

## Penn State

## RIVALED?

*The telling facts and figures that paint a picture of this storied matchup*

By Matt Lingerman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Having narrowly escaped Beaver Stadium with a victory over Appalachian State last Saturday, No. 13 Penn State has now set its sights on Week 2's matchup with in-state rival Pittsburgh.

Saturday's nightcap will be the third meeting of a four-year series and the 99th in the programs' histories. Penn State leads the all-time series 51-43-4, and won last year's game in State College, 33-14.

But beyond the record, which statistics and figures tell the story of Saturday's primetime contest?

## 29 — Straight games including a Trace McSorley touchdown pass

In Saturday's overtime win over Appalachian State, the possible Heisman candidate showed — yet again — Penn State is in safe hands when he's under center.

But in order to understand just how consistent McSorley has been over the course of his career, one has to go back to the 2016 TaxSlayer Bowl. After then-senior quarterback Christian Hackenberg was injured in the second quarter of that game, McSorley saw his first extended game action and threw his first touchdown pass.

That game, which garnered him Penn State's TaxSlayer Bowl MVP honors, McSorley began a streak of 29 consecutive games with a touchdown pass, a school record and the longest current active streak in the FBS.

It's expected McSorley will be able to extend that streak to 30 on Saturday, considering Pitt struggled mightily in passing defense a season ago.

## 72 — Combined points scored by Penn State since the series revived in 2016

Penn State has had no problem putting points on the board in the first half of the four-game series, scoring 39 points in the program's first trip to Heinz Field to pair with 33 at Beaver Stadium in 2017.

It should come as no surprise the Nittany Lion offense has had so much success against Pitt with the ball in its hands; James Franklin's team is in the midst of the Big Ten's third-longest ever and Penn State-best streak of 20-plus point games with 24.

Included in the recent success is a four-game streak of Penn State rushing for 200-plus yards dating back to last year's win over Nebraska.

The Nittany Lions will most likely look to get running back Miles Sanders going early after his two-touchdown performance Week 1. Expect Mark Allen and Ricky Slade to also get touches against a young Pitt front-seven.

## 69 — Times Pitt will have hosted Penn State after Saturday's game

For the most part, the series has alternated venues over the second half of the soon-to-be 100-game rivalry.

However, the Panthers have hosted significantly more games than the Nittany Lions over the series' history, including 30 of 31 straight games from 1903-1938 (the series took a brief hiatus from 1932-1934).

Overall, Pitt holds a 36-28-4 advantage while playing the role of home team, including a thrilling 42-39 win over Penn State in Week 2 of 2016.

All four of Penn State's regular season



losses since 2016 have come on the road (in 2016 at Pitt and Michigan, in 2017 at Ohio State and Michigan State), and Heinz Field is expected to be at capacity for Saturday night's game.

Having been taken to an extra stanza by Appalachian State at home, Penn State will face an even bigger test in enemy territory this weekend.

## 9 — Members of the Nittany Lions from the Pittsburgh area

The geographical proximity of the two universities not only makes for a storied rivalry, but also means the convergence of both places for some participants.

Seven Penn State players, including Sanders and defensive back Lamont Wade, along with coaches Matt Limegrover and Terry M. Smith hail from Metro Pittsburgh.

Following last week's game against Appalachian State, Sanders said he knows many of the Panthers' players, and Wade is preparing to play a collegiate game at Heinz Field for the first time after having played there during his youth and being in attendance for the Panthers win over Penn State in 2016.

In addition to living close to the Pittsburgh area, 11 Nittany Lions attended the

same high school as a dozen Pitt players. So for many Penn State players, Saturday may feel very familiar.

## 33 — Combined Nittany Lions and Panthers who made their collegiate debuts Week 1

Both teams come into their Week 2 matchup having put experience under their belts in the first week of the season.

After struggling to overcome inexperience in 2017, Pitt showed no signs of difficulty in its dispatching of Albany 33-7 in Week 1, during which 16 Panthers debuted.

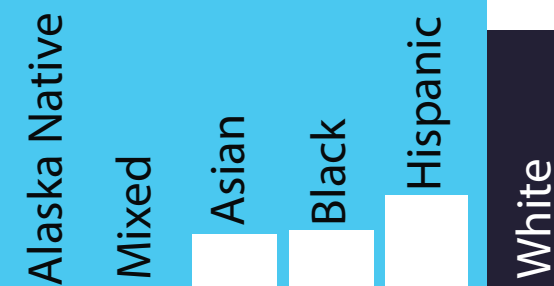
On the other hand, on Tuesday James Franklin acknowledged his squad played "like an inexperienced football team" against Appalachian State.

Between the two teams, 33 players played for the first time in their careers during the season's opening game, including 10 combined true freshmen. With the new redshirt rule, there's no telling yet which of those 10 freshmen will still be playing come season's end, but Saturday's game should give both teams a chance to see how their young players handle high pressure situations.

To email reporter: [mcl5374@psu.edu](mailto:mcl5374@psu.edu).  
Follow him on Twitter at @linger\_man.

## Staff / Faculty vs Students Ratio

■ Staff / Faculty  
■ Students



Graphic by Tyquise Edgerson

## 'Representation matters': The lack of diversity in faculty

By Lindsey Toomer  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State regularly garners "praise" for its efforts in increasing diversity and inclusion — but the community may not be as supportive in this discourse as remarks make them out to be.

State College's population is 88 percent white, while less than 4 percent of the population is black or African American.

Because State College, i.e. Penn State, is predominantly white, it is not as culturally supportive or appealing to people of color as it could be — making it seemingly difficult for the university to recruit and retain faculty of diverse backgrounds.

Over the past 30 years, Penn State has had less than 3 percent black faculty.

"If we're supposed to be a university that's striving for equity, why is it that our faculty doesn't replicate the same thing?" Awaly Diallo, executive director of the university's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration, said.

Gary Abdullah, assistant dean for diversity and inclusion for the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, said for many young professionals of color, it

can be hard to find community within State College.

He emphasized the smaller factors such as the lack of hair salons for black women, but also, the lack of diversity among grade schools in Central Pennsylvania that may turn people of color away from starting a family here.

"Some people love Happy Valley so much that it's hard for them to be understanding, to be sensitive to the other issues that are out there," Abdullah said.

Cynthia Young, the African American studies department head, said these differences were evident when moving her family from Boston to Central Pennsylvania.

For students of color at Penn State, it is important to have representation among faculty, seeing people who reflect their race or ethnicity as successful leaders in their field, Diallo (junior-

sociology and African American studies) said.

She said it is important to have professors of color especially when talking about controversial topics, such as in her sociology classes. She said a student may say something wrong or offensive, and a white professor will often not respond or correct their mistakes.

"Some students have said very hurtful and offensive things, and sometimes in a place where you don't feel comfortable and safe, you don't want to correct a student as a student," Diallo said. "You just don't want to put yourself in a place where someone is going to pin you with stereotypes."

She also said there is a "hierarchy of authority," so a student is more likely to listen to and respect what a professor has to say over a fellow student.

See REPRESENTATION, Page A2.

## Going sour: How tariffs impact the dairy industry

By Patrick Newkumet  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The dairy industry in Pennsylvania has struggled for years with over-production, consumer disinterest and low prices — and the news may get worse.

The broad sweep of economic impacts emanating from President Donald Trump's administration's recent tariffs may squash any hope of recovery for local farmers.

"Everybody I know, including myself, is suffering," Abe Harpster, a local farmer, said. "We are all losing money every day, refinancing on loans, and trying to get high enough credit to last until the prices return on their own."

Dairy farmers become quickly entangled when trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement are disputed, as they export billions of dollars in product across the border each year.

In major industries, the imposition of even a minor tariff — a tax on imports — may produce billions of dollars in government revenue. Since January 2018, the Trump administration has placed tariffs on steel, aluminum, washing machines and solar panels, among other things.

Many of the tariffs have spurred strong reactions from China, Canada, Mexico and the European Union, and retaliatory actions by those nations may cost billions for U.S. exporters in the future. For such grand economics, the effects often can be sharply focused on regional economies.

Agriculture is the first industry to receive the blowback from a trade war, as perishable foods cannot be withheld while trade issues get worked out. Farmers

are therefore forced to deal with foreign tariffs, even if they were spurred by other facets of US industry.

"Agriculture tends to be heavily subsidized and regulated in most countries of the world, so it is very connected with politics," Jonathan Eaton, a Penn State economics professor, said. "Since the U.S. is a major agricultural exporter, and the farm lobby is influential, the threat to restrict agricultural exports is a powerful tool to influence U.S. policy while, at the same time, offering the possibility of helping local farmers."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is trying to mitigate the impact of retaliatory tariffs, as it recently pledged \$4.7 billion in aid to farmers around the country. The lion's share of that aid will go toward the soybean industry, which has felt the biggest impact from these burgeoning trade disputes.

Dave Swartz, assistant director of programs at the Penn State College of Agricultural Science, said he feels this money won't be able to stop the bleeding for the dairy sector.

"The program that the government has released says that the farmers can apply and get roughly one-and-a-half cents per every gallon of milk they produce," Swartz said. "While this is a helpful gesture, it doesn't go anywhere toward really sustaining these businesses."

Even if the government were to fully subsidize U.S. farmers, it's not certain farmers would appreciate such intervention.

Just 13 miles away from Beaver Stadium, Harpster runs Evergreen Farms.

See DAIRY, Page A2.





Graphic by Leah Kochenour

# Goodbye canning, hello canvassing

*How safe is the THON fundraising alternative?*

By Shannon Harney  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Penn State THON 2018-19 fundraising season is in full swing, but student volunteers are officially no longer allowed to stand out on street corners dressed in bright eye-catching clothes collecting money in cans for the kids.

Canning has been a fundraising tactic for THON since 1973, the first year Penn State's dance marathon was held. On canning trips, groups of volunteers would stand on sidewalks or outside businesses to collect donations from passersby, until the practice was completely phased out by THON this year.

Instead, student volunteers can attend canvassing trips, in which they go from door to door collecting donations for Four Diamonds, the sole beneficiary of THON.

This change stems from

September 2015, when Vitalya "Tally" Sepot, a 19-year-old Penn State sophomore, was killed in a car accident returning to State College from a canning trip.

Sepot, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the car and pronounced dead at the scene.

THON 2019 Executive Director Kelly McCready described canning weekends as a "mass exodus of students leaving State College" and traveling to various areas within Pennsylvania and beyond.

She said since there were more students on the road than there would be during any other weekend, it was important for THON to "recognize the inherent risk that comes with driving" and take safety precautions.

However, some students are questioning how canvassing — which also involves driving long distances — is safer than canning.

McCready (senior-human development and family studies) said canvassing allows volunteers to select when they would like to travel, which allows for more flexibility. THON has set education and registration guidelines for volunteers to complete to mitigate risks.

According to the THON 2019 Rulebook, organizations voluntarily choose when and where they want to go on canvassing trips.

THON advises organizations not to travel if the weather could create dangerous driving conditions. THON also encourages students to only visit safe neighborhoods and to always move in pairs.

With canvassing, students are no longer standing in busy traffic areas to collect donations, McCready said.

Canning, she said, was an inefficient and unsustainable fundraising method, and THON

wanted to address concerns about volunteers feeling pressured to travel on the designated weekends.

After the 2015 accident, THON sought to phase out canning by the 2018-19 season, with two canning weekends set aside in 2016 and only one weekend allowed in 2017.

James Latch, who was a member of THON's Dancer Relations committee last year, agrees that canvassing is "probably" a safer alternative to standing on a street corner.

"But the accident wasn't a direct result of canning," Latch (sophomore-biology). "They could've just been driving home and that could've happened."

Latch said he doesn't understand THON's justification for banning canning trips but supporting canvassing.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.

## Dairy

FROM Page A1.

"I think that dairy farmers, including me, don't want a government welfare system supporting our agriculture," Harpster said. "We want a balanced system that is driven by the market, and that's what it will take to get it back to where it is a viable industry."

With roughly 3,200 cows, Evergreen Farms is the largest dairy producer in Pennsylvania. Even with such a dominant position, Harpster is feeling the market heat.

"Until farms go out of business, or scale back on cows, we will continue to have this problem," Harpster said. "We could export the excess, but the issue there right now is the trade war going on."

Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania have struggled with low prices for about seven years. In 2011, a remarkable year for the industry, the price of milk rose to roughly \$22 per 100 pounds.

Due to this success, farmers around the state began to invest heavily in new livestock and machinery. But that market success quickly turned sour, as major over-production drove prices down once demand failed to keep up.

That slide has continued through 2018 — forecasters expect an annual average price of \$17.50 per 100 pounds of milk.

Investing in dairy can be a gamble, as James Dunn, emeritus professor of agricultural economics at Penn State, said.

"If you have a cow, it won't start to produce milk until it is two years old," he said.

For small farmers trying to capitalize on the 2011 boom, the purchase of a calf was based on the promise of continued market success.

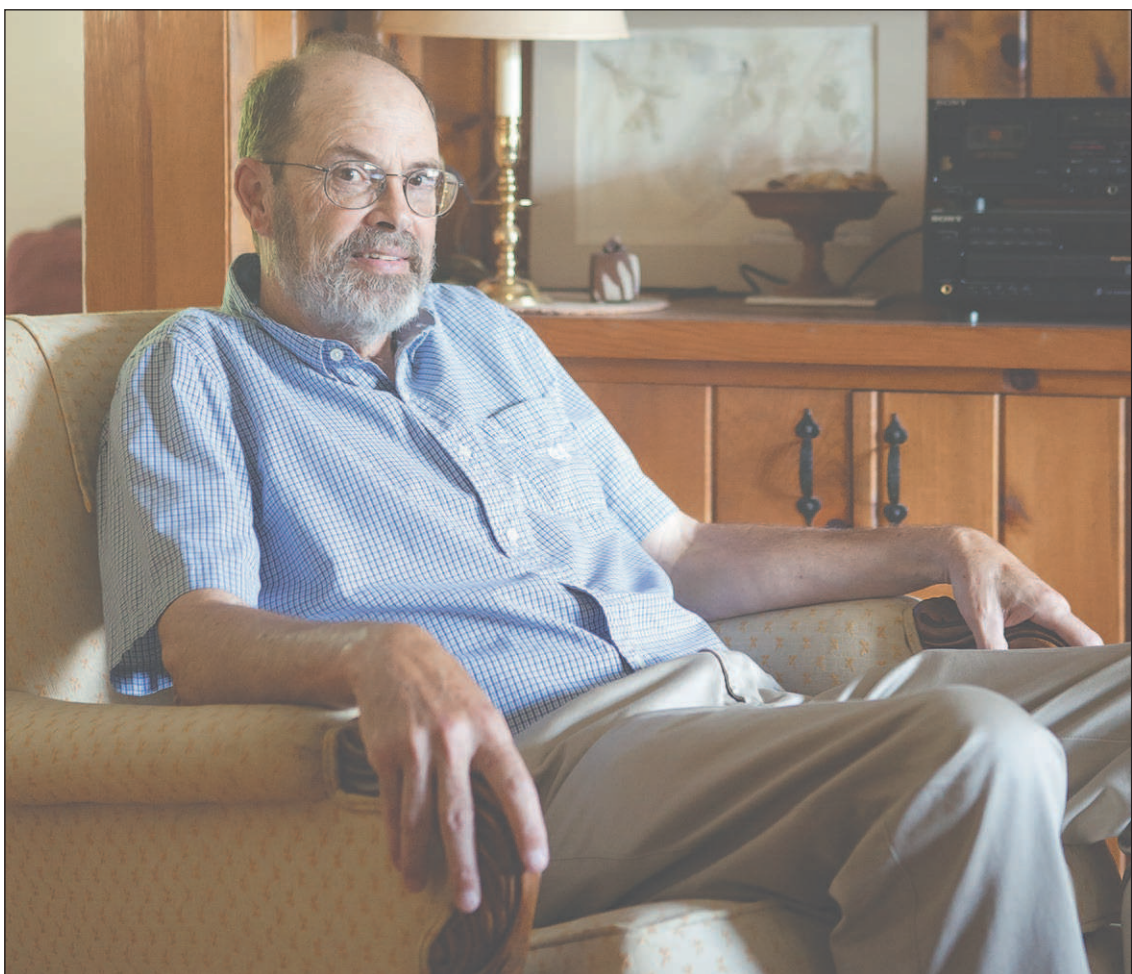
"It takes like, three or four years to add milk to the supply," Harpster said. "Once you have all those animals that are producing, it's really tough to turn it off because you've made a huge capital investment in getting those animals to produce."

According to Dunn, modern dairy cows are larger and produce milk at a staggeringly high rate. Some cows are capable of producing up to 10 gallons of milk each day.

In 1997, the average cow produced roughly 17,000 pounds of milk in a year. Over the course of 20 years, that rate increased to 23,000 pounds per year.

A large share of dairy products in the U.S. get to market through cooperatives such as Land O' Lakes or Nestlé. These companies curate a web of small farms across the country and rely on purchasing milk wholesale depending on variable demand.

"Everybody buying milk to



Chushi Hu/Collegian

James W. Dunn, former Emeritus Professor of Agricultural Economics at Penn State, sits in his house in State College on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

process it into something has all of the control [over pricing]," Harpster said. "When there is an oversupply, milk doesn't have anywhere to go and the buyers of it — the people making cheese, yogurt, etc. — are able to beat the prices down."

When prices become depressed, cooperatives often adopt the tactics of rival gas stations — shaving pennies off the dollar to sell excess until markets turn around.

The price of dairy in Pennsylvania is determined by the Milk Marketing Board. During times of economic stress, the board directs stimulus funds towards struggling farmers.

Despite these funds, board member Carol Hardbarger said it is unlikely that the price will increase in the near future.

"I don't foresee that it is going to get back to those high levels at all," Hardbarger, a Penn State alumna, said. "If anything, that price might even dip a little lower."

The Center for Dairy Excellence, operating out of Harrisburg, promotes the success of dairy markets in Pennsylvania. Jayne Sebright is the executive director and a Penn State alumna.

"We had hoped that by the end of 2018 milk prices would rebound to a profitable level," Sebright said. "However, with the retaliatory tariffs that are now in play, those milk prices are forecasted [to rebound] much slower than

they were earlier this year."

The blowback from a trade war is not the only issue facing dairy farmers.

Increasing popularity of dairy substitutes, as well as other bottled beverages in general, has made milk less popular in American households. On top of that, federal policy has contributed to disinterest in the beverage among children.

"In 2012, the administration changed the school lunch program on a federal level to only include non-fat or 1 percent white milk," Sebright said. "Fuller-fat milks have a better taste appeal. So, what they saw in the schools after that change occurred, is about a 2 to 6 percent decline in milk sales."

Penn State is uniquely shielded from the woes of the dairy industry.

Berkey Creamery derives most of its milk from the dairy barns on campus. These dairy barns have a partnership with Land O' Lakes, which purchases the excess dairy during periods of low sales. During these periods, which tend to coincide with academic breaks, the dairy barns are protected financially by this arrangement.

"Berkey Creamery is not typical because of the customers," Dunn said. "It is a very protected institution that intends to make money, and they just aren't in the same boat as the farmers."

The Daily Collegian reached

out to Berkey Creamery, but the company could not be reached for this story.

But beyond "Happy Valley" in the many small towns dotting the state, a stagnant dairy market can encroach on the welfare of an entire community.

"My father was a dentist, and in our small town his income went up and down with the farm prices because getting your teeth fixed is a deferrable expense," Dunn said.

When local dairy farmers cannot spend money locally, other businesses in the area suffer as well. A worker for U.S. Steel, a corporation that may profit from the Trump-ordered tariffs, may be more impacted by the closing of a local dairy farm than by any short-term raise at work.

These complicated realities and unintended consequences of a trade war are hitting close to home for local farmers. In the coming months, while major state cooperatives such as Land O' Lakes, Dairy Farmers of America and Upstate Farms are well-positioned to survive this speed bump, local farms may have to make some uncomfortable choices.

"We have some very capable dairy producers in this state that will survive this crisis, but we are going to lose a certain percentage of this industry over the next five to 10 years," Swartz said.

To email reporter: [pfn5020@psu.edu](mailto:pfn5020@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@patnewkumet](https://twitter.com/patnewkumet).

## Representation

FROM Page A1.

Abdullah echoed, saying the ability for students to see themselves reflected in their educators is powerful.

"Representation matters," Abdullah said. "Being able to see your educator as someone who is similar to you in certain ways — that's so keen. It's powerful. We realize that. We have to keep pushing toward it."

Young, Abdullah and Diallo all mentioned the impact of seeing more faculty of color would affect the majority of white students as well.

"When you see someone in the front of the room who is commanding the room, who knows their subject, who is teaching you, who is the authority on the topic, it makes a very powerful message," Young said.

Young said Penn State should be recruiting the best in the country, and this is not just from one demographic.

"It can begin to break down stereotypes and misunderstandings and things that society may have engrained on them that they don't even know," Abdullah said.

Reidar Jensen, Penn State's assistant director of internal communications, said via email that "Penn State's Office of Educational Equity supports and evaluates many diversity and inclusion initiatives and serves as an advocate for a range of populations..."

Not all students think the university is raising the bar high enough when it comes to supporting marginalized groups — even down to the phrasing of "diversity and inclusion."

Rabiyatu Jalloh said diversity and inclusion are "buzzwords" that are not specific enough to the issues at hand.

She continued, saying "diversity" could mean anything from which state a person lives in to their ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and more.

"You need to do anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-ablest work," Jalloh (senior-education and public policy, African American studies) said. "Then maybe you can move forward and... get people who want to come here who feel like they're at an institution where they're supported."

Symone McCollum said she doesn't like Penn State's "All In" movement, as it does not justify individual differences between black and white students.

"It's one thing to say we're 'all in,' but if the numbers don't match, who is really in?" McCollum (senior-education and public policy) said. "In what ways is the University supporting this agenda if I can't physically see it? I don't want to see it on a bus, I want to see it in real life."

Diallo said the University needs more motivation to hire more people of color.

"It's not just bringing a faculty of color just because we need to meet a quota; this is not affirmative action," she said. "But, to be intentional and say we need this person here because they're qualified but also for representation."

Young also discussed the importance of "cluster hires" — hiring multiple people with shared expertise — in all departments throughout the University, something she described as an "exciting development."

According to Jensen, Penn State continues to support and create programs that promote a diverse workforce, such as mentoring programs, leadership development, diversity-related courses, and training.

"At Penn State, it continues to be our goal to hire individuals who can add to the diverse fabric of our University workforce, and to recruit students from all walks of life," Jensen said.

Jalloh said the Penn State community needs to recognize the humanity of the situation.

"It's not even looking at the statistics. It's feeling the statistics," Jalloh said. "Having low amounts of professors of color makes it harder to be a student here, because you want people [who] understand what you're going through as a student."

To email reporter: [txt344@psu.edu](mailto:txt344@psu.edu). Follow her on Twitter at [@lindseytoom](https://twitter.com/lindseytoom).

### Correction

Last week's issue incorrectly stated that Penn State football's game against Michigan State will occur on Oct. 6. The correct date is Oct. 13. The Daily Collegian apologizes for this error.



# ‘GO FOR THE GOLD’

*In 1969, Lorraine Oliver became the first person of color on the Penn State field hockey team*

By Tina Locurto  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It was only natural that Lorraine Oliver, growing up surrounded by sports in the 1950s, would become a pioneer for women’s athletics at Penn State.

She was the first female student of color to play on the varsity field hockey team, as well as the basketball and lacrosse teams, according to GoPSUSports. She was also the first female student of color to “letter” in multiple sports.

“It makes you go for gold,” Oliver, 68, said. “It helps you to understand how important it is to work hard and achieve gold. And through sports, you learn that the harder you work or the more you put in, the more you get out.”

In her hometown of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, Oliver viewed sports as a main form of entertainment, and she had a passion that could only be fueled by more athletics. Her sister’s softball team would occasionally allow the far-too-young Oliver to play when an extra person was needed.

Active in sports throughout middle and high school, Oliver continued playing basketball, in addition to field hockey and lacrosse, for Penn State. Though at the time she didn’t realize it, Oliver was making history at the university.

“When you’re actually there when it was happening, I didn’t realize that I was the ‘first’ in anything,” Oliver, Class of 1973, said. “You don’t realize it while it’s happening and I wish I had. To me, now it’s an honor.”

She began her field hockey career in 1969, just three years before Title IX was passed. It prohibited women from being excluded from federally funded programming, which included athletics.

While Title IX opened the door for many women looking to pursue athletics, Penn State was



Lorraine Oliver, center, hits a field hockey ball across a field in a photo taken by her husband, George.

already considered ahead of the curve.

In 1964, the Extramural Sports for Women Program mandated that nine women’s athletic teams become varsity, with field hockey

as the first. The program was spearheaded by Martha (Marty) Adams, a Penn State athletics employee who was once the women’s swimming coach, chairperson of women’s physical education and assistant dean for undergraduate programs, according to Penn State News.

Adams, who died last January at age 90, is well-regarded by many of her female colleagues as one of the earliest to champion Penn State women’s athletics.

“I know wholeheartedly that the success of our women’s teams today is because of Marty Adams and her passion for sport,” Charlene Morett-Curtiss, current head coach for women’s field hockey, said via email.

Oliver said the athletic

program available to peers her age was nothing compared to what it is now. She added male athletes were treated “top-notch,” especially the football players.

In a given season, Oliver’s field hockey team played only seven to 12 games each season. For away games, her team would travel by bus — not plane — and face Susquehanna University, Slippery Rock University and Lock Haven University, among others.

Nowadays, the women’s field hockey team faces opponents such as the University of Virginia, Princeton University and Ohio State. This year, the Nittany Lions will play 16 games, compared to 24 last year.

Morett-Curtiss said one of the big differences between field hockey in 2018 and 1969, when Oliver played, is the type of field the athletes played on.

“Field hockey in the ‘60s and ‘70s was predominantly played on grass. The game was slower and some of the rules hindered the speed of play and creativity,” Morett-Curtiss said. “Today you have fast artificial turf fields... which make the game more exciting to play and watch.”

Though women playing varsity sports in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s was a newer concept for many universities, Oliver said on a whole, the trend was generally accepted. However, there will always be those who oppose any movement, she said.

“There were a lot of women who didn’t think women should play sports, but who cares,” Oliver said with a laugh.

While Oliver relied heavily on the competitive world of athletics from a young age, her husband, George Oliver, was the complete opposite.

“This is the funny thing about that — I didn’t know anything about [sports],” George, Class of 1975, said.

Though not an athlete or sports fan, George traveled with Oliver to her sporting events, particularly ones out-of-state.

Previously a medical photographer, George would take pictures while Oliver hustled across

grassy fields, with her field hockey stick in hand.

Oliver, a senior resident assistant in the summer of 1972, met George, a freshman and veteran who was coming to Penn State for the first time. George described their first encounter as “star-crossed.”

But, it took a State College blizzard later that fall semester to bring them back together.

In a true Penn State romance, Oliver and George were married at the Eisenhower Chapel on May 27, 1975. Their son, also named George, now attends Penn State on a pre-med track.

With a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education, alongside a master’s in health education, Oliver knew that she not only wanted to play sports from a young age — but teach it, as well.

George recalled one memory in particular when Oliver was coaching the women’s basketball team at Penn State McKeesport. It was the very last game of the season and in order to win, Oliver instructed her team to pass the ball to its tallest player who would make the winning shot.

“The buzzer rang and she was shooting the ball — and I’ll be darned — it went in the basket,” George said. “The crowd went absolutely insane.”

It was one of those moments that you capture in a movie. But that’s the kind of instructor she was, a person who had confidence in her people and they in turn.”

Though Oliver no longer ventures onto grass fields with fellow athletes, she and her husband still stay active and both enjoy riding motorcycles — Oliver’s preference being a Harley Davidson Street Bob motorcycle.

Oliver said she still thinks fondly of her time on the field at Penn State, practicing and sweating with fellow teammates as students strolled to classes.

“It was just a bunch of women enjoying sports,” Oliver said.

Lorraine Oliver  
Former Penn State Athlete

To email reporter: [cr15284@psu.edu](mailto:cr15284@psu.edu)  
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# Alumni awarded for achievements

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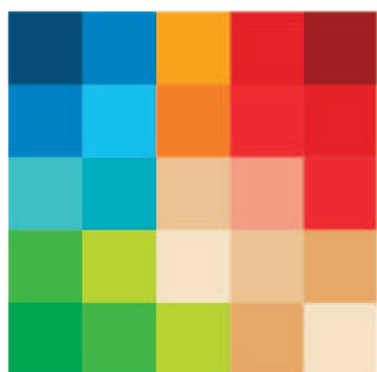
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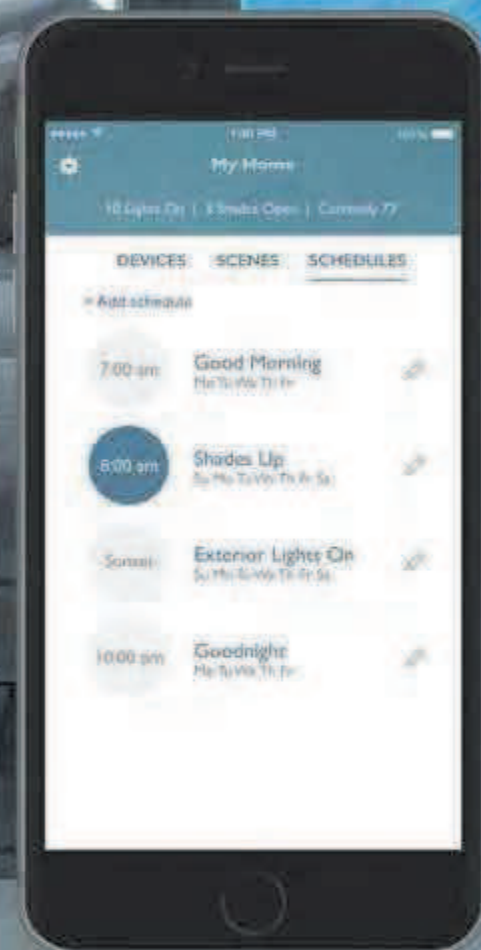


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GAME INFO

Penn State vs. Pitt  
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Place: Heinz Field  
TV: ABC  
Spread: Penn State -8.5  
Over/under: 56

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Penn State: OT Will Fries

Although Chasz Wright got the start at right tackle last week, Fries played significantly more, particularly when it mattered most in the fourth quarter and in overtime. Watch for Fries to seize hold of the job this week.

Pitt: QB Kenny Pickett

The Pitt signal caller has been referred to as both “elusive” and “slippery” by Penn State’s defenders. The mobile QB could give the Nittany Lion defenders fits on Saturday night.

BY THE NUMBERS

164

Trace McSorley threw for 164 yards on 28 attempts the last time the two teams faced up.

2

Redshirt junior defensive end registered a pair of sacks when the Panthers visited Beaver Stadium last season.

87

Wide receiver DeAndre Thompkins broke out against Pitt in 2016, hauling in 87 receiving yards.

99

This will be the 99th all-time meeting between Penn State and Pitt. The Nittany Lions lead the series, 51-43-4.

Returning to their roots

It’s business as usual for Pittsburgh natives Miles Sanders and Lamont Wade as they head back home this weekend

By Tyler King  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Just about every kid in the Pittsburgh area dreams of one day stepping onto Heinz Field like Steeler greats have, such as Hines Ward, Franco Harris, Ben Roethlisberger, Troy Polamalu, Terry Bradshaw and others.

In Miles Sanders’ first two seasons at Woodland Hills High School, he got to live that dream.

Sanders and Woodland Hills, one of western PA’s juggernauts, made the WPIAL AAAA



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Championship game in back-to-back years and came up short both times.

“I remember losing,” Sanders said with a chuckle as he recollected those high school matchups.

As a sophomore, Sanders’ team lost to Pittsburgh Central Catholic, the team that would be Woodland Hills Achilles’ heel, in the WPIAL Championship Game. The following year, it was a second-round loss to the Vikings. The next year, Sanders’ senior season, Woodland Hills and Central Catholic met in WPIAL semifinals and as you can guess, it didn’t end well for Sanders.

This weekend, Sanders will

see some familiar faces on the opposite sideline from those rivalry days with Central Catholic. There are four players from Pittsburgh Central Catholic on Pitt’s roster, but those aren’t on the only players Sanders is familiar with.

“I know a pretty good amount of people on the team, but it doesn’t change [my attitude,” Sanders said. “It’s a special game just playing against my friends that I know back at home.”

Growing up, the biggest rivalries for Sanders were with the teams he was playing in high school, not at the college or professional level.

In fact, Sanders wasn’t made aware of the rivalry until he arrived in Happy Valley.

“I never grew up as a Penn State fan or a Pitt fan actually... I never really knew about the rivalry that much,” Sanders said Tuesday. “I know they didn’t really play each other a lot, so I didn’t really see it as a rivalry or hear about it as a rivalry.”

But as a true freshman, Sanders was thrown right into the middle of the rivalry. After their win over Kent State to open the 2016 season, the Nittany Lions headed to the City of Bridges for their first matchup with Pitt since 2000. Even though Penn State treats every game like the Super Bowl, the fans certainly don’t treat it like any other game.

Both environments, Heinz Field and Beaver Stadium, have been intense and it feels like a rivalry game, even if the players on the field don’t treat it as such.

“The fans hype it up as a

rivalry,” Sanders said. “We know we’re going into a hornet’s nest. It’s going to be a real hostile environment: night game, ABC network, primetime.”

\*\*\*

Unlike Sanders, Lamont Wade has much fonder memories at Heinz Field. While at Clairton High School, Wade won three WPIAL Championships and one PIAA state title.

Clairton sits approximately 15 miles southeast of Pittsburgh and while he got to know many of the players on Pitt’s roster growing up, Wade’s real connection to the Panthers roster resides in his best high school friend, Aaron Matthews.

Matthews, a junior wide receiver for Pitt, is a year ahead of Wade, but the two have been best friends for years.

“Aaron Matthews, that’s my brother,” Wade said. “We played high school together, grew up together, played little league.”

Wade said playing against Matthews doesn’t change his preparation, but the two could very well find themselves lined up against each other during the game.

While the rest of the Nittany Lions left Pittsburgh devastated back in 2016, Wade left after sitting in the section for Pitt recruits.

Wade was the top recruit in Pennsylvania as a senior and was being heavily courted by both Penn State and Pitt at the time, but that game didn’t have any effect on his decision.

“Not really. I mean at the time I was like, ‘Oh, gosh,’ Pitt won this game,” Wade said Tuesday.

“But that’s not the end-all, be-all for me. It’s a process. I realized that and you see where I’m at today.”

While his recruiting process wasn’t as dramatized as Micah Parsons’ was, Wade still left

things up in the air to the minute he committed.

“Seeing Micah kind of reminded me of me last year, just being a big recruit and going through the process,” Wade said.

Wade’s top-three schools were Penn State, Pitt and West Virginia, with the Nittany Lions and Panthers seemingly even heading into the final few weeks of his recruitment process.

That certainly added fuel to the fire of the Penn State-Pitt rivalry that had begun to spark back up that season. While he’s now aware of the magnitude of the game, Wade grew up watching a different rivalry.

“I had more of an understanding probably about the Pitt-West Virginia thing more growing up and less of the Pitt-Penn State theme,” Wade said. “It’s good to see they brought it back.”

He might not have been aware of it before he walked into Heinz Field that September day in 2016 and he still might not fully have a grasp on the game’s importance — but he will Saturday.

“It was a real good environment, it was a real loud environment,” Wade said. “It’s good to actually be playing in it now.”

To email reporter: [tbk5155@psu.edu](mailto:tbk5155@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at @King\_TylerB.



Collegian file photo

Miller is D-line’s new leader

By Patrick Burns  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Shareef Miller still remembers what James Franklin told him when he was a recruit.

“I’m going to give you every opportunity in the world,” Miller recalled Franklin saying. “But you’ve got to earn it.”

Reflecting on his first year at Penn State, Miller described himself as a relatively quiet freshman who enjoyed sitting near the back of the Nittany Lions’ meeting room.

[At the time, the Philadelphia native was still raw as a prospect, and often looked to older players like Torrence Brown to lead the way.

“He was a great kid coming out of high school,” Franklin said. “But like all of us, he was immature and needed to grow up and evolve.”

Now a redshirt junior, Miller is no longer the one asking for advice — he’s the one giving it.

“For me to take the next step as a defensive player and as a



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Shareef Miller (48) tackles an App. State player on Saturday, Sept. 1.

person, I had to grow up,” Miller said Wednesday. “My time since I got here to now, I’ve changed like crazy.”

Miller has been thrust into a

leadership role in his fourth year on campus.

It isn’t one that he envisioned having as a freshman, but he’s recognized the importance of as-

suming the responsibilities.

“I got to lead them guys right,” Miller said. “I’ve got to do the right thing and encourage them and stuff like that because my actions reflect on the defense and the defensive line.”

His personal growth has been crucial to a Nittany Lions’ defensive line that lost former starters Parker Cothren and Curtis Cothran to graduation, and Brown and Ryan Buchholz to medical retirements this offseason.

“His evolution across the board has been really impressive,” Franklin said. “I couldn’t be more proud of him the type of teammate he is, the type of student he’s become, you know, the type of player he is, the leader. He’s done a great job with the defensive line.”

Penn State’s defensive line is quite talented, but lacks experience. Miller has tried to lead both vocally and by example in an attempt to unleash the group’s potential.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.

Practice notebook: Prepping for Pitt

By Thomas Schlarp  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As of Wednesday night, James Franklin and his football team still don’t view the upcoming game against Pitt as a rivalry. Rather, practice served as just another day, three nights before the team’s second Super Bowl of 2018.

“I personally don’t think it’s a rivalry,” Tariq Castro-Fields said. “I think every game is the Nittany Bowl for us, and as long as we

play to our standards and how we’re supposed to play, it’s going to be a great game.”

Wednesday also served as four nights removed from the Nittany Lions near-disaster in their most recent Super Bowl against Appalachian State.

Still working on ironing out flaws and struggling with loud noise at practice, Franklin kept about half the team around a little extra to work out some “issues.”

Tommy Stevens and Kevin Givens were dressed and partici-

pants while Will Fries took reps at right tackle with the first team offense.

The coaching staff was much more vocal than in past practices open to the media.

“I’m more intense in practice than I am in games,” Franklin said.

“If players see [coaches] panicking [during games], then we don’t have a chance.”

It’s the preparation at practice and simulated high-pressure environments that helped Penn

State eek out its opening-week game. For Franklin, it’s much better to make a mistake outside Holuba Hall than it is inside of Beaver Stadium.

“I want to find out on the practice field,” Franklin said.

“Not on Saturday afternoons. We’re always coaching them as if we have to be ready for Saturday. There’s always a sense of urgency.”

Pitt Prep

With the impending rivalry/not-

a-rivalry showdown approaching, the Nittany Lions are taking steps to build off Saturday’s struggle, but are keenly aware that the film they have off of Pittsburgh’s 33-7 victory over Albany far from tells the whole story of what to expect from the Panthers come this weekend.

“They played very vanilla in that game,” Franklin said of the Panthers’ win over Albany in their season-opener.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



# A dynasty 40 years in the making

How Russ Rose built Penn State’s volleyball program from the ground up

By Jake Aferiat  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Today, Russ Rose has his own office in Rec Hall and a flavor of ice cream named after him at the Berkey Creamery.

But when he first arrived in 1979, there wasn’t much inside the roughly 7,000-seat venue on the west side of Penn State’s campus he could call his own. So he had to share just about everything.

First, he shared an office with longtime wrestling coach Rich Lorenzo, longtime baseball coach Chuck Medlar, and his former predecessor and long-time men’s volleyball coach, Tom Tait.

Then, he shared his experiences as the new coach of a program in its relative infancy and the struggles that came along with it. Perhaps most importantly, he shared a tee time with many of the football coaches, including longtime coach Joe Paterno and his assistants.

“When I was young and single I used to play golf every morning with all the football coaches,” Rose said. “I was the youngest of all of them and score was never even important. What was important was the camaraderie — those guys had been together 25 or 30 years.”

Back then, Rose placed an emphasis on camaraderie and the team dynamic. Now 40 years later, it’s remained the driving force for the way he conducts himself and his team.

He stressed that through his 40 years at the helm, though, he should be an afterthought when discussing the legacy of the program.

“It’s not about me. It’s about the players that have played in the program, it’s about the administrators that have supported the program,” Rose said. “It’s about the coaches that have worked in our program and the other programs that I’ve been able to interact with in the 40 years that I’ve been here that have mentored me, educated me and allowed to shape how I wanted to run my program at Penn State.”

## The Russ Rose effect

For much of his career, Russ Rose has put tremendous stock in the institution and clout of Penn State and its women’s volleyball program — and it’s a reputation, which he’s largely helped cultivate.

All it takes is walking in and peering up at the rafters in Rec Hall and seeing the nearly 30 national championship banners across several different sports — including the seven belonging to Rose — that line the ceiling, to appreciate the magnitude of the success of the various teams housed there.

It’s the reputation of the program and the culture surrounding it that gives it an almost magnetic feel — attracting players, coaches and fans from everywhere and all walks of life.

But the difference between the program’s reputation and Rose’s as a person are nearly indistinguishable.

In fact, they’re practically intertwined.

Rose has built a program that’s predicated on team chemistry, humility, honesty, respect and loyalty — all traits that those who know Rose best say make him unique.

It was what drew Katie Schumacher-Cawley to Rose and Penn State in the first place.

The former two-time All-American for Rose and member of his first national championship winning team in 1999, felt early on that Rose was a special breed.

“I’ll never forget my home visit with him. He just got along so well with my parents who thought he was such an honest and loyal guy,” Schumacher-Cawley said. “I think I was still young and impressionable but I knew that he was a good person.”

Many of those same character traits that Rose emphasized and exemplified have seeped their way into several other programs recently, including Maryland, Indiana, University of Illinois-Chicago and Penn.

No, Rose didn’t take over there or become the de facto head



Collegian file photo

**Head coach Russ Rose** talks to the team during a timeout in a game against Michigan State held at Rec Hall on Friday, Oct. 13, 2017. The Nittany Lions defeated the Spartans, 3-1.

coach, but two of his proteges — Steve Aird, the current coach at Indiana and former assistant, and Schumacher-Cawley, a former Division I head coach and current assistant — each drew from Rose during their reigns.

“No one can ever be him. You can’t try to be a legend. You just have to have high levels of self-awareness,” Aird said.

Schumacher-Cawley agreed and said that while she didn’t try to copy Rose, she certainly drew inspiration from him.

“My experiences here at Penn State molded me for what I wanted to do as a head coach,” she said. “I took a lot from my teammates and from Russ, the assistants and I think every-

one that was here impacted my coaching career.”

Rose and Penn State volleyball were so important and integral to Schumacher-Cawley that it was the only program she would return to as an assistant if a job opened up — which is exactly what happened when longtime associate head coach Salima Rockwell stepped down at the end of last season.

“I really enjoyed Penn and all of the administration and the team at the University of Pennsylvania but I would still be there if it weren’t for Penn State,” she said. “I wouldn’t leave just any program except to come to Penn State.”

Luckily, Penn State isn’t just any program.

It’s place in the annals of volleyball history was established long ago and will likely continue to grow in the coming years.

But to just look at the surface of Rose’s 1251-198 career record, or the 17 Big Ten titles that he’s won, fails to capture the totality of Rose’s efforts and impact over the past five decades.

In truth, for Aird, Russ Rose’s impact was immeasurable.

“He [Rose] cares about volleyball and he’s one of the best, if not the best to ever do it. But when I first met him we talked about R&B and Chicago and sports and Toronto and hockey,” Aird said. “Even though he was iconic already, he cared about me and my career and he cared about me as a human. I’ve told people this

before, but outside of my father, he’s the most important man in my life.”

Aird spent the previous four seasons as the head coach at Maryland before taking over at Indiana this season. While he was leading the Terrapins, he was able to channel his inner-Russ Rose.

The Toronto, Canada, native was able to lead the Terps to a top-10 recruiting class last season and an 18-14 record — Maryland’s first winning season since 2007.

That’s where Aird’s similarities to Rose stop — but he insists that’s by design.

“The one thing he always displayed was that he was doing it his way. So what you learn really quickly is to take things from it,” Aird said. “The way I am and the way he is are very different. He’s all work, no nonsense, and he grinds. I love marketing and media and hip-hop. My whole thing is I want the program that I’m at now to be one of the coolest places in the country to play.”

## Russ Rose the father

It took Chris Rose longer than most to understand why his dad wasn’t around much as a kid.

He’d be in elementary school during the week, and he’d sit and wonder why his dad wouldn’t be there to greet him when he got home or wouldn’t be at dinner during the weeknights.

He’d wonder why it was his mother who was holding down the fort.

Then he realized, his dad was busy taking the volleyball world by storm and dedicating that aspect of his life to winning.

“Growing up, my dad wasn’t around a whole lot. He would come back on Sundays from road trips and he’d always spend all day with us — whatever we wanted to do, it didn’t matter. Throughout the week, he’d be traveling, he’d be practicing and he wasn’t around much,” Chris said. “I’d be sitting in elementary school wondering ‘Where’s my dad?’ And then as I got older, I realized ‘Hh, there’s my dad — killing it, winning and putting everything he’s got into it.’ One thing I learned with him is if you’re going to be elite you need to fully commit, and we had my mother hold down the fort for all of us.”

But Rose was equally as passionate about being a coach, as he was about being a good father to Chris and his other three sons Jonathan, Michael and Nick.

Chris, who’s in his first season on his father’s staff and is in

charge of serving after holding a job as an assistant at Marshall, said ‘Rose the father’ is a side no one else really gets to witness, but that he places the same emphasis on doing the right thing and making good choices, as he does when he coaches.

“Having four boys, he’s been through so many things where he’s so blunt. If we mess up or do something wrong, my mom might be more on the emotional side, but my dad is just to the point of ‘Here’s what we need you to do,’” Chris said. “For him as a father, he just expects you to do the right thing so he doesn’t compliment you when you do the right thing. But when you don’t, he’s going to let you know. That’s been a cool part.”

## Demanding the best

Penn State field hockey coach Char Morett-Curtiss said Rose is part of the reason she is the way she is when she coaches.

She credited an early interaction the two had when Morett-Curtiss returned to Penn State to coach with shaping how she runs her program.

“When I came back to Penn State — my alma mater — I was this demanding coach. I think I’m still demanding but in a different way,” Morett-Curtiss said. “I remember one time I told him I felt like I had to relate to these players and he told me ‘No, no, you have to be the demanding coach that you are.’”

While Rose assured Morett-Curtiss she didn’t need to relate to her players, they instead found themselves relating to each other.

Morett-Curtiss is in her 33rd season at the helm of the Nittany Lions, and is the longest-tenured active head coach not named Russ Rose. She said it’s the time not on the field or the court, but once again on the golf course, where she found Rose to be his most candid and authentic.

“I just remember our offices at Rec Hall were very close and I’d walk in and just talk to him about different things,” Morett-Curtiss said. “He and I used to jump out and play nine holes of golf and we would always do that and would just spend time talking about players, practices and different

things like that. Now we don’t have the time to do that and he’s on the other side of campus, so I sort of miss him that way. I miss him a lot.”

Rose’s son Chris said he missed him, too.

More than that, though, he wanted a program with the discipline and motivation that his father’s had, so he decided the logical course of action was to actually go and join him at Penn State.

“I went out and worked for some other schools and realized how different people run their programs, which is fine, but I kind of liked the way he runs his. I left my salary to come be with him because I love him, the program and seeing all the alums and all the things they say about him,” Chris said.

“It’s the reason I just want to be around him and work for him. It’s not even a father-son thing. He’s just great to work for because he pushes everybody to be the best,” he added.

## Making volleyball matter

Rose is known by a few as a father, by some as a colleague and by many as a friend. But his current and former athletes, the program’s fans, and the volleyball community know him best for the dynasty he’s created at Penn State. The numbers speak for themselves.

His seven national titles are tied for the most ever won and his career winning percentage of 86.3 is the best in the history of NCAA Division I

volleyball.

At a school where wrestling and football reign supreme, he’s gotten average people, colleagues, administrators and faculty members alike to also become invested in the sport he’s given roughly five decades of his life to.

It wasn’t an easy conversion process, however, as the program came from very humble beginnings, which helped shaped Rose’s own humility and attitude to this day.

“At the beginning, nobody cared, so it wasn’t like it was a choice. It was about the people that were here. Those players cared, so I cared with them,” Rose said. “Over the course of time, we established a culture of ‘It’s about the team, it’s about Penn State, it’s about being the best they can be and not worrying about what other people have and not wasting time and energy on things that don’t make us better.’”

Rose doesn’t have to worry about no one caring about his program anymore. His team is as much an institution at Penn State as football or wrestling, but he doesn’t want today’s players to lose sight of where it all began.

“I hope that the kids who’re here now can really be appreciative of where it came from,” he said. “There are players out there that were on the team in 1979 when I arrived and they had no uniforms, we didn’t have a place to practice, we didn’t have a locker room and we all went into one van. Life has changed.”



Christopher Sanders/Collegian

**Head Coach Russ Rose** addresses Kendall White (3) and Simone Lee (22) during a timeout in the game against Michigan on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017. Penn State swept Michigan 3-0.



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# Weiskircher’s ready for the spotlight

*After four years of being in the background of numerous All-Americans, Bryanna Weiskircher is ready to become a leader for the Nittany Lions*

By Caleb Wilfinger  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Bryanna Weiskircher has always been a winner.

At every level of her volleyball career, she has done nothing but win big matches while putting up consistently solid numbers each and every night.

It’s gotten to the point where her teammates know exactly what to expect, no matter the opponent, location or situation.

“[Bryanna] is always training in the gym and is just rock solid on the court,” junior libero Kendall White said. “It doesn’t matter who we play, you know what you’re going to get from her.”

A native of Rockford, Illinois, Weiskircher was a three-year captain and three-time team MVP at Boylan Catholic High School.

She won two AAU championships with her club volleyball team and capped off her career by being recognized as a 2013 First-Team All-American by Under Armour.

Upon enrolling in Penn State, the current fifth-year senior redshirted in her first season, a campaign that saw the Nittany Lions take home their seventh NCAA National Championship in 2014.

Since then, Weiskircher has played in over 100 matches and



Chushi Hu/Collegian

**Setter Bryanna Weiskircher (21)** prepares to serve the ball during the game against Navy at Rec Hall on Saturday, Aug. 25.

has become one of the premier setters in the nation.

Four years removed from her first season as a member of the Nittany Lions, the All-Big Ten candidate is now one of the eldest members on a team loaded with young talent.

“Yeah it’s pretty much the ‘old people’ and the ‘young people’” Weiskircher said. “For me it’s

just about trying to take care of my job and hope that they follow my lead.”

Weiskircher came into Penn State with the likes of Simone Lee, Haleigh Washington and Ali Frantti, all tough acts to follow when it comes to being a good team leader.

When asked about what she has tried to imprint on the freshmen, the four-year starter simply stated what the upperclassmen told her a few short years ago.

“I’ve just tried to instill the Penn State culture in them,” Weiskircher said. “Every play matters,

every match matters, and listen to what the coaches say because that will make you better.”

While setter is not exactly the most glamorous position when it comes to volleyball, coach Russ Rose knows just how important a veteran setter is to the team.

“I think Byanna has always had a great understanding of the game and a great skillset,” Rose said. “She’s calm, she’s a great leader and knows what the expectations are for her and the team.”

In his 40th year of coaching, Rose acknowledged that while

they have disagreed on certain things in the past, his relationship with Weiskircher has only continued to grow stronger in recent months.

In turn, she spoke about the impact Rose has had on her career and Penn State volleyball as a whole.

“Obviously [Rose] is an absolute legend and he’s built this Penn State culture from the ground up, so that we can play at one of the best programs in the country today,” she said.

“What I really like about him is actually his very dry sense of humor. He makes us laugh just with some of the simple things he says sometimes.”

Initially, Weiskircher had to wait her turn before she could develop into a dominant setter.

She sat behind Micha Hancock in 2014, a three-time First-Team All-American selection who was instrumental in Penn State’s run to a national championship that December.

That year on the sidelines allowed Weiskircher to understand what it takes to win a championship at the highest level of NCAA volleyball.

In her final season, Weiskircher is playing like she fully intends on getting back to the Final Four and hanging another banner from the rafters in Rec Hall.

“I expect a lot of myself this season, all of us do,” Weiskircher said. “The expectation every year is to be competing for a national championship and it’s possible as long as we continue to get better and progress every day.”

To email reporter: [cjw5768@psu.edu](mailto:cjw5768@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@caleb\\_wilfinger](https://twitter.com/caleb_wilfinger).

MY VIEW | ANDREW RUBIN

## Rough first week for Big Ten East

All offseason long it looked like the Big Ten East was going to be an absolute juggernaut.

Ohio State, Penn State, Michigan and Michigan State all seemed primed for huge seasons. All four of those teams ranked in the top-15 in the

preseason AP poll, meaning the rest of the conference would have tough conference schedules. While that still may turn out to be true, three of those four teams — Michigan, Michigan State and Penn State — had uninspiring openers, and that’s being generous.

The Nittany Lions and the Spartans struggled with Group of Five opponents at home. The Spartans needed a late fourth quarter game winning drive while the Nittany Lions needed overtime. Then Michigan lost on the road to a tough Notre Dame team.

Maryland looked more impressive than anyone not named Ohio State, who put up 77 points on Oregon State, in the east as it upset a ranked Texas team.

Now, Week 1 struggles can be absolutely meaningless. Those teams can go on to have great seasons or they can go on to really have a rough year.

So, let’s look at the recent history of near upsets with Group of Five teams and see how they set the tone for the remainder of the season.

In 2016, Tennessee made it past App State in overtime, just like the Nittany Lions did on Saturday, finishing at 9-4. Not a bad year but certainly not where the

Nittany Lions want to be come November.

Another near miss that stands out is Pitt needing overtime to finish off FCS Youngstown State last fall in the season opener. The Panthers ended up missing a bowl game after coming off of a promising 2016 campaign. Then there is the other side of the coin. Troy gave Clemson all it could handle in a game that the Tigers won 30-24 in 2016. However, by January, the Tigers had overcome the near setback that happened in Week 2 to win the national championship.

As for looking at the Nittany Lions on their own merit, there is reason to be optimistic. This is a team that two years ago had an absolutely wretched September before eventually winning the Big Ten and spending bowl season in Pasadena. While some of the issues on the defensive line looked to be down to a lack of talent — the Nittany Lions were missing two key contributors there in Shane Simmons and Kevin Givens.

In the secondary, there is talent and the problems that reared its head on Saturday look correctable.

Losing a marquee opener such as Michigan did against Notre Dame over the weekend could be a sign of problems to come; however, there are some notable exceptions.

Last year, those very same Wolverines beat Florida in a neutral site opener and the Gators failed to even become bowl eligible.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



Collegian file photo

**Head coaches James Franklin and Jim Harbaugh** shake hands after Penn State’s loss to Michigan 28-16 at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015.



Edward Fan/Collegian

**Penn State’s Anthony Cassar** defeats Ohio State’s Kollin Moore during the wrestling match at Rec Hall on Saturday, Feb. 3. The No. 1 Nittany Lions defeated the No. 2 Buckeyes 19-18.

MY VIEW | JAKE AFERIAT

## Anthony Cassar’s move to heavy-weight is exactly what he needs

Anthony Cassar long believed that he’d be “the guy” at 197 pounds for Penn State last season — and for good reason.

Now he has that chance again, albeit at a different weight.

Following the release of Penn State’s wrestling roster last week,

it was revealed that Cassar will be battling with All-American Nick Nevills for the starting job at heavyweight.

These types of battles are nothing new to Cassar, though.

The Rocky Hill, New Jersey, native started last season at 197 for the Nittany Lions and was able to rattle off five straight wins to help bolster his case.

He was even ranked inside the top-15 twice in those first five weeks.

But Cassar’s job security was quickly in jeopardy after the emergence of fellow Nittany Lion Shakur Rasheed following Rasheed’s performance at the Southern Scuffle.

Rasheed went 5-0 at the Scuffle en route to the title at 197 and he recorded bonus points in all five of his wins, with three pins and two major decisions.

Cassar was the No. 9 ranked wrestler in the country at the time the Scuffle started, but Rasheed made his own case for

unseating Cassar in Penn State’s starting lineup.

Both have earned their stripes being underdogs, with Rasheed wrestling at three different weights in three different seasons and Cassar missing roughly three years due to injuries and a redshirt year.

So both Cassar and Rasheed are used to having to battle to earn their keeps, often times, in the wrestling room during practice.

But then coach Cael Sanderson upped the stakes. He essentially gave both of them an ultimatum — wrestle well and you’ll likely be the go-to guy in the postseason.

That then intensified the competition between the two, with dual meet performance becoming more important to deciding who’d don a blue and white singlet in the postseason.

Rasheed and Cassar would alternate between duals following the Scuffle, with Rasheed recording more dominant bonus point wins while Cassar picked up perhaps the biggest dual win of Penn State’s season.

He then pulled off a massive upset, beating then-No. 1 ranked Kollin Moore of Ohio State by 6-3 decision, seemingly propelling his stock and value for Sanderson and the Nittany Lions into the stratosphere.

It wasn’t enough.

Despite Cassar’s huge win, Sanderson opted to take Rasheed, the more consistently

dominant of the two, to the Big Ten and NCAA tournament.

Now though, if Cassar can beat out Nevills for the spot at heavyweight, it’s likely his to lose. The senior has proven that he’s capable of beating the top competition and has proven to be unfazed by the challenge of needing to crack a starting lineup.

He’ll need to do that to beat Nevills, who ended last season as a two-time All-American at heavyweight.

Nevills is a staple at heavyweight while Cassar isn’t, which potentially bodes well for Nevills.

Cassar was also always one of the most physically imposing forces at 197 and his build coupled with technique will be advantageous to him in weight class that graduated Olympic Gold Medalist Kyle Snyder of Ohio State and three-time All-American Adam Coon of Michigan, while both of those two and Iowa’s Sam Stoll appeared to overmatch Nevills at times including in big matches.

The departure of those two will make Cassar’s path to a Big Ten title and All-American nod significantly easier if he cracks the lineup.

Neither are at all out of the realm of possibility for one of the Penn State wrestlers most accustomed to dealing with adversity.

To email reporter: [jxa5415@psu.edu](mailto:jxa5415@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@Jake\\_Aferiat51](https://twitter.com/Jake_Aferiat51).



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
**★★★★** You know what you want, and you'll zero in on it. You might encounter someone who is unusually upset. This person's anger could be directed toward you, but he or she really is upset about something else. Stay cool, calm and collected. Tonight: Speak your mind over munchies.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
**★★★★** You feel different than you have in a while. Try to let go of self-imposed restrictions. Carefully consider a new expenditure. Be clear about what is important to you in a changeable situation. You might make more out of an issue than is necessary. Tonight: Shake up status quo.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
**★★★★** If your energy is misdirected, you might become angry and explosive. You could feel as if you have absorbed a lot of people's moodiness as of late and have had enough. A loved one or a dear friend helps you sort through an issue. Tonight: Do some jogging or walking, then decide.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
**★★★★** Be available, but also observant. You might see a friend or associate make an important decision that could be attached to a recent revelation. Your interactions will flow more readily. Funnel your energy into a project that is long overdue. Tonight: Soak away stress in a hot tub.





PennState

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