how we played – we had three clear chances in the last 20 minutes to score and take control of that second

Stories from the Ukrainian border



PHOTO PHIL GOSS '90
Boxes of food, clothing and supplies await thousands of Ukrainian refugees at a humanitarian checkpoint just off the Polish side of the Ukrainian-Polish border.

Phil Goss '90 discusses his personal experiences aiding Ukrainian refugees as they flee west across the Polish-Ukrainian border

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half," said Keller. "I left thinking that if we can play like that, we can play with anybody. We played well enough to win."

Fans did not share that same optimism after the defeat to Denison on October 11. The Big Red set the tone from the very beginning when Niko Argyros opened the scoring in the 18th minute. Matters were made worse for Wabash when, on the verge of halftime, Denison's Rohan Tripathy doubled his team's lead. In the second half, the Big Red sat back deep

and defended their position, the game finishing 2-0 in Denison's favor.

The victory over DePauw puts the Little Giants right back on track for playoff contention. Wabash now sits fourth in the standings, level on points with fifth-ranked Wittenberg University, a team that has played one game more than the Little Giants. With just three games left in the regular season, the heat is on for soccer and their hunt for NCAC tournament play.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Goalkeeper Soren Russell '26 dives to make a penalty save against DePauw on October 19 at Reavis Stadium in Greencastle.



COURTESY OF SUSAN ALBRECHT
Caleb Castaño '26 (left) celebrates the winning goal against DePauw on October 19 at Reavis Stadium in Greencastle.

Religious Hoosiers sue for abortion rights

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • Last Friday, October 14, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) represented a group of Hoosiers looking to overturn Indiana's abortion law on the grounds that it infringes on their religious beliefs and if they win, it could change the face of abortion law all over the country.

In May 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, returning the question on abortion rights to the 50 states. Many states had "trigger" laws that immediately went into effect to ban abortion the moment the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Clinic* came down. Others, like Indiana, took a little bit of time to pass a new law after the decision. In July, Indiana passed a near-total abortion ban, providing only exceptions for some cases of rape, incest, fetal defect and if the pregnancy causes faces risk of death or certain severe health defects. It was the first state to pass a new law on abortion after the Supreme Court's decision.

That law is currently stayed from going into effect because the Indiana Supreme Court has blocked its implementation until it can hear

arguments on its constitutionality early in 2023. This is just one effort to block this law from ever going into effect. The ACLU is making another attempt to kill the law with an argument conservative jurists might be sensitive to.

"Although religions, and adherents of those religions, believe that human life begins at conception (however defined), this is not a theological opinion shared by all religions or all religious persons."

-American Civil Liberties Union

The ACLU of Indiana is currently suing the State of Indiana in Marion County, claiming that S.B. 1 violates Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), a piece of

legislation designed to protect the free exercise of religion. The ACLU is suing on behalf of Hoosier Jews for Choice and five women whose religious beliefs say that they must be able to receive an abortion in

accordance with their religious beliefs and this law discriminates against their beliefs.

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COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS
S.B. 1 is currently stayed from going into effect after the Indiana Supreme Court blocked its implementation until it hears arguments on its constitutionality early in 2023.

ACLU takes case to Indiana Supreme Court

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“Although some religions, and adherents of those religions, believe that human life begins at conception (however defined), this is not a theological opinion shared by all religions or all religious persons,” said the ACLU in its briefs.

Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act invalidates laws if it places a substantial burden on a person’s religious exercise unless the burden is necessary to complete a compelling state interest and if it is narrowly tailored to that interest. In layman’s terms, a law can only survive if it is an incredibly important interest and that is the only way to possibly reach that interest.

The State of Indiana says that its interest is in preventing termination of life, an interest that the US Supreme Court has recognized. And according to the state, this near ban is the only way to protect life.

“There are no ways to achieve the state’s objectives with broad exceptions,” said Indiana Solicitor General Thomas Fisher ’91.

There’s no telling how the Marion County Superior Court will rule and what could come of their ruling on appeal, but if the ACLU and their clients win the day, this case could set a precedent to protect abortion rights all over the country. According to the New York Times, at least 13 states have had laws restricting abortion take effect since the Court decided *Dobbs*, and if the Marion County Court rules against the state, it could set a precedent for abortion advocates in states like Texas, Oklahoma and Idaho that have nearly banned abortion.

The US Supreme Court has ruled on numerous cases regarding the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment, including a case this May in which it ruled that a high school football coach could pray at the 50-yard line after a football game. Broadly, the Court has ruled favorably for Free Exercise claims, so if this case makes it way to the US Supreme Court, it could be the culmination of a contentious fight between religious groups and abortion rights advocates that has played out in the Court’s docket for the nearly 50 years since *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973.

China’s Xi Jinping returns for unprecedented third term



COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese premier Xi Jinping provides opening remarks to the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party on October 16 in Beijing.

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23 | SPORTS EDITOR • As the 20th National Party Congress draws to a close, the Chinese Communist Party is poised to return president Xi Jinping for an unprecedented third term in office. Precedent dictates that Chinese premiers are restricted to two five-year terms in office. However, with his abolition of term limits in 2018, Xi is set to become the most powerful Chinese ruler since Chairman Mao Zedong as he extends his tenure for another five-year cycle.

Xi, 69, took over as president at the 18th Party Congress in 2012. Since taking office, Xi has firmly tightened his personal grip on party affairs, clamped down on perceived corruption and severely restricted flows of online information. He has also overseen the detention and torture of more than a million Uyghur Muslims, abuses that the UN says may amount to “crimes against humanity,” in order to strengthen the country’s centralized rule.

“There’s this idea within East Asia and international relations scholarship that China, following the century of humiliation, finally has a leader who is strong enough to restore the prophecy, for lack of a better word, of Tianxia, the concept of all under Heaven,” said Dr. Dylan Irons, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science. “I think with Xi

Jinping coming to power for a third term, his aspiration is to restore Tianxia. But his goal is not to make Japan or Korea vassal states, it’s to restore the idea of One China.”

On the first day of the congress on October 16, Xi’s opening address re-affirmed this vision for One China. In a speech that lasted more than two hours, he stated that the “wheels of history” are turning in Beijing’s favor and, as usual, refused to rule out military incursions into Taiwan and Hong Kong.

“China has been engaging with what we call in international relations salami tactics,” said Irons. “They push the limits and ask Taiwan, ‘if we fly a plane one meter over the border, are you really going to declare war on us? Is the United States going to call in the Marines? What if we fly planes two meters over?’ And so on and so forth.”

Despite wielding greater personal power than ever before, Xi is not immune to criticism. Among party delegates, one major issue of concern has been China’s strict zero-COVID policy. China is now alone in the world as one of the only nations still trying to eliminate the virus through lockdowns and quarantines, policies that are beginning to take their toll on the economy. On October 11, the International Monetary Fund lowered its 2022 growth forecast for China

to 3.2%, a substantial decrease from last year’s 8.1% forecast. But these predictions do not seem to worry Xi, who insists his rigid covid policy is right for the Chinese people.

“We have adhered to the supremacy of the people and the supremacy of life,” said Xi in his opening speech. “We have adhered to dynamic zero-COVID ... and achieved major positive results in the overall prevention and control of the epidemic and economic and social development.”

Nevertheless, it is not only party members who are concerned about the direction of Xi’s government. Since the congress opened its doors, the Chinese authorities have been on high alert for dissidents and potential protesters. On October 13, just days before Xi made his opening remarks, a video went viral on Chinese social media of a man placing protest banners on the Sitong Bridge in Beijing. The videos were quickly removed, and online censorship has been increased for the duration of the event.

The congress comes to a close on Saturday, October 22, when Xi is expected to be re-named as general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and chairman of the Central Military Commission, thus cementing his place as China’s most prominent politician.

News around the metaverse

ARMAN LUTHRA ’26 | STAFF WRITER

Meta Quest Pro: Literally 1984
While the technological leaps that Meta’s newly released VR headset Meta Quest Pro has made are definitely astounding, it has raised several questions about data privacy in a world that seems to mirror that of Orwell’s classic. The headset has five internal cameras tracking everything from expression to eye movement, and five external ones to accurately mimic body movement in the metaverse. While the stated aim behind this setup is to improve the immersion within the VR world, a majority of consumers are wary of the tracking technology, owing especially to Meta’s previous track record, pun intended.

Commenting on this issue, Keane Albright ’25, the treasurer of the Computer Science club, said “Honestly, I hope Meta Quest Pro doesn’t undermine consumer privacy. Considering the backlash that Facebook—now Meta—received from selling consumer information, I think most people may be a little worried especially because you’d

probably need a Meta account to use the device. I’m hopeful that the rebranding also means they changed their approach to consumer privacy.”

As VR technology improves, consumers must decide where they draw the line when it comes to sacrificing their privacy for the sake of better immersion. Would they prefer to accurately see their avatar do a Fortnite emote if that means their tracking data is being sold to Big Tech?

Kanye tries to avoid controversy challenge (Impossible)

Kanye West is buying “Parler”, a social media platform that aims to create an “uncancelable ecosystem”. This move comes after he got locked out of Twitter and Instagram for making anti-Semitic remarks. Saying that in a world where conservative opinions are becoming increasingly controversial, Kanye, also known as Ye, shared that this free speech platform will help them express their rightful opinion. Ye believes that Parler is the ideal application for such to tackle this problem. The app was removed from the Apple and Google app stores, as

it had a role in coordinating the January 6 insurrection. After making some policy changes, the app was reinstated in the app stores. Owen Runge ’24, the Vice-President of the Computer Science Club said. “Kanye buying it will definitely grow the platform exponentially.” Runge said that he was still unsure about the future path of events and whether this growth will be for the good or the worse.

Here’s to hoping this doesn’t lead to more controversies and take West’s career south.

Remembering Hagrid

The February 10, 2022 release of “Hogwarts Legacy”, an upcoming

action role playing game, has got Harry Potter fans all over the world excited. For those who dearly waited for an owl to deliver a Hogwarts acceptance letter on their 11th birthday, they will finally be able to attend their dream school in the game, delving into Charms, Potions, Herbology and Defense against the Dark Arts. While Quidditch will most probably be unplayable in the game, there are rumors of the game having a Room of Requirement. The game’s release will definitely give a relief to the fans, especially after the sad passing of Robbie Coltrane, the actor who played Hagrid in the blockbuster movie series. The game will be playable on PC, PS, Xbox and Switch.



COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

Meta’s recently-released VR headset, Meta Quest Pro, has raised several questions about data privacy.

IAWM

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WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL GOSS '90

Humanitarian aid vehicles exit Ukraine, approaching the Polish border at one of the few checkpoints accessible by vehicles in the area. The orange and white pylons mark the physical border between Ukraine and Poland.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL GOSS '90 AND DAVID TURNLEY

At the Lviv train station, Ukrainian forces guarding pivotal checkpoints await food and water from local women. Many of the soldiers and the Ukrainians supporting them are internally displaced.

Phil Goss '90: 'Fixer and Knower of Things'

Flak jackets, humanitarian aid and the Ukrainian-Polish border

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • For some who live humanely, a Wabash education can lead to sneaking across the border into a warzone. For Phil Goss '90, early March featured Polish-Ukrainian border crossings and flak jacket fittings—all to serve Ukrainian refugees as they fled west to evade Putin's war.

“We can't save everyone, but we can save the ones we've got.”

-Phil Goss '90

Through all the stories Goss witnessed—amidst the crisis and desperation—there also featured humanity, heroism and resilience.

During Goss's senior year at Wabash, the Berlin Wall fell. As a political science major, Goss planned to spend time overseas teaching English in Eastern Europe. With his self-professed “tourist-level” German, he began teaching in Poland in January 1991. That teaching position changed his life, allowing him to find his career, family and calling.

“I just decided to ‘go native’ because I wanted to learn the language to a degree of professional proficiency and culture,” said Goss. “Poland became my career at that point.”

Goss's career has ranged fields of public, private and nonprofit options. Currently, Goss's official day job is serving as president of the fourth-largest brewery in Poland. He also hosts television shows and records voiceovers for film and TV, including Nickelodeon Europe. In the past, Goss also served as an adoptions officer in Warsaw for the U.S. State Department, facilitating adoption cases to the U.S. from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Latvia. Goss spends two-thirds of the year in Poland, returning to Fort Wayne yearly to take care of his inherited family farm.

What Goss didn't know was that all of these experiences would come to a new light when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

“I saw so much human suffering. People literally ripped out of their homes in the night to sneak off in the dark.”

-Phil Goss '90

When the war began, several prominent international journalists reached out to Goss as a “fixer” and “knower of things.” The term may sound vague, and that's by design. As Goss explained, fixers perform many logistical tasks throughout a crisis.

“A fixer is a translator, a driver, an arranger of schedules, a knower of things, a bit of a guru. A fixer does the magic behind the international news, and there are fixers all over the world that CNN, NPR and everyone uses. That's how I got involved in Ukraine initially—as a fixer.”

Goss recalled the first call he received to join the humanitarian response in the early days of the war. It began when Eric Westervelt, foreign correspondent for NPR, called to ask for Goss as a fixer.

“[He] called me and said, ‘meet me at the border,’” Goss said. “I got an oil change for my car, fueled it up, packed a bag and went for I didn't know what. But I took my passport because I knew we would be going into Ukraine. Suffice to say, I had never fitted myself for a flak jacket before.”

Goss initially served as a fixer for



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL GOSS '90

Ukrainian refugees receive food, clothing, and support at Medyka Crossing, a humanitarian checkpoint immediately on the Polish side of the Ukrainian-Polish border. For many of these refugees, Medyka Crossing is the first moment for physical and psychological rest outside of the warzone.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL GOSS '90

World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit that provides disaster relief through meals, provides food and aid to refugees at the Lviv station.

Westervelt and many other prominent national and international journalists. But his service soon expanded. Goss's fixer duties evolved into a discrete, spy-novel-worthy support network of volunteers crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border. Their mission: bring food, water and supplies into Ukraine, and bring refugees out.

“In March, we didn't know what we were up against,” said Goss. “And we didn't know if Ukraine would fall completely. We had to make plans for the worst, hoping they would never be necessary. And we still don't know that they won't be necessary. Even though Ukraine has been very successful at the moment—if the nuclear option is pulled, then we're in a world of hurt.”

In those early months, Goss and his team witnessed and assisted countless Ukrainians fleeing conflict.

“I saw so much human suffering,” said Goss. “People literally ripped out of their homes in the night to sneak off in the dark.”

In the pursuit of safety, countless Ukrainian families faced unspeakable tragedies. While standing outside at border crossings, desperately waiting for humanitarian aid to cross into Poland, many fleeing mothers held their children and infants close, huddling for warmth in the cold of March. Goss described with horror how one fateful night at the pivotal border crossing, three infants died from exposure during a cold snap. These tragedies weren't alone—the devastation was unimaginable.

These were the lives that Goss's team strived to support. Goss described how his group connected with a local Catholic priest with access to retreat houses in the area. The

priest had no budget, but Goss's team provided him with large amounts of cash to facilitate an escape network. Goss found himself driving vans for the Catholic support team, bringing refugees from the border to the retreat houses, returning with food and water.

According to Goss, the priest's network constantly has around 150 people in its care—refugees, women, children, the elderly, anyone fleeing Ukraine. When they reach the retreat houses, the team provides food, clothing and an opportunity to clean themselves and rest.

“We tried to give them some kind of psychological rest, which is essential as to what they had been through,” said Goss. “They had been standing at the border, in many cases outside for over 24 hours.”

Goss described the support network waiting for the refugees that were fortunate enough to make it across the border. Telephone companies

gave away SIM cards. Polish train stations provided free train tickets to Ukrainians, allowing them to travel anywhere.

“Seemingly everyone in Poland was somehow involved in refugee reception or relief. Putting people up in summer homes, donating, volunteering at a train station in Warsaw—whatever.”

Of course, many Ukrainians fleeing the war have not sought to cross the Ukrainian border, but to escape to safer regions within Ukraine. Goss described seeing many of these internally displaced Ukrainians supporting the war effort. Goss depicted scenes of women together making pierogies to bring to the men guarding the transport roads.

“So many Ukrainian people have really developed a sense of solidarity as a result of this,” said Goss. Witnessing that solidarity has shaped how Goss predicts the aftermath of the war.

“I do believe most Ukrainians will go home,” said Goss. “They'll rebuild their country.”

Perhaps surprisingly, Goss explicitly claimed that his work was not heroic. “Some people have become modern-day heroes, given the opportunity. I don't count myself in that league,” said Goss. Goss described international heroism he saw while serving.

One of Goss's examples was Indiana native Nate Mook, former CEO of World Central Kitchen. World Central Kitchen is a nonprofit that provides disaster relief through meals. The nonprofit does not limit itself to war zones; this year alone, it also provided meals after the tornadoes in eastern Kentucky and Hurricane Ian in Florida.

Goss described the impact and fearlessness of Mook and his organization. According to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL GOSS '90

Ukrainian refugees await buses outside of the Lviv train station in March 2022.

Washington Post, World Central Kitchen has provided over two million meals a day throughout the war in Ukraine.

“These guys are nothing short of incredible,” said Goss. “They fly by the seat of their pants, and they get the job done. They're taking food into harm's way.”

Goss also described an Australian he met who, as Goss put it, “simply felt the call” and started a van-driving group—similar to Goss's—when the conflict began. The Australian was ultimately honored by both the Australian and Ukrainian governments for driving anything—food, body armor, insulin—to some of the hardest-hit areas within Ukrainian territory.

“People have found real meaning in this work,” said Goss. “And it changes one's perspective on humanitarian aid.”

Goss described the mantra that many of the humanitarian aid community reiterated throughout their service:

“We can't save everyone, but we can save the ones we've got.”

Goss recently attended an economic congress in Poland, and, as he put it, the conversations about the aftermath of the war were telling.

“No one was talking about what happens if Russia wins,” said Goss. “Everyone was talking about post-conflict aid. A new Marshall Plan, for lack of a better term. What's gonna happen? Who's going to do it? People are getting ready to go in, to invest in Ukraine once this is over. Ukraine is on everyone's radar right now”

Goss also discussed the aftermath for the broader international order, describing the steps he believes that the U.S. and its allies should take after the war. Goss explained that his “handler,” the person who organized his team, “knows a lot of senators.” Goss described some of the handler's proposals and closed-doors discussions with members of Congress.

“The idea that's being bandied around the halls of Congress at the moment is to create a humanitarian task force,” said Goss. “They wouldn't be there to take lives, they'd be there to save lives. To deliver food, to deliver water—whether in a natural disaster or a war. To get people fed, to get people clothing, blankets, shelter. And to save lives.”

Beyond the humanitarian task force, Goss described a broader issue facing the international community: the very existence of humanitarian crises.

“That we have refugees in this day and age is nothing short of shameful,” said Goss. “We need to take care of the political situations that cause wars and mass migrations. I just don't see it as a sustainable way for the world to operate.”

To hear Goss tell it, the financial objections that many officials raise are not genuine objections.

“We've got more than enough money to do this,” said Goss. “It's just a question of whether or not we decide that saving lives is a priority.” Goss explained that this question is fundamentally a political question. He added that everyone should be on board, regardless of political priors. “If anyone's really pro-life, you're pro-humanitarian aid,” said Goss. “We can save the world from natural disaster. We can save the world from whatever war, whatever unrest.”

The war, as Goss quickly acknowledged, is far from over. But Goss hopes that these stories of crisis, humanity and sanctuary will result in an international reckoning, a global push for united humanitarian aid efforts. And he hopes that these stories will help shape other's perceptions as they shaped his.

“There will be a fuller reckoning. Today ain't that day, but we're getting there. This is the biggest event in Europe since World War II. And it put my 31 years in Poland suddenly into a new light.”

Death of a salesman



Preston Reynolds '25

Reply to this editorial at
pcreynol25@wabash.edu

We might be the Best School in America: High Value, High Reward. These are the words you're greeted with when visiting Wabash.edu, boldly describing Wabash College. Now, I'd like to preface the remainder of this piece by saying that I love Wabash College. I've memorized the fight song, I've painted the bench, and I've met more brothers and friends here than I ever could have expected. Wabash has given me an opportunity to grow, and I owe it a debt for that. However, "the Best School in America," really? I understand that it's just marketing, but such an egregious line

cannot be left alone. When I first looked at colleges, Wabash flew onto my radar due to a family friend. He told me, "Wabash College is a cult, but it will give you an unparalleled education". Clearly joining a cult did not turn me off Wabash. Before I even arrived at Wabash, I was pursued by Tau Kappa Epsilon. By the end of my first semester, I was a part of the fraternity, another brotherhood like Wabash.

Throughout my experience, I have seen all kinds of strange traditions, accepting each one. Every moment of the "cult" has been a positive experience and a cherished memory. However, now that I am no longer a freshman, the "honeymoon period" is over. The tradition is still there, and the campus provides numerous possibilities to involve yourself.

Yet, the reality of living at Wabash College has set in. Every other day I hear about the downright vile food service of Sparks, occasionally resulting in pseudo-food poisoning. I hear about the other living units, Greek and Independent alike, broken, dirty, and disruptive. There probably hasn't been a weekend without a false-alarm fire truck at some part of campus. And to top it all off, I get to see the "men" of Wabash college brawling in the streets, destroying a campus that I

thought was home. Unfortunately, this isn't just second-hand experiences. I've lived amongst broken heating and uncleaned HVAC, inedible food and corresponding hours on the toilet. I wonder, was it always like this? Is this just how the Wabash sophomore feels, lost and slighted? I'd like to think not. Yet, the more I talk to upperclassmen, the more I realize the quality of our college appears to be declining. Perhaps not academically, or along the lines of any of the meaningless statistics Wabash plasters on their website, but there is something different. I wish I could say that safeguarding tradition or respecting the Gentlemen's Rule could fix the problems I see, but that is just not true.

Therefore, what I will end with is a simple request: open your eyes. In our attempt to be proud of our college (which we should be), we ignore the fundamental flaws which hold us back. We cannot be "the Best School in America" by just following the Gentlemen's Rule either, as most of the fundamental value of our college experience is outside our control. I'll leave you with this message: Wabash, before you decide to launch another ad campaign, or spend another million on a different form of punctuation, take care of your students.

Wally's Wall: Blunt on Biden

The Question

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden announced a pardon for all federal convictions for simple marijuana possession. Biden's decision is expected to pardon roughly 6,500 people convicted of simple possession between 1992 and 2021. However, some criminal justice organizations have pointed out that Biden's policy will release no one from prison, as the Sentencing Commission confirmed that no one is currently in federal prison for simple marijuana possession. **What is your opinion of Biden's decision, and what, if anything, should be done about marijuana policy more broadly?**

Alexander Worley '24

I think Biden's pardon is a simple effort of good faith to decriminalize marijuana. I think that conversations in the last few years about recreational use of marijuana have been less frequent, but these pardons, I think, could be a good stepping stone into putting marijuana policies back into main political discourse. Since the legalization of marijuana in California, I think there have been too many social and medical efforts that show that marijuana is an effective, herbal drug for issues both physical (chronic pain, chemotherapy, etc.) and mental (Anxiety, ADHD, etc.). These policies, I think, should be talked about again and brought to the attention of lawmakers more often. Pardons are only a temporary fix for the moment, but if taken seriously, I think they can transform how proactive we are in making marijuana legal all over the United States.

Evan Miller '24

I believe that the pardons that President Biden is enacting are a step in the right direction but is more of a show for votes. Those in federal prison will be pardoned of their marijuana convictions yet in lots of cases the marijuana charges were accompanied by other charges that have not been pardoned regardless of if they were related to the marijuana. Additionally, the numbers of federal pardons is far below the number of total state convictions so this is effecting a very specific group of people.

Isaac Grannis '26

I believe the federal government should wholly legalize marijuana, and it is inexcusable that the government still considers it more dangerous than opiates and methamphetamine. Still, this decision by President Biden is simply the extension of his administration's consistent policy of all words with no action. The order helped no one - which the administration should have known beforehand - and could have only taken away time and resources that the President could have used to address genuine problems Americans face. It seems the only point of the order was to distract from those very problems. Marijuana legalization is a laudable and desirable goal, but this decision does nothing to advance it while projecting an image of Biden as spineless, hypocritical and foolish.

Gavin Hall '24

President Biden's pardoning is a drop in the bucket for marijuana reform. While a step in the right direction, it does not address the greater issues surrounding marijuana legalization, specifically medical research funding and the war on drugs' effect on minority communities. Biden's position on marijuana has been far from positive, including firing aides that used the substance (which is legal for recreational use in the District of Columbia). Unfortunately, this political play before midterms will not have the designed effect his cabinet hoped for and will serve as a pathetic attempt at actual change.

A pledge's take on fraternity bidding



Carson Wirtz '26

Reply to this editorial at
cjwirtz26@wabash.edu

Without question, one of the strongest building blocks of Wabash College's community are the fraternities. For many of us, being a brother, or a pledge, of a fraternity is something we take immense pride in. Within that pride, however, it is only natural to ponder how we got to where we are, and even how others got into the fraternities they are justly proud brothers of. A key to all this is the bids we receive. Why do we bid for people, and why does the context of it matter?

Well, fraternities do have intense pressure on them for solid recruiting and getting in a lot of pledges. The issue with such lofty expectations of recruitment is that some young men are being issued, and are themselves accepting, bids from fraternities that may not really be the best place for them. This can come down to fraternities not really knowing the person they are bidding for but seeing that they were able to respectfully walk through a tour of their house, remembering they have a goal for pledge numbers, and putting in

a bid. Of course, this is a two-way street, so it is additionally the responsibility of the student to judge if that brotherhood fits them, but sometimes it can be equally as hard to decline a bid as it is to accept it, and that can be a product of countless different causes.

I do not say this to put down any fraternities, or any fraternity brothers that were hastily offered a bid and accepted, no. I am certain that some people can have their introduction to their fraternity go this way and have an outstanding experience. Problems arise, however, for the guys that are not quite the natural fit for the brotherhood.

I am sure we can all agree that every fraternity, no matter how diverse, has their own culture of gentlemen, and as such, have their own personality as a house. When we put in bids for guys that we do not have a clear gauge on, how can we be expected to know they are a comfortable fit? Before I accepted my bid with Theta Delta Chi, I was offered a bid from another, much larger house on campus. With this other house, I had taken a house tour, had briefly met a few of their brothers, and soon left, trying not to waste their time with getting to know me, as I could tell that as respectable as they were, it was not a house I was going to feel safe or at home in. Our personalities were not going to click, and that is okay. For that reason, I was shocked that they came to my dorm the next day. They asked me if I got a bid from them the previous night, and when I honestly told them I did not, they offered me one on the spot. I felt as though I was being hunted, not wanted, because I knew I

did not earn that bid from them because of my personality or anything of that nature; but I was a body.

Today, I believe that I was only offered that bid because I would have been a number for them. From that experience, however, I was further motivated to accept my bid from Theta Delta Chi, a house that knew me, and I believed from our lengthy conversations that my joining would be mutually beneficial.

I do not tell these stories to boost my ego and make myself appear wise, or anything like that, but it should be known and seen how some of these bids come to be, and why they matter so much. At the end of the day, we need to think beyond our fraternities and recruitment number goals and think of the individuals in our college's community. We should all hear and listen to the guys that had accepted a bid, but dropped from pledgship because it was damaging them too much. I know how much tradition means to Wabash, and I am not delving into pledgship at this time, but I would wager that if we, as fraternities, could do more to ensure we only recruit guys that really fit, guys that can feel a connection with the brothers and the house, we would see how much our houses could grow without hurting ourselves or others.

None of us came to Wabash to be a number. We want to make a difference for ourselves and those around us, and our fraternities are a fantastic place to do just that. For the betterment of our brotherhoods, and our community, we should learn from mistakes we have made, as well as the mistakes made by our peers.

We can't all be Saul



Luke Fincher '24

Reply to this editorial at
lrfinche24@wabash.edu

Many of us are probably familiar with the story of Saul (otherwise known as Paul), the man who wrote a sizable portion of the New Testament of the Bible and is widely considered to be the greatest Christian evangelist who ever lived. His story revolves around a come-to-Jesus moment in the most literal sense, where Christ appears to him and rebukes Saul's persecution of the Christians. To make a long and very beautiful story short, Saul repents, changes his name to Paul and completely changes his life toward spreading Christianity instead of trying to stamp it out.

I often wish I could have a similar come-to-Jesus moment that finally inspires me to escape my laziness and lack of willpower

to put in the work I know deep down I'm capable of, but the sad truth about being a regular person is that most of us will not have such a cataclysmic moment of inspiration that prompts us to tirelessly pursue the potential we are all capable of. Self-improvement, unfortunately, is a long and often tiring process.

I think that many people, myself included, fall into the trap of waiting for inspiration or willpower to carry the day when we try to build good habits, though these things may never come to us of their own accord. Discipline is the only thing that will reliably ensure your continued progress in whatever endeavors you deem worthy of pursuing, and discipline is only built up through slow, arduous progress. This progress only becomes more grueling when we look around at those who seem much further along the path than us, and it is all too easy to fall into despair. As a fairly novice gym rat, I cannot even count the number of times I've seen someone benching my deadlift max for reps and wondering why I should even bother anymore.

However, it will be worth it in the end. You will look back on where you started in whatever hobby, virtue, habit or study you decided to cultivate and be proud not only of how far you've come, but that your past self had the stones to start on this journey

despite the long climb.

How does one start the climb, then? Start small. You might feel pathetic benching the tiny weights or reading just one page of a book or doodling a silly little picture instead of the masterpiece you've been dreaming of creating, but your prowess in something is not as important as the fact that you are progressing, and you will gain prowess soon enough. If you try to bite off more than you can chew, I promise you will not be able to stick with your new habit. When I started trying to reconnect with my faith, I designed an in-depth prayer routine that took around a half-hour of my time. Surprise, surprise, I fell off that habit soon and hard, and I am just now restarting that climb with a bible verse and a short prayer a day. It's not much, but it's manageable and something I can build on in the future.

With this in mind, don't be afraid to push your boundaries every so often. Add that 2.5 pound plate. Read the extra page. Try that new technique in your hobby. Push yourself, but be prudent. We're in this for the long haul after all. Before you know it, you will have learned much and have something to be proud of. As a wise man once said, "We're all gonna make it, brah."

Looking to join the conversation? Want to make your voice heard?

If so, contact Andrew Dever (atdever25@wabash.edu) and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.



The Bachelor
THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908

‘Responsibility without authority’

Estell ’85 discusses potential and accountability at Wabash

HAYDEN KAMMER ’24 | STAFF WRITER • “I think if we look at what’s happening with the success of men – college-aged men in particular – I think that we have an opportunity to help the world better understand how to support the success of the male cohort,” said Greg Estell ’85 during a discussion on the future of Wabash College.

Estell has been heavily involved since he graduated from Wabash, serving on the Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association Board of Directors, being Director of the National Association of Wabash Men for 10 years, its president for two, chair of the Wabash College Annual Fund and Vice-Chair of Academic Affairs on the Board of Trustees since 2017.

As the Vice-Chair of Academic Affairs, Estell tackles tough issues such as accessibility in the classroom, how courses can prepare students for the outside world and how the faculty can be best-supported.

“Wabash provides great opportunities for success. One of the best opportunities is through fraternities.”

-Greg Estell ’85

“Our job as the Academic Affairs Committee is to support our faculty and the educational program and assure that we have a rigorous curriculum that is fraught with quality and care in a manner that gives students every opportunity to succeed,” said Estell.

This affects students as the Academic Affairs committee makes changes to graduation requirements, the creation of new majors and minors, and ensures that each student is graduation-ready.

Besides academic growth, Estell holds personal growth in high regard.

“I’ve learned that the best way to hold someone accountable is through the supportive way,” said Estell.

He first discovered this when he was at Lambda Chi and had the opportunity to interact with alumni. Besides being a good opportunity for connections for jobs, “They helped us sort through how to deal with some of that and make some really tough decisions. That, to me, became really important in terms of how to hold yourself accountable, and how to hold yourself, partners, brothers, and colleagues accountable, all in a productive way.”

Wabash, according to Estell, provides a unique case study of the male experience.

“When we have such vastly different outcomes between males and females, we need to stop and address these issues to ensure that both groups are taking advantage of all opportunities given to them,” said Estell. “At Wabash, where we have a strong, quantifiable record, I think there’s something here for the world to learn from.”

“Wabash provides great opportunities for success,” said Estell. “One of the best opportunities is through fraternities.” Fraternities, according to Estell, offer a phenomenal way to develop personal responsibility because you aren’t reporting to a higher authority.

“You’re trying to get a bunch of other dudes to do what’s right,” said Estell. “They may be more than moderately distracted away from what’s right or what needs to be done. They may have other priorities, they may have other needs, they may not be with you 100%, and you have zero authority to force them to do anything. There may be perceived authority, but it’s perceived. So, when you can learn how to lead others to achieve results without having to rely on authority, that’s



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Greg Estell ’85 speaks inside the Chapel to welcome President Hess during the 16th Wabash College Presidential Inauguration.

important.”

Fraternity leadership has an important role in the house – they both shape the house’s culture and introduce the freshmen to the house’s values. Then, those freshmen take leadership roles in the house and on campus, spreading the values that they have learned.

For those not interested in joining Greek life, Estell offers other options and believes that the best way to develop is to get involved on campus.

“Wabash is full of tremendous opportunities, whether it’s in clubs, theater or even in the Student Senate,” said Estell. “These are opportunities where you are forced to learn how to lead and be held accountable for results with absolutely no authority.”

With responsibility comes the opportunity of failure, to which Estell tells a story from 1984, when he was a junior at Lambda Chi.

“We had a really crappy plywood wall outside of my room, which, when we were particularly frustrated, would punch through,” said Estell. “But, we had a particular rule: No matter how many times we punched through this wall, it would get fixed by Sunday night. Now this wall was broken through many times, but it always managed to be fixed. If you punched through the wall, you were gonna go down to the hardware store, pick up the lumber, and you’re gonna fix it. So, if you’re an idiot, you’re going to take responsibility.”

Wabash College is uniquely situated to show the world how to properly foster young men into their potential. Instead of tearing each other down to get ahead, we should embrace the brotherhood and support our community. As Estell puts it, “If we help others be successful, we will find ourselves succeeding.”

Chess grandmaster leaves Wabash College 31–0



COURTESY OF JAKE PAIGE ’23

Chess grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov visited Wabash College on Monday, October 10 to showcase his skill against Wabash students, 30 to be exact. “When most people think of a grandmaster, they don’t understand how much better they are than the rest of us,” said Ethan Wallace ’25. “It was pretty incredible to watch. He moved from board to board, casually countering the best moves we could come up with. Even the best of us quickly found ourselves struggling to find ways to survive his attacks.” Kaidanov began by playing blind against a student in a game of speed chess. He then proceeded to play a simultaneous exhibition against 30 students. Throughout the night, Kaidanov explained his chess strategy, while also discussing his personal experiences as a Ukrainian born, Russian raised citizen. “Anyone who thought they were going to beat this guy found out how wrong they were pretty quick. Winning one game is hard enough, this guy beat thirty of us, and it didn’t even take him two hours,” said Wallace.

Ramsay Archives:
November 13, 1981

Friday, November 13, 1981

Wabash Soccer Team Comes From Behind To Defeat DePauw 2-1 In Season Finale

By Dan Taylor
Sports Editor

Tim Padgett's goal late in the first half broke a 1-1 tie, and goalie Kyle Foyer's outstanding defensive performance held off a late Tiger surge as the Little Giants defeated DePauw 2-1 at Greencastle in both teams' season finale.

The victory gave Wabash a 3-2-2 conference record, a 4-8-2 overall record, and it was the first time since 1977 that a Little Giant soccer team had defeated DePauw.

DePauw opened up the scoring midway through the first half, but the Little Giants bounced back almost immediately as freshman forward Jimmy Liatsis eluded several Tiger fullbacks to move the ball all the way from midfield and score just nine



Wabash defenders Ilya Schwartzman (9) and Alan Ridgeway converge on DePauw forward Ben Anderson in Saturday's action.

Photo by David L. Smith


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This Week at Wabash



FRI 21st

- Math Call-Out Meeting 12:00 PM (Goodrich 104)
- TGIF 4:30 PM (Mall)

SAT 22nd

- Soccer vs. Wooster 2:00 PM (Fischer Field)
- Mario Kart Tournament 3:00 PM (Game Lab)

SUN 23rd

- Catholic Mass 5:00 PM (Newman Center)

MON 24th

- Student Senate 7:30 PM (Goodrich Room)
- John Charles Lecture 8:00 PM (Hays 104)

TUE 25th

- Philosophy Colloquium 11:45 AM (Center 206)
- Math Colloquium 12:00 PM (Goodrich 104)
- Soccer vs. Wittenberg 4:00 PM (Fischer Field)

WED 26th

- Verity Platt Lunch Talk 12:00 PM (Detchon 109)
- 29th Annual Moot Court Finals 7:30 PM (Salter Hall)

THUR 27th

- Coffee and Careers 9:00 AM (1832 Brew Lounge)
- Chapel Talk 11:15 AM (Pioneer Chapel)
- History Speaker-Emiliano Aguilar '15 7:00 PM (Baxter 101)

FRI 28th

- Careers in Chemistry Panel 12:10 PM (Hays 104)
- TGIF 4:30 PM (Mall)

'Double-Header'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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- Down
- Cut it close
 - 0
 - Like thrifted clothes
 - Road hazard, perhaps
 - One-named country singer-songwriter
 - Mideast grp.
 - Spector of Marvel Comics
 - Wedding party member
 - Playful river-dwellers
 - Advisory group
 - Missing
 - Knight's garb
 - Ernie or Gomer
 - Creator of the Death Star
 - Fight (for)
 - Civil wrongdoing
 - Perfume sampling spot
 - "Ben Hur" director William
 - Sweet spread
 - Honk
 - Abraham's wife
 - Tribal emblem
 - Hurl
 - A cube has 12
 - Son of 63-Down and 48-Across
 - Former New York Times publisher Adolph
 - "Go ahead!"
 - Like some stockings
 - "The Matrix" protagonist
 - Country surrounded on three sides by Senegal, with "The"
 - Song part
 - Russian Rulers
 - Tennessee whiskey, familiarly
 - "X-Men" mutant Grey
 - Benin neighbor
 - Mayberryresident
 - Snoop (around)
 - Partner of 48-Across
 - Restaurant offering
 - Bygone era
 - Selective high-school org.

Across

- Type of sandwich with three slices of bread
- Burger and fries, maybe
- Kids' summer destination
- Civil rights activist
- Parks
- Separate
- Out of the office
- Witch killer, in a fairy-tale
- Basis for some badges
- Simmer
- Bicycle part

- **"Unskinny Bop" guitarist
- Pecan, e.g.
- ___ go bragh
- **"The Monkey's Paw" author
- Simmer
- Reuben bread
- Zones
- Like some lines
- Unwell
- Record holders?
- "You're it!"
- Narcissus' love
- Letterman jacket add-on
- Partner of 63-Down
- Strenuous

- America's first serial killer
- County capital
- Dairy alternative
- Physicist who first discovered the electron
- Lady's partner
- A long, long time
- Time keeper?
- The "it" of "I've got it!"
- Bird house
- "Fighting" Notre Dame team
- They're often collected in drives
- Comb's impediment
- Pack animals
- Dirty stuff



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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas. Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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STI rates surge in Indiana



COURTESY OF STD EXPRESS CLINIC

Indiana currently ranks 26th in the number of overall STI cases in the U.S., according to the CDC.

BENNETT STRAIN '26 | STAFF WRITER
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are increasing at a rapid rate not only nationally and at the state-level, but also here among the students at Wabash College. Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are among the most common STIs on the rise in the U.S., as well as in Crawfordsville.

"I think what we've seen is pretty consistent with what national and statewide data has shown. It's just everything is way up," said Nurse Chris Amidon. "So, we've had people test positive for just about everything in the semester already."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only 54.3% of men use condoms during sexual intercourse of any kind in 2020. Data released by the CDC is delayed due to the necessary securement of accurate collection. The process for collecting very specific data such as certain STIs must be grouped together across the U.S and verified for an official conclusion. Data from the National Health Service (NHS) showed that male condom use to prevent pregnancy was 98% effective.

According to Nurse Amidon, in the year 2020, there were a total of 138 cases of Chlamydia and 44 cases of Gonorrhea in Montgomery County. Numbers have increased since then, and here at Wabash College, STIs are continuing to arise frequently.

"I'd say we have slightly increased this year," said Amidon. "We are definitely seeing an uptick this semester. This worries us that

we really should be seeing more people and testing more people."

According to the CDC, Indiana has been ranked 26th in the number of overall STI cases in the U.S (2022). A big part of this is due to the fear of patients having to get tested. Whether it's embarrassment, lack of knowledge or even denial, people are not getting checked up to the amount they need to be.

"We don't believe something bad's going to happen to us. So it's really 18- to 35-year-olds that have the highest number of cases, and especially even 18-to-24-years old are the highway numbers which makes sense," Amidon said. "We just really want to encourage people to get tested."

Nurse Amidon and the rest of the medical staff here at Wabash are hoping to make sure students understand how easy and smart it is to get tested for STIs. It usually begins with a scheduled appointment that remains anonymous. And most of the tests are only urine tests that provide accurate results.

"We just encourage everybody to get tested at least once a year," Amidon said. "Sometimes every six months, for people who have many partners, they should really get tested at least every six months."

The Wabash medical staff is hoping to implement a regular open testing schedule that is provided weekly during the school year. Nurse Amidon is open to suggestions from all students, wanting to make it as comforting and easy as possible.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

LibHub

Lo-Five to the guy who printed thirty FULL COLOR pages of-- explicit--photos on the first-floor library printer. It takes so much printer money to print in color... way to keep it classy.

LOSE FOR THE LOTTERY

Hi-Five to the Pacers for returning to action this week with a loss to the Washington Wizards. On pace for a record of 0-82, the Pacers should just tank for Victor Wembanyama now.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Lo-Five to DePauw for moving the soccer game from 7 PM to 4 PM this Wednesday to keep Wabash fans from showing up. They should move them to the middle of the day so their fans don't have to see them lose every week, you know as a courtesy.

STIFF PRICE TO PAY

Hi-Five to a Connecticut jury for finding conspiracy theorist Alex Jones liable for nearly a billion dollars in damages for Sandy Hook parents. Who knows, maybe he'll be able to sell 27,571,429 bottles of Super Male Vitality to the Dannies to recoup his losses (yes, that's how many it would actually take).

WE'LL PUT THOSE IN THE WABASH

Hi-Five to Tennessee fans for storming their field and tearing down their goalposts after beating Alabama this past weekend. We at The Bachelor propose tearing down the uprights at Blackstock and walking them back to Crawfordsville on November 12.

SPORTS

Golf reflects on historic fall season

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | SPORTS WRITER • The Wabash Little Giants' historic fall golf season has come to a close with a sixth place finish in the Wittenberg University Invitational. After notching the program's first ever tournament win back in September, the team has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming spring season.

Under Interim Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21, the team has already hit some remarkable landmarks. In the Forest Hills Invitational on September 17-18, the team finished first overall, shooting four-over par through two rounds of play. Then, in their second place finish at the Stateline Shootout on October 1-2, they carded a 43-over par team score.

But the next two tournaments for Wabash were not quite so extraordinary. The team finished 67-over par to place seventh in the three round Wabash Invitational at Broadmoor Country Club on October 10-11. Then, to finish the fall slate, they finished sixth with a 46-over par score in two rounds.

At first glance, it appears that the Little Giants have quite a large disparity between scores in each tournament. A +67 score one tournament compared to a +14 score a couple weeks later seems to be very peculiar. How could the team scores be so different with the same players playing?

What makes golf so unique is that not every course is the same. Every football field is 120 yards long and 53.3 yards wide. Every basketball hoop is 10 feet high. The distance from home plate to first base is always 90 feet. But in golf, each course has its own yardages, own difficulty rating and own par score.

These factors can dramatically affect a team's scoring based on how difficult a course is. This turned out to be the case for the Wabash team at their home invitational where, because of Broadmoor's unique layout, the golfers struggled to adjust.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Landon Timmons '26 chips the ball out of a bunker at the Wabash College Invitational on October 10-11 at Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis.

"We went into the tournament knowing we had to stay short of the green on every hole," said Mark Poole '24. "If you go long out there, you just can't make par very easily."

For this reason, the team had to be strategic about how they approached each shot, making for a far more difficult tournament.

"We couldn't just go straight at the pin every time," said Sean Bledscoe '26. "Many times we had to play to a certain part of the green in order for us to hold the green and make birdies."

These difficulties can be quantified into a number called the course rating. The course rating is the average score a scratch golfer, or someone with full control of their golf game, would shoot on a particular course. At Broadmoor, the course rating is 73.6 on a par 72 course. This was the hardest course Wabash played this fall. Compare that to Forest Hills Golf Club, where the Little Giants won their opening tournament, which has a course rating of 71.9 on

a par 71 course, the second easiest of Wabash's fall schedule.

There are many factors that play into determining a course rating, including bunkers, terrain, green difficulty, tight fairways and yardage. The greens at Broadmoor, for example, have two-tiers, or two big slopes, adding to the difficulty.

"If you hit a wedge into the wind and landed it on the green, it's spinning all the way off the green and you're chipping now," said Poole. "You have got to take a longer club, like an iron, and take some loft and spin off your shot. It's a really high skill level shot."

While differences between courses make comparing different performances difficult, and certain statistics may paint a gloomy picture, it is clear that as a program the Wabash golf team is progressing nicely. Coach Kopp and the team certainly have room for improvement, but the team is in a unique position to make the most of the upcoming spring season.

Morris '25 makes splash at meet

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER

• The Wabash swimming and diving team opened its season at the Indiana Division III meet on October 15, finishing fourth overall in the team standings. Will Morris '25 made significant gains for the Little Giants, placing second in both the one meter and three meter diving events. His efforts earned a total of 34 points for the Little Giants.

"I had a few hiccups on both boards, but I came back and felt confident with my performance," said Morris. "I was very excited to learn after the meet that I almost made the Division III national cut for one meter. Overall, I think there is a big opportunity to improve on some things, but I was very satisfied."

Morris has shown incredible promise since arriving at Wabash in 2021. Now in his sophomore year, he has continued to develop and has become an integral part of the Wabash team.

"Will had a great showing for the first meet of the year in the diving events in the one meter and the three meter," said Head Swimming Coach Will Bernhardt. "We're looking forward to seeing him continually grow through each of the contests here. The first meet is always a little bit to get the rust out. We're expecting a lot from Will. Last year he broke the freshman record in the one meter diving event. We're hoping that he can build upon that success he had as a freshman and then start to really give others in the conference a run for their money."

The Little Giants' next competition will be the Indiana Intercollegiate Championships at Purdue, which will be held on October 22. This will be a tough challenge for Wabash, as they will face off against many of the teams from the last meet.



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE '25

The Wabash College football team beat Ohio Wesleyan University 41-24 on Saturday, October 15, at Little Giant Stadium. Left, Derek Allen '24 (right) and Coach CJ Ramsey (left) embrace on the sidelines. Middle, quarterback Liam Thompson '24 scans the field for an open receiver. Right, Jojo Carter '25 runs off the field after making a play on special teams.

'The job isn't finished'

Defense rebounds as Little Giants look to close out conference title

DAVID GELMAN '26 | FOOTBALL WRITER

• They say offense wins games, but defense wins championships. For the Wabash College football team, it is no secret that the latter has been the struggle of the season. But against Ohio Wesleyan University on Saturday, October 15, the offense and defense finally clicked together for the first time all year. It was a must-win game, and the Little Giants rose to the occasion, winning 41-24 and getting their conference title hopes firmly back on the right track.

“A big difference this week compared to others is that it was a championship week,” said defensive lineman Steven Thomas '24. “OWU was undefeated in conference before we played them, so we had it set in our mind that we were playing for the conference. We knew they were going to take a swing and we just had to swing harder.”

In such a big game, it was imperative that the Little Giants picked up momentum quickly. It all began with the defense holding an explosive Fighting Bishop offense to a punt on their opening drive, but the real swing in momentum came on OWU's second drive when Avery Epstein '25 picked off Ohio Wesleyan's Kaden Buza. This pivotal moment gave the offense the kickstart they needed, and on the ensuing drive the Little Giants scored off of a 13-yard rushing touchdown by Donovan Snyder '25.

“We have three games to play and then the Bell Game, so it is important to clean up the little things and not be complacent about any opponent coming up on the schedule. We can't celebrate yet when the job isn't finished.”

- Steven Thomas '24

In the first quarter, both defenses came

out swinging. Neither team's offense were truly able to settle into their rhythm, and as such the first quarter ended with a narrow 6-0 lead for Wabash. The question quickly arose if the week six battle for the number one rank in the NCAC was going to be a battle of the trenches on defense. Both teams were dead set on establishing an effective running attack early, especially with the passing offense struggles of both teams. But the explosion of scoring for the Little Giants was just about to begin.

The second quarter hit, and Wabash's offense began firing on all cylinders. The Little Giants posted 21 points in the second quarter alone, which left fans wondering: could the defense hold?

Hold they did. The Wabash defense kept a young and volatile Fighting Bishop offense to 24 points and 429 total yards of offense. This is a marked improvement on the season for the Little Giants who on average have allowed 39.6 points per game and 473.8 yards allowed per game.

“Everybody knew what we had to do to win, and we executed what we had to,” said cornerback Avery Epstein '25, who led the Little Giants defense with two crucial interceptions. “We just have to continue to work hard and get better every day. We need to work at a high level to improve as a team.”

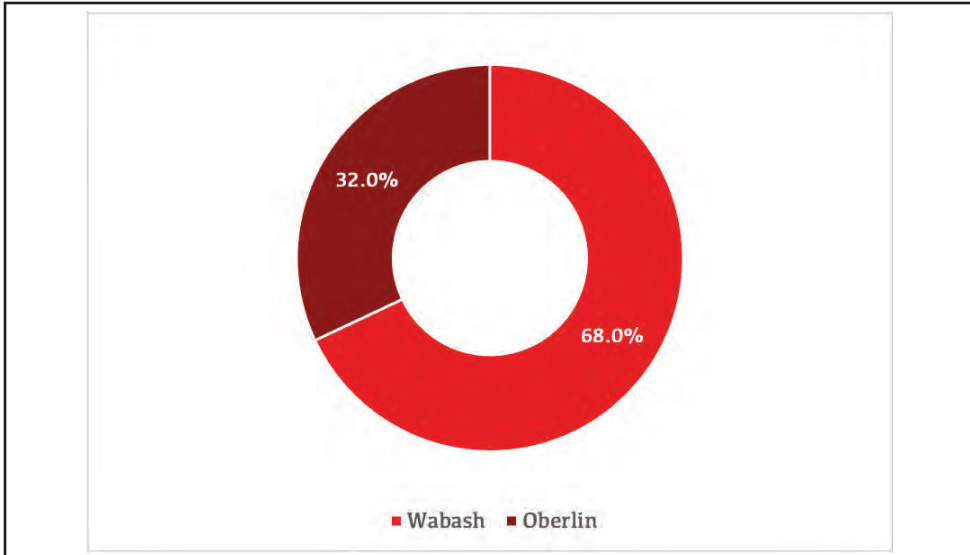
The question still remains, though: can the Wabash defense keep this up? After only allowing 14 points to Wooster College on September 17, many fans thought the defense had reached a turning point, only to then give up a combined 80 points to Denison College and Wittenberg University in the following two weeks. However, after such a comprehensive victory over Ohio Wesleyan, perhaps this truly is a turning point in the season. With Denison falling to Ohio Wesleyan in week five and DePauw falling to Wittenberg in week six, the NCAC title really is open for the taking.

“OWU was a big win for us and set us up for a conference championship, but the work isn't finished,” said Thomas. “We have three games to play and then the Bell



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jose Franco '23 (right) makes an interception after a pass breakup by Avery Epstein '25 (middle) against Ohio Wesleyan on October 15.



Mark's Model: The Bachelor, courtesy of stats compiled by Mark Stolte '25, gives Wabash a 68% chance of beating the Oberlin Yeomen on October 22, 2022.

Game, so it is important to clean up the little things and not be complacent about any opponent coming up on the schedule. We can't celebrate yet when the job isn't finished.”

The season is certainly not over, and the job is definitely not finished. The Little Giants have shown glimpses throughout

this season of their defensive potential but have struggled to string together multiple good defensive performances. Yet against Ohio Wesleyan, Wabash has finally shown that it has talent on both sides of the ball. Consistency is still the key to progress, but maybe things are looking up for the Little Giants after all.

STEVEN THOMAS '24

COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

2022 STATISTICS

TOTAL TKL: 28	TFL/Y: 8.0/33
SOLO TKL: 14	SACKS: 3
ASST TKL: 14	

Points per game, 2022:

	Wabash College	39.5
	Oberlin College	15.7

MATT COHN

COURTESY OF OBERLIN COLLEGE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2022 STATISTICS

TOTAL TKL: 11	TFL/Y: 1.5/6
SOLO TKL: 5	SACKS: 0
ASST TKL: 4	

NCAC football power rankings

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | SPORTS WRITER • There has been some craziness across the NCAC in the past couple of weeks. DePauw lost to Wittenberg, Wabash picked up a win over Ohio Wesleyan and Hiram (believe it or not) actually won a conference game. So, we thought it time The Bachelor re-visited its NCAC power rankings.

1. Wabash Little Giants (4-2, 3-1 NCAC)
This team looks scary right now. After a blowout win against Ohio Wesleyan on Saturday, October 15, the Little Giants have become front runners to win the NCAC title. The offense continues to fire on all cylinders while the defense is finally starting to settle into Coach Ridings' new system.

2. Wittenberg Tigers (4-2, 4-1 NCAC)
A pounding of the Yeomen of Oberlin and a convincing win against the Dannies is enough to put Wittenberg at two. They currently sit at 4-1 in the conference but have tough matchups against Denison, Wooster and OWU in the next three weeks.

3. DePauw Tigers (5-1, 3-1 NCAC)
The Dannies' unbeaten run came to an end after losing to Wittenberg on October 8. They sit at 3-1 in conference play and 5-1 overall after a bye week on October 15. We will see how they bounce back in a tough test against OWU.

4. Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops (3-3, 3-1 NCAC)
The Battling Bishops dropped to fourth in the conference standings and fourth in the power rankings after their loss to Wabash last week. They are seemingly out of contention if Wabash takes care of business.

5. Denison Big Red (5-2, 3-2 NCAC)
Denison is the only team in the conference to have beaten number one Wabash so far. However, their two conference losses to DePauw and OWU drop them to fifth in the power rankings. The Big Red are going to need a miracle to win the conference at this point.

6. Wooster Fighting Scots (3-3, 2-3 NCAC)
Regardless of Wooster's success in the past few years,

the Scots are having a down year. Three straight blowout conference losses and a one point win against Kenyon have not exactly inspired confidence in this lackluster Wooster team.

7. Kenyon Owls (2-4, 1-3 NCAC)
Another sub-par year from the Owls of Kenyon. They are 1-3 in conference play with very little sign of improvement. However, they play Hiram this week, so they should be able to compete and possibly scrape out another win.

8. Hiram Terriers (1-5, 1-4 NCAC)
Sound the alarms. Ring the Chapel bells. Hiram has won its first conference game since 2018 against Oberlin. With a game against Hilbert coming up, Hiram is on track for its most successful season in six years. That is certainly something to celebrate, right?

9. Oberlin Yeomen (0-6, 0-4 NCAC)
It's okay, Oberlin. We don't really expect much from you guys most years. But losing to Hiram? That's pretty low.