

LEGENDS



Bo Nickal and Jason Nolf cap off their careers by capturing their third-straight individual titles — leading Penn State to its eighth NCAA Championship in the last nine years.

For more NCAA wrestling coverage, see Page 4.

'OSAZE'S LIFE MATTERED'



Clockwise from left: Danielitta Pantoe, president of Penn State's Black Caucus, speaks to the crowd; Melanie Morrison holds a sign reading "Osaze's Life Mattered"; Professor Uju Anya, of State College, and her children Amara and Dimitri, hold signs at the vigil for 29-year-old Osaze Osagie in front of the Allen Street Gates on Thursday, March 21. Osagie was shot and killed by a State College Police Officer during a wellness check on Wednesday, March 20.

Ezra Nanes looks to the future after midterm loss

By Madigan Lubold
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Although Ezra Nanes does not know when he will run for governmental office again, he plans to win whenever he does so. Nanes ran in the 2018 midterm election for State Senate in the 34th district of Pennsylvania — which represents Centre County, among other counties. He lost to Jake Corman, Republican incumbent who assumed office in 1998. “What’s great about already running once is that when I decide to run again, on day one, I’ll know everything I did from running the first time,” Nanes said. “We will have the infrastructure to execute an even more successful campaign.” According to Nanes, he decided to run for State Senate because he and his wife, Mieke, felt strongly about the issues and the tone of politics. There also was a lot of interest and support from the neighborhood through the political group that was formed within the community. Nanes reported that the most urgent issues he wanted to focus on were the overuse of renewable energy and the importance of funding for public education. Additionally, he wanted to “[demonstrate] the integrity” of the position, make sure all voices were heard in all four counties of the 34th district and guarantee that elected officials work hard every day at their job for the people. According to Daniel McCormick, the finance director for Nanes’ State Senate run, the SB261 Bill was another major priority of Nanes’ campaign. The bill would eliminate the statute of limitations and open a window of justice for victims of child sex abuse. Nanes reported that he learned a lot on the campaign trail. After knocking on the door of a resident who was registered as a Republican, Nanes had a realization. “It’s interesting, the values we share across party lines and socioeconomic statuses are similar if not the same,” he said. “People care about their families, their communities, and want a fair system that isn’t corrupt. You realize that there are so many commonalities between different people just by talking to them.”

“We will have the infrastructure to execute an even more successful campaign.”

Ezra Nanes
Politician

According to Carver Murphy, Nanes’ campaign manager, District 34 wasn’t the most likely district to flip. “Jake Corman has immense resources — he is an incumbent of 20 years and his father served some 20 years before that,” Murphy said. However, Nanes hit a record by raising three times the amount of money any Democratic candidate prior, amounting to a little under \$300,000, said McCormick. Murphy added, when collecting petition signatures for the ballot, they had to get 500 to be qualified, but they obtained 2,000. Nanes was also unopposed in the primaries, leading to the support, backing an ultimate triumph of Centre County. “We gave Corman his first serious challenge in over a decade. Ezra made an impact advocating for the issues that matter most even though the result was not in our favor,” McCormick said. According to McCormick, Nanes is contagiously enthusiastic, which is why people got excited to work with him. Nanes knocked on doors, no

matter the weather, because he was a dedicated and ambitious candidate. Nanes currently works at AccuWeather as the director of Client Relations. AccuWeather partners with major television groups — Disney ABC being the biggest — to supply weather forecasting services. Nanes helps manage those partnerships. In regards to a future campaign, McCormick said he wouldn’t change a thing about Nanes’ team, only to continue the work they have already started. And whatever may be next for Nanes, they will build on their successes and learn from their mistakes to move forward collectively. On the topic of the 2020 election, Nanes said “we have to focus on 2019 first, it’s just as important.” “The officials who are going to get elected this year will affect people just as much as 2020,” Nanes said. “And when it comes time for the 2020 Election, a woman needs to be on the ballot, whether that be for president or vice president.” Looking back on the year and election, Nanes said it was an “incredible year” of hard work. “I learned you need to commit to yourself before others can put faith in you,” Nanes said. “This job is a natural fit for me and I do not plan to stop here.”



Ezra Nanes receives praise for his work for helping the environment at the Bob Casey Meet and Greet in the HUB-Robeson Center on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018.



A CATA bus runs along the White Loop through downtown State College on Monday, March 23, 2015.

CATA bus driver offers memorable rides for students

By Melissa Manno
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

From the moment Will Bishop first saw a Penn State CATA bus, he knew he wanted to be a driver. Bishop had already been driving a vehicle for a career for about 25 years when he decided to move from north Pittsburgh to State College and take on a position with CATA. Bishop’s wife, Maggie, revealed he had been interested in working for CATA for years before moving to State College. “We would sometimes visit Happy Valley to attend conferences or visit family,” Maggie said. “As a CATA bus would pass us, he would always say, ‘I am going to drive one of those.’” In 2010, Bishop was offered a position with CATA and he moved his family to State College. When Bishop first began, he primarily drove late night shifts of the White Loop, which he soon learned fostered a noisy environment for party-seeking students. He needed a way to control the rowdy atmosphere, so Blue Loop trivia was born. “It can get pretty loud, it’s that party atmosphere that I love to be a part of but also can get out of hand,” Bishop said. “Blue Loop trivia was my way of keeping control on the bus while having fun with the students.” When Bishop’s route changed from late night White Loops to daytime Blue Loops, so did that atmosphere. The clientele altered from college kids on their way to frats and bars to students on their way to classes. Still, Bishop

continued making trivia a part of their experience. Bishop’s trivia consists of questions from various categories, ranging anywhere from Penn State to academia to pop culture. To him, it’s not so much about the questions as it is the experience. “I really want to make that five-minute bus ride more enjoyable than it normally may be,” Bishop said. “I want it to be memorable.” Bishop resides in State College with his wife of 28 years and their four children. With almost nine years under his belt with CATA, it’s the longest Bishop has ever stayed with one job — and he doesn’t see himself leaving anytime soon. “There are two things that light up Bishop. Those things are talking and driving. He had two dreams to either be a professional driver or a talk show radio host,” Maggie Bishop said. “Working for CATA gives him the opportunity to use both of his talents.” Hunter Donahoe regularly rides the Blue Loop, and has had various experiences with Blue Loop trivia. “At first it seems like a regular CATA bus, but then he comes over the loud speaker with, ‘Welcome to Blue Loop trivia’ and you know right then and there that it’s going to be a great ride,” Donahoe (freshman-meteorology) said. Bishop has spent the last decade driving around Penn State students, and has found that school pride and positivity are the unwavering characteristic of the student body. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story

The Parkland tragedy is about more than gun violence

The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in February 2018, raised a national debate about guns and gun control — and for good reason.

No one should have the capability to gun down 17 people in cold blood.

And whether we need tighter gun-control laws or background checks, the point of this editorial isn't to go on anti-gun diatribe.

The point here is to highlight another conversation that needs to be had as a result of Parkland and other shootings — a dialogue on mental health.

In the past week, two survivors of the shooting died by suicide largely as a result of reported survivor's guilt or in the case of one of the students who died, Sydney Aiello, post-traumatic stress disorder.

As tragic as these suicides are, they are not surprising.

With the repeated inaction on gun violence across this country, even amid

OUR VIEW

With the suicide of two survivors, the discussion needs to shift also to mental health

the deaths of students, and nearly every shooting compared to Parkland in the news, it's reasonable to assume being reminded of that day over and over again would weigh on someone's psyche and mental well-being.

And imagine being told the socially acceptable, proper duration by which to grieve the loss of your best friend, or people telling you to "move on already."

It becomes clear to see why someone in Aiello's position would feel potentially guilty about having survived.

But this editorial isn't about the tragic death of Sydney Aiello, either, though that event reminds us of a widespread struggle.

All told, it's about the importance of starting dialogues and potentially uncomfortable conversations about mental health.

Odds are, someone reading this will have either been affected by mental health directly or indirectly, so it's important to discuss the multi-faceted nature of mental illness, as well as trauma.

Many people don't necessarily understand all of the nuances surrounding the topic, and there are a lot of misconceptions.

For starters, there's a pervasive sentiment that people with depression can simply choose to change their emotions — choose to be happy.

Instead, the conversation should be focused on why those feelings arose

in the first place and the subsequent steps that can be taken to receive help or treatment.

Combatting the effects of mental illness can manifest themselves in different ways, from therapy to prescribed medication, to other treatments or any combination of measures.

What's important is figuring out the best treatment that works for you.

There's a fear a lot of people have about talking about a thing like mental illness for whatever the reason is, but talking about these issues can better equip people to handle and manage what's happening.

And that goes for professionals and public servants as well.

But what cannot happen is the continued de-

monization of talking about feelings and emotions by those who think they know the answer or have never experienced mental illness. Education needs to be increased.

Similarly, steps need to be taken to reduce the negative connotation surrounding mental illness and the notion that talking about these things makes someone weak or fragile.

On the contrary, that ability to be vulnerable and to trust someone with something so personal should be commended.

People feel it's easy to diagnose and understand something like a broken leg because that's visible to the naked eye, unlike mental illness.

So, take the extra step and exercise some compassion and empathy to make a concerted effort to continue the dialogue.

MY VIEW | Mike Fortugno

Someone needs to explain the rationale for assault rifles

Last Wednesday, the nation of New Zealand took an unorthodox approach to combating the terrorist attack that left 50 dead at the site of two Christchurch mosques.

Yes, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern took one out of the Australian playbook and is on her way to

passing legislation to actually ban the use and sale of military style semi-automatic weapons, assault rifles and high capacity magazines in New Zealand.

Nuts, right? Ardern only needs the approval of parliament; the majority of whom are her political allies to pass the measures, a process, which she believes will be finished by April 11.

Australia, which happens to be where the shooter, Brenton Tarrant, originally hails from, passed similar legislation in 1996 after 35 were killed in the Port Arthur shooting.

Ardern and the New Zealand government plan to pay back gun owners who surrender their weapons to the military, and said that of the estimated \$140 million process, "That is the price that we must pay to ensure the safety of our communities."

Now I'm not going to pretend like this is some swift process that could happen overnight in the United States, because I understand that it is a very com-

plex and passion filled debate that has been going on for years, and is full of political intricacies that I can't even begin to comprehend.

For starters, we as Americans are by law entitled to guns.

The Second Amendment states that, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Now, it's important to note that when this law was put into effect in 1791 (using a quill pen) guns were not semi automatic weapons, but instead mostly muskets and "flintlock pistols" which required gunpowder to reload their one shot magazines.

It is also important to note that what the founding fathers are essentially saying here is that we are really only entitled to these guns in the case that the government tries to take total control, and we as American civilians need to band together as our own military force to defend ourselves.

I'm going to be completely honest here — and I hope I don't sound too crazy — but I don't see the whole government takeover thing happening here.

For me, the whole North Korea, absolute supreme leader/ God-like figure takeover thing doesn't sound too likely to happen here in the United States.

I mean, we're so into democracy here that even our so-called socialist politicians want to make sure everyone's vote counts evenly in elections.

But hey, if checks and balances don't make you feel any safer about an impending tyrannical takeover, then sure, it only makes sense to have an assault rifle ready to take on the American military.

I'm also aware that this sort of semi-auto arms ban is unlikely to happen in the United States because of, well, money of course.

Go look at the numbers; the National Rifle Association is one of the biggest donor groups in American politics.

In 2014 (a midterm election year), the NRA spent \$27 million on campaign donations to push a GOP majority into both the House and Senate, and still spent \$9.7 million during this past year's midterms.

But despite the Second Amendment and money, what I've really never understood is the defense that these military grade assault rifles are being used for hunting.

Maybe it's because I've never

been hunting before, or that I didn't grow up in an area where hunting culture is popular, but doesn't using an AR-15 to hunt deer seem like cheating?

I've interacted with deer before — this is an animal that stares into impending car headlights and that is under the impression that standing still while you walk past it means it is invisible.

Using a 30-round magazine to kill something that dumb is like a juiced up Barry Bonds playing in the Little League World Series.

Nevertheless, this problem will sadly persist no matter how many mass shootings like Vegas, Pulse, or Parkland are repeated by those who should be nowhere near a weapon of mass destruction.

I don't believe that all guns should be taken off the streets, I do see how game hunting is a fun hobby for many, and that some people just feel safer with a pistol in their nightstand.

But I will never understand the need for anyone to own anything that is deemed "military grade" or that is capable of mass destruction.

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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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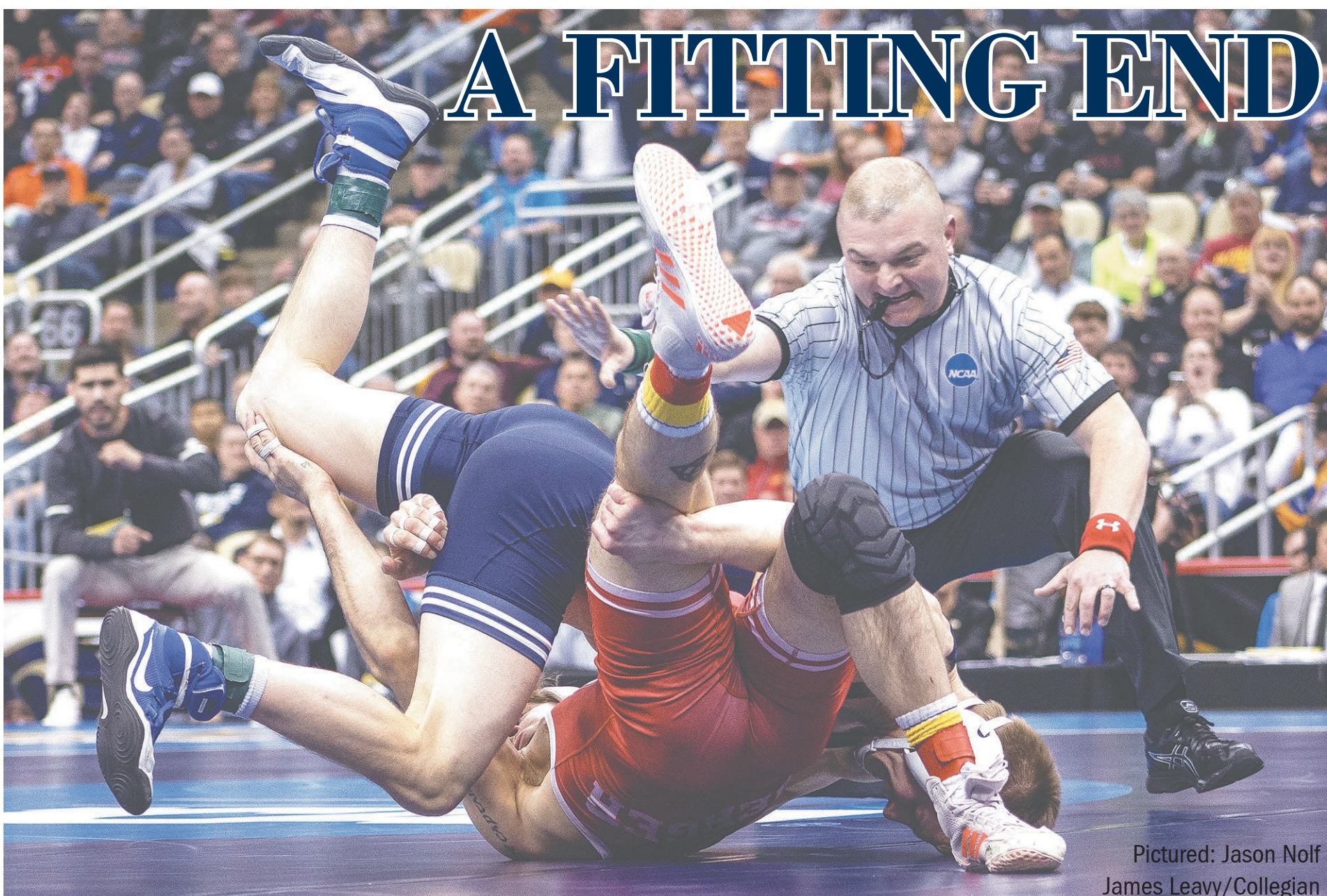
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During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

Complaints

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A FITTING END



Pictured: Jason Nolf
James Leavy/Collegian

How Cael Sanderson molded Jason Nolf and Bo Nickal into three-time national champions

By Sara Perlowitz
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

PITTSBURGH — Jason Nolf and Bo Nickal represent half of the three-time NCAA Champions in Penn State history.

WRESTLING

Ed Ruth and Zain Retherford are the only other Nittany Lions to capture three individual titles. Nickal and Nolf just did it within the same hour.

And it's only fitting.

Ever since they arrived at Penn State a little over five years ago, their careers have been a mirror image of each other.

In 2016, Nolf finished his first NCAA tournament in second place after losing to Isaiah Martinez of Illinois.

And since then, he hasn't been runner-up to anybody in the final match. He beat Joey Lavallee of Missouri in 2017 to get his first taste of an NCAA title.

In 2018, he overcame a knee injury in the middle of the season and was out for several matches. He came back to compete in the Big Ten Championships and then went straight onto NCAA Championships without skipping a beat. He beat Hayden Hidlay of NC State for his second title, a matchup he saw again in this

year's semifinal round that was just another step in his quest for three.

Nickal praised his teammate for everything he had to overcome last year in order to add another title to his accolades.

"I think just seeing him go through his injury last year and come out and show how tough of an individual he is and how strong minded he is," Nickal said. "It's not necessarily one specific moment but just seeing him have to go through all of the different little things with his injury — rehabbing and getting back into the swing of things by the national tournament was a pretty awesome and incredible feat."

This year, he beat Tyler Berger of Nebraska, improving his record to 6-0 in their collegiate careers, by a score of 10-2 to win his third and final NCAA title.

"Not as good as four-time national champ, but I'll take it," Nolf jokingly said after winning the NCAA title. "Look, coming into college, I think everybody wants to be a four-time national champ. I was definitely willing to work for it and sacrifice. But after the first year, my goal was to be a three-time national champ, and that's what I am."

Nickal had a similar path — losing his freshman year and

then winning three straight and helping Penn State to the team title as well. He lost in 2016 during his freshman year to Ohio State's Myles Martin, but got that winning feeling in 2017 when he upset top-seeded Gabe Dean of Cornell.

In 2018, he got his revenge on Martin in dramatic fashion. Nickal reversed a takedown and pinned Martin, giving him the individual title, as well as clinching the team title.

Earlier in the week, Nolf was asked what he will remember most about his teammate and his response is probably similar to a lot of other Penn State fans.

"Probably last year when he flipped a guy over and pinned him in NCAA finals," Nolf said. "That was pretty impressive. I was with my family and Bo's family watching from the stands, so it was pretty cool."

In his final season, he bumped up a weight class to 197 pounds and took down another Buckeye in the title bout — Martin's teammate Kollin Moore.

"I would say the main thing that I feel is gratitude," Nickal said ahead of his final match as a Nittany Lion. "I've come a long way and there's so many people that have put an incredible amount of time and effort into me. Not only my coaches at Penn State, but my

parents. They lugged me around the country since I was little."

Nolf and Nickal have very similar wrestling careers. They both arrived on campus in 2014, each bringing three state titles with them to Penn State. They both took a redshirt during the 2014-2015 season.

"I mean, what happened is we're comfortable and happy with the way things have turned out," coach Cael Sanderson said regarding the decision to redshirt the two. "And I was able to create a wave to roll through. And now the exciting part is creating another wave. That's what it's all about."

After coming in second place in their first NCAA tournament, Nolf and Nickal have only stood on top of the podium since then.

"It's really been blessing after blessing," Nickal said after his final win. "Since the first time I stepped foot on campus it's been incredible. And there's so many people that have just put so much time and effort and energy into me — and my coaches my trainers and countless others. And I'm incredibly grateful for it."

Nickal also gave credit to the teammate that's been through his side for all of it.

"And being able to go through it with a guy like Jason Nolf is something that's amazing and a true blessing," he continued. "And that's a guy I know I can count on, and I know we're going to be friends for a long time to come."

"It's just unbelievable," Nolf said reflecting on his final match as a Nittany Lion. "The surroundings I've been surrounded with. And all my coaches have always told me to surround myself with great people. That's what I've done at Penn State."

The two have combined to put up jaw-dropping stats — 237 wins, 119 pins.

But they were never counting wins or pins. They were always shooting for something more.

Three individual titles, four team titles. That's certainly 'something more.'

Just like every success they've had in college, Nickal and Nolf's legacy will be shared. It's impossible to talk about one without mentioning the other.

But even though their careers are officially over, they might not be done sharing yet.

After all, co-Dan Hodge Trophy winners has a nice ring to it.

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The momentary nature of success

By Jake Aferiat
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Cael Sanderson has routinely expressed his disdain for complacency.

WRESTLING

Seemingly second only to gratitude, hunger is one of the innate qualities and intangibles Sanderson continues to emphasize as his team looks to continue its dynastic run.

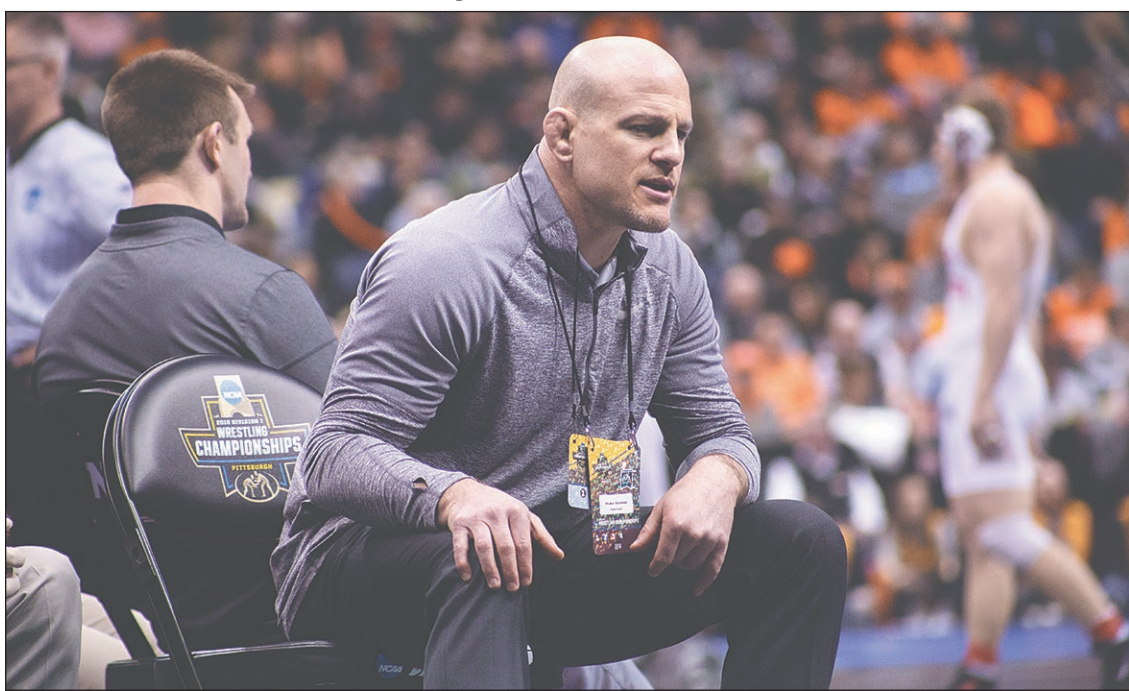
"For me as a coach, I just want to stay hungry," Sanderson said after his team wrestled in the semifinal round of the 2019 NCAA tournament and was slated to send five wrestlers to national title bouts. We need to continue to be hungry to win and not be afraid to lose. That's something you have to work at."

Even though Penn State just won its eighth national title in nine years on Sunday, that's a very surface-level view of what actually happened.

Instead, what was highlighted was the very thing Sanderson's worked hard at over his career — the need of

not focusing on the past and continuing to prove Penn State's worth as the top wrestling program in the country.

The prime example of this came in Vincenzo Joseph's loss to No. 8 seed Mekhi Lewis of Virginia Tech in the 165-pound final.



James Leavy/Collegian

Head coach Cael Sanderson watches a match at the 2019 Division I NCAA wrestling championships, at PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh on Friday, March 22.

Lewis, a redshirt freshman, secured a quick four point near-fall before Joseph was able to fight off the pin, but in the process, Lewis proved he belongs in the national conversation among the nation's top 165 pounders winning by 7-1 decision.

He knocked off the two-time NCAA champion Joseph, as well as No. 1 seed Alex Marinelli and

No. 4 seed Evan Wick, en route to winning the first title in Virginia Tech history.

But the young Lewis, who won a junior World gold medal, rejected the notion he was an underdog and instead felt that label was attached to him because people weren't sure what to expect.

"Well, everybody, other than my teammate's, family and coaches

and fans, thought I was the underdog. I didn't think I was the underdog," Lewis said following his win over Joseph. "I just thought people didn't get the chance to see me wrestle at a big stage, like, folkstyle, because they only saw freestyle."

However, Joseph's loss emphasized why Sanderson's goal of staying hungry and not taking

anything for granted is important. Joseph became the first wrestler in Penn State history to ever win an NCAA title in his first two seasons and was enjoying a career season.

So it would have been easy to just write off Lewis and automatically assume Joseph was the better wrestler — but Sanderson knows that would've been foolish.

He knows what's in the past doesn't automatically dictate future results, and while he felt bad for Joseph and teammate Mark Hall for losing, he also felt there was a lesson to learn.

"Your heart is always with the guys that don't reach their goals. We had other guys on our team that didn't reach their goals, and it's painful," Sanderson said. "But sometimes as painful as it is, it can be a great blessing to you moving forward in your life."

That's not to say Sanderson accepts losing or is OK with it. He merely sees the merits.

"Losing really — I can't think of a better word than sucks — but losing sucks. I feel bad for our opponent and other people, too, when they lose because I hate it so much. I hate to see anybody lose."

Penn State scored 137.5 points, good for fifth most in program history, while the second closest team, Ohio State, scored just 96.5.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

wanted me to be,” Berger said. “I didn’t really know anything to be honest. I’m glad I came.

“I just tried to work my hardest and I’m proud that our culture is the way it is and I think it’s in really good hands.”

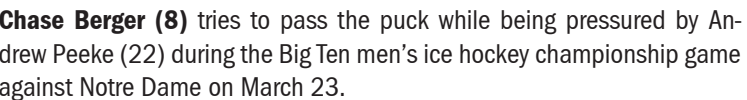
And so ends the collegiate careers of Penn State’s most dominating senior class.

Berger, Chris Funkey, Alec Marsh, Kevin Kerr and Derian Hamilton will leave behind a legacy of success that they probably couldn’t have imagined when they got there.

“I’m proud of specifically the senior class and what they’ve done,” Guy Gadowsky said. “We were a club team I believe when they committed to us.

“They had belief in Penn State and in themselves. You know they had a pretty good run. 22 wins this year and we didn’t quite get it done. We went to the tournament the last two years and have a title so I’m proud of them.”

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Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.

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Answers bit.ly/1CBcyRi ©2019 PuzzleJunction.com

The course with a Schoolhouse Rock twist

By Gabriella Hornack
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In the fall of 2019, Penn State will offer a new course, which hopes to combine art, education and entrepreneurship with an ode to Schoolhouse Rock.

Betsy Campbell, assistant professor of education with a research focus on entrepreneurship as practice and the democratization of innovative entrepreneurship, created this course alongside co-professor, Scott McDonald.

The course, AcceleratorRap!, is associated with credit in art, music, English, education and the new media ENTI cluster. It is still considered an experimental course – meaning its addition to the current curriculum is still undecided.

Campbell said the course is heavily inspired by the 1970s short animation series, Schoolhouse Rock. The show revolved around educational lyrics overlaid upon a catchy, rhythmic beat.

“It was very successful at teaching these basics to kids across the U.S., regardless of their cultural or socioeconomic backgrounds,” Campbell said. “Given that entrepreneurial skills are considered to be essential in the present day, I wondered if a

series of short digital animations with contemporary beats could be used to teach entrepreneurial ideas to kids across the web. And with that in mind, I began sharing vision for AcceleratorRap! with people here at Penn State.”

Students will work in interdisciplinary terms to create short multimedia pieces by the end of the semester. Different units will cover core competencies of entrepreneurship. The course will end with a design critique project that allows students to showcase their final pieces.

“Entrepreneurship often is misunderstood as a kind of financial work,” Campbell said. “This course does not assume that entrepreneurship is off to the side of a student’s main interest or major. Instead, students use the things they know – such as music or poetry – to demonstrate that they are mastering entrepreneurial basics in ways relevant to them.”

Campbell, along with her fellow associates, agreed that the goal is to adapt the structure of the course to its most effective state. In the future, she said she hopes the curriculum is adopted by universities and other learning contexts beyond Penn State.

Brian Alfred was invited to work on developing the course



Collegian Creative

alongside Campbell. His main area of focus was the art and animation design.

“It was a very interesting process working with people in other areas and fields,” Alfred, assistant professor of art, said. “We worked together cohesively with education, music, art and innovation ideas.”

Throughout the duration of the class, students working with animations will collaborate closely with their poet, writer and musician counterparts. They will each take part in bringing a historical event to life, according to Alfred.

“I’m really excited for this course to be alive and for people to take it,” Alfred said. “I really

hope it becomes an opportunity for students to do something that’s unlike any other class they’ve ever had.”

Victor Ariyo’s lifelong passion and connection to rap music made him an ideal candidate to write and produce some of the course’s soundtrack.

Ariyo (senior-biomedical engineering) was tasked with filing through different case studies to collect information on famous entrepreneurs and their stories, such as Gaynor Minden.

“She’s an entrepreneur who came up with the idea to innovate ballet shoes,” Ariyo said. “I was able to create a song about her case, while empowering students

to become entrepreneurs.”

Ariyo serves as a prime example of an entrepreneur in the arts. As a senior in college, he is the co-founder and CEO of his own company, Wavelength, which provides a tech platform and consulting services for independent artists.

“All this experience in the business really helped with creating this course because I got to work and collaborate with people every day,” Ariyo said. “This is dope because not only is it fostering creativity, but it’s encouraging students to pursue this field.”

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Penn State true crime novel to be released

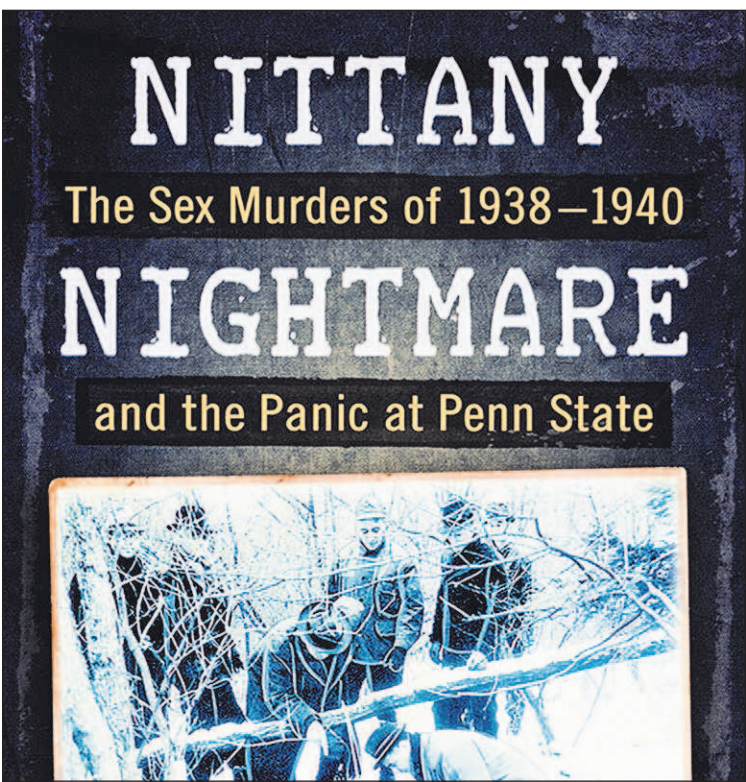
By Jordan Corley
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Best-selling author Derek Sherwood delves into the deadly past of Penn State in a true crime novel exploring the murder of three young women in the Central Pennsylvania area during a tumultuous time for the economy and a football program on the verge of collapse.

“Nittany Nightmare” explores the murder and sexual assault of multiple young girls in Pennsylvania, beginning with the death of Margaret Martin, a 19-year-old graduate from the Wilkes-Barre Business College, in December 1938.

Martin’s body was found by two hunters, stuffed into a burlap sack, floating in a creek in the woods of Wyoming County, Pennsylvania.

“It was kind of an ambitious [book to write] because true crime and sports writing don’t typically go together,” Sherwood said. “Anybody interested in Penn State is going to find something in this that they like.”



Courtesy of Derek Sherwood

The cover of Derek Sherwood’s book, “Nittany Nightmare,” is set to be published this fall.

“[I track] these murders and the football program side by side,” Sherwood said. “[The reader] can see all these firsts and were the football program [began] taking off and how the murder investigation is just stalled.”

During this time, in the late ‘30s and early ‘40s, the country was in the midst of the Great Depression and Penn State was transitioning under the leadership of then-President Ralph Hetzel.

Hetzel was the president of Penn State from 1927 to 1947, and played an influential role in shifting control of the football program to the university rather than the Board of Athletic Control.

Due to the state of the economy, Penn State adopted a “Purist Policy,” which eliminated academic scholarships for athletes and resulted in only athletes pas-

Sherwood self-published his first book, “Who Killed Betsy? Uncovering Penn State University’s Most Notorious Unsolved Crime” in December 2011. Seven years later, he published his second book “Justice Perverted: The Molestation Mistrial of Richard Charles Haefner,” with a publishing company in early June.

After reading “Who Killed Betsy?” Hartman said she found the book to be well-researched and thorough.

“It was just surprising to me that someone who was not trained in criminal justice or criminal communication was able to still go and collect all of that information and put that many other pieces together,” Hartman said.

She said Sherwood has always been one to explore different topics that he finds interesting.

Sherwood said he found inspiration from Penn State history after growing up in a Penn State-oriented household. His grandfather attended the university, and his father worked there.

“I remembered dad talking about Betsy Aardsma one day driving me past Pattee Library,” Sherwood said.

Aardsma was killed in Pattee Library on Nov. 28, 1969. Her murder went unsolved, despite thousands of student interviews and a police investigation.

As a 10-year-old boy, Sherwood said he was shocked to hear that library was large enough to allow the murder to go unsolved. This prompted the idea for his first book.

Sherwood said his grandfather, a Penn State graduate of the Class of 1937, provided some valuable insight into the culture of the time period as well.

Sherwood hopes his audience will find parallels between the time period then and their lives now, while learning something new about the university.

“It’s going to give people a look into a part of Penn State that

most of them don’t know in a time that most of them don’t know,” Sherwood said.

For those with a Penn State connection who have read the manuscript thus far — including journalist Lou Prato and Scott Paterno, Sherwood said the primary takeaway has been that of surprise that they were unaware of the murders beforehand.

Prato, former director of the Penn State All-Sports Museum, Penn State football historian and author of “The Penn State Football Encyclopedia,” said he agreed to read Sherwood’s manuscript as a favor to Sherwood’s uncle.

“I’m glad I did,” Prato said. “There is a lot of information in his book that I didn’t know, particularly about the alleged sexual serial killer in the early 1940s.”

Prato said he was also unaware of the evolution of the Pennsylvania State Police and the influence of Governor Pinchot during the first half of the 20th century.

“Tying in his family’s Penn State history with the growth of the university and its football reputation to tell the darker part of his story is a perfect concept,” Prato said.

As an author himself, Prato said “Nittany Nightmare” was well-written, well-researched and well-documented. Prato said he used many of the same resources as Sherwood while writing his own book and was surprised to find his book cited as a source on Sherwood’s citation page.

“I doubt if there are many Penn State alumni and central Pennsylvania residents alive today who know what [Sherwood] tells us in his book,” Prato said. “They will be as surprised and as shocked as I was when they read it.”

To email reporter: jec5789@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at [@JordanCorley7](https://twitter.com/JordanCorley7).

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