Independently published by students at Penn State



# **Gurain Gall**

## Trace McSorley delivers one final Beaver Stadium show

#### By Matt Lingerman THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With just over nine minutes remaining in a rout of a 5-6 Maryland team on a cold and rainy State College evening and in front of a crowd which didn't near capacity, Trace McSorley walked off the soggy green grass of Beaver Stadium for the final time.

The fans in attendance responded with a standing ovation for the quarterback who will go down as one of the most beloved players in program history, yet it seems like McSorley deserved a grander end to his collegiate career.

But the performance of McSorley — and Penn State as a whole was more reminiscent of the reached over the last three years than it was the valleys.

Franklin said. "I think that this game was the best that Trace has felt in a while."

McSorley echoed that sentiment, and it couldn't have come at a better time.

The fifth-year signal caller has labored in recent weeks after injuring his knee against Iowa on Oct. 27, and the back end of his final season hasn't been the fairytale ending most would've wanted.

But against Maryland on Saturday, he looked like his old self.

The team, as it always has, followed suit, and McSorley got his curtain call with Penn State leading by 28 points — thanks in large part to him.

'It just describes him as a peaks the Nittany Lions have player," cornerback Amani Oruwariye said. "I wouldn't see him going out any other way. He was ing to leave everything out there

Trace McSorley things," James I know everyone in the crowd is offense in the tunnel before the definitely gonna miss him. I'm proud of him. I love him to death, he's like my brother. He's just the best."

down

and throw a

'It was great

come out at

start early, get

going fast. Got

that first drive

touchdown and

was able to run

around a little

bit... At that

point I kinda

felt like I was

back like my-

self," he added.

His final play

block, just any-thing I could do His statline isn't eye-popping he completed 12-of-22 passes for 230 yards and a touchdown, and I was going to added 64 more yards and a pair of try to do." touchdowns on the ground - but from the opening drive there was being able to a feeling that he commanded the game.

It started with a four-play, 74yard drive which lasted all of 96 seconds and was capped off with a three-yard touchdown rush from McSorley.

But it was the second play of the series which most symbolized McSorley's career, when he threw a block in front of Miles Sanders as he galloped for 35 yards.

"I promise you guys I'm go-

"Trace McSorley was able to do just hitting on all cylinders and today," McSorley said he told the beacon of hope." The Nittany Lions have some

> game. "I think that was part of talented pieces to complete the trying to get down there

> > **James Franklin**

Head coach

"Trace McSorley is what you want in all of your players. The guy has not had a bad day in five years. He is the same guy, from the day he stepped on campus during the recruiting process to now."

puzzle, but it's the beacon of hope part that's harder to find. It's his toughness, his intelligence and his steadfastness which has made him one of the alltime greats.

Caitlin Lee/Collegian

"His approach to everything, he says the same thing everyday," DeAndre Thompkins said. "He makes sure he says the same thing every day. He doesn't do too much. He does

exactly what he needs to do everyday. He lets everyone know they're gonna get what they need from him every day, whether it's practice, whether it's raining, snowing, cold, hot, he comes in with the same approach every time."

McSorley has talked countless times before about that consistency, throughout the highs and lows this senior class has experienced as a group.

He remembers the team being booed as it trailed Minnesota in 2016 just as he remembers completing a deep ball to Chris Godwin in Penn State's Big Ten East-clinching win over Michigan State later that same year.

But from the time he played his first snap in the 2015 TaxSlayer Bowl until the minute he walked off the field Saturday in a moment he said he'd never forget - a three-year gap which included Penn State sometimes shattering expectations only to come up one point short at others — McSorley has been the same person.

"I am who I am, and I've always been like this," McSorley said. "And I'm not changing."

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Quarterback Trace McSorley (9) walks off the field for the last time after the game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24. No. 12 Penn State defeated Maryland 38-3.

It's something McSorley's done after almost each of the 72 touchdowns he's thrown at Penn State. "It is consistency. Trace McSor-

ley is what you want in all of your players," Franklin said. "You love him because he is the same guy every single day. The guy has not had a bad day in five years. He has not had a day where he has had an issue academically, an issue with a girlfriend or an issue with family that he has brought into the Lasch Building. He is the same guy, from the day he stepped on campus during the recruiting process to now."

at Beaver Stadium was a five-

yard touchdown pass to Pat Frei-

ermuth, and he finished it with his

patented home run celebration.

Penn State will learn its bowl fate at some point next Sunday, and Trace McSorley will have a chance to do Trace McSorley things one more time while donning the blue and white.

As KJ Hamler said, life will go on once McSorley leaves, but the undersized quarterback leaves a big hole to fill.

'He's the piece to our puzzle," Hamler said.

Yetur Added Gross-"Trace, he's like a Matos:



Penn State field hockey head coach Charlene Morett-Curtiss encourages the players during the game against lowa at the Field Hockey Complex on Friday, Sept 15, 2017.

## **MY DREAM JOB**

Field hockey coach Charlene Morett-Curtiss reflects on her career in athletics

#### By Tina Locurto THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Charlene Morett-Curtiss knew she wanted to pursue field hockey because it was "something the boys couldn't play."

Growing up with five brothers and a sister in a small suburban neighborhood outside of Philadelphia, the now-head field hockey coach got a taste of athletics at a young age due to her brothers' active involvement with sports.

"I think I just had that tomboy in me," Morett-Curtiss said.

Recently finishing her 32nd season coaching the Nittany Lions, Morett-Curtiss stands as the longestrunning female coach for a sport at the university. The team's previous head coach, Gillian Rattray, served the field hockey team for 12 years.

A Penn State alumna and the first in her family to attend college, Morett-Curtiss began a serious athletic career in high school playing field hockey, basketball and lacrosse.

While attending a summer camp for field hockey during her senior year of high school, Morett-Curtiss was offered a scholarship from Rattray to join the Nittany Lions in 1975.

still new to many universities. But Morett-Curtiss said she always felt Penn State was equal with both its male and female athletes.

From 1975 to 1979, she played both field hockey and lacrosse while studying for a degree in physical education and health. She also accomplished something many athletes only dream of - making it to the Olympic level.

Though Morett-Curtiss first qualified in field hockey for the 1980 Olympics, which were held in Moscow, she and her fellow athletes were not able to attend due to tensions between America and Russia. After a Russian invasion infiltrating Afghanistan, the United the next natural thing to pursue. States decided to boycott the games in defiance of the

"I think it was just a great experience because it was just so pure back then," Morett-Curtiss said, glancing to her Olympic bronze during a recent interview in her office. "It wasn't commercial, there wasn't the money to it. There wasn't that pro-aspect to it. It just was everybody living on UCLA's campus and just really supporting each other.'

Tied with Australia, a winning shootout led the American team to take the bronze.

At the time, Morett-Curtiss was only 26 years old. While the Olympic Games are now highly commercialized and competitive, Morett-Curtiss said she prefers her Olympic experience that was purely focused on sports and building friendships with other athletes.

One friendship — with basketball pro Michael Jordan — formed when they lived on the same dormitory floor at UCLA.

"For all that we had been through... that was something that was a great sense of relief and accomplishment to do it with your best friends," Morett-Curtiss said. "It may look bronze to you, but it's gold to me."

Gina Buggy, of Chalfont, Pennsylvania, was Morett-Curtiss's competitor when the two played for a rivaling school, Ursinus College, in field hockey and lacrosse.

"Char is an intense competitor and a super fun per-At the time, the recently enacted Title IX Law was son to be around," Buggy said. "She does everything with high energy and passion."

After joining the U.S. team in 1984, their rivalry turned to partnership as the pair grew much closer with their other teammates, Buggy said.

"Leading up to the games, there was tremendous energy, excitement and anticipation we shared as a team along with the other athletes staying all togeth-er in the Olympic village," Buggy said. "And of course, the thundering ovation we got at the opening ceremonies at the Coliseum when the USA athletes were introduced was completely overwhelming."

Post-Olympics, Morett-Curtiss said, coaching was

a stint at Boston College as head field hockey



Courtesy of Charlene Morett-Curtiss

Charlene Morett-Curtiss runs on campus.

Though leaving Boston was tough, Morett-Curtiss said coming back to Penn State to coach was always her "dream job."

Karen Schnellenbach first met Morett-Curtiss in the summer of 1975. They both attended Penn State and played lacrosse and field hockey together.

"Old friends are the best — they are proven, tried and true. Char is one of those old friends to me. We have been friends for 43 years, and our friendship has always been a treasured part of my life," Schnellenbach, of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, said via email.

In the last game of the Nittany Lions' season, Harvard beat Penn State 6-1.

Though their last game wasn't a victory, Morett-Curtiss said the love and support from alumni who came out to support her players was "gratifying."

And while Morett-Curtiss has her share of awards and accomplishments, she said the greatest accomplishment is seeing her student-athletes succeed.

then-Soviet Union's decision.

To Morett-Curtiss, it was "devastating."

she would be competing in Los Angeles with another chance to win an Olympic medal.

coach, Morett-Curtiss moved back to Happy Valley.

"I think because I had such wonderful coaches in in my heart — it makes me so proud." Little did she know, though, that four years later high school, in college, at the U.S. team, that I thought, 'Wow this is such a great way to stay involved with a sport that I love," she said.

'I love the emotions of being with the players, game day, I love practicing," Morett-Curtiss said. "It's

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## The 'Keyper:' A new accessory invented by students

#### By Katy Shero FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Ezra Gershanok and Jacob Halbert said they believe they've found a solution to the costly problem of losing the key to an apartment or dorm. The two Penn State students call it the "Keyper."

According to Gershanok (sophomore-economics) and Halbert (sophomore-engineering), the Keyper is a silicone phone wallet fit to hold credit cards and a key.

"The Keyper [idea] came to me one day while my girlfriend, Kate, and I were watching Shark Tank,' Gershanok said. "I was thinking of what I could do to make a difference, or play a role in creating a product and having a business.'

After considering inconveniences many college students face on a regular basis, Gershanok came to the conclusion that all students who live on campus need three things: "their phone, their ID card and their dorm key."

Given that many of Gershanok's friends have lost their dorm room keys — an item that costs \$60 to replace — he decided to create a device to help students easily and efficiently keep track of their keys.

Last summer, Halbert reached out to Gershanok about getting involved in the project after finding out about his idea through a Snapchat story.

"I just thought Ezra had a really good idea," Halbert said. "I wanted to be a part of that once I transferred to Penn State."

Currently roommates and business partners, Halbert and Gershanok's friendship spans 10 years, beginning when the pair first met at a sleepaway camp in looked for a silicon manufac- this product was necessary, but



Keypers is not limited to college students.

Gershanok said a marathon runner has purchased a Keyper, and a Florida lawyer reached out with interest in purchasing Keypers for the firm.

Gershanok and Halbert recently received 1,000 units of Keypers, and said they do not think there will be a problem selling them all.

Additionally, they said they plan to expand their business by selling Keypers in local State College stores, such as McLanahan's and stores specific to college towns like Target.

"We also may partner with other universities and their freshmen classes and offer a mass order at a low cost for them,' Halbert said. "This is important because something we don't consider is that it doesn't just cost the student money for a lost key, but the university as well."

The two said they are planning to eventually offer customizable designs to students, clubs and potentially universities.

Halbert said there is now a patent for Keyper which was "really big" for the two.

Further, he said creating the Keyper business has been a significant learning experience for him even if the business doesn't work out.

Gershanok agrees.

"In the three months, we've created bank accounts, relationships with supplies in China, marketed and learned how to market through social media," Gershanok said. "If this was a class, I think I would've learned more than any of my actual college classes."

The Keyper is currently being sold for \$5.

Ezra Gershanok (sophomore-economics) and Jacob Halbert (sophomore-engineering) show off their phone wallet design, the Keyper, in Findlay Commons on Thursday, Nov. 15.

Morgantown, West Virginia.

'What's really good about the two of us as partners is that our skills complement each other," Gershanok said. "I was able to come up with the creative idea, and he was able to implement it using 3D designs. I've been able contact suppliers, and he's to been able to build our website."

After Gershanok and Halbert became business partners, they began the process of designing and creating Keyper. The two started with dozens of sketches, which lead to three dimensional designs. This design of the product was finalized in September.

Keyper design. He found a producer in China, who currently manufactures the product today.

"It took three months to get today," Gershanok said. "Aside from a few obstacles, it's been a smooth sail to get to this point."

Gershanok and Halbert have started testing Keypers on campuses and selling samples to students, noting that student reception has been positive thus far.

Allie Ryave, who has had the product for a few weeks, said she is "very pleased" with her Keyper.

"At first, I thought my key would In the meantime, Gershanok fall out and I didn't really think

turing company to produce the now I love it," Ryave (sophomorehuman development and family studies) said. "I used to always lose my key, so I would have to keep it on my wrist. It would end from point A to where we are up scratching me, but now it's always on my phone, which is way more convenient."

Gershanok and Halbert have tested the Keyper at various schools including Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh.

Halbert added they have had people reach out to them from Harvard University and Arizona State University with interest in purchasing the Keyper.

However, the interest in



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Editor in Chief

**Opinion Page Editor Business Manager** 

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## We can combat climate change

With the chaos of the Thanksgiving holiday, you may have missed an important report released by the White House on Friday, Nov. 23.

As mandated by Congress, 13 federal agencies presented their findings in the National Climate Assessment. In it, the agencies outlined the detrimental effects humans will have on the climate and, in turn, the economy.

The report warns that if the United States does not combat climate change sufficiently, global warming could reduce the size of this country's economy by 10 percent. By 2100, a tenth of the country's gross domestic product could be elim-

#### **OUR VIEW**

#### Let's accept evidence proving climate change, and take steps to reduce our carbon footprint

inated — double that of the Great Recession, according to the New York Times.

This is due in part to the partisan nature that has taken over the issue. But, that shouldn't be the case; a poor climate is going to be detrimental to all citizens of the world, not just those who

"believe" in it.

President Donald Trump is one individual who does not seem to believe in the science of climate change.

He has tweeted about it being a hoax by China, and how it can't possibly be real if it is cold outside.

Just on Nov. 21, Trump tweeted "Brutal and **Extended Cold Blast** could shatter ALL **RECORDS** — Whatever happened to Global Warming?'

However, this misses the key consequence of global warming —severe weather. Global warming causes the overall climate to change, which is different than day-to-day weather.

That change to the earth's climate reportedly causes more weather extremities, meaning extreme heat, extreme cold and extreme precipitation. These are all things the world has been increasingly affected by in recent history. In 2018, Hurricanes

Michael and Florence both caused mass destruction across the southern United States. Earlier this month, the Camp Fires in California became the most deadly wildfires in United States history in part due to the hotter, drier weather in the west.

It has become harder and harder for politicians to refute the findings of climate scientists, especially now with this government-issued report speaking on the detrimental effects climate change can have on the economy.

This is something Trump has taken pride in improving: jobs. Many of the jobs he has promised to protect are also those which have been found to detrimental to the climate, like coal mining.

Trump most likely believes it is in his best interest to deny climate change as a way of showing his support for those jobs.

But, this report is saying we can see detrimental effects to our economy due to global warming within the next 80 years. Right now, it doesn't seem like the leader of our

executive branch is paying much attention.

So, on a smaller scale, we can do things to reduce our personal carbon footprint. Penn State puts its best foot forward to help us do just that.

We have bikes we can utilize around campus, reusable takeout containers in the dining halls, and most of our newer buildings are LEED certified, which is an internationally recognized green building certification.

But we can do more.

As students, we have to want to care about what happens to our future. We can utilize the sustainability resources Penn State provides, like the Eco Reps who live in different dorm halls or the website, sustainability.psu.edu, to get tips and tricks to living a more environmentally friendly life.

We can also read the posters placed in bathrooms around campus, telling us to shut the lights off when no one is using a room.

Even better, the university can begin to transfer into utilizing motion-sensored lights, so energy isn't being used when it is not necessary.

Right now, there isn't much we can do on a large scale to slow down climate change, but hopefully this report can help change the minds of those in power. In the meantime, if each of the 40,000 students at University Park made one small change to combat the effects, we'll be doing our part for the future



**MY VIEW | Tyler Olson** 

## Weak leadership puts America in a tough spot internationally

We were all high schoolers once. Mini-adults who hate being told what to do, but still



Barack Obama's Iran deal, Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, North Korea's seemingly blatant nuclear activities after it told President Donald Trump it would halt its

But Russia doesn't want to start a full-fledged war, so it attains it goals step-by-step through actions that won't attract a strong response from western countries. That's why

I couldn't start a war, expel diplomats or raise oil prices on the guy. So, yes, America's responses to actions from these countries have to be calculated and balance risk with



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Olson

every inch of freedom they are given and stretch that out into a mile of questionable behavior.

And if there's

well, it's take

I was a pro at this. If a teacher let me go out his or her back door to, "get something from my car," before lunch, I would instead drive to Sheetz and bring back a feast of fried goodness for me and all of my friends.

If my parents asked me to be home around midnight on a night I was going out, I'd usually be sneaking in quietly around 3 a.m.

The same logic that applies to high schoolers also applies to controlling the actions of totalitarian regimes as they continually test the boundaries of what kind of behavior America will accept. They'll push the envelope over and over to see what they can get away with, getting increasingly brash with each step.

Among the examples of authoritarian states taking advantage of America's perceived indifference are Iran's continued assistance of terrorists well after former President

program and Saudi Arabia's killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

Following the Khashoggi killing, Trump's response was pathetic. He essentially deferred to anything Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman said and did everything he could to cast doubt on a killing the crown prince almost certainly ordered himself. Trump, in a move reflecting his past words on Russia's meddling in American elections, cast doubt on the CIA's conclusions that the crown prince did in fact order that Khashoggi be murdered.

Then there's yesterday's news about the engagement between Ukrainian and Russian forces in the Azov Sea. With information coming from several different sources and the story still developing, it's difficult to assess exactly what happened, but initial reports indicate Russia fired on two Ukrainian vessels and seized both of them. It then completely blocked access to the only strait through which that sea can be accessed.

This is part of a larger story in which Russia recently started illegally inspecting all vessels using Ukrainian ports on the sea, and an even larger story going back to Russia's annexation of Crimea and its larger ambitions in the region. it annexed Crimea through an "election" which was illegal and is still not recognized by the United States or the European Union.

But as Russia moves farther along in its plans to challenge the United States as a global superpower, it carefully ratchets up its actions based on what it thinks it can get away with

If Trump is too scared to stand up to the Saudis for killing a journalist at an American newspaper, no matter what how much America wants its cheap oil, then why would the U.S. put its neck on the line for a few Ukrainian ships?

I once had a very easy math class that my teacher didn't really cared if I missed. I skipped it 20 days in a little over a month and was still pulling off an 'A.' It was a great racket, until the vice principal took a look at my attendance sheet one day, banned me from prom and informed me he would check my attendance each day and give me detention every time I missed that class from then on.

Let's just say I spent a lot more time learning about standard deviations.

I'll admit, Russian and Saudi Arabia certainly have more options at their disposal for payback against America than I did against my vice principal.

reward.

But doing nothing is not an option. And weak statements deferring to these despots, like Trump's response to Khashoggi and his abomination of a performance in Helsinki, will continue to embolden these governments to break international norms and oppress their own citizens.

America's international strength isn't just a function of the size of its military and economy. It also comes from its commitment to stand up for American values - including democracy and a free press and for international law and order more generally. That includes Ukrainian sovereignty.

Trump has shown a desire to increase the size and strength of the military and it's tough to complain about the economy. But failures of leadership from both Obama and Trump indicating to Putin, bin Salman and others that they can get away with more and more human rights abuses and violations of international law.

It won't stop until the United States starts taking its international leadership role seriously.

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## SPORTS **MOJO BACK?**

Nov. 26-28, 2018

The Nittany Lions carry plenty of momentum into the long break before bowl game

#### By Thomas Schlarp THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State finally has its mojo back, and it could not have come at a more opportune time.

With five weeks before the Nittany Lions take the field next, there will be ample opportunity for self-reflection.

Five weeks is a long period to let negative feelings fester. Who knows what would happen to team chemistry had the season ended in Ann Arbor.

Instead, following Penn State's best performance since a Sep-tember night in Champaign, Illinois, the Nittany Lions ride off into the break on a bit of a high.

"Winning always helps, and winning in a convincing manner helps," James Franklin said about going into the break. "We are going to go into the bowl prep with good mojo."

The 35-point win over Maryland to finish the regular season does numerous things for a season that flirted with disaster on more than one occasion.

The senior class, the foot soldiers of Franklin's major program turnaround, end their sweat equity investment on a high note. Penn State seems all but a lock for a New Year's Six bowl game for a third straight year.

And currently at 9-3, the Nittany Lions are one win away from cementing one of the greatest eras of Penn State football. Since Penn State joined the Big Ten in 1993, no Nittany Lion team has ever rattled off three consecutive double-digit win seasons.



Tight end Pat Freirmuth (87) celebrates after catching a touchdown pass during the game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24. No. 12 Penn State defeated Maryland 38-3.

Ten era, this has been one of the best three-year stretches in program history," Franklin said. We have a chance to do some really special things by winning the bowl game. Again, I could not be more proud of our guys."

With the bowl game likely pitting Penn State against the SEC's third or fourth best team, the 10th victory is far from a lock. But had you offered fans the chance to sign on for this opportunity back in August, it's likely many wouldn't have hesitated.

pegged for a three-loss season. While the means to the way may not have been as anticipated, the Nittany Lions still find themselves on pace to achieve those expectations. So if meeting those predictions comes to fruition at the end of December or early January, are fans to judge this season as a success?

"I think it is a success," senior linebacker Koa Farmer said. "Obviously we want to take the three games that we lost. We will always want those back. But as the A vast majority of preseason next step for this program, some

"When you talk about the Big prognostications had Penn State losses are needed. I think those losses hit home for us to become elite.'

> For as much as coaching staffs hate to use the phrase "rebuilding season," that is essentially what 2018 had to be for Penn State.

> The "next man up" mentality is hard to fully embrace when you lose arguably the greatest player in program history, statistically the best tight end, the programs all-time leading receiver, and over half of the starting defense.

> The 2018 defense started all of three seniors at season's end.

Assuming no one leaves early

for the draft, six of the starting front seven return for 2019, with the only new face being an upgrade in Micah Parsons.

And while there is no comparable value to what is being lost in Trace McSorley, this year's team has learned how to (or how not to) close out tight games.

Nothing is guaranteed in life, but another 10-win season seems inevitable in 2019.

"We have a long ride," freshman receiver KJ Hamler said. "I am going to be here for a while progressing better each and week and year as we go on. I am excited for what comes up next."

Following the Michigan massacre, the faces of Penn State players were blank. Gone were the red eves from close losses to Ohio State and Michigan State.

They seemed to have accepted their year was over.

But three straight wins to end the season, and the team jet warming up, awaiting its destination for a temperate climate bowl game, Penn State is back on track and poised to complete their own intra-program dynasty.

"We wish that we could have done better than we did, but the season so far has not been a let-down," defensive end Yetur Gross-Matos said. "We still have an opportunity to set records. We still have a lot to work for."

For now, Penn State must hang tight as it longs to see where the season will end. But waiting is much better when mojo is intact.

> To email reporter: rts5199@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @TSchlarp.

### **MY VIEW | MATT LINGERMAN** This is only the beginning of Penn State's success

achievement will be followed by

Trace McSorley used his final lap around Beaver Stadium as a time to reflect on his illustrious career wearing

the blue and

white. It seems only right that we as observers should do the same, because

over the past

Penn State has

three years,

a lull due to the departures of McSorley and his senior teammates. But Hamler's assessment is right. The Nittany Lions will be fine. Make no mistake replacing the leadership of McSorley and other graduating Penn State players, namely Amani Oruwariye and Nick Scott, is no easy task.

will be blocking for either of those guys? It could return all five members.

That's just the offense. Brent Pry's unit, which over the second half of the season has proven to be one of the better defenses in the Big Ten, should return all but three starters.

Jonathan Sutherland pairs perfectly with Garrett Taylor and will fill Scott's hole seamlessly, and Micah Parsons is effectively already a starter at linebacker. If Shareef Miller moves onto the next level. Shane Simmons, Shaka Toney or Jayson Oweh will step up. I didn't even mention the slew of highly touted recruits who are set to join the Nittany Lions next year. The bottom line is this: In college football, sustained prosperity is all about handling turnover from year to year. Franklin, regardless of some questionable decisions he's made in-game, has put Penn State in a position where the program will be able to thrive even as players move on. So while yesterday's emotional ending at Beaver Stadium may feel like the close of a great era of Penn State football, it was actually the finish of just the first chapter of what should be a long book of continued progress and accomplishment.





been gifted with consistency at the quarterback position. It's a luxury not many teams have.

Since Penn State upset Ohio State in 2016, we've witnessed the meteoric rise of a program which was struck down by sanctions — and rightfully so followed by relative constancy as one of the nation's top-20 teams. McSorley is a main contributor to that continued success, and his toughness and bigplay capability came at a time Penn State needed it most.

But as Trace McSorley takes the next month to prepare for his Penn State swan song, we're also presented with a time to look forward.

KJ Hamler took the chance to do so after vesterday's regularseason closing victory.

"[McSorley]'s the best quarterback to play at Penn State," Hamler said. "We'll be fine without him, but we're gonna miss him for sure."

It's the middle part of that statement which should resonate the most. It's easy for fans to worry that this recent era of

But James Franklin has always been known for his success as a recruiter, and as a result of that he's ensured there will always be someone waiting their turn who can step up and play a role. That is a sign of a well-run program.

Tommy Stevens is not Trace McSorley, but he's also not Rob Bolden. And if by chance Stevens isn't up to snuff, Sean Clifford is a viable option as signal caller, too. But the point of this isn't merely Penn State's ability to replace McSorley. It's the fact that they can replace everyone they need to and will return young players with experience.

Six freshman wide receivers have been given opportunities and made notable contributions as a result. Pat Freiermuth is a true freshman and poised to be one of the best tight ends in the country over the next two years. And his teammate, Zack Kuntz, who is redshirting this season, will play a role next year.

Miles Sanders has over 1,000 yards on the ground, and he has another year of eligibility. But if he chooses to declare for the 2019 NFL Draft, Ricky Slade should do just fine filling his place. And the offensive line who

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Caitlin Lee/Collegiar

Head coach James Franklin celebrates with quarterback Trace McSorley (9) after his second rushing touchdown of the game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24.

Defensive end Yetur Gross-Matos (99) strips the ball from quarterback Jack Coan (17) during the game versus Wisconsin on Nov. 10.

## **Gross-Matos has** another big game

#### By Patrick Burns THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Yetur Gross-Matos agreed that you probably couldn't have scripted Senior Day any better.

Trace McSorley got his three touchdowns. The seniors got their victory lap around Beaver Stadium. Penn State got its ninth win of the season and looked every bit like a New Year's Six quality team for the first time in quite a while.

It was every bit the seniors' show Saturday, but that script included Gross-Matos too.

So much so, that after the game, Koa Farmer, a Polynesian from California, bestowed a tea leaf lei that he wears under his pads every Saturday upon the true sophomore defensive end.

The lei is supposed to ward off evil spirits, but it almost seems unfair to give Gross-Matos another advantage after what he's done to opposing quarterbacks, running backs and offensive linemen this season.

Gross-Matos had 3.5 tackles for loss Saturday against Maryland and helped limit Terps' running back Anthony McFarland to just 12 yards on six carries. For context, McFarland gashed Ohio State for 298 yards last week and Indiana for 210 yards the week prior.

"Yetur's a monster, dude," Farmer said. "The things he does...Maryland was a big jet team and the way he just stopped the jet — it was like taking candy away."

In the seven games since Week 7 against Michigan State, Gross-Matos has 41 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks,

and Saturday, he became the 11th player in program history to record 20 tackles for loss in a season

James Franklin described the feat as "really special," and even went as far to compare his work ethic and willingness to listen to McSorley and Saquon Barkley.

'He's a guy that we've always had a lot of faith and belief in," Franklin said. "He's got all the things you're looking for; he's long, strong, athletic, quick, explosive, and he's one of those guys that does whatever you ask him to do. He practices his tail off, he competes like crazy in morning workouts and in the offseason and in the weight room. He just continues to get better.'

He may be a monster who's nicknamed "Lobo," or "Wolf" in English, on the field, but Gross-Matos is pretty soft-spoken off of it, at least with the media.

His answer when asked what achieving the 20-tackle for loss accolade means to him says it all.

"It's a great honor, I guess," he said. "What does it mean to me? I don't know, it feels good. I don't know how else to say it."

No one expected the defense to be this good, at least not this fast. But it is.

The Nittany Lions have given up a combined 20 points over the last three weeks and they rank near the top of the country in sacks and tackles for loss.

"We go in there week in and week out that the offensive game plan is just not going to work for them and that we're going to stop whatever their identity is," Gross-Matos said.

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

## **Penalties hurt PSU in Columbus**

#### By Benjamin Ferree THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It isn't easy to win in the Big Ten with every matchup posing a unique challenge week after week.



This weekend Penn State ran into

a big challenge on the road against

Ohio State and penalties meant the difference between a split and a sweep.

The Buckeyes were given 10 power play chances in the two games between the teams this weekend. This is equal to 20 minutes, or an entire period, with a man advantage.

Penn State was successful on the penalty kill going 8-for-10, but there is a lot more to it than just allowing goals. The Nittany Lions play their best hockey when they set the tone, when they are playing fast, constantly applying pressure to the opposing team strength of this team. and just letting the shots fly, but when penalties are conceded this rhythm and flow of the game, doesn't happen.

Instead of playing fast and attacking Ohio State this weekend. Penn State spent far too much time defending, which is not the



Former defenseman Erik Autio (20) shoots the puck past Ohio State defenseman Gordi Myer (5) during the game against the Buckeyes on Friday, Jan. 12.

Penalties also disrupt the which at times this weekend killed whatever momentum Penn State had. It is hard enough to control the tempo of the game on the road against a top opponent,

whatever positive energy the Nittany Lions had going.

gets into their groove they are hard to stop, but they were never able to get comfortable and play their hockey because of the pen-

and a penalty often times can kill alties. Four of Ohio State's 10 power plays this weekend came in the final frame. Three of these When this Nittany Lion team opportunities came when the game was tied. The fourth came late in the final period in Friday's game when Penn State was winning.

The timing of these penalties was also not good for Penn State. The Nittany Lions were trying to fight their way into the lead in the final period in both games this weekend, but instead of getting forward to score the game winning goal, the Nittany Lions were forced to kill penalties.

Third-period penalties were also a problem in the first game against Michigan. Penn State committed three third period ultimately penalties, which doomed the Nittany Lions in their third period collapse.

Penn State has successfully killed 40 of its 50 penalties this season. The Nittany Lions are ranked 37th out of the 60 Division I teams in the nation with this .800 penalty kill percentage.

Taking these penalties is something that cost Penn State in its first two Big Ten series and as the Nittany Lions continue in Big Ten play, they need to clean up these penalties if the program wants to take that next step this season.

With all that said, it was still a successful weekend for Penn State. Splitting a series on the road against a top-five Ohio State team is a successful weekend.

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



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  - 56 Lacking value

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#### Bigar's Stars By JACQUELINE BIGAR www.jacquelinebigar.com

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

 $\star \star \star$  You could find that you wake up hot under the collar. You might decide to stand up to a controlling person or confront a controlling situation. Once immersed in this interaction, you could find that getting out is a difficult task. Tonight: Relish the company of a loved one.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be unusually sensitive to others and their needs. Regardless, if pushed too hard, you or the other party could have a sarcastic and difficult reaction. A financial decision might be more important than you think it is. Tonight: Relax and be yourself.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

 $\star\star\star$  Curb a tendency to be controlling or possessive. If you get into a tiff with a friend, both of you will be invested in being right. You might decide to end the discussion and go off to do your own thing. Try not to be compulsive; instead, go with the flow. Tonight: Do some shopping.

#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$  You might be delighted and then upset with a decision you have to make. Imagine being on the receiving end of the outcome, and you will see what you need to do. Before criticizing others, you will need to look at your own behavior. Tonight: Do something fun and exciting.

#### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Your sense of direction and personal integrity tell you where to land on a key issue. Fulfill a need to communicate your feelings. You don't have to be charming, but you do need to be authentic. Others will recognize and respond to that energy. Tonight: Make it an early night. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

#### ★★★★ If you can avoid an either-or situation, you will zero in on what needs to be handled. If others don't feel cornered, you will become unusually successful. People can move or abandon their positions with grace, and you can too. Tonight: Make it OK

to go a little overboard. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You likely feel pressured by a community or professional matter. Others might feel similarly tense. Sometimes, simply handling what you must works better than getting too much into the feelings involved. Don't go unnecessarily overboard. Tonight: Full of fun and adventure

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star\star\star\star$  Read between the lines. Manage a problem directly. Others might be acting as though they're handling a hot potato. You have little energy to take on more responsibility. Understand that your reaction is the difference between you and those around you. Tonight: Ready to go!

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You have a dynamic and effective way of relating. As a result, you see people for who they are much more clearly. You're willing to look at the differences between you and others more positively. As a result, you will be more upbeat. Tonight: Spend , time with a loved one.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Be direct when dealing with others. Steer clear of the moodiness and changeability around you. Your ability to understand what's going on and see through someone's defenses can only prove helpful. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer that makes you smile and want to indulge.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Dive into a project. Be determined to achieve the results you desire. Don't be surprised by what's happening. Others don't have your degree of commitment to completing this work. Therefore, the weight of completion is on your shoulders. Tonight: Work off some stress.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star\star\star\star$  You have the gifts of clear vision and heightened creativity. You find answers that work but might not be conventional or mainstream. Laugh and enjoy what's happening around you. Listen to a child who likely has an unusual insight. Tonight: Act more like a free spirit.

#### YOUR BIRTHDAY MESSAGE:

This year presents opportunities of all types. Emotionally, you could become more discerning or more controlling. Choosing which way to go is up to you. Your popularity soars, and your playful side emerges

If you are single, you meet people with ease. The knowledge of who is right for you lies within. If you are attached, you and your sweetie often alternate roles. Differences between you should be treated with less judgment and more respect.

CANCER draws you in close.

#### BORN TODAY

Singer/songwriter Tina Turner (1939), cartoonist Charles Schulz (1922), singer/songwriter Natasha Bedingfield (1981)

### 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 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.



Answers **bit.ly/1CBcyRi** 

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#### FOOTBALL



Quarterback Trace McSorley (9) leaps into the endzone for his second rushing touchdown of the game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24. No. 12 Penn State defeated Maryland 38-3.



Wide receiver Daniel George (86) comes off a hurdle during the game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24.

## ...AND MICHIGAN **STILL SUCKS**



Running back Ricky Slade (4) runs the ball during the game Safety Nick Scott (4) is recognized during a senior ceremony before the against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24. game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 24.



Wide receiver DeAndre Thompkins (3) breaks through Maryland defense during the game.



## special day for Penn State's senior class

amantha Wilson/Collegia

#### By Tyler King THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For a group of five players, 60 minutes on the field wasn't enough on Saturday. When the scoreboard read



tory over Maryland on Senior Day was complete, Koa Farmer, Trace McSorley, Amani Oruwariye, Nick Scott and Johnathan Thomas weren't ready to leave just yet. So that group, which has been through a lot during their five years at Penn State,

took one last lap on the field. It wasn't as much a tim

committed when Bill O'Brien was in charge, while a few them were originally committed to Franklin's staff at Vanderbilt and made the switch when he did after the 2013 season. But once they got to campus, they've rarely been apart. 0:00 and Penn They've been through countless State's 38-3 vicmorning practices and workouts, road trips, spring break vacations and everything in between.

"Anytime we had a little bit of a break, I was probably with one or more of those guys," McSorley said.

McSorley and Farmer in particular are almost always together and even though they come from I would be playing in the Rose two different coasts, there are a lot of similarities between them. "When you come to Penn State, you're a certain kind of kid,' Farmer said. "We came from the same background and have the same goals. That's why we connected so easily.' But when Farmer watched McSorley get a curtain call in the fourth quarter, he wasn't overly emotional. "The way me and Trace's relaof guys that came in with Coach tionship is, it's not really football," Farmer said. "I'm going to talk to that guy for the rest of my life. ley, Oruwariye, Scott and Thomas He's probably going to be one of the best men at my wedding. He's

McSorley have won a lot of football games. They won a Big Ten Championship, played in the Rose Bowl, won a Fiesta Bowl and now have a chance to win 10 games in three straight seasons, something that hasn't been done since the 80s. But as he walked around the field one last time reminiscing his first training camp and first scrimmage in Beaver Stadium with the guys he considers his best friends, Farmer knew back then that he couldn't have imagined where they are today.

"I would never have thought Bowl five minutes from my house. the Fiesta Bowl, a Big Ten Championship," Farmer said. "Just walking around the field one last time with them, it was pretty emotional, but it is emotional to the fact that we left everything on the field and gave everything to this university. Over the course of this past week, Farmer admitted he's done plenty of reflecting. Last night in his apartment, he was talking with young linebackers Micah Parsons and Jesse Luketa, who will play a big part in the success of the program in the next few seasons.

But together, Farmer and guys play in because I played in into the game. That's what it's all some GAMES," Farmer recalls telling the young linebackers.

But after Saturday's win, Farmer and the young player he's taken under his wing this season might get to play in one final big game together.

The idea for the victory lap came from Farmer's dad, who played at Hawaii and Cal State Northridge. It was something he had done after his final game in college and suggested to Koa earlier in the week and that he and his teammates planned on doing, regardless of the outcome.

win, that walk felt all the more sweeter. "That was the best way to finish it off," Farmer said. Even though they have no idea where the final game is going to be, given all that they've been through together — committing while sanctions were still in effect, tough losses, and more this was the perfect final act. McSorley got his curtain call, scout team players got to see the field and they got to soak in one final victory at a place that has been almost like a second home to them.

about. That was my goal."

"It's exciting to have a game like this to end it out with the guys that I came in with, the guys I love," Thompkins added.

After a 9-3 finish, Farmer said he thinks this season was a success, despite what's been written about the way the season ended.

"For the next step for this program, some losses are needed," Farmer said. "Those losses hit home for us to become more elite as a program.'

Farmer did some thinking about the program as a whole on But after a convincing, 38-3 his victory lap. He mentioned all the times he spent thinking about where the program was headed even though together he didn't reach the top of college football during his career, he and his fellow seniors brought Penn State back to a place where that is once again a real possibility at the beginning of each season. That in and of itself is satisfying for this senior class. So I guess that makes Saturday's game (and the victory lap that followed) the icing on the cake.

celebrate yet another victory inside Beaver Stadium, but rather a time to reflect on everything they've been through together on that field, dating all the way back to their first training camp as freshmen.

Just trying to hit every corner of the field, trying to remember what us five went through here," Farmer said. "We all came in here together and we're the last group Franklin.'

That group — Farmer, McSorall had different paths to getting to Penn State. Some of them one of my best friends for life."

"I wanna see what games you got guys who are on scout team

"We don't want to, as seniors, go with an L," Farmer said. "We

"This is about as good as it gets," McSorley said.

To email reporter: tbk5155@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @King TylerB.

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