



VERSUS

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**PENN STATE
NITTANY LIONS**

**SPRING
FOOTBALL**



BE LEGENDARY.



FACETIME VERDICT

How a trio of Penn State players made the decision to return to the program

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After the pandemic-marred 2020 season created an extra year of eligibility for all collegiate athletes, three Penn State players were faced with a decision as they walked away from Beaver Stadium victorious in their final game: to stay with the program or move on.

Jaquan Brisker had just completed a senior campaign in which he garnered All-Big Ten attention, Jahan Dotson led the conference in receiving yards as a junior and Tariq Castro-Fields played in just three games after a season-ending injury cut his senior campaign short.

All three made the decision to return to Happy Valley.

Each of them was in a different situation with his own reasons to stay or go, so how did they arrive at that conclusion? Together.

According to Brisker, the trio created a group message and decided to join a FaceTime call “randomly” one night to discuss their futures.

“We told ourselves we’re gonna come back, and it’s gonna be better than we did last year,” Brisker said. “We’re coming back for a reason.”

The Nittany Lions started their year 0-5 and despite finishing with four straight wins, the season still went down as the program’s worst since 2004.

Brisker didn’t feel like he could walk away with that taste in his mouth.

“I always had in my heart that I couldn’t leave on that note. It was a little more personal for me and some of the guys on the team,” Brisker said. “We knew we had more to give to the team and to the fans. Once I talked to

my family, I talked to the guys, I talked to the coaches, I felt good. It felt right to come back, and I just want to show that I still have more on the table.

“I’m gonna be a different player this year.”

If Brisker is to be that “different player,” he’ll likely make waves in the Big Ten. He ended 2020 with career marks in tackles and passes defended, resulting in an All-Big Ten third team selection.

A season that exceeds those hallmarks for Brisker might be considered “remarkable” by some, which is the exact motivation behind one of his counterparts’ return.

“Every year, an expectation I have for myself is to be better than the last,” Dotson said. “I had a pretty solid season last year, but I want to have a remarkable season, one that you guys will never forget.”

The 5-foot-11 wide receiver finished his 2020 campaign averaging 98.2 receiving yards per game with eight touchdowns in just nine games.

Despite those numbers and the most receiving yards in the conference, he was only tagged as an All-Big Ten third team member.

As he walks into meetings every day, Dotson writes two words at the top of his notes.

“Be legendary.” He said his goal is to leave his mark on Penn State and the college football world as a whole. As for his coach, James Franklin said the best situations happen when a team’s goals line up with individual players’ goals — and

that’s what he has in Dotson.

Dotson also said the call with his teammates opened up an avenue for them to bounce ideas off of each other and discuss “every little thing.” In the end, the trio had a consensus.

“We came to the decision that it was best for us, best for the team [and] best for our families,” Dotson said. “We felt that it was the right decision to come back and just give it our all every single day.”

Brisker recalled the trio felt it needed to set the record straight that the 2020 season wasn’t reflective of what they as individuals or Penn State as a program stands for.

“We have a chip on our shoulder,” Brisker said. “We’re gonna bring back the normal. We can’t set the standard how we did last year. We have to go above and beyond.”

It only took Castro-Fields about a month of self-reflection before he decided his legacy at Penn State wasn’t ready to be completed.

For a player who was voted All-Big Ten third team as a junior and had a promising start as a senior come to a halt because of injury, it’s not hard for Castro-Fields to keep that chip on his shoulder.

“I have so much more in the tank,” Castro-Fields said. “I just haven’t been able to show it yet.”

The Upper Marlboro, Maryland, native racked up 52 tackles, 10 passes defended and two interceptions in his junior season. In his three games as a senior, he already picked up 12 tackles and



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

Safety Jaquan Brisker catches a ball during warm-ups before Penn State football’s game against Michigan State on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020.

one pass defense, which was still enough to grab an All-Big Ten honorable mention.

Despite the desire to prove himself, the defensive back is just happy he’s back on the field.

“Of course injuries are frustrating, but I’m just blessed with the opportunity to come back,” Castro-Fields said. “To be a leader and improve my game even more, I’m just blessed with the opportunity.”

Franklin likely also feels “blessed” to have Castro-Fields and Brisker returning, as he said the cornerbacks and secondary as a whole have a shot to be “really good” in 2021 — in large part due to the pair’s experience.

“It’s exciting because, when you develop that over time, those veterans are able to teach the young guys how we do things at Penn State,” Franklin said.

The three returners were bound to make a decision with one another’s insight, whether it

was on FaceTime or not. On or off the field, playing video games with Brisker, or just hanging around with Castro-Fields, Dotson said the trio is “like this” — as he held up his crossed fingers.

“My relationship with those guys is unmatched,” Dotson said.

Inspired by the way Franklin talks to the team about championship habits and setting a standard, Dotson said he thinks the trio will use the unique opportunity in front of it to address some unfinished business.

“We wanted to be those leaders on the team who set the standard for years to come after us,” Dotson said. “We know that Penn State football is used to winning, and that’s what we have to do.

“We felt like this was the perfect opportunity for us to showcase our talents, meet that standard and achieve some great goals.”

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What to watch for in final spring game

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

There may be nothing that exemplifies the Penn State student body’s love for the football team quite like the Blue-White game.

Drawing crowds of over 75,000 every year, while thousands more watch from the luxury of their TV sets, the Blue-White intrasquad scrimmage is so much more than just the final spring practice of the year — it’s an experience.

However, for most of Penn State’s student body, there will be no Blue-White experience for the second-straight year, and it’s likely to be a different setup than a typical year anyway.

With the coronavirus pandemic in full swing by the originally slated game last spring, Beaver Stadium sat still on a day that usually brings an upswing of electricity across Happy Valley.

This year, just freshmen will be in attendance to watch the historic scrimmage, so the same level of energy typically showcased for this game will have to wait a bit longer.

Even with limited attendance, this year’s final spring practice will be an opportunity for fans to get an early glimpse at next fall’s Nittany Lion squad.

This year’s iteration will serve three main purposes: giving coaches the opportunity to test out new schemes, giving



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

Wide receiver Parker Washington breaks past Michigan State’s defense on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020.

freshmen the opportunity to actually see the Nittany Lions play in person, and — most of all — giving the players a chance to play under the watch of fans for the first time since the fall.

Here’s a look at some of the major storylines to look for during Saturday’s final spring practice.

Like Penn State has been accustomed to over the course of the last few years, there were a handful of coaching changes for the Nittany Lions this offseason.

After just one season together, James Franklin and the program parted ways with offensive coordinator Kirk Ciarocca and began

the search for his replacement.

Within a day, the decision had been made to hire former Texas offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich, who became the third man to hold the position at Penn State in the last four years.

In his lone season with the Longhorns, Yurcich’s offense ranked second in the Big 12 and eighth nationally, averaging 42.7 points per game in 2020.

One year prior in 2019, Yurcich played the same role for Ohio State — serving as a key factor behind Justin Fields’ development into a Heisman can-

didate and simultaneously leading the Buckeyes to a spot in the College Football Playoff.

Yurcich has the experience and resume to take Penn State’s offense to the next level, and the final spring practice will be the first time fans will get to see what he’ll bring to the gridiron.

Other new faces to look for on the sideline include tight end coach Ty Howle and co-defensive coordinator/safeties coach Anthony Poindexter.

After three years under Franklin’s staff as tight end coach, Tyler Bowen — who played a part in the development of

NFL-bound Pat Freiermuth — is off to the NFL, as the tight ends coach in Urban Meyer’s Jacksonville Jaguars offense.

His replacement, Ty Howle, is no stranger to the atmosphere of Beaver Stadium.

Howle, a four-year letterwinner on Penn State’s offensive line from 2009-2013, started at center and left guard in his playing career with the Nittany Lions, being named a captain his senior season.

Aside from his playing career, Howle has eight years coaching experience, including the 2020 season in which he served as an offensive analyst for the blue and white, working closely with both Bowen and offensive line coach Phil Trautwein.

The final spring practice will give a first look at the tight end room after the losses of Freiermuth and Bowen.

As for Poindexter, his accomplishments speak for themselves.

Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2020, he is coming to the Nittany Lions with new goals in mind.

After spending four seasons at Purdue under the same role, Poindexter will get his first chance to coach in front of Penn State fans at this year’s final spring practice with a veteran safety room behind him.

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



PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	23	Curtis Jacobs	LB/Fr.	48	Cody Romano	LB/So.	80	Justin. Weller	WR/Jr.
0	Jonathan Sutherland	S/Jr.	23	John Lovett	RB/Sr.	49	Michael Wright	SN/Fr.	84	Theo Johnson	TE/Fr.
1	JaQuan Brisker	S/Sr.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	50	Max Chizmar	LB/Jr.	84	Benjamin Wilson	WR/Sr.
2	Ta'Quan Roberson	QB/Fr.	24	Jeffrey Davis Jr.	CB/Fr.	50	Will Knutsson	OL/So.	85	Isaac Lutz	WR/Sr.
2	Keaton Ellis	CB/So.	24	Keyvone Lee	RB/Fr.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	86	Brandon Strange	TE/H/Fr.
3	Johnny Dixon	CB/So.	25	Daequan Hardy	CB/Fr.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/Fr.	88	Norval Black	WR/Jr.
3	Parker Washington	WR/Fr.	26	Caziah Holmes	RB/Fr.	51	Jimmy Christ	OL/Fr.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
4	Kalen King	CB/Fr.	27	Aeneas Hawkins	DT/So.	52	Blake Zalar	OL/Fr.	89	Winston Eubanks	WR/Sr.
4	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB/Sr.	27	Jaden Seider	S/Fr.	53	Fred Hansard	DT/Jr.	89	Grayson Kline	TE/H/So.
5	Jahan Dotson	WR/Fr.	28	Devyn Ford	RB/So.	53	Rasheed Walker	OL/So.	90	Rafael Checa	K/So.
6	Cam Sullivan-Brown	WR/Jr.	28	Dominic DeLuca	LB/Fr.	54	Derrick Tangelo	DT/Sr.	90	Rodney McGraw	DE/Fr.
8	Marquise Wilson	QB/So.	29	Sebastian Constantini	S/Fr.	54	Fathorma Mulbah	DT/Fr.	90	Dvon Ellies	DT/Fr.
9	Joey Porter Jr.	CB/Fr.	29	Henry Fessler	WR/So.	55	Anthony Whigan	OL/Jr.	91	Chris Stoll	SN/Jr.
9	Christian Veilleux	QB/Fr.	32	Dylan Farronato	S/Fr.	56	Amin Vanover	DT/Fr.	91	Jake Pinegar	K/Jr.
11	Daniel George	WR/So.	33	Bryce Mostella	DE/Fr.	57	Ibrahim Traore	OL/Fr.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/Fr.
12	Brandon Smith	LB/So.	36	Zuriah Fisher	LB/Fr.	58	Landon Tengwall	OL/Fr.	92	Levi Forrest	P/Fr.
13	Ellis Brooks	LB/Jr.	37	Drew Hartlaub	S/Jr.	59	Kaleb Konigus	OL/So.	93	Bradley King	P/Jr.
13	KeAndre Lambert-Smith	WR/Fr.	38	Tank Smith	RB/Fr.	64	Nate Bruce	OL/Fr.	94	Jake Wilson	DE/Fr.
14	Sean Clifford	QB/Jr.	39	Robbie Dwyer	LB/Fr.	66	Nick Dawkins	OL/Fr.	95	Cole Brevard	DT/Fr.
15	Enzo Jennings	S/Fr.	40	Jesse Luketa	LB/Jr.	70	Juice Scruggs	OL/So.	95	Vlad Hilling	K/So.
16	Ji'Air Brown	S/Jr.	41	Kobe King	LB/Fr.	72	Bryce Effner	OL/So.	97	Barney Amor	P/Jr.
17	Arnold Ebiketie	DE/Jr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Fr.	73	Mike Miranda	OL/Jr.	97	PJ Mustipher	DT/Jr.
17	Mason Stahl	QB/Fr.	44	Joseph Appiah Darkwa	DT/Fr.	74	Olu Fashanu	OL/Fr.	98	Jordan Stout	K/P/Jr.
19	Joseph Johnson III	CB/Fr.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Fr.	75	Des Holmes	OL/Jr.	98	Dan Vasey	DE/Jr.
19	Jaden Dottin	WR/Fr.	45	Charlie Katshir	LB/So.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Fr.	98	Coziah Izzard	DT/Fr.
20	Adisa Isaac	DE/So.	46	Nick Tarburton	DE/So.	78	Golden Israel-Achumba	OL/Fr.			
21	Noah Cain	RB/So.	47	Alex Furmanek	LB/Fr.	79	Caeden Wallace	OL/Fr.			
21	Tyler Rudolph	S/Fr.	47	Tommy Friberg	TE/H/Fr.	80	Malick Meiga	WR/Fr.			

Isaac, Brown to step up as leaders

By Justin Morganstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following the disappointment of a 4-5 season in 2020, Penn State was also keenly aware it would be taking on a number of losses with the departure of its defensive leaders in 2021.

Veteran presences like Jayson Owheh, Shaka Toney and Lamont Wade have gone on to pursue their professional careers, while last year’s team sack leader Antonio Shelton is heading to Florida to utilize his final year of eligibility.

All four were pivotal, not just on the field, but were players who were familiar with the scheme and culture led by James Franklin and Brent Pry.

But now with Owheh, Toney, Wade and Shelton gone, the Nittany Lions are looking internally for leadership from those who have already spent time with the program.

One of those players is sophomore defensive end Adisa Isaac.

A player who Toney described as a future “first round pick” last season, Isaac said he is ready to take on the leadership role held by members of the program who aren’t around anymore.

“I recently talked to Shaka just to get feedback,” Isaac said. “I’ve just been picking his brain even



Aabha Vora/Collegian file photo

Sophomore defensive end Adisa Isaac is set to become a crucial part of a Penn State’s pass rush after losing some of its veteran leadership.

since I got on campus just asking him, ‘How do you do this, when do you do this, why do you do this?’ Just asking him everything and picking his brain.”

Learning those habits from a veteran like Toney will certainly benefit Penn State as it moves forward with a young core ready to make its presence felt on the field.

But away from the field, Isaac admitted vocal leadership is not

in line with the personality he’s always had. Quite candidly, the 6-foot-4, 244 pound defensive lineman said, “I’m really shy, I’m not the biggest talker.”

In a situation similar to the defensive line outlook this year, a soft-spoken Jahan Dotson stepped up to the plate last season, after saying he was more of a quiet leader among the wide receiver group heading into the 2020 campaign.

Isaac now has a chance to do the same, as his talent and physical ability will certainly put him on the field in many crucial situations.

“I have to voice my opinion and help the younger guys,” Isaac said. “I’m more lead by example... but when it’s time to be vocal, I will have to be vocal. It’s something I’m trying to improve on.”

Someone who is a bit more vo-

cal than the Brooklyn, New York, native is defensive back Ji’Ayir Brown who’s taken a long, winding road to get to the spot he is at ow.

Brown started his career at Lackawanna Junior College, where he walked on after not even being on the coaching staff’s recruiting radar.

Once Brown was able to get his reps in, coaches quickly took notice of his talent and hard work between the lines.

He was eventually able to work himself all the way to a Big Ten program in Penn State and will compete for a starting job at safety in the fall with Jonathan Sutherland.

Through all of that, Brown has found a way to have a positive effect on his teammates and coaches while displaying his underdog mentality, which he says is now simply a mindset.

“I go into practice, I go into places I’ve never been before with that mindset of ‘I’m an underdog, and nobody expects me to do anything,’” Brown said. “I have to earn everything I get. That’s been my mentality since high school — before I got to Lackawanna.

“Just earn everything you get, nothing is given.”

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Follow him on Twitter at [@JmoTweets_](https://twitter.com/JmoTweets_).

Ford to take on pivotal role in Penn State backfield

By Justin Morganstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For the second year in a row, it appears that the running back position is going to be one of Penn State’s most complete groups heading into the summer.

With most of its biggest contributors returning from last year and other important names returning from injury, the Nittany Lions will likely rely on their running backs to give the offense a boost in the 2021 campaign.

One of the returners from injury is sophomore back Devyn Ford, who missed three games last year.

Ford showed some flashes in his freshman season in 2019 and has already been impressive so far in spring workouts, according to one of the guys who has to

line up against him every day in defensive lineman PJ Mustipher.

“Devyn is quick, Devyn is explosive,” Mustipher said.

“I lifted next to him during the winter, so I was able to see the type of power he had in the weight room. Devyn’s got quick feet, he can make those cuts that not a lot of guys around the country can make. Devyn just goes to work every day.”

While Ford and fellow sophomore Noah Cain missed significant time with their respective injuries, freshmen Keyvone Lee and Caziah Holmes were able to shine once the opportunity presented itself.

The two combined for 768 rushing yards and six touchdowns last season while playing crucial roles in Penn State’s four game win streak to close out the year.

So with the two young backs in the mix,

as well as senior Baylor transfer John Lovett, Ford said he believes the competition among the group has already been at an all-time high — and that isn’t a bad thing.

“It’s been a high competitive level every single day,” Ford said. “When you come in and you know your job is on the line every single day, and [you] come in there and work with the guys that can all take a spot whenever, that’s a beautiful thing. We’re all pushing each other to be the best we can be on the field.”

Ford is confident in his own game and said he feels he can personally contribute a lot to the group in 2021.

He is also keenly aware part of competition is to make everyone better, and that is how the team will form a true backfield by committee.

“We make corrections on each other in the film room, and we make sure we’re talking on the sidelines [about] what we’re doing well or what we could do better,” Ford said.

“Things like that make the running back room good, because we are able to coach ourselves, and the coaches don’t have to coach us.”

Part of where his current mentality comes is the experience Ford gained while being slotted in as the lead back prior to his injury.

With Cain absent after a Week 1 injury after and preseason No. 1 Journey Brown sidelined with a medical condition, Ford was going to have to be the elder statesman in a backfield filled with freshmen.

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Seniors weigh in on freshman-only decision

By Tyler Lipton
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For the first time in over a year, Penn State will be letting a mass number of fans into Beaver Stadium. But there's a catch — only freshmen are invited.

Penn State's annual Blue-White game will not be open to upperclassmen, and several seniors voiced their disapproval at the decision, including Gwyneth Falloon.

"I am annoyed and upset," Falloon (senior-broadcast journalism) said. "It's like a punch in the gut."

Fallon said she thinks the game is only occurring to "keep freshmen here."

Penn State's football games have a history of being full of energy, so Brett Randby said he is disappointed with the news about the Blue-White game.

Randby (senior-information sciences and technology) said he is invested in Penn State culture.

"When they dropped the bomb, I was like 'What?' — just very shocked and confused," Randby said.

The games are a favorite among students and visitors — hotel rooms are booked months in advance in anticipation of games. Many obtain season passes and wait in line for hours to buy tickets.

For Madison Crago, not being able to attend the Blue-White game is just another disappointment in a series of disappointing events caused by the coronavirus.

"Seniors have lost much of their senior year," Crago (senior-biochemistry and molecular



Aabha Vora/Collegian file photo

Cornerback Tariq Castro-Fields (5) and quarterback Sean Clifford (14) hug after the Penn State Blue-White game at Beaver Stadium in 2019.

biology) said. "We went to our last football game without realizing it was the last game."

However, Crago said she believes the university's decision was the right one.

"A lot of freshmen have had a lot of doubts about Penn State," Crago said. "The game can reassure freshmen and improve [the] freshmen experience."

Like Crago, Jude Lampman said he understands seniors' outrage, but he prefers to focus on what the university gave to seniors during the coronavirus instead of what it took away.

"We aren't able to go to the Blue-White game, but I would rather have graduation," Lampman (senior-civil engineering) said.

Lampman said the most fun part of the Blue-White game was tailgating. But with the coronavirus preventing even the invited freshmen from doing so, Lampman said not being allowed into the game made no difference for him.

Crago, however, worries about graduating seniors who live in other states or countries and may not have another opportunity to return to Penn State to see another game. She said she thinks the university could have made a compromise to allow more students of varying years to attend.

"I'm glad [the freshmen] are going, but I wish seniors could go too," Crago said. "Beaver Stadium is big enough to fit both classes."

Freshmen tackle whether to attend final spring practice

By Julia Mertes
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Cheers, loud music, concession food, touchdowns — a typical day at Beaver Stadium will occur once again as the football team ushers in its annual spring practice for the Blue-White game. But this, it's time only for freshmen.

After Penn State freshmen were invited to attend this year's annual spring practice on April 17 in Beaver Stadium, much to seniors' dismay, students weighed in on the university's decision and shared their plans for the event.

The Blue-White game is the last training day in the football practice season, and according to an email sent by Penn State Athletic Department to freshmen, the event will include performances by the Penn State Blue Band, cheer and dance squad routines, and the traditional singing of the Alma Mater.

In addition to freshmen, the families and guests of student-athletes will be allowed to attend the event, according to the Lions' athletic department. The controversial decision garnered the attention of many upperclassmen who protested the choice via social media and online petitions.

Despite petitions against freshmen attending the game, registration for tickets still began at 7 a.m. on April 7 for first-year students.

Some freshmen — including Jack Briggs — are attending the Blue-White game due to a love of football games sparked by high school extracurricular involvement.

Briggs' (freshman-theatre) participation in high school marching band sparked his interest in football and got him "invested in attending school football games regularly," he said.

Briggs said he decided to attend the Blue-White game "just for the experience" to see what

football games are like before the fall "when students will hopefully be able to attend all games in person."

Like many freshmen, Briggs said he's excited to experience a typical Penn State event. The atmosphere at football events — with the crowd coming together cheering for the players — is what Briggs said he's looking forward to, even more than the actual game.

"I'm not really a big football person, but being here at Penn State, it's really part of the community and part of the 'vibe' of what to expect from a campus like Penn State," Briggs said. "I value community a lot, and the Blue-White game seems like a big community event to experience as a school."

According to Briggs, attending Penn State football games was an activity he was looking forward to, and he said he was disappointed when the fall football games were restricted to limited attendees.

Due to rising coronavirus numbers, Briggs said he is unsure if he'll end up purchasing season football tickets for next semester, but he's hopeful vaccine rollout will get the pandemic under control.

Other freshmen booked Blue-White game tickets after years of growing up and hearing about Penn State football events, including Andrew Kacala, who plans to attend the game after making ticket reservations with a group of friends.

According to Kacala (freshman-biology), he's anticipated attending Penn State football games since he's grown up in a Penn State household that has consistently rooted for the team on Saturdays.

Since Kacala's parents are Penn State alumni, Kacala said he's been "surrounded by Penn State football for a while now" and heard stories from his



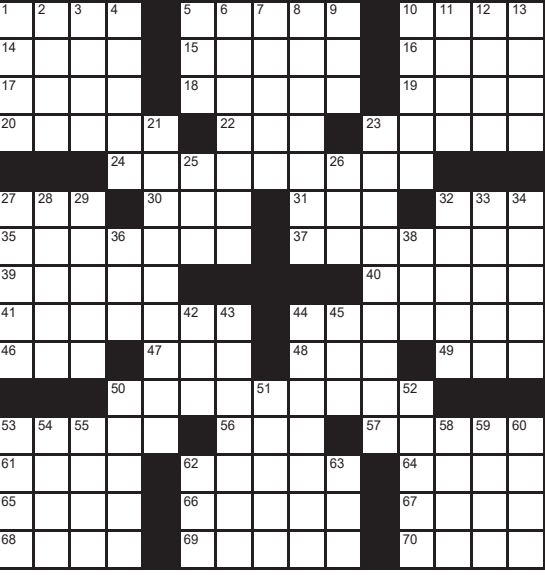
Ernesto Estremera Jr./For the Collegian

Some freshmen will attend the spring practice on April 17, citing their love of football.

Puzzles

Across

- 1 State openly
5 Tablelands
10 Retro hairdo
14 Ritzy
15 Uncredited actor
16 Diving bird
17 Talipot palm leaf
18 Watchman
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22 Golfer's concern
23 Card game
24 Strained
27 Humanities degs.
30 Family tree word
31 Bird of myth
32 German river
35 Suggested
37 Russian orbiter
39 Libertines
40 Sunshine State
41 Museum VIP
44 Shellfish
46 Store posting (Abbr.)
47 Chemical suffix
48 Between Arnhem and Utrecht
49 "C'___ la vie!"
50 Advocate
53 Solar system member
56 Clavell's "___ Pan"
57 Armored vehicles
61 During
62 More owlsh
64 Challenge for a barber
65 Like some vases
66 Skirt style
67 Radiate



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- 68 Quarry
69 Retreats
70 Soaks, as flax

Down

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2 Electrical unit
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5 Ryan of "I.Q."
6 Rejoiced
7 Flight segment
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12 Be itinerant
13 Sole
21 Parsons
23 Lying down
25 Linda ___, Supergirl's alias
26 Apex
27 Hard close-grained wood
28 French romance
29 Some rail lines maternally
32 Related
33 Quiet actors
34 Bypass
36 Pastoral setting
38 Woody Herman's "___ Autumn"
42 Lennon's lady
43 Lizard, e.g.
44 Permissive
45 Literary piece
50 Roly-poly
51 Desert sight
52 Circus performer
53 Seductress
54 Mideast potentate
55 Emergency CB channel
58 Reputation
59 Make a sweater
60 Collectors like them
62 Pallid
63 Hi-___ graphics

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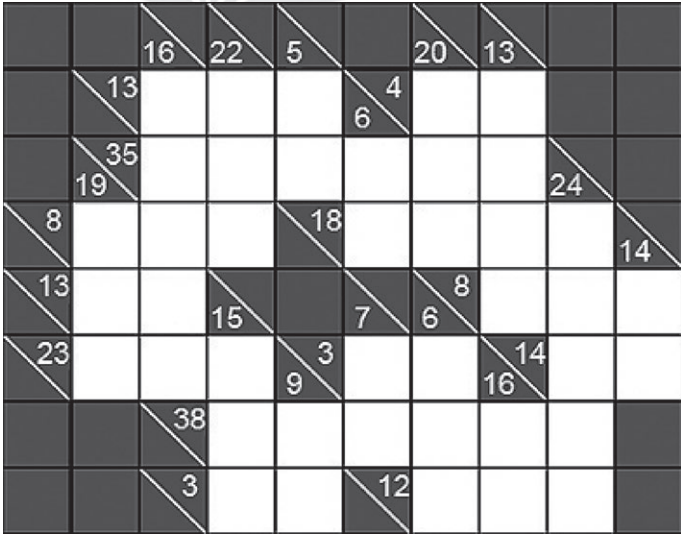
For the Sweet Tooth

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| Almond Joy | Kit Kat | Nerds | Snickers |
| Baby Ruth | Life Savers | Oh Henry | Starburst |
| Big Hunk | Marathon | Payday | Tootsie Roll |
| Caramello | Milk Duds | Power | Twix |
| Dots | Milky Way | House | Whoppers |
| Galaxy | Mounds | Skittles | Zagnut |
| Heath | Mr Goodbar | Skor | Zero |

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.



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Rainbow after the rain

LGBTQ students share experiences finding solace in internet community amid pandemic

By Colton Lucas
FOR THE COLLEGLIAN

Being a student during the coronavirus pandemic can be difficult, but for Penn State's LGBTQ community, the challenges faced may look different.

Jason Nelson — a first-year student who identifies as bisexual — has had to navigate collegiate life during the pandemic, and for him, that meant also having to remain largely isolated from other people within the LGBTQ community while locked away in a dorm.

Nelson (freshman-food science) said one of the hardest challenges he faced was finding ways to connect with other LGBTQ students without actually being able to see them face-to-face.

"My entire reason for coming to campus during the pandemic was that I wanted to meet people," Nelson said. "I had this dream of going and meeting people who were like me, and instead, I found that I was alone in my dorm and that was my only option."

The feelings of loneliness and lack of community were not the only difficulties Nelson said he faced when he came to University Park.

Before the pandemic, Nelson said he started to develop better connections with his family. Just as these connections seemed to be growing, the coronavirus changed everything.

Family relationships stopped getting better, and academically, Nelson said the rigorous courses he was taking during his senior year of high school also became more difficult to manage.

"It ended up becoming just — trailing down to absolutely nothing, having no motivation to do any academics," Nelson said.

"When I got to college, things would definitely fall through the cracks, and I am still feeling that this semester."

Sarah Bett is also a part of the LGBTQ community at Penn State and was sent home last spring by the pandemic. She said she was lucky because her family is supportive of her. Bett (junior-community, environment and development and Spanish) said for other students, some were forced to make decisions to conceal part of their identities around families that didn't know they were part of the LGBTQ community.

"When quarantine started, many of us were home... We got stuck," Bett said. "It was really confusing, it was really frustrating and it was incredibly isolating. I think it was really hard for people in the queer community, especially if people weren't out — being forced back into the closet."

As the pandemic continued to impact people worldwide, Bett said she has seen some LGBTQ students who are able to escape difficult situations, but others still were trapped and lacking adequate resources needed to maintain their well-being.

The efforts taken by Penn State to help its LGBTQ student community were not enough, according to Bett. Being open about her sexuality at Penn State pre-pandemic, Bett said this lack of effort was seen and felt even before the coronavirus took hold.

Before the pandemic, Bett said the environment at Penn State was one that catered to heteronormativity and sometimes produced fear among LGBTQ students. She said Penn State has a culture that brings this out, but it also has the opportunity to be a welcoming and inclusive environment in a post-pandemic world.

"[Penn State officials]



Ken Kalbach/Collegian file photo

Brian Patchcoski, former director of the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity, walks in a Pride March on Wednesday April 11, 2018. The center has offered resources for LGBTQ students amid the pandemic.

advertise about how they are doing all these great things, but they don't talk about how they are blocking and creating these boundaries for [the LGBTQ community]," Bett said. "They want to make it a great space? Help us make it a better space."

Bett said it's now more important than ever for LGBTQ people to establish boundaries and call on the people around them to show them respect — no matter if they are surrounded by family members or friends.

The university currently provides various resources aimed toward LGBTQ students, including access to advocacy opportunities, education, health and wellness services, programming, student-run organizations and access to the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, according to Penn State spokesperson Lisa Powers.

The CSGD — located in LL011 in the HUB-Robeson Center — also provides additional opportunities for students through specialized programming for the LGBTQ community, including speaker events, virtual discussion groups, off-campus and national LGBTQ resources and programming for Penn State Pride Month 2021, according to Powers.

"[Penn State] will continue to work to make our students aware of the many resources in place for our LGBTQ community," Powers said via email.

More information on additional resources for LGBTQ students, faculty and staff can be found on the CSGD's website, or by contacting the current CSGD interim director, Sonya Wilmouth.

Aidan Mitts said she sees and understands Penn State's efforts

to create a more welcoming and safe environment but does not see this effort shared among other students who are not LGBTQ themselves.

Mitts (junior-supply chain management) said the university has taken initiative to offer programs and resources, but other students' harmful preceptions prohibit the LGBTQ community's expression.

"I think Penn State, from an administrative standpoint, has done pretty much all they can to be accepting to the LGBTQ community and open doors," Mitts said. "I think it's on the student body to be accepting."

Throughout the pandemic, Mitts said LGBTQ students everywhere have had to rely on the internet to find the support they aren't able to have in person. Mitts said the internet has always been a safe haven for the community, but the pandemic has caused online interactions to be the only option for some.

"We all, in our individual lives, have felt some fraction of being unwelcomed and unaccepted," Mitts said. "On the internet, when we can connect with other people from around the world that feel the same way, it's like you forget about straight people."

Nelson said it took an entire semester to be able to navigate the virtual world of collegiate life

in order to find a community he felt he could click with at Penn State.

This reliance on the internet and social apps to interact and find LGBTQ spaces is nothing new for the community, according to Nelson. He said he believes when the pandemic is over, the real challenge will be learning

"On the internet, when we can connect with other people from around the world that feel the same way, it's like you forget about straight people."

how to break beyond this digital wall.

"Queer people kind of did the same things they were doing before the pandemic," Nelson said. "It's unlikely people are going to break the habit of using [online platforms], even when there's no pandemic."

As the end of the pandemic lies

on the horizon, Bett said everyone needs to remain cognizant of the disruption the coronavirus has caused in the lives of so many LGBTQ people. She said everyone's experiences are unique, and it cannot be assumed how people have reacted to the pandemic.

"We're all just trying to do our best — everyone is dealing with it and experiencing it differently," Bett said. "All members of the [LGBTQ] community don't experience things the same way... Just because one person has told you about their experiences doesn't mean you can understand anyone else's."

Aidan Mitts

junior-supply chain management



Ken Kalbach/Collegian file photo

Quarantine meant being stuck in an uncomfortable environment for some LGBTQ students, with some being "forced back into the closet."

What does a COVID-19 variant in State College mean?

By Anjelica Rubin
FOR THE COLLEGLIAN

A little over one year after the first coronavirus case was reported in Centre County, a more infectious variant has arrived in the Centre region.

The B.1.1.7 variant, also referred to as the United Kingdom variant, was first discovered at Penn State in tested wastewater samples and was confirmed in a "COVID-19 Status Update" with university officials and community leaders on March 26.

According to Matthew Ferrari, director of Penn State's Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics and associate professor of biology, the analysis of wastewater samples was ordered after the increase of cases locally.

"I think myself and others at the university working to set policy were already operating under the presumption that [the variant] was here almost as soon as it was detected in [Pennsylvania]," Ferrari said. "It was just a matter of time."

The variant was first discovered in Pennsylvania on Jan. 7, and while it is still unknown how widespread it is in State College, the wastewater sample that confirmed its presence dates back to March 7, according to Ferrari.

Wastewater sampling for the coronavirus on campus and in surrounding areas can help the university catch a potential outbreak days before those in contact with the virus show any

symptoms, according to Ferrari, who said it would be no surprise if the U.K. variant continued to spread throughout the community.

"The highly transmissible variant is about 30-50% more transmissible than the original virus," Ferrari said. "While young people still have a low probability of reacting severely to the virus, with this variant, that low value is slightly higher."

State College Mayor Ron Filippelli said with the increase in cases, large student gatherings and parties are still an issue even with the borough's existing coronavirus ordinance.

"Of course not all of the blame is on students," Filippelli said.

"However, it's gotten to a point where we already have consequences in place, but we can't control everything, especially when it comes to apartment and private housing parties where students live."

Filippelli said he continues encouraging social distancing and mask wearing but is concerned about what it means to have a variant discovered in the State College community.

"After over a year of this, it just goes to show that there's

still a long way to go before we can reach this 'normalcy' we all crave," Filippelli said. "I think I speak for everyone when I say we are worn out, but a variant is not. It's just getting started, and that's the real concern."

Ferrari said there has already been "strong evidence" that the variant spreads rapidly, and he stressed the importance of recognizing the "increased likelihood" of developing severe, potentially long-lasting effects from the variant.

"I want to be as transparent as possible," Ferrari said. "It's still so new that we don't know how long lasting those outcomes could become. But if you do get sick with the variant, the chance you might have those long term issues of fatigue, scarring in the lungs and respiratory failure is increased and all very possible."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the B.1.1.7 variant has become the most common strain of the coronavirus in the United States as of April 7.

Currently, all three coronavirus vaccines available in the United States — Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson — work against the variant,

according to Ferrari.

"All vaccines have been very effective," Ferrari said. "But, we must remain conscientious that other variants tell a different story and have not yet been detected in our community."

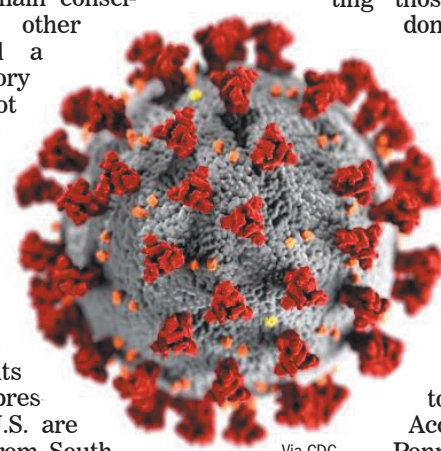
According to the CDC, the two other coronavirus variants already present in the U.S. are the B.1.351 from South Africa and P.1. from Brazil.

Like Ferrari, Filippelli said the real concern is making sure other variants do not spread.

"It is critically important to reach herd immunity," Filippelli said. "Now that vaccinations will be available to so many members of our community, we must act on that advantage and understand we must continue to follow guidelines until everyone can be [vaccinated]."

In Centre County, 18% of the population has been vaccinated as of April 5, according to the CDC's COVID-19 Data Tracker.

"Since this community has such a big population of students living in the area most of the year, it is super important for students to get vaccinated when it is their turn," Ferrari said. "On so many



Via CDC

levels, the best way to protect yourself and the best way to protect those around you is by getting those shots. You don't want to wait around."

Ferrari said if students are vaccinated, there is room to relax some restrictions. But he said now is still the most important time to stay cautious.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health's vaccine rollout timeline, all commonwealth residents will be eligible for vaccination by April 19.

"We now know that there is absolutely a way to protect people from the virus with vaccines," Ferrari said. "But we need to be patient in order to buy everyone the time to get the vaccine before we can think about normalcy and what that actually means."

Although more vaccines are being distributed and some restrictions have been relaxed, Ferrari said the need to continue practicing preventative measures — including masking, distancing, frequent hand washing and avoiding large gatherings — is still "undeniably necessary."

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

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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Student-athletes deserve more

The arc of justice for student-athletes is bending toward greater rights and recognition, and Florida State University just provided a much needed push in the right direction.

If Penn State had ears to hear and eyes to see, it would consider following FSU’s lead.

In response to the Intercollegiate Athlete Compensation and Rights bill passed by the Florida legislature — which allows “certain student-athletes to earn compensation for their name, image, likeness or persona” — FSU partnered with a social media guru program called Apex. A driving concept behind the program and partnership is to focus on student-athletes’ names, images and likenesses, or NIL.

In Pennsylvania, such bills have been introduced, but not put into law as of early March. Similar bills have been introduced in the federal government.

David Coburn, FSU’s vice president and director of athletics, told the Tallahassee Democrat that Apex is “structured to allow

OUR VIEW

College athletes are not amateurs but the hard-working generators of college revenue

student-athletes to maximize their NIL potential while in college and help them graduate with less debt, assist their families and prepare for the next chapter in their lives.”

As the name implies, NIL essentially represents the curated brand image of individual student-athletes, and Apex merely streamlines the curation and makes it that much more lucrative.

Despite the hyper reliance on buzzwords and business jargon, FSU’s effort has its heart in the right place. For too long, student-athletes played the role of Atlas for their universities, holding the institutions up through painstaking effort and strength, and receiving infinitesimal compensation in return.

What the newly minted bill

offers, then, is a reversal of course and righting of wrongful behavior on the part of universities. At the very least, Atlas shall be properly recognized for his efforts and finally allowed to maximize his brand potential. One might hope the recognition blossoms into direct compensation, but until that fateful day, baby steps can hold us over.

Accordingly, a giant institution such as Penn State can surely afford, both financially and ethically, to take similar baby steps and offer students similar packages — if Pennsylvania passes NIL legislation.

After all, Penn State athletics reported a total profit of \$4.2 million in 2019. Even if pay-checks are quickly ruled out, offering the ability to expand

athletes’ profiles so they could maximize their returns from shvitzing, shows the university actually tends its biggest incubators of revenue rather than merely pretending.

Additionally, FSU’s friendship with Apex points to further erosion of belief in amateurism, the doctrine held sacred by the NCAA that characterizes all student-athletes as amateurs and thus disqualified from salaried payment. The NCAA insists on maintaining a strict line between collegiate athletes and professional ones, and believes the demarcation is necessary in order for fans to enjoy the wild world of college sports.

Even the Supreme Court doubted the continued importance of amateurism. Earlier in March, during

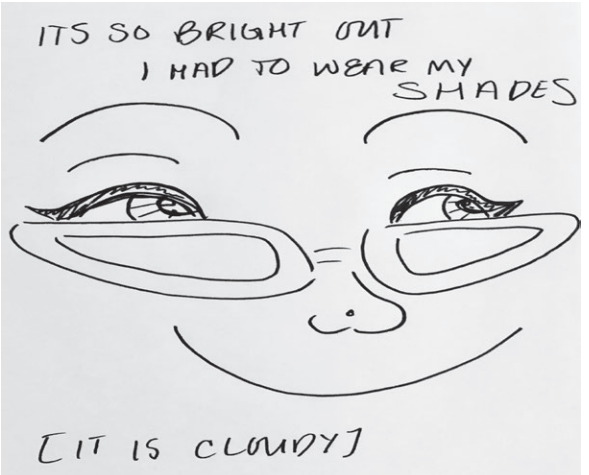
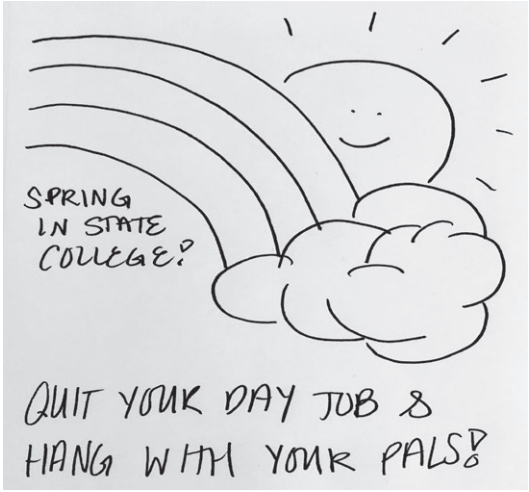
hearings for NCAA vs. Alston, various judges from across the spectrum deconstructed the concept of amateurism and found it sorely wanting.

“You can only ride on the history for so long. A great deal has changed since 100 years ago in the way student-athletes are treated,” Justice Elena Kagan said.

Even though the Alston case only involves education-related benefits such as study abroad opportunities or cash payments for academic excellence, the court’s logic hints at something greater on the horizon.

More specifically, the legal system’s increasing acceptance of benefits for college athletes is but another tale, another story in the larger saga of NCAA’s losing battle to “protect” these same athletes from the horrors of just compensation.

Florida already detected the writing on the wall and rallied to student-athletes’ defense. Perhaps more states and universities should read the same writing and act with similar swiftness.



MY VIEW | Sarah Pellis

There is a need for more LGBTQ+ education

Growing up in a smaller suburb of Pittsburgh, I was never truly educated about the LGBTQ community in school or anywhere else.

Whether it be LGBTQ history or inclusive sex education, I have always been curious why there was not much education on these topics in school.

I am glad I’m at a place like Penn State — it’s far more advanced in LGBTQ education compared to my educational history in the past.

There are a variety of classes at Penn State on the LGBTQ community and its history. Additionally, there’s the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, which has a variety of resources for students.

However, when talking with any adviser or professor, no one has actually recommended any classes on this topic.

I didn’t know there were opportunities at Penn State to become educated until this year — this shows existing resources and educational materials should be more heavily advertised for the

general student body.

More education could decrease the prejudice against LGBTQ people, because it would provide others a better insight into what life in the queer community is like.

There are a variety of anti-LGBTQ curriculum laws in certain U.S. states that prohibit the discussion of homosexuality and transgender identity in public schools.

To me, this is outdated and unnecessary. LGBTQ people are real and deserve to be heard, and prohibiting recognition is quite ignorant.

However, there are also some states like California that mandated LGBTQ inclusion into their curriculum, which is exciting.

But what about the other states and individual schools?

These laws are a big step toward more education about and for LGBTQ people.

More education and awareness can be obtained through social media and talking with members of the community.

Social media is an important part of educating yourself on this, but often the media poorly and stereotypically depicts LGBTQ people.

That is why I have continued to educate myself, but why is

“LGBTQ people are real and deserve to be heard, and prohibiting recognition is quite ignorant.”

Sarah Pellis

there a serious lack of curriculum in schools?

All I wanted in middle school and high school was to see this type of education. I wanted to know and understand more about the subject. I had to do my own research when it should be taught in schools in the first place.

While there has been some progress from years ago, I believe there needs to be more LGBTQ education not just at Penn State but the whole country.

I think there is a lack of education in youth about LGBTQ history, basic anatomy, healthy relationship skills and safe sex practices.

And there is definitely more than just that — straight cisgender people have been the highlight of conversations forever.

Overall, I think sex education is a big part of

finding one’s sexual identity. I had to inform myself about sexuality and gender because I was never given the proper education in school.

Everyone deserves the education they need to make healthy and informed decisions about their own personal relationships and otherparts of their lives.

Additionally, all LGBTQ people need and deserve to learn in settings that are safe and healthy.

This needs to be inclusive of their experiences, which most teachers and textbooks fail to do.

There needs to be more inclusive programs for gender identity and sexual orientation that are simultaneously medically accurate and dispels the common stereotypes of behavior and identity.

Discrimination is a constant force and sadly will be for a long time.

If there is more education in school curriculums, I believe there will be a better understanding of the LGBTQ community.

Sarah Pellis is a junior majoring in history and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at sxp5781@psu.edu or follow her on Twitter at [@_sarahp](https://twitter.com/_sarahp).



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Pitchers build bond through game

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Bailey Dees, Conor Larkin and Kyle Virbitsky didn't grow up in the same hometown, didn't play high school baseball together and barely knew each other prior to arriving on campus in Happy Valley in 2017.

Four years later, the trio has found themselves in an unbreakable bond thanks to the time they've spent together on and off the field.

Whether it was living together, pulling locker room pranks on one another or pushing their counterparts to new competitive heights, the roots they planted in the Penn State baseball program grew unmistakably intertwined.

The three have solidified themselves as the Nittany Lions' top starting pitchers for the 2021 season. For Virbitsky, it's been a "blessing" to have Larkin and Dees by his side as the three worked toward a leadership role after inheriting a middling program.

"I think it started when we got here," Virbitsky told The Daily Collegian. "We recognized that we were in a situation, not that we didn't want to be in, but that needed to get better."

In the first two seasons they were on the squad, Penn State had an overall 37-61 record. While Virbitsky acknowledged there were a handful of reasons for that, he said the trio's vision of what it could be pushed them to flip the script.

"Having that hope drove us and motivated us to pull as many people along to get what we ultimately wanted out of this whole experience," Virbitsky said. "I think me, Bailey and Conor really believed in what we were doing — believed that we were doing the right things for the right reasons and the results were gonna come."

Each of the hurlers said the competitive fire kept throughout practices and the offseason has pushed them to want to outwork each other. Larkin said having Dees and Virbitsky pushing him brought him to places he never could have imagined.



Jonah Rosen/Collegian file photo

Conor Larkin, Kyle Virbitsky and Bailey Dees developed a connection through baseball. "I love these two guys with everything I have," Larkin said.

"I can see I'm a better player just from being around them," Larkin told the Collegian. "We try to beat each other — that's what makes it fun. Just having that competitive spirit between us three has pushed us to limits to where I never thought I could be pushed before."

Despite the "constant desire to compete," the bond they've built shines on game days. When one guy is on the mound, the other two are right there to tell him what he did wrong or encourage him "to empty the tank," as Virbitsky likes to say.

"We're keeping each other accountable, but also helping each other in the right way," Larkin said. "When you all have the same common goal, when you all want to help each other be the best possible player that we can be, it really helps."

Dees, Larkin and Virbitsky agree they get locked into the game when they're on the bump and can't focus on much outside of their headspace. But on days they're not toeing the rubber, there's no envious eyes following along from the dugout.

"When I'm on the mound, I don't notice much besides me pitching. But when they're on the mound, they have my full support," Dees told the Collegian. "I don't think there's any jealousy or bad blood when the others are on the mound. It's all just we want

the best for each other."

The relationship they've built extends well beyond the realm of baseball, and it started when Dees and Larkin roomed together with Virbitsky on the same floor in their freshman year.

Now, Dees and Virbitsky live in a house together, and despite Dees being an early riser and occasionally making some noise with his NutriBullet blender, Virbitsky said he's a "very good housemate" — Dees even lets him pick off of his food every now and then.

The trio has had its fair share of off-the-field shenanigans as well, and all three recalled locker room mischief as their top memory — including the origin of Dees' nickname and Xbox name.

"My sophomore year, I hid [Kyle's] jersey or something before a game," Dees said. "I remember he was flustered — he was running around the locker room looking for his jersey, and he found out it was me. Then he came and took something out of my locker. It was a funny back-and-forth between me and him."

Virbitsky set the record straight — the "something" he took was Dees' good-luck Yoda doll, which inspired teammates to refer to Dees as "Daddy Yoda."

Larkin said it's funny to look back on the strides they've made in their relationship on and off the

field from freshman year to now.

"We try to find ways to communicate with each other even when we're on winter or summer break," Larkin said. "Like, 'How you guys doing? What can we do to help?' There's an on-the-field bond as a pitcher, then there's an off-the-field bond where we try to get away from the game of baseball and just hang out and have fun."

One person each trio member credited for who they are today was Penn State pitching coach Josh Newman, who spent time in the major leagues. Newman joined Rob Cooper's staff the same year Dees, Larkin and Virbitsky arrived on campus.

In the same way the three pitchers have all grown into the program, Newman has grown right alongside them. However, he deflected all the credit for where they are to the guys themselves and student assistant coach Austin Urban, who also spent time in professional baseball.

"These guys represent everything that you could ever dream of coaching," Newman told the Collegian. "To be a part of their journey as young men, watch them develop and [watch] who they are as people is why you do it."

Newman also credited the trio for the way it treated him and turned Happy Valley into a home, despite all of them experiencing

a new program and new ideas for the first time — and what the three mean to him on a personal level.

"Those guys welcomed me and my family with open arms from day one," Newman said. "I get to be around those guys every day, and they make me better. Just the respect, they didn't have to do that."

When their days at Penn State are over, Virbitsky still has lofty expectations for their relationship and development in the game of baseball.

"I think I'll be friends with the two of them for the rest of my life, I really do," Virbitsky said. "And I think it's a pretty unique situation we're in, because I would say the three of us all have a pretty good shot at continuing on and hopefully playing professionally."

Newman didn't skip a beat when he explained his expectations for the trio post-Penn State.

"They're gonna be pros," Newman said. "They already are in how they go about their business. They're gonna be successful men."

Dees, Larkin and Virbitsky may have been brought together because of baseball, but their connection has grown well beyond the diamond.

No matter what the future holds, Dees said he expects his counterparts to still be with him through some of the biggest moments of his life.

"I think we'll always be friends," Dees said. "I think we'll always stay in touch, and wherever we're at after this year [or] next year, we're gonna always stay connected. I think those guys will be in my wedding."

As for Larkin, he can't imagine a world where Dees and Virbitsky aren't a part of his life — whether it's college baseball, professional baseball or just life in general.

"We've been around each other for too long now where it'd be weird to not continue talking," Larkin said. "I love these two guys with everything I have. Being around them every day when it comes to bullpens, games or whatever is so joyful for me."

To email reporter: mdr5616@psu.edu.
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Two sports create athlete connection

By Spencer Ripchik
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While Penn State's players spend their time around one sport — lacrosse — more than any other, there is another that helps keep the team glued together every week.

The blue and white's love for lacrosse is closely followed by football.

Most of the team has not participated in organized football, but there are a number of ex-football players scattered throughout the team.

Some of these ex-gridiron gladiators were motivated to play football by their parents' history with the sport.

Defenseman Gerald Filardi Jr. plays in the spring for the blue and white, unlike his father who competed for Penn State's football team from 1992 through 1996. However, Filardi's dad's impact on his lifelong sports career is undeniable.

"My father influenced me to play football, and it wasn't something forced upon me and my brother," Filardi said. "It helped that my father played at Penn State and is one of the reasons I chose to play lacrosse at Penn State."

Filardi's father played for Joe Paterno and went on to win the Rose Bowl in his time donning the blue and white.

For other players on the team, their inspiration was sparked from watching NFL professionals battle it out on Sundays.

Freshman midfielder Trey Berry started playing football after watching one of his favorite teams, the New York Giants, triumph over the New England Patriots in one of their two Super Bowl wins over the Patriots.

"When the Giants won the Super Bowl over the Patriots, it just inspired me to play football," Berry said. "I liked how the Super Bowl bonds everybody together. I always thought it was amazing at such a young age."

Berry played at Stony Brook

for one season before making the trek west to Penn State earlier this offseason.

Members of the team frequently use NFL players to model their play on the lacrosse field after.

A common theme throughout the squad is the appreciation for former New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

Junior faceoff specialist Jordan Donaghy is enamored by how Brees carries himself away from the field in terms of family involvement.

"I like Drew Brees, because he's a big family guy," Donaghy said. "I try to spend as much of my time with my family, just like Brees."

Berry likes Brees' mentality, too, but when it comes to his time on the field, the midfielder said he wants an attitude like Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield's.

"I like to look at guys like Drew Brees just because of his mentality and how he handles things," Berry said. "From a competitive standpoint, I like to look at a guy

like Baker Mayfield, because he just leaves it all out there and brings crazy energy on the field."

Filardi, Donaghy and Berry have all shown their football talents in different ways on the field.

Berry was the quarterback for Ward Melville High School, and he led his squad from Long Island to a county championship — creating a moment he cherishes to this day.

"My best memory from playing football was playing in my last high school game," Berry said. "Even though we lost our county championship, it was the last time playing with all my friends that I grew up with from kindergarten to senior year. It was just something very special."

Not only do the players on coach Jeff Tambroni's team have a football background, but some of them share Long Island football origins.

Filardi also played quarterback and free safety on Long Island at Half Hollow Hills West High School. Berry and Filardi even faced off against each other once, brewing a small rivalry between the two.

"We have talked a little bit about it," Berry said. "It's funny, we actually scrimmaged each other once, but they didn't keep score, which was a shame."

After their high school careers, the three players decided to continue their athletic endeavors in lacrosse rather than football.

Donaghy's decision was not easy, but he knew he would be better off competing in lacrosse in college than football.

"It was a difficult decision," Donaghy said. "I love playing football, but with a back injury and my size, it made it pretty easy to choose lacrosse."

Although the players ended up picking lacrosse, Tambroni said he thinks skills from other sports translate well and can be beneficial to their performances in their chosen sport.

"I would say the mindset of an athlete that is able to transition from basketball, hockey or football to lacrosse just

creates a much broader athletic IQ, and that absolutely translates," Tambroni said.

The two one-time quarterbacks, Filardi and Berry, have certain gridiron skill sets that have carried over to their play on the lacrosse field.

Filardi said he thinks he knows how to stay nimble on the field from a defensive standpoint thanks to his experience with football.

"I think the footwork part of the game translates really well," Filardi said. "You have to have to have good footwork not only as a defensive back in football, but as a defender in lacrosse."

On the lacrosse field, the midfielder is who gets the ball into the other offensive players' sticks like the quarterback. Berry has been able to use his experience at the quarterback spot to help him as a midfielder at Penn State.

"Midfield and quarterback are kind of the same," Berry said. "You can see the whole field and lead people to make sure everybody is on the same page."

Penn State's players can showcase their footwork and leadership on the lacrosse field a little bit. But they get to show their full football abilities at the Turkey Trot football game.

The Turkey Trot is a two-mile race that happens just before the players go their separate ways for winter break. Shortly after, they play a football game called the Turkey Bowl.

"Right before we go home for winter break, we will run a Turkey Trot, which is a little less than two miles around campus, and it's timed," Filardi said. "Then, we will have a lot of different activities, but at the end we have a pretty organized Turkey Bowl with the guys. The MVP of the game gets a turkey leg."

Over the years, the Turkey Bowl has created memorable moments for the players, particularly a moment graduate goaltender Colby Kneese is consistently teased about.

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



Courtesy of Gerald Filardi Jr.

Gerald Filardi Jr., Trey Berry and Jordan Donaghy all played football in high school and now play together on Penn State's lacrosse team.