

SANDUSKY’S IMPRINT

The Collegian strives to share with the Penn State community a comprehensive look back at Jerry Sandusky’s child sex abuse history 10 years later while visualizing and contextualizing its impact on Happy Valley, his survivors and higher education as a whole.

1969
Jerry Sandusky is hired as a Penn State football assistant coach under Joe Paterno.

1970
Sandusky becomes a linebacker coach for the football team.

1971
The earliest alleged abuse is reported, according to Penn State’s legal settlements with Sandusky’s victims.
“Victim A” says in a 2016 CNN interview he was raped in a Penn State bathroom in 1971 by Sandusky and that two people from Penn State — “Jim” and “Joe” — spoke with him on the phone and practically threatened him not to report anything.

1976
Paterno is allegedly alerted to Sandusky’s abuse as early as this year.

1977
The Second Mile foundation is founded by Sandusky to support at-risk youth and their families in Pennsylvania.
Sandusky is promoted to defensive coordinator, holding this position until his retirement in 1999.

1986
Penn State has an undefeated football season

1987
Two more Penn State assistant coaches allegedly witness “inappropriate” or “sexual” contact between Sandusky and children.

1988
Another sexual assault is allegedly witnessed by Penn State assistant coach, and the case is reported to Jim Tarman, the university’s athletic director.

1990
George H.W. Bush praises the Second Mile foundation for “shining example” of charity work in a 1990 Thousand Points of Light

1998
Sandusky allegedly assaults five more boys on campus between 1998 and 2001.

case once Schreffler reaches out to a caseworker at the Centre County Children and Youth Services, John Miller, and is told the service center has a conflict of interest with the Second Mile.
Schreffler also reaches out to Karen Arnold, the Centre County prosecutor for the District Attorney’s office. According to the report, Schreffler does this to avoid dealing with the university for the investigation.
Around 8 p.m. on May 4, Schreffler and Miller speak with a friend of the boy’s who says he experienced “bear hugs” in the showers from Sandusky.

he concludes there’s no concrete evidence of sexual assault. According to his evaluation, Sandusky just needs to be taught boundaries.

May 12, 1998
Schreffler covertly overhears Sandusky talk with the boy’s mother and his apology for making him uncomfortable.
Listening in on another confrontation, Schreffler and a few other officers hear Sandusky tell the boy’s mother he showered with the boys often — but not in a sexual way.

District Attorney Ray Gricar decides to not prosecute Sandusky.

June 1, 1998
Lauro and Schreffler talk with Sandusky in the weight room about the incident. He says he won’t shower with any children again, and they both dropped the case.

June 8, 1998
Schultz tells Curley and Spanier that Gricar and DPW dropped the investigation and that he hopes the situation stays in the past.

No records show any administrator speaking with Sandusky about his actions or with Paterno about the conclusion of the case.

According to Schreffler, no university administrators interfere with the case.

The Penn State Board of Trustees meet May 14 and 15, but there’s no evidence of its knowledge of the case.

According to the report, Sandusky knew he would not be the next head coach, so he retired in 1999 and was paid a total of \$168,000 before taxes on his way out.

August 31, 1999
Sandusky is granted “emeritus” rank, which gives him access to university facilities even after he retired.

Fall 2000
Penn State janitor James Calhoun says he observed Sandusky with a child in the Lasch Building showers, but he doesn’t report the incident due to the fear of being fired.

A second janitor, Ronald Petrosky says he saw the lower bodies of two figures in the showers that same night.
After speaking with the senior janitor Jay Witherite, Calhoun and Petrosky decide not to report what they saw.

Feb. 9, 2001
Around 9-9:30 p.m., Michael McQueary, a graduate assistant with the football program, said he observed an incident of “sexual nature” between a prepubescent boy and Sandusky.

McQueary says he shut his locker, moved toward the two males and saw them separate from each other.

Feb. 10, 2001
McQueary calls Paterno at 7:30 a.m. the next morning and goes to Paterno’s house to discuss what he saw the night before. No evidence shows that either male tried to identify the boy.


Feb. 11, 2001
Gary Schultz has a conference call with Penn State’s outside legal counsel Courtney Wendell regarding the “reporting of suspected child abuse.”

Feb. 12, 2001
Schultz has a “confidential” meeting with Curley where they discuss the 1998 allegations and decide unless Sandusky admitted to having a problem, they would need to have the Department of Public Welfare look into it as an independent agency concerned with child welfare.

KEY EVENTS

1971

The earliest alleged abuse is reported, according to Penn State’s legal settlements with Sandusky’s victims.




1971

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1988


Another sexual assault is allegedly witnessed by Penn State assistant coach, and the case is reported to Jim Tarman, the university’s athletic director.



1998

May 3, 1998

Sandusky assaults an 11-year-old boy in the Lasch Building showers, according to the Freeh report. Allegedly, Sandusky lifts the boy up in the shower for an embrace and makes him feel uncomfortable.



2001


February 9, 2001

Around 9-9:30 p.m., Michael McQueary, a graduate assistant with the football program, said he observed an incident of “sexual nature” between a prepubescent boy and Sandusky.

McQueary says he shut his locker, moved toward the two males and saw them

August, 2001

Victim 5 is assaulted in the Lasch Building, according to the Freeh report.



2011

March 31, 2011

Penn State 2008 graduate Sara Ganim breaks the first account of the Sandusky investigation after months of research as a reporter for The Patriot-News. She would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting of the case.

November 5, 2011

Sandusky was arraigned in district court and charged with 21 felonies.

In partnership with the Poytner Institute for Media Studies

May 5, 1998
DPW investigator Jerry Lauro takes on the case.

May 6, 1998
According to Schreffler’s investigation, Sandusky calls the boy a few times and leaves a voicemail, inviting him to work out.

May 7, 1998
Chambers gives her written evaluation of the situation to Schreffler. Lauro interviews the boy’s mother that same day, but Lauro later tells the Special Investigative Counsel that he didn’t have enough evidence and knowledge of the case.
According to the Freeh report, he never sees Chambers’ evaluation.

May 8, 1998
The second evaluation by counselor John Seasock occurs, and

The officers reportedly don’t question Sandusky after the interaction.

Thomas Harmon, a University Police Department Chief, kept Vice President Gary Schultz in the loop about the case. By searching through emails and notes, the Special Investigation Counsel determined Schultz knew of the situation by May 4.

The Counsel reviews emails between Schultz, athletic director Tim Curley and President Graham Spanier from May 5. The case is never added to the crime log, and Penn State’s Office of Human Resources isn’t contacted about the case, either.

May 13, 1998
Curley sends an email to Schultz asking about the status of the case because “Coach” is getting anxious. “Coach” is believed to be Joe Paterno.
Between May 27 and June 1,

FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT

Survivors' lifetime process navigating sexual abuse

By Phoebe Cykosky
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Because Aaron Fisher was the first survivor to come forward, former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was found guilty on 45 counts of child sexual abuse and was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in 2012.

Even though the conclusion of the trials was 10 years ago, Fisher's journey started when he was in third grade after being invited to The Second Mile Summer Program football camp — a charity program Sandusky created.

"It wasn't until my fourth grade year I was introduced to him," Fisher said. "I thought he was another counselor, and I didn't realize he founded [The Second Mile]."

During group activities, Fisher said Sandusky was "always around" his group.

"It was after the weeklong camp in fourth grade, he invited myself and a couple other kids to do stuff around the area like to the dam or a golf trip or out to eat, and that continuously happened until there was one-on-one interactions between him and myself," Fisher said.

As the years went by, the situation escalated, and during Fisher's ninth grade year in high school, he reported the sexual abuse. It wasn't until his senior year that charges against Sandusky were filed.

"It was more I wanted to get away," Fisher said. "Prior to coming forward in ninth grade, I had already tried to get away — I stopped returning phone calls and said I wasn't home."

His fight-or-flight response, he said, kicked in, which according to Jessie Starks, a therapist at The Individual and Family CHOICES Program, is a neurological response for trauma survivors.

"The brain and our systems are amazing and have a lot of built in survival features, like flight-fight response and automatic obedience, and you just go with whatever keeps you alive," Starks said.

Fisher said he just wanted Sandusky to leave him alone.

"When he would come to the school and try to talk to me, I wouldn't go to the office," Fisher said. "I would go sit somewhere else like in the bathroom until the bell rang."

"If he just took the hint and left



Megan Swift/Collegian

The Centre County Courthouse pictured on Nov. 3. "Every single survivor is going to have a different experience. There are threads that tend to link through," Jennifer Storm, former Pennsylvania Victim Advocate, said.

me alone when my flight response kicked in, I probably wouldn't have come forward," Fisher said. "It was the persistence on his part that really pushed me to come forward."

Jennifer Storm served as the Pennsylvania Victim Advocate for seven and a half years, during the years of the Sandusky trial and has been in the field of advocacy for "over two decades."

"I assisted several of the young men as they were going through the criminal process and also with supportive services in general," Storm said.

"I navigated a lot of the appeals, hearings and processes with the survivors involved, and did a lot of advocacy in terms of the harassment and intimidation the survivors were experiencing at the hands of misguided pro-Penn State folks."

Storm said it "was brutal" for the survivors during and after the trials.

"Every single survivor is going to have a different experience. There are threads that tend to link through," Storm said. "It may be something that happened 20 years ago, but if this is the first time they're talking about

it, they're going to be having the same feelings that someone who was initially abused would."

Her personal journey as a survivor began during her childhood and teenage years.

"I was raped as a child, and I did what most survivors do — I put it out of my mind and didn't talk about it," Storm said. "I couldn't run from the wound, so instead I used drugs and alcohol, and engaged in self-harm behavior."

Overtime, Storm said she faced negative impacts from her coping methods.

"I almost died from my experience, and when I came to in the hospital and had a little bit of clarity, it became very quickly relevant to me that not only what I was doing was not working, but it was making it worse," Storm said.

Storm said she realized then "life doesn't end with that act that happened to you."

"There's the age old saying that time heals all wounds, but time heals all wounds that are being tended to," Storm said. "The wound has been exposed for all that time, and for 10 years of my life, I was running away from this wound — I didn't want to deal with it and what happened

overtime it got worse and worse and worse."

Fisher shared similar sentiments, because he said he doesn't think "it ever leaves."

"There's always bits and pieces of it there," Fisher said.

Currently, Storm has authored several books on her own story and on sexual assault recovery and coping mechanisms, because she wants other survivors to know there is "hope and healing."

"There is never going to be a point in time when a survivor is not a survivor," Storm said. "Surviving from sexual violence is a lifelong process, and it changes over time."

Storm said she advocates for others to gain an understanding so they don't have to "sit in this pain and suffering alone" once they have the knowledge of how to navigate what happened to them.

"Life is incredible — there's so much beauty, and there's so much joy, but there's also pain and there's grief, and there's loss but because I now have strong tools to cope with those things, it makes it a little bit easier," Storm said.

Michael Boni, partner of Boni, Zack & Snyder LLC, represented Fisher, who was known as Victim 1, throughout the trial and was a part of a few attorneys who represented approximately a "dozen" Sandusky survivors.

"I was contacted by the mother of Aaron Fisher, who was Victim 1 — the victim who went to the cops, which effectively brought everything into the open and caused the [attorney generals] to bring criminal charges against Jerry Sandusky," Boni said.

Boni said throughout the trials, "patterns emerge," such as post traumatic stress disorder, which "doesn't go away."

"The memories eat at them, and they're affected by it in their ability to hold down jobs," Boni said. "Their happiness quotient isn't what it would've been if they hadn't been sexually assaulted and raped by Sandusky."

Since the trials, Boni has been in "periodic" communication with some of his clients and has seen "other psychological issues" like addictions problems and repressed memories.



Courtesy of Michael Boni

Attorney Michael Boni, who represented Aaron Fisher, answers question after the preliminary hearing in the Sandusky case.

TIMELINE

FROM Page 1

Approximately 2:30 p.m.

Spanier says he met with Schultz and Curley, so they could give him a "heads up" that McQueary reported what he saw to Paterno.

Approximately 9:56 p.m.

Penn State University Police Chief Tom Harmon responds to an email from Schultz asking if a file from the 1998 incident still exists. Harmon says it was documented in the archives.

Feb. 25, 2001

According to Schultz's notes, a meeting between Spanier, Curley and Schultz resulted in him needing to alert the chair of The Second Mile, reporting the situation to the Department of Public Welfare and telling Sandusky "to avoid bringing children alone into Lasch Building."

Feb. 25-28, 2001

Spanier, Schultz and Curley exchange emails regarding the

allegations, but the terms used are "in code," according to Spanier, because the Athletic Department was "notorious for leaks."

March 15-16, 2001

The Penn State Board of Trustees holds a meeting, but no signs of the Sandusky allegations are discussed, according to Freeh report interviews and the Board's records.

March 19, 2001

The Executive Director of The Second Mile Jack Raykovitz has a meeting with Curley to discuss Sandusky's actions "to avoid publicity issues," according to the charity's counsel.

Raykovitz talks to Sandusky, who admits to showering with the boys and nothing more, about the situation and emphasizes he wouldn't be allowed to bring children onto campus.

July 24, 2001

Leaders of Second Mile meet with Schultz, and Schultz agrees to sell a parcel of the university's land at \$168,500 — the same price the university bought the land for

in 1999.

August 2001

Victim 5 is assaulted in the Lasch Building, according to the Freeh report.

2003

The Daily Collegian posts a feature about Sandusky's dedication to The Second Mile.

2009

The mother of the boy identified by court papers as Victim 1 calls a high school in Clinton County to report Sandusky sexually abused her son. The school district bans Sandusky from any of its campuses, and the police are notified.

September 2010

Sandusky announces in a letter his retirement from the day-to-day events and board of The Second Mile.

According to the Associated Press, then-Executive Vice President Katherine Genovese of the charity says on Sept. 15, 2010,

that Sandusky "recently" sent a letter to donors detailing why he stepped down, saying "he was looking to spend more time with family and deal with his personal life."

December 2010

Mike McQueary testifies as part of the private grand jury investigation.

Jan. 12, 2011

Penn State Athletic Director Tim Curley and retired University Vice President and Treasurer Gary Schultz give private grand jury testimonies.

March 31, 2011

Penn State 2008 graduate Sara Ganim breaks the first account of the Sandusky investigation after months of research as a reporter for The Patriot-News. She would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting of the case.

Oct. 29, 2011

The Nittany Lions defeat Illinois 10-7 in Paterno's last game

"There is a body of peer reviewed studies that show victims of child sex abuse typically have repressed memories," Boni said. "A lot of times, later in life after the victims are married and have children and they go into therapy because they're depressed or anxious, the therapist will recover what happened — but by then it's too late to report."

During the trial, Boni said clients, like Fisher, have a "difficult time" knowing the person who "serially raped" them is sitting nearby.

For Fisher, Boni said he had just turned 18 and it was "a time in someone's life where they should be happy and look forward to the next stage of their life."

Boni said the length of the statute of limitations, the deadline allocated for survivors to sue their abusers and press criminal charges, is not "sympathetic," which is a "shame."

"We've been trying very hard to create that window to allow adults to bring civil lawsuits against their abusers or the entities that allowed abusers to engage in their acts, in the case of Sandusky — Penn State," Boni said.

CHILD USA, a nonprofit think tank focused on ending child abuse and neglect, was founded by Marci Hamilton to address the "need" for statute of limitation reform.

Hamilton, who currently works at the University of Pennsylvania as a law professor, said the organization is "dedicated to furthering the child civil rights movement."

She views the statute of limitations as "problematic," because they are an "artificial barrier for going to court," and through research conducted at the Sean P. McIlmail Statutes of Limitations Research Institute at CHILD USA, the average age for a survivor to come forward is 52.

Hamilton said the current statute of limitations tells the victims they don't matter and their claims don't matter, which she described as "tragic."

"It took time to educate the public and make sure judges understood," Hamilton said. "Half of the states now have some type of revival for [survivors] of the past, and there are hundreds of bills being considered around the country currently."

The work at CHILD USA went from a "trickle at the beginning in 2003 and has turned into a really vibrant movement," Hamilton said.

"My hope is that we achieve SLO reform in not only the U.S. but globally," Hamilton said. "As a result, we can get the information that the public needs about what is really going on."

Hamilton said the goal is the truth and to be able to explain in an evidence based, legal and sophisticated way, the persistence of the problem and what steps to take next.

"There is a need for people to understand that people in power were treating children in sexual abuse cases as collateral damage, and then seeing that coming out of Penn State — it's the problem of not treating children like they have civil rights," Hamilton said.

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

as head coach. During the game, Paterno broke the record for wins by a Division I coach, surpassing Eddie Robinson's record with victory No. 409.

Attendance for the game was 97,828.

Nov. 5, 2011

Sandusky is arraigned in district court and charged with 21 felonies.

Curley and Schultz are also charged with perjury and failure to report abuse. Sandusky was released on \$100,000 bond and ordered to have no contact with children.

Nov. 6, 2011

Curley and Schultz step down from their university positions to face the criminal charges.

Paterno issues a statement acknowledging McQueary's 2002 report of abuse, saying, "While I did what I was supposed to with the one charge brought to my attention, like anyone else involved I can't help but be deeply saddened these matters are alleged to have occurred."

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

How Sandusky changed administration

By Jeremiah Hassel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

TJ Bard woke one morning in early November 2011 and walked down to the lawn of Penn State’s Old Main where tents filled with lights, cameras and reporters waited to greet him.

From 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bard, then president of the University Park Undergraduate Association, interviewed with CNN, NBC, ABC and Fox as he “went from tent to tent.”

Bard would repeat this routine for several weeks, becoming the “outward face” of Penn State as the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse case developed.

“At that point in my life, at that age, it was quite a new experience,” Bard, a 2013 economics graduate, said.

THE CASE

On Nov. 5, 2011, Sandusky was arrested and charged with eight counts of sexual abuse of a minor.

CONVICTIONS
BY THE NUMBERS

45
Total convictions

10

Endangering the welfare of children

10

Corruption of minors

9

Unlawful contact with minors

6

Indecent assault

9

Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse

1

Attempt to commit indecent assault

The arrest came after a grand jury investigation garnered sufficient evidence to allow for accusations to be made against Sandusky.

Bard said he learned to navigate interacting with the media during the initial days of the case alone — without the university’s help.

“There wasn’t a whole lot of guidance at that time from the university or university officials,” Bard said. “From the student body perspective, a lot of the students — a lot of the alumni as well — felt like there wasn’t anyone out there explaining the university’s perspective of who we were as Penn Staters. I took it upon myself.”

When the Penn State Board of Trustees unanimously voted to fire Joe Paterno and former Penn State President Graham Spanier on Nov. 9, 2011, Bard said he stepped up once again, hosting a “pseudo-press conference” the morning of Nov. 10, 2011.

The evening of Nov. 9, riots broke out in downtown State College as the Penn State community protested the Board’s decision.

“At that point in time, I was the first person to speak out publicly to any news media [in] any official capacity for the university,” Bard said. “Up until that point, there had been no communication, no interviews from any senior leadership.”

The university’s leaders continued its policy of no communication for weeks, Bard said, including with him and other student leaders.

As he and other student leaders attempted to contact members of administration, they were met with “radio silence,” Bard said.

“We always referred to it as a ‘gag order’ that seemed to have been issued amongst everyone,” Bard said. “During that entire time, I had absolutely no interaction with university leadership. They just had a hands-off approach.”

Bard said the university’s actions were confusing — especially its decision not to communicate with members of student leadership and the student body. He didn’t understand what was happening behind the scenes



Ernesto Estremera Jr./Collegian

When the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse case broke, many were frustrated with the university’s silence. The frustration led to a push for change.

that prevented the university from managing the media.

“I don’t know why they wouldn’t have offered guidance or advice, but they really wanted nothing to do with the student body’s perspective on it at that point. I just wish the university would have stepped up to the plate in a different way and not have relied so much on students and alumni to carry the torch,” Bard said.

David Jones, a member of the Board during the breaking of the Sandusky sex abuse case, said the communication between the Board and administration and within the Board itself was minimal.

“There must have been discussions among the leadership and the administration, but I was not part of any of those discussions,” Jones, a 1954 journalism graduate, said. “I was simply a member of the Board, and I expressed my view and then cast a vote that was unanimous by the Board to take the action that it took.”

Prior to Sandusky’s arrest, Jones said discussions the Board had about the grand jury investigation into Sandusky were “played down” in importance.

“We were told that it was a routine matter of no great consequence,” Jones said.

When he learned of Sandusky’s arrest, Jones said he “was

completely shocked by the magnitude of the situation.”

Over the following days, Jones said the Board held teleconferences to discuss “how to deal with the situation” before meeting in person for its Nov. 11, 2011 meeting.

The Board made its unanimous decision to fire Paterno and Spanier during a virtual meeting Nov. 9, 2011.

“I acted in what I thought was the proper stewardship role for a trustee,” Jones said of his vote. “I felt the Board did the right thing, and I feel to this day that the Board did the right thing.”

But Jones said the Board’s decision caused “a great division” among alumni in addition to the riots it sparked downtown — a division Bard said he attempted to mitigate as a representative of the student body.

“The role of the student body, at that time, was to demonstrate to the world [what] Penn State really was,” Bard said.

In every interview, Bard said he kept two primary goals in mind, and that “first and foremost” of those was advocating for “the [survivors] and the [survivors] getting justice.”

“No matter what we feel, no matter how upset we are, pales in comparison to what the [survivors] have gone through,” Bard

said. “It was important that the student body embodied that messaging to the world, because it felt like that got lost in a lot of what people were talking about — they were talking about the football program, the university itself, but they were forgetting about the [survivors].”

The second of Bard’s goals was emphasizing the student body’s and university’s lack of association with the “four or five people” involved in the case and its cover up, he said.

“We, as Penn Staters, are not defined by the actions of a couple bad actors,” Bard said. “We are so much more than that. Our alumni and our students are so much more than the actions of these few.”

And in an effort to prove Bard’s second point, Jones said he advocated for an external investigation into Penn State and its administration during that week’s Board meetings.

“My position was that we needed to have an independent investigation of what happened and make it public — and that it had to be done by some outside body, because if it was done internally, it would not be believed by the public as being accurate,” Jones said.

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Kakuro (Cross Sums)

				7	12				9	16		
		11						15				
		4						9				
9	20						19					
21						7	8					
9					4							
			13						15			
	12				21							
				12						7	15	
			7									
								22				
									7			

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Crossword

Across

1

Yokel

5

Winter hazard

10

Chick’s sound

14

Misfortunes

15

Hot rum drink

16

Tortoise racer

17

Painter’s tool

19

To be, in old Rome

20

Generation

21

One of Chekhov’s Three Sisters

22

Keyboard key

23

Informal

24

Quiche, e.g.

25

Office note

27

Olfactory awareness

32

Fringe benefits

35

Perched

36

Ornamental purse

37

Opera highlight

38

Flings

40

Slangy denial

41

Dugout, for one

42

Miss. neighbor

43

Walking sticks

44

Auditorium

48

Type of signal

49

Bard’s “before”

50

Barley bristle

53

Biblical king

56

Facts and figures

57

Forest female

58

Sailing

59

Ship accommodations

62

Lion’s den

63

Pillow filler

64

Kind of fall

65

Investment item

66

File

67

Sawbucks

Down

1

Staircase part

2

Extreme

3

Sheep sound

4

Medium claim

5

Russian leader

6

Inns

7

Icelandic epic

8

Dutch city

9

Norse war god

10

Extraordinary

11

Toward sunrise

12

Gaelic tongue

13

Equal

18

Trots

22

Type widths

25

Castle defense

26

Young newts

27

Teen transport

28

Op-ed piece

29

Thames town

30

Mexican Spitfire actress Velez

31

Prevaricates

32

Sunscreen ingredient

33

Piccadilly

34

Narrow inlets

38

Street fleet

39

Confederate

43

Transparent

45

Kind of pie

46

Radiator

47

Angioplasty target

50

Cherish

51

John Lennon hit

52

Retreats

53

Fifty percent

54

Jacob’s twin

55

Check

56

Florida’s Miami-County

59

Observe

60

Curry of Clue

61

Make a choice

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POLICY CHANGE

How child abuse and sexual misconduct protocols have evolved since Sandusky

By Julia Mertes
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Jerry Sandusky case has been one of the most defining parts of Penn State’s recent history, and ultimately has become a case example for many about what goes wrong with inadequate reporting policies in place.

Changes to child abuse and sexual misconduct policies developed — and are still in development — at the university, statewide and nationwide levels following the breaking of the Sandusky case 10 years ago.

As the case unraveled, a big question facing investigators was who knew about Sandusky’s crimes, along with who should have known about them.

Former Penn State football coach Joe Paterno swore in 2011 court testimony that the first accusations he heard about Sandusky occurred in 2001.

The extent Paterno knew about the incidents remains contested by many people who followed the case. Some early reporters allege Paterno was aware of complaints as early as 1998, according to the New York Times.

Other Penn State officials — Graham Spanier, Tim Curley, and Gary Schultz — faced legal repercussions for their insufficient handling of the February 2001 eyewitness report against Sandusky.

Former Penn State President Spanier began serving his prison sentence for child endangerment in June 2021. In 2012, Spanier was charged for the case, and a jury convicted him in 2017.

Curley, former Penn State athletic director, pleaded guilty in March 2017 to one count of child endangerment in relation to the 2001 report.

Former Penn State Vice President Schultz served a sentence at the Centre County Correctional Facility after also pleading guilty to child endangerment regarding the 2001 Sandusky report.

Eventually, Penn State’s Board of Trustees called to rename the child care center at Penn State, which was previously named after Schultz before his conviction. It’s new name is “The Child Care

Center at Hort Woods.”

Additional steps have been taken at the university level in an attempt to better understand the incident and what steps should be taken.

Lucy Johnston-Walsh, a clinical professor of law and director of the Children’s Advocacy Clinic and the Center on Children and the Law, said she believes the Sandusky case had “really dramatic” impacts at the university-wide, statewide and national level.

University-wide changes

In 2011, the Freeh Report was conducted by the Special Investigations Task Force upon request of Penn State’s Board of Trustees to complete a holistic and comprehensive investigation into the incident.

The report, which entailed 430 key interviews and the analysis of 3.5 million documents, provided conclusive findings and recommendations regarding the incident and proper procedures that should be taken by Penn State.

The report said the recommended changes would “create a values- and ethics-centered community where everyone is engaged in placing the needs of children above the needs of adults” and “to create an environment where everyone who sees or suspects child abuse will feel empowered to report the abuse.”

According to Johnston-Walsh, the case allowed Penn State — and other institutions — to focus its attention on areas it never considered or focused heavily on before.

For instance, Johnston-Walsh said Penn State hired faculty to identify the ways youth are coming and engaging in programs across the commonwealth campuses.

“Traditionally, when you think of colleges, you don’t think of young children,” Johnston-Walsh said. “But there are a lot of ways that kids are on campus, and even a lot of freshmen on campus are under the age of 18.”

In 2014, Penn State President Eric Barron created the Task



Nick Stonesifer/Collegian

Old Main, home to the office of the president of Penn State, on Thursday, Oct. 21. Following the Sandusky child sex abuse case, policy changes were made on the university, state and nationwide levels.

Force on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment to address sexual misconduct within Penn State.

The 17 member task force delivered its final report in January 2015 entailing a set of 18 recommendations to improve sexual misconduct and violence on the university’s campuses, according to a release.

Johnston-Walsh said the task force resulted in the creation of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network in 2013, which is a group of researchers dedicated to producing and analyzing information pertaining to child protection. Johnson-Walsh said it caused the development of a “cluster hire of [11] faculty that specialized in the subject area.

“[University administration] felt strongly about creating more of a research base,” Johnston-Walsh said. “So, the university committed to hiring and supporting the hire of many faculty across the [Commonwealth] who could study child maltreatment in a variety of ways from preventing it to treating it to responding to child maltreatment.”

The group worked to combat child maltreatment across five colleges at Penn State including Health & Human Development, Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Medicine.

According to a release, Penn State’s Child Maltreatment Solutions Network were rewarded a \$3.5 million, five year training grant in order to create the nation’s first training program dedicated to child maltreatment professionals to help them combat maltreatment.

Beyond the Child Maltreatment Solution Network, a new training program for employees

at Penn State developed from the task force recommendations as well.

Launched in 2017, the 35-45-minute training, titled “Understanding Title IX at Penn State,” became required for all employees and focused on reporting responsibilities, Title IX, and sex-and gender-based misconduct.

The Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey, which is distributed every three years to gauge students’ experiences and attitudes toward sexual harassment and misconduct is one recommendation instilled by the university.

The first university wide survey was distributed in 2015 and found that, while approximately 86.5% of undergraduates told a close friend about their sexual assault and 68.8% told a roommate, only 2.6% told a campus or local police official and 3.3% reported the incident to Penn State’s Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response.

Since the first survey, Penn State reports it’s increased staffing, educational and preventative measures and put further review on university policies.

However, the changes were not limited to Penn State’s commonwealth campuses.

Statewide changes

Following the Sandusky case, legislators changed and revised Pennsylvania’s laws — even the definition of “child abuse” — numerous times

In 2012, Debra Wolfe, the executive director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice and Research, said “Pennsylvania can move from being the state with the worst [practices] to a model of how child abuse is investigated and addressed.”

Most recently, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced a four bill package that will build upon the 2014 Obama-Biden “It’s On Us PA” initiative to “strengthen protections for students and combat sexual assaults on campuses.”

According to Wolf’s statement, the package would include strengthened protections for victims of on-campus crimes, requirements to teach middle and high school students about sexual misconduct situations, the creation of a task force to study sexual misconduct in grades 6-12, and a “yes means yes” law, which requires post-secondary establishes to have clear standards of consent,

Besides the most recent developments and legislative proposals, other regulations developed in the years directly

following the Sandusky case.

These new regulations were influenced by recommendations by the Pennsylvania Task Force on Child Protection, which was formed as a result of the case, according to Johnston-Walsh.

Many officials and subject area experts called for a “culture change” regarding the reporting of child abuse.

Between the Sandusky case, the Catholic Church child sexual abuse case and the University of Michigan sexual abuse case, Johnston-Walsh said she believes “the combination has certainly led to more discourse” about child abuse and sexual misconduct.

Johnston-Walsh said a “dramatic increase” in child abuse reports transpired “immediately post Sandusky,” which she said has leveled off in time.

However, she said the scandal “immediately triggered for many people, much more awareness and attention to the issue,” which led to increased investigations and considerations at all levels.

“From my perspective — as terrible as this tragedy was — it really did [raise awareness] and raise attention [for people] to do something about this [issue],” Johnston-Walsh said. “There have been really positive changes that resulted — not just on the university level or the statewide level, but also more nationally.”

The definition of “child abuse” changed during the 2013-2014 legislative session with Act 103, according to a release from Pennsylvania Senator Gene Yaw.

Before the law was changed, “child abuse” was classified as an action causing “severe pain” and “impairment” to children.




With the revision, the standards for “child abuse” were lowered — now acts like kicking a child or locking them in a confined space are covered by law as abuse.

Legislation continued to be revised to better protect children from abuse, including issues that particularly impacted the Sandusky case.

The changed legislation expanded mandatory reporting duties to other groups who work closely with children.

The law required anyone at schools and universities who interacts with minors to get a background check every three years and have their fingerprints recorded.

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

University Changes	Statewide Changes	Nationwide Changes
2011 The Freeh Report was conducted at the request of Penn State’s Board of Trustees as a complete investigation of the incident.	2013 The definition of “child abuse” changed during the 2013-2014 legislative session with Act 103, according to a release from Pennsylvania Senator Gene Yaw.	2012 Florida reshaped sexual reporting laws in October 2012, influenced by the Sandusky case — so drastically that it was eventually called “the toughest in the nation.”
2014 President Eric Barron created the Task Force on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment	2014 Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced a four bill package that will build upon the 2014 Obama-Biden “It’s On Us PA” initiative.	2020 Following an investigation that started in 2014, the United States Department of Education announced required changes for Penn State stating the school inadequately addressed sex abuse complaints after the Sandusky case broke.
2017 Penn State launches required training, “Understanding Title IX at Penn State,” for all employees.		
		

Sandusky’s misconduct spans decades

By Will Aguirre
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The long and disconsolate story of Jerry Sanusky’s child sex abuse crimes can be traced back several decades, to as early as the 1970s.

Reports of chronic abuse raised questions about famed football head coach Joe Paterno’s and other Penn State faculty’s awareness of the situation, and put a national spotlight on Penn State.

Over the course of his career, the former defensive coordinator for the Nittany Lions sexually abused several young boys he met through his charity The Second Mile. Jerry Sandusky was eventually found guilty of 45 out of 52 counts of child sexual abuse brought against him.

The following are charges resulting in a guilty verdict, and the number of counts:

Criminal attempt to commit indecent assault: 1

Endangering the welfare of children: 10
Corruption of minors: 10
Unlawful contact with minors: 9
Indecent assault: 6
Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse: 9

The crimes Sandusky committed spanned several decades, and there were many victims — now known as survivors.

The story began just months after the first moon landing in 1969 when Sandusky was hired as an assistant football coach for Penn State.

Sandusky’s earliest known victim — referred to in court documents as “Victim A”— said in an interview he was raped in a Penn State bathroom in 1971 by Sandusky after the man picked him up while he was hitchhiking.

Victim A said he was attacked while standing at a urinal at a Penn State bathroom. He said

he jerked his head back hitting Sandusky, which resulted in both falling to the floor and the boy’s head bleeding when he stood up.

After his foster mom noticed a cut on his head, she called Penn State to figure out what happened. The survivors alleged two Penn State faculty members, “Jim” and “Joe,” spoke with him on the phone and threatened him not to report anything.

The boy said the two men accused him of making up the story. “There was no question in my mind who Joe was,” he said. “I’ve heard that voice a million times. It was Joe Paterno.”

Victim A, who said he was molested during a church sleepover the year before, was 15 years old at the time of the alleged rape.

Six years following the incident, Sandusky founded The Second Mile charity to help underprivileged youth and their families in Pennsylvania. The charity served as

many as 100,000 children annually.

Major companies including the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Highmark Foundation, The Hershey Company and State Farm Companies Foundation all gave \$50,000 or more to the charity between 2008 and 2010.

A grand jury investigation said Sandusky found the survivors through The Second Mile’s charity programs. But, he wouldn’t face any consequences for his actions until after the turn of the century.

At around 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 9, 2001, a graduate assistant within the football program said he observed an incident of “sexual nature” between a young boy and Sandusky in the locker room of Penn State’s Lasch football building.

Michael McQueary said he saw Sandusky with his arms wrapped around a young boy in a way he

described to be “way over the lines.” After what he witnessed, McQueary shut his locker and moved toward the shower that the two men were standing in.

He said he watched Sandusky and the boy separate from each other, and both looked directly at McQueary.

In the early morning after the incident, McQueary called Paterno and visited him in his home on McKee Street off East Park Avenue in State College to discuss the matter.

McQueary disclosed the details of what he observed to Paterno that morning.

“I said I heard slapping sounds,” McQueary said, recounting the interaction. “I described it was extremely sexual and that some kind of intercourse was going on.”

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

‘I HAD NO CLUE’

Penn State alumna Sara Ganim, The Patriot-News staff reflect on Sandusky reporting, 2012 Pulitzer Prize win

By Megan Swift
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When she graduated from Penn State in 2008, Sara Ganim didn't expect to win a Pulitzer Prize in 2012 — just four years after becoming a professional journalist. But her journey to one of the most prestigious awards in the journalism industry began three years earlier in 2009 when she pursued the developing Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse case story after receiving a tip. Ganim continued her work into 2011 when she eventually took on a position as a reporter with PennLive/The Patriot-News—writing a series of investigative articles that earned her and the Harrisburg-based news outlet a Pulitzer Prize in 2012. Now, 10 years removed from Sandusky's arrest on Nov. 5, 2011, The Daily Collegian alumna said it took her “a long time to understand the scope” of the story's impact. “Back then... I had no clue that it was going to turn into something like this,” Ganim said. “We didn't know that this was [going to] turn into the case of a serial pedophile.”

Documenting initial evidence

The first rumors Ganim heard stemmed from “a regular conversation” with someone in State College who claimed Sandusky was under an investigation that “could be a big deal.” However, Ganim, now a correspondent for CNN, said the confidant went to “great lengths” to falsify the allegations — and take them back — after initially declaring they were true. “Behind the scenes, [there was] a very powerful movement to keep [allegations against Sandusky] quiet,” Ganim said. The annual gala for Sandusky's now-defunct charity, The Second Mile, is what solidified it for Ganim when Sandusky himself didn't make an appearance — something was going on. “We started asking around, ‘Where is he?’” Ganim said. “It wasn't a very coordinated effort to keep it quiet... multiple board members were telling multiple stories about why he

wasn't there.” From there, Ganim said, news tips and leads began circulating among the “press box of people” covering State College and Penn State football at the time. After accepting a reporting job with The Patriot-News following her crime reporting stint with the Centre Daily Times, Ganim said she “blurted out” what she knew of the Sandusky case on her first day of work. “We pulled her into a conference room and said, ‘What do you know?’” Cate Barron, then-managing editor of PennLive/The Patriot-News, said. Barron, now president of PA Media Group and publisher of PennLive/The Patriot-News, said she “let [Ganim] run as much as possible” to unearth the story from then on. “To their credit, they cut me loose,” Ganim said. “They were giving me a lot of flexibility and leeway to pursue this.”

On March 31, 2011, after “really cautious” reporting, The Patriot-News published Ganim's first Sandusky-related article — one with a definitive timeline proving the football giant was the subject of a grand jury investigation for alleged indecent assault of a teenage boy. The then-15-year-old boy from Clinton County — later confirmed to be Aaron Fisher — came forward with allegations that Sandusky “had inappropriate contact with him over a four-year period, starting when he was 10,” according to the article. The article also mentions the May 1998 Penn State University Police and Public Safety report of Sandusky showering with a then-12-year-old boy in a locker room inside of the Lasch football building. Even though Ganim's inaugural piece provided grounds for questioning Sandusky, his colleagues, Penn State Athletics and university administration, what followed was silence. Barron said The Patriot-News expected everyone to jump on the story but the big reveal was met by “crickets for the most part.” “After that story ran, I kind of went back to my day job,” Ganim said. “I covered stuff all summer that was totally unrelated to this, not really thinking that much more... maybe one day he'd get



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

Current and former reporters for PennLive/The Patriot-News who helped break the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse case at Penn State in 2011 pose in front of The Patriot-News office in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

arrested, maybe not.” The next football-related event immediately following the article's publication was the 2011 Blue-White Game. Ganim said journalists in attendance selected Joe Paterno's “favorite reporter” to ask about the grand jury investigation during the game's press conference. “[Paterno] said he wasn't going to talk about it,” she said, “[and] no one followed up.” Ganim said she initially didn't believe the impact of Sandusky's actions “would ever touch” athletics at Penn State, and she approached reporting as she would a “straight crime story.” “For me, it wasn't a sports story,” Ganim said, “and I have to say for the people I was talking to, it wasn't a sports story either.”

Uncovering the truth

When Sandusky was arrested that November, Ganim said she was “caught off guard,” and the breadth of the fallout was “surprising” to her. It wasn't until the “full scope” of his crimes were uncovered. For Ganim, Survivors' similar testimonies solidified the severity of the situation and need for accurate reporting. “He had such a pattern... it became clear... like there aren't multiple people that are decades apart in age who are coming up with the exact same stories having never met each other,” Ganim said. “Those kinds of coincidences don't happen.” While Barron said The Patriot-News faced “so much resistance” from Penn State, journalism faculty at the university “were very understanding” of why Ganim continued in pursuit of the truth. “Sara was unbelievable — she was just running on this tiny suitcase and adrenaline,” Barron said. “She's a phenom.” Following Sandusky's indictment, Barron said some of The Patriot-News' readers were “really appalled.” It became a “shoot the messenger” situation, Barron said, due to the “whole aura of Penn State Athletics.” She described Sandusky as a god for many fans. Megan Lavey-Heaton was one

of three front page designers at PennLive/The Patriot-News who worked on Sandusky coverage, and when the indictment was released, it was her job to lay out the charges against Sandusky for the next print edition. “The indictment was giant. It took two whole inside pages of the paper to lay that out, and I cried throughout it,” Lavey-Heaton, now a data journalist and podcast producer at PennLive/The Patriot-News, said. “It was just really sobering what this guy had done for so long, and he had been treated like a hero.” She said the goal was to protect the survivors as much as possible throughout the coverage by combing through page layouts to “make sure no accidental mentions” of names slipped through.

Collaborating in the newsroom

The Patriot-News was “perfectly positioned” to report the story, Barron said, since Ganim was “already so deeply sourced” with survivors' families and the Penn State community. “I'm so proud of what we did,” Barron said. “This was when... internet journalism was really new — we started to see a national and international audience for [PennLive/The Patriot-News.]” When Sandusky's crimes gained traction, State College began to house reporters from national news giants attempting to publish their own renditions of the case, but Barron said they quickly became “frustrated” with sourcing. But The Patriot-News staff worked “around the clock” and on weekends, Barron said, to stay on track. “I feel like I lived in that office,” Ganim said of the long hours. Then-Assistant Managing Editor at PennLive/The Patriot-News Mike Feeley took on the role of “right-hand man” to Ganim by giving her stories first edits and providing feedback. “The beauty of it was we were well sourced and way ahead of the game,” Feeley, now executive editor of The News Jour-

nal and Delaware Online, said. “A lot of this was early morning planning sessions, late night planning sessions.” National news outlets that set up shop in State College were “looming” over their heads, Feeley said, but The Patriot-News' strategy became clear — “while they were zigging, we were gonna zag.” “The strategy was not to follow the other media,” Feeley said. “We tried to focus more on people, kids, [survivors], the crime — less on the politics and drama.” The people directly involved in the story became The Patriot-News' “North Star.” Feeley said many critics of the media at the time felt that a narrative was being created, but the Harrisburg outlet stayed true to its priority. The “real explosion,” according to Feeley, was when Paterno and then-Penn State President Graham Spanier were fired on Nov. 9, 2011, by the university's Board of Trustees. “I think that was the moment we felt that this went kind of supersonic,” Feeley said. Lavey-Heaton said the newsroom “went dead silent” when it was announced on TV. Just one day prior, The Patriot-News decided to publish an editorial on its front page — calling on the Board of Trustees to take action against Paterno and Spanier — a type of opinionated article almost unheard of appearing on the masthead of any journalistic publication. “There are the obligations we all have to uphold the law,” the Nov. 8, 2011, print edition read above the fold. “There are then the obligations we all have to do what is right.” It was “a big decision,” Barron said, but PennLive/The Patriot-News publisher and president of PA Media Group at the time, John Kirkpatrick, “stood behind us every step of the way.” “[It was the] first time we ever put [an] editorial on the front page, let alone [a] whole page,” Kirkpatrick, who is now retired, said. “It just had this tremendous power.” Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

Framed front pages published in 2011 sit in a row in The Patriot-News office. They were published amid the Sandusky child sex abuse case.

Investigating child sexual abuse cases then, now

By Courtney Benedetto
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In May 1998, a concerned mother reached out for help after her son had an uncomfortable experience with Jerry Sandusky in Penn State's Lasch Building showers. One month later, the investigation dropped. Fourteen years later, the same man was found guilty for 45 counts of sexual abuse. From the initial report of abuse to the final conviction, many moving parts affected the timeline of the Sandusky case and why he wasn't held accountable sooner. Ten years after his arrest and 20 years after her involvement in the case, licensed psychologist Alycia Chambers reflected on what happened in 1998. Chambers, who worked and still works at The Highlands — which offers psychological services — in State College, received a call from the mother of whom the Freeh report labels the sixth survivor on May 4, 1998. She then talked to the boy for a psychological evaluation that day, and in her report, Chambers concluded that Sandusky's behavior raised concern for sexual abuse. “I never doubted that I was seeing grooming and that

[Sandusky] was a danger,” Chambers said. After giving her report to Detective Ronald Schreffler, Chambers said she tried to keep in touch with the police and stay updated with the status of the case, but she didn't have access to where the case was within Children and Youth Services' system. After Chambers' evaluation, a counselor — not a licensed psychologist — named John Seasock interviewed the 11-year-old boy, and he reported no suspicious actions from Sandusky. When it came time for law enforcement to decide whether to investigate further, Seasock's report was considered over Chambers'. The investigation on that specific case stopped dead in its tracks. Since her evaluation in 1998, Chambers said a few reporting regulations have changed, and psychologists who write reports can stay in the loop with where the case ends up in the system — something she didn't get. Reflecting on that time, Chambers said the process of interviewing the survivor in 1998 and investigating his situation was not ideal. The boy underwent multiple

evaluations from different adults alone within his own home, which she said is not the best practice as it can be detrimental for children to recite their trauma repeatedly. Chris Kirchner, the executive director of Children's Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania, works to support the state's 41 child advocacy centers. She said pushing for a collaborative and uniform investigation process on both the state and local level is one of the organization's main focuses. “Even two different interviews can send the message to kids that they're not believed, that they're in trouble, that they're not giving the right answer,” Kirchner said. The state association has 10 standards for accreditation of child advocacy centers, including a multidisciplinary team, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, case tracking, and a child-focused setting. The process of investigating child abuse cases through advocacy centers starts with the forensic interview, which establishes the facts of the case, and then law enforcement, child welfare representatives, victim advocates and other professionals analyze the interview for information pertinent to their side of the investigation — and they do this all within

a “child friendly and welcoming facility,” Kirchner said. With the accreditation standards and push for collaboration, Kirchner said the number of child advocacy centers increased from 21 to 41 in Pennsylvania, but there is still no mandate to require advocacy centers in the state, which she'd like to see change. Kristina Taylor-Porter, former director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Centre County, is trained in forensic interviewing, and she said she would ask the multidisciplinary team what questions she needed to ask to ensure only one interview with the child. “We know that whenever we do multiple interviews with children, it's really detrimental to the child because they're having to relive that experience over and over and over again,” Taylor-Porter said. “And it can also taint the investigation as well.” The child advocacy center in Centre County was not established until 2014, and when it

came to be, Taylor-Porter said she saw children from surrounding counties come forward. “It was more of a recognition that much of the central part of the state was underserved in terms of having that strong collaboration,” Taylor-Porter said. After the forensic interviewer gathers the facts of the case with non-leading questions, Taylor-Porter said the other collaborators can focus on their jobs — law enforcement can take legal measures and mental health professionals can start helping the survivors through the healing process. From working as a forensic interviewer at The CARE Center of Indiana County to now teaching at Penn State within child maltreatment and advocacy studies and serving as a board member for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania, Taylor-Porter said she has seen the collaboration continuously grow over time. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

“I never doubted that I was seeing grooming and that [Sandusky] was a danger.”

Alycia Chambers
Licensed psychologist

Town revisits atmosphere changes

By Olivia Estright
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For months, Terry Losch went home, turned on his TV and watched as his community’s name flashed across the bottom of every news outlet — followed by a variation of “sex scandal.”

The impact of the Jerry Sandusky trial and the news coverage it received lingered in the community long after 2012, according to some local State College businesses.

Owner of Rapid Transit Sports since 1985, Losch recalled the breaking news coverage of the Sandusky case.

“We were the focus of the whole country,” he said.

Losch said State College is a “tight community” where everyone supports local businesses and each other. And to see his community in a negative light across news platforms for months, Losch said it harmed the college town.

“When you had every national media outlet 24 hours a day, slamming your community for hiding a child molester, the whole community was just depressed about it,” Losch said. “It was like the whole valley was in a deep depression.”

Losch said it was like he couldn’t escape seeing the negative light placed on the Penn State community.

For years, Losch said he noticed a change in the mood of the press.

As the news of the Sandusky case began to break, Losch said Rapid Transit Sports and the entirety of downtown State College was “inundated with reporters.”

Losch recalled feeling as though he was reading the same story over and over again — a plot, which he thought, lacked focus on the main character.

“The story was — take Joe Paterno down, ruin his reputation,” Losch said. “It was the herd mentality of the media.”

Losch said the reporters coming into his business inquired more about former head football coach Paterno than Sandusky.

Some stories, Losch claimed, tied the sexual abuse scandal more to Paterno — even placing his name in the lede.

For example, some major news outlets, like Reuters, published stories about the arrest with Paterno’s name in the first line and Sandusky not appearing until the fourth graf. The National Public Radio published a story about the case first with Paterno



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian file photo

State College artist Michael Pilato explains the meaning behind the Heister Street mural as artist Yuri Karabash replaces Jerry Sandusky’s former portrait with sexual abuse activist Dora McQuaid.

mentioned first in the headline. And The Washington Post highlighted Paterno’s career ahead of Sandusky in an article a day after Sandusky’s conviction.

Losch said he believes one of the main reasons the Sandusky trial received more media coverage compared to offenses at other institutions was because other school’s “don’t have a famous person’s reputation to attack.”

According to fan votes, Penn State won ESPN’s Football Town Showdown this year — a title that captures the students, families and alumni’s love for the program.

Losch said Paterno’s winning record and fame gave the media a person to place the blame on. He said he remembers the media presence starting to “fade” after Paterno passed away.

In 2011, with Paterno as head coach, the Penn State football program lost one out of nine games. When interim coach Tom Bradley filled in for the final four games of the season, the team lost three of the four games.

Since 2006, Caroline Gummo has worked for The Family Clothesline, a clothing store located on College Avenue.

Gummo said she was the marketing manager and buyer of the store when the news broke about the Sandusky case.

For months after, Gummo said there was “a lot of anger and high emotion” within the Penn State and State College community.

“Everyone in the community — alumni, students, the administration — was extremely upset to find out that children were hurt

at the [University Park] campus and they were angry that that had happened in our community and at our university,” Gummo said.

She noticed people were not only upset with the case but also the way it was handled once the news broke.

As complex as the situation was, Gummo said there wasn’t a “tremendous amount of information coming out of the university.”

On Nov. 5, 2011, the investigation into the Sandusky case was made public.

Two days later, Penn State’s Board of Trustees and former President Graham Spanier announced athletic director Tim Curley and Gary Schultz, interim senior vice president for finance and business, would step down from their positions.

From that point on, as Gummo inferred, the university released few updates to the public — in January and May of 2012, which offered information about the Freeh reports.

While the university adapted to the recommendations given by former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director who led the investigation, Louis Freeh, Penn State media releases were unable to give the details of the independent investigation.

Gummo said it was an “unsure time” for downtown businesses.

“It was a very scary time for a lot of downtown businesses,” Gummo said. “We weren’t sure if we were going to ever have a football season again.”

According to the Associated Press, an email sent in July 2012 by NCAA Attorney Donald Remy

indicated that a majority of NCAA executive committee members were in favor of giving Penn State football the “death penalty” — sanctions that were intended to shut the program down for several years.

Many downtown State College businesses rely on the football season for tourists to boost business. In fact, during home football weekends, State College becomes the third largest city in Pennsylvania.

“[State College community members] were extremely upset that the NCAA came down with one of the harshest of sanctions without waiting for all the information and trials to happen,” Gummo said.

The events following the breaking of the Sandusky case, such as the riots, were alarming for downtown businesses, as well, Gummo said.

Three blocks away from The Family Clothesline store, Penn State students rioted the news of Paterno’s firing.

Though Gummo said The Family Clothesline didn’t suffer any damages to the store, other downtown locations witnessed 1,000 Penn State students rally.

“People were reacting to a very tragic and upsetting situation,” Gummo said. “As part of the community here, we were affected just as much emotionally by the information coming out and how angry we were that children had gotten hurt.”

Curt Schulman, the current director of operations of Hotel State College & Co., said the impact the Sandusky case had on downtown

businesses will not be forgotten.

According to Schulman, downtown businesses can generate over 25% of their annual revenue during the eight to 10 weekends of football games.

“I know for a fact around town there were huge dips in revenue for football weekends during that time,” he said.

Not only were rival fans staying away from Happy Valley, Schulman said Penn Staters were struggling to find ways to support the football program.

“The football team has huge reach from just recruiting non-athletes,” Schulman said. “A lot of people come here because of Penn State football — because of tailgating and the incredible atmosphere and the ability to participate with that program and its success. So you put a huge stain on that. It’s far reaching, the impact it has.”

At the time, however, Schulman wasn’t living in State College. He said he watched the case unravel in Las Vegas.

Before, Schulman said he found a sense of pride when telling people he was from State College. After the school started receiving national attention, Schulman said he received a mixture of “off-color jokes” and negative responses.

“It dirtied the name so heavily,” Schulman said. “I’ll never forget how in the course of two months, people went from being amazed that I’m from State College to almost being... disgusted.”

Growing up in State College, Schulman said he saw and felt the pride behind Penn State and the football program.

As one of the winningest college football coaches in history, hitting his 409th just days before the news broke of Sandusky’s alleged sex abuse, Schulman said “JoePa was king.”

While students and visitors will snap a picture with the current Penn State head football coach James Franklin, the aura of Joe Paterno was unmatched — he was a “different level celebrity.”

But Sandusky was nowhere near the level of Paterno’s prominence, Schulman said.

Schulman said he noticed the intensity of the media coverage on the Sandusky incident increase when it received national attention.

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

Alumni reflect on conviction

By Ella Castronuovo
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Doug Komandt was taking an organic chemistry exam on Nov. 9, 2011. It was just a normal Wednesday night for the Penn State chemical engineering graduate.

When Komandt finished the exam, his proctor told the students, “Oh, by the way, be safe. They just fired Joe Paterno.”

The uneasy air would linger on campus for days, weeks and months. Komandt, a current

senior product manager for a healthcare supplies company and a 2014 graduate, said it was a “tough” time for people after Paterno’s firing.

In early November 2011, soon after the sex abuse allegations of Jerry Sandusky came to light, Komandt said being a student during the time was “unique.”

Komandt said many students tried to balance being respectful and supportive of Sandusky’s survivors while managing the shock of the situation themselves.

“We as students, we were absorbers,” he said. “We weren’t affected by it, but it still felt like we were so affected.”

Lauren Ingeno, press officer at Penn Medicine who graduated in 2013 with a degree in journalism and English, said her memory of the time period was a “little different” than others.

As the copy editor of The Daily Collegian when the news broke, Ingeno said her experience was “stressful” and slightly “exciting.”

“All of a sudden there are all these news stations and national reporters... we had our actual newsroom and we were doing the same reporting on the ground that a lot of the professionals were doing,” Ingeno said. “It was kind of surreal, it was kind of tragic and awful and weird, and just a mix of emotions.”

Ingeno said she first learned of the Sandusky sex abuse case from an email from one of The Collegian editors. It said “all hands on deck.”

Outside of the newsroom, Ingeno said the topic was “hard to avoid” at the university since reporters and news vans were just down the street.

In her classes, the case became a “politically charged” conversation, similar to political debates, according to Ingeno.

Before the case came to light, Ingeno said she had thoughts of

transferring to another university. However, Ingeno said once the story broke, she “couldn’t leave it.”

“I’ve never been a football person or even a really hardcore Penn State person, so I definitely didn’t understand a lot of the emotions people had. People felt very closely,” Ingeno said. “People really adored Joe Paterno and Penn State football, and so a lot of people, I think, were experiencing that as grief, almost like this thing that they revered was falling apart.”

Mikal Nelson, logistics coordinator and a 2015 graduate of industrial engineering, said the situation was “jarring.”

“There was definitely an adjustment period to the news,” Nelson said. “It just became so much more apparent that there was this eerie air looming over the campus once the news came out.”

Once the story broke, Nelson said he noticed a lot of the attention was on Penn State’s former head football coach Paterno instead of Sandusky.

He said he found it a little “odd” and that people were “focusing too much on certain aspects of the story rather than all aspects.”

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



Venkatesh Krishnan/Collegian file photo

Penn State students protest outside of Old Main in response to charges against Jerry Sandusky on Nov. 6, 2011.

We want to hear from you

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SCREAMS AND SILENCE

The story of State College's largest riot

By James Engel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Reporting from College Avenue, Brian Schoenfelt remembers Penn State students yelling to him, “Why are you doing this to us?”

He was present at the largest riot in State College’s history.

There had been riots before. Some were more like victory jubilees after a big win, others were disappointed trots through the streets after a bitter loss, others still were spontaneous bursts of energy from young students.

But the riot on Nov. 9, 2011 was a part of something greater.

That night, the Penn State Board of Trustees gathered in an impromptu meeting that ended the 16-year presidency of Graham Spanier and, more importantly to students, the 61-year coaching career of Joe Paterno.

Reacting to the sudden news and the rapidly deteriorating situation at their university, some students gathered for a night that has yet to be matched in the borough’s long history.

Light poles were ripped up, clouds of pepper spray were let out, rocks were thrown, and a news van was flipped to its side and destroyed.

But the night did not erupt from the void — it was a symptom of anger and confusion that had been building at Penn State over a four-day period.

On Nov. 5, Jerry Sandusky was arraigned in court on several felony charges after long grand jury deliberations. The scandal erupted in the public eye, bringing national media attention and criticism to Penn State.

Shoenfelt, at the time a photographer and videographer with the Altoona-based CBS affiliate WTAJ-TV, was one of the many journalists who came to State College to cover the unfolding events. He now works in Penn State’s Belisario College of Communications as a media consultant.

He said he remembers reporters of many mediums and of local, state and national affiliation arriving just after the news broke. Just hours earlier, Paterno had announced 2011 would be his final season.

Shoenfelt said he tried to work out where the meeting might be until reporters from Philadelphia found that it would take place at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

With no risers for cameras and no mult box for clean audio, Schoenfelt said dozens of journalists filled the room to hear the news.

“I do remember the audible gasps in the crowd whenever they said Paterno was being fired,” Shoenfelt said.

The trustees had come to a decision, and Paterno’s retirement announcement was nullified. Vice chairman of the board, John Surma, read the words aloud.

“Joe Paterno is no longer the head football coach — effective immediately.”

Put simply, students took to the streets. Groups converged in Beaver Canyon, on College Avenue, on campus and throughout downtown.

“College Avenue was filled,” Shoenfelt said. “It was shoulder to shoulder people for long stretches.”

The scene was immediately chaotic, he said. And, according to Shoenfelt, much of the anger was directed toward him and his journalistic colleagues.

Rioters told him “Go Home!”

Later, a group pointed at him and a colleague, saying, “Let’s get them.” The heckling was constant, he said.

“My one clearest memory of that night is a lot of the groups of upset individuals, whether they be students or supporters, would be yelling at us, ‘Why are you doing this to us?’” Shoenfelt said.

Chants rang out throughout the city. “We Want Joe,” “One More Year,” and, of course, “We Are Penn State.”

Soon, another chant came from the corner of Locust Lane and College Avenue, where Urban Outfitters sits: “Flip That Sh--.”

“My reporter and I just watched the wave of people start moving very, very quickly toward us,” Shoenfelt said.

The wave, as he quickly found out, had resulted from a tidal force just beyond his field of view: A group of rioters flipped a WTAJ satellite news van on its side, smashing its windows and



Tom Ruane/Colegian file photo

After the Penn State Board of Trustees fired Joe Paterno, many Penn State students took to the streets in State College’s largest riot. The night’s most prominent moment came when rioters destroyed a news van.

spilling its contents on the street.

“We were sad a complete era had totally, completely ended, and not in any kind of way anyone saw coming,” Andrew Hanselman said.

When the announcement came that Paterno was fired, Hanselman, a 2012 graduate in media studies, sat watching one of the large televisions in the HUB-Robeson Center, wearing his pink “S Zone” shirt and Philadelphia Flyers ball cap.

Surrounded by fellow students and several photographers, he buried his face with his hands when the words rang out on the news.

He walked to the statue of Paterno that once stood by Beaver Stadium to pay his respects, he said, and then headed downtown.

“People were very, very mad. They were mad at a lot of things. They were mad about the coverage that was given to us. They were mad about the fact that these things happened to begin with. They were mad they couldn’t just go to school. They were mad they couldn’t root for the team,” Hanselman said. “The place was a powder keg, and I totally understood it.”

He said he remembers being among a sea of people moving down Shortlidge Road before ending up in Beaver Canyon, where he saw students near him pull down a light pole.

Happy Valley and the Penn State community, he said, are like a bubble. These sudden revelations and mass media attention popped it.

At Penn State, Hanselman said, it seemed that everything tended to work out in the end. But as the scandal unfolded, for the first time, it didn’t look quite that way.

Lt. Keith Robb has been a State College police officer since 1994. That night, he was in full riot gear, helping to organize a response to the sudden upheaval.

Normally, Robb said, disturbances tended to stay in Beaver Canyon, an area of West Beaver Avenue roughly between South Pugh Street and South Garner Street. Students were, in fact, in Beaver Canyon on Nov. 9, but not just there.

“What made this a little unique was they were on College Avenue, they were on Beaver Avenue, they were all over the place, and people were being immediately destructive,” Robb said.

The previous night, Robb said roughly 1,000 students had gathered in Beaver Canyon for a gathering in support of Paterno. The event was peaceful, he said. Police blocked off the road and kept watch to make sure things remained that way.

Robb said he stayed at that gathering until about 3 a.m., slept as much as he could, and went to work for his morning shift at 8 a.m. on Nov. 9.

“I went home, had some dinner, went right to bed. I was exhausted,” he said. “And then the phone rang. It was our dispatch saying every officer needs to come into town — there’s a major disturbance.”

An “all call” was sent out to the surrounding townships including Patton, Ferguson, Spring and Bellefonte for support, Robb said. State troopers were requested as well, some eventually arriving on horseback.

In the meantime, he said, the State College Police Department tried to clear blocks of downtown. But its numbers couldn’t match the amount of people on the streets. According to Robb, each time police took a block, people would simply file into the one they had taken prior.

Most of those present, he said, were doing nothing but some more “defiant” of police. Though he wore a protective helmet, Robb said he was hit in the head by a flying rock and was covered in the many eggs that were tossed at police.

Robb called the riot a “release valve of stress,” saying he understood how many of the students and others present felt. But he had to disperse the crowd and mitigate property damage, not focusing on making arrests that night.

Some students, he said, even attempted to help calm the situation by chastising people damaging property or attempting to break up situations that could have escalated.

“Even for the officers, we had some emotional ties to this,” Robb said. “So, it wasn’t like we were unsympathetic to the students.

Along with the property damage, some minor injuries also occurred. One reporter was knocked out and bloodied by a flying rock.

The total damages amounted to nearly \$200,000, according to a later estimate by police.

Robb noted that pepper spray was used throughout the night to disperse rioters and move crowds. Though State College police possess tear gas, none has ever been used in the borough’s history, including on Nov. 9.

Pepper spray comes in clouds and, when sprayed, tends to sting the eyes of whoever is in the vicinity, Robb said — including police themselves.

“I’ll never forget, there was a Pennsylvania state trooper who was inches away from me and started spraying the crowd with pepper spray,” Jeff Preval said.

Like Shoenfelt, Preval served as a reporter with WTAJ, though he worked more locally at the station’s State College bureau. He had arrived on the scene with a photographer in the van that would later be rolled by the rioters.

Currently, he works in Buffalo, New York, as a multimedia journalist at WGRZ, the city’s NBC affiliate.

Reporting on the Sandusky case and the follow-up to the riot, Preval said it was “the most exhausting and time-consuming assignment” he had ever covered.

Though he was hit in the eyes with pepper spray, he said he was able to continue to cover the riot and gather video of the night’s events.

Later, Preval said he spoke with Shoenfelt, who advised him to show himself on camera to exhibit the effects of being in the crowd that night.

“Honest to God, I didn’t know what I really looked like,” Preval said. “I didn’t mind going on and showing what had happened, but I just didn’t know if that would’ve been too troubling to the viewer.”

But Preval remembers that night as “just one chapter of a massive, massive saga.” He would go on to cover much of the Sandusky scandal as it developed until his departure for Buffalo in August 2012.

“Trying to take my contacts out after that, when all was said and done, I’ll never forget the sting in my eyes as a result of that,” he said.

Joe Hermitt remembers a different scene from Nov. 9. The longtime Penn State football photographer for the Harrisburg Patriot-News found himself at 830 McKee Street with Sara Ganim, the Pulitzer Prize winning reporter who had initially broken the story of Sandusky’s crimes.

He spent that night north of campus at the house of the freshly-fired Paterno.

Juxtaposing the scene on the other side of campus, Hermitt said there were about two dozen students and a few reporters

standing somberly outside on the dark side street.

There wasn’t much happening until, he said, an unknown man arrived at the front door, layed a bouquet of flowers on the porch, knocked on Paterno’s door and departed. Sue Paterno, the coach’s wife, soon retrieved the flowers crying and went back into the house.

Sometime after, the coach emerged and spoke briefly to those gathered on his grass, Hermitt said.

“He said goodnight, turned around to go back in the house, and one of the students behind me shouted, ‘We Are.’ He pumped his fist into the air and said, ‘Penn State,’ and disappeared into the house,” Hermitt said. “That was the last time I saw him alive, the last photo I ever took of him out of the hundreds of thousands of photos I’d taken over the years.

“The last photo was him in his pajamas on his front porch at 11 o’clock at night.”

Back downtown, Robb said the crowds were mostly dispersed sometime after midnight. The streets of State College, vacant and quiet afterward, looked like “a warzone,” according to Robb.

Though major damages may have still been evident, the borough’s public works crews were able to clean up much of the mess before the next day, he said.

State College police set up a now dead website to help find wanted individuals and distributed wanted posters around downtown, Robb said.

Many called in to report on the identities of rioters, and others turned themselves in, he said.

“I’ll be honest, most of these folks that I’ve dealt with over the years that are involved in this, when you get to meet them in a better situation, they’re generally really good people,” he said.

In the subsequent investigations, more than 30 people were charged with crimes. Most were simple disorderly conduct or

failure to disperse. Others were felony riot charges.

Though the charge was later dropped, one 41-year-old man was charged with “risking a catastrophe” after allegedly attempting to ignite gasoline that had leaked from the news van with a lit cigarette.

In the days after the riot, Robb said police presence remained high in the area, though he said he began to sense a different feeling among the community.

“There was a sense of shame that I’ve never seen before,” he said. “I remember working the Nebraska game and even interacting with students, and they were almost apologetic.”

Two days later, this sentiment may have rung true.

Kyle Harris is a native of Massachusetts but attended Penn State to obtain his undergraduate degree in public relations, graduating in 2012.

Currently, he teaches music in Boston at his school, Boston Drum Lessons, and sometimes tours with the Blue Man Group. At Penn State, Harris played drums in the Blue Band.

But in 2011, he helped to organize an enormous candlelight vigil that was held on Nov. 11 on Old Main lawn.

Though some connected the vigil as a reaction to the riot, planning for the event began prior to Nov. 9.

Harris said the idea for a vigil initially came from a discussion with Jessica Sever, another public relations student, in one of their classes.

They pitched the idea to the rest of the class but found they would have to be the sole producers of the event.

According to Harris, it took about a day’s work of organizing to get the event approved and traction quickly began to grow on social media.

But he also remembers that time as difficult for general students at Penn State. Journalists and cameras could be found all throughout campus, and Harris said the university handled communications and public relations horribly throughout that era.

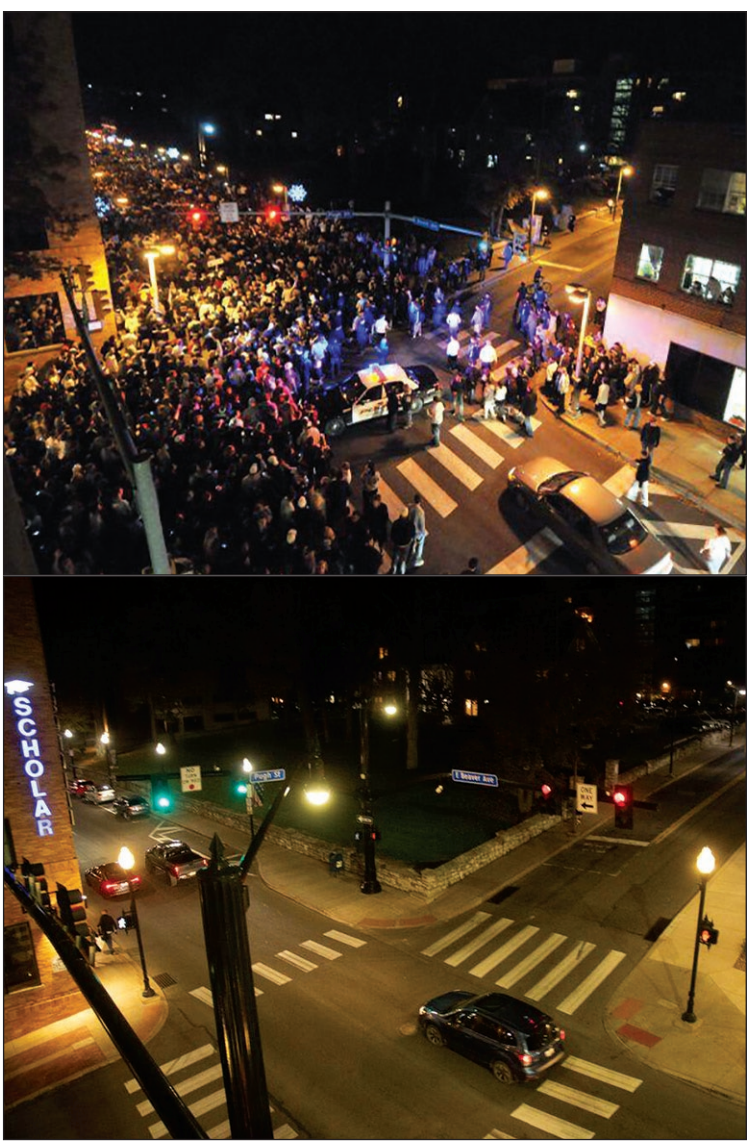
“It felt like [the media] was looking at us like we’re part of the problem, and I think for me and for others, it made for this confusion, kind of like, ‘Are we part of the problem?’ he said.

During that time, Harris and Sever gave numerous interviews to news agencies throughout the country. Some went better than others, he said.

Now, 10 years removed from his alma mater, Harris said he struggles with his relationship with Penn State.

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

Jeff Preval
Reporter



Collegian File photo (top), Will Aguirre/Colegian (bottom)

The corner of Pugh Street and Beaver Avenue on the night of Nov. 9, 2011, filled with rioters (top). Ten years later, on Nov. 9, things are calmer.

‘HOLD DOWN THE FORT’

2012 football team reflects on season following Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse case

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Sept. 17, “Saving the Roar” made its debut and with it, the behind-the-scenes story of the 2012 Penn State football team was put on a larger scale than ever before.

Former Nittany Lion quarterback Matt McGloin had been interviewed about the 2012 team more times than he can count, but he was still willing to help work on the documentary. However, he knew it was a story that needed more than just his voice.

Writer, director and producer Michael Nash did just that, bringing in other members of the 2012 team like Michael Mauti and Michael Zordich while also featuring past and future Penn State legends like Franco Harris and Saquon Barkley.

McGloin said he knew Nash would let him and his former teammates tell the story the way they wanted to, and after months of filming, McGloin and Mauti got to see the premier like everyone else.

The documentary was “very emotional” for everyone involved, according to McGloin, and it gave a chance for him to look back, say “wow” and realize how special that team really was.

For Mauti, the film brought back memories from that season that he didn’t experience for a long time.

“It certainly brought back a lot of memories just going back and diving through that whole season,” Mauti told The Daily Collegian. “You realize kind of how unprecedented it was.”

Unprecedented is one way to describe that era of Penn State football.

In the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse case, the university was fined \$60 million, and the Nittany Lion program had 40 scholarships stripped away from it in addition to a four-year ban from postseason play.

And Penn State fired its 46th-year head coach, who had just won his 409th game at the helm — the most by any major college football coach in history.

Joe Paterno was fired alongside then-university President Graham Spanier on Nov. 9, 2011.

McGloin, Mauti and the rest of the team found out just like everyone else: sitting in their apartments, watching TV.

“Nothing hits until it happens. I was sitting in my apartment, and Joe got fired,” McGloin told the Collegian. “Then it was kind of like ‘Wow. This is real.’ That’s



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian file photo

Bill O’Brien leads his squad on to the field for Penn State’s home opener against Ohio on Sept. 1, 2012. This was O’Brien’s first game as the Nittany Lion’s head coach following the firing of Joe Paterno.

when it hit.”

The 2011 Penn State team was 8-1 when Paterno was fired. McGloin said the team was in a groove, playing complementary football and setting its sights on the Big Ten Championship.

Then Paterno was fired, and not even members of the team knew exactly what was going on. There were people rioting in the streets of State College. McGloin stayed put in his apartment, and Mauti’s first thought was simply “Who’s going to be our coach?”

“You don’t know what to say, you don’t know what to think. You’re just searching for answers,” McGloin said. “[It’s] hard because somebody is telling you one thing, somebody’s telling you another thing, you don’t know what’s true, you don’t know what’s not true, you don’t know what to believe.”

“While all this is going on, you’re still focusing for a game you have to play.”

Penn State went 1-3 to close the year with Tom Bradley stepping in as interim head coach, but there was a lot more than on-field results to worry about in Happy Valley.

A program in turmoil had future implications just as much as present ones, and then-prospect Nyeem Wartman-White was in the thick of it.

Wartman-White committed to the Nittany Lions in the summer before the 2011 season. He never decommitted from the program, but the uncertainty in Happy Valley prompted some heavy thought.

While he was a self-proclaimed

“naive” high-school kid at the time, Wartman-White understood he didn’t want to rush anything before he had more information regarding the situation. He had high school football playoffs to worry about at the time everything happened.

After discussions with his high school coaches and family, he decided to stay committed to Penn State, but he kept his recruitment open while taking everything “one day at a time.”

Wartman-White started to entertain offers from places like the Pitt and Rutgers more than he had before. He also needed to know that whoever became the new head coach was committed to him and his success.

Bill O’Brien was hired in January 2012. He went with Bradley on a recruiting trip to see Wartman-White shortly after his hire.

However, Bradley wasn’t planning to return to Penn State in 2012, and Wartman-White knew that at the time. Bradley still passionately recruited Wartman-White to join the Nittany Lions.

“That’s what made me stay even more, just watching him. He’s about to get fired and [has to] figure out what he’s doing for his family, and he’s promoting Penn State when he knows getting me to go to Penn State does nothing much really for him,” Wartman-White said. “That showed me that Penn State is just one of those places. Once you go there, you’re in the family.”

Wartman-White was locked in. He would be a Nittany Lion.

When O’Brien took the job, about half of Penn State’s recruiting class was already committed, while the other half was added on near the end of the recruiting cycle by O’Brien, according to Wartman-White.

What instantly stood out about O’Brien was that he wasn’t going to sugarcoat anything for his players. He was a “straight

shooter,” and Wartman-White said he instantly recognized his new coach was cut from that “Penn State cloth.”

His transparency with his players made the former New England Patriots assistant a perfect fit, too.

“O’Brien didn’t really give a message directly to us, but just that we’re going to turn it around. The future is gonna be bright,” Wartman-White said.

O’Brien understood that the Penn State program had been going through a lot more than just football over the last few months. He acknowledged it, stayed true to his players and prepared to usher in a new era of blue and white football.

There were plenty of obstacles before the Nittany Lions could even really think about stepping on the field to play a game, though.

As part of the NCAA sanctions against the program, every player in the program was granted the opportunity to use a free transfer waiver that granted immediate eligibility.

Plenty of significant contributors from the 2011 team made the decision to move on from Penn State, including names like Silas Redd, Rob Bolden and Anthony Fera.

Plenty more, including McGloin and Mauti, chose to stay. While he admitted it may have been somewhat of a selfish thought, McGloin never considered leaving Penn State, partially because 2012 would be his first chance to be the No. 1 quarterback at the start of the year.

McGloin said the resiliency in the program was instilled by Paterno. If it wasn’t for the longtime coach, McGloin wouldn’t have been where he was, and he said the 2012 season may not have turned out the same way.

When O’Brien took over, McGloin instantly felt a

connection to him and his new coaching staff. It wasn’t long before McGloin said he felt like he couldn’t let O’Brien down, and a lot of the same values Paterno instilled would be carried over.

“I think right away, I knew that’s how special of a coaching staff that was, how special of a coach he was, how special of a coach [strength and conditioning coach] Craig Fitzgerald was,” McGloin said. “I felt like I had a connection with those guys that owed it to them, I had to do everything I could, to do my part.”

Mauti was also quick to see the potential of what O’Brien wanted to build in Happy Valley. The redshirt senior also knew how much his new coach would have to lean on veteran players, so Mauti wanted to be able to represent the lettermen who had come before him.

“I felt like I had an obligation, a responsibility to uphold that [standard] through the transition,” Mauti said. “I was part of that letterman group, and I wanted to make those guys proud.”

The veteran linebacker did actually briefly question his future at Penn State because of his aspirations to reach the NFL.

Within “hours,” though, he knew the right thing to do was stay and “hold down the fort.”

Mauti’s connection to the blue and white also runs deeper than others, as his dad and brother each played football at Penn State. He said being a second-generation player factored into his decision to ultimately stay with the Nittany Lions.

“I was raised as a byproduct of that culture and that system,” Mauti said. “To be able to display that as it was being called a lot of different things, and a lot of people’s sense of identity definitely was wavering... to be able to stand out in front and be proud of who I was and who we were as a team... that was what was most important, and I think a lot of people resonated with that.”

Mauti and McGloin were at the forefront of the group that chose to stay and help keep Penn State football afloat.

There wasn’t any bad blood between them and those who decided to transfer away from the program, because both understood and respected that those who left made what they felt was the best decision for them.

But those who stayed knew they had a job to do, and they wanted a tight-knit group of guys who wanted to be there and help rebuild the legacy of the Nittany Lions.

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

Sports band together after Sandusky

By Spencer Ripchik
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Ten years have gone by since the Jerry Sandusky case rocked Penn State as a whole, but the epicenter of the earthquake was one of Penn State’s biggest attractions — athletics.

All eyes were on Penn State’s biggest sport, football, as Joe Paterno was fired and defaced from the campus for his alleged involvement, but the 28 other Division I sports at Happy Valley also felt the ripple effects.

Other than football, one of Penn State’s biggest sports is men’s basketball. At the time, head coach Pat Chambers was holding the clipboard courtside for the Nittany Lions.

When the information director broke the news about the case to Chambers, he was preparing for a big game.



Leah Eder/Collegian file photo

Bob Warming credited Bill O’Brien for creating a sense of camaraderie to Penn State athletics following the aftermath of the Sandusky case.

happened to my children.”

Chambers was born in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, which is just outside of Philadelphia. He also played point guard at the University of Philadelphia and, later, coached as an assistant.

He mentioned that he grew up watching coach Paterno and cheering for Penn State, so when he heard about Paterno’s alleged involvement, he felt betrayed.

“I really looked up to Joe Paterno, and it was challenging,” Chambers said. “What they were claiming in the allegations, it was just really hard to digest.

“It was a really difficult and challenging time.”

It was not just a difficult time for men’s basketball, all sports watched it unfold right before their eyes.

At the time, Bob Warming was the head coach of the men’s soccer team as he watched the case unravel.

“I was just heartsick I think for everybody involved,” Warming said. “You knew that you were watching something on TV transpire that just couldn’t be put back in a bottle, any place, for better or for worse. It was out and things just were not going to be the same.”

Typically, a coach is the first person who players turn to when in need of help. In this case, the players, who were young adults, were dealing with something on a nationwide scale.

It was something they had no control over, but they were a part of the situation because of the Penn State name across their chests.

For the coaches, the best way to deal with the situation was to be open with their players.

“We were always very open

with our team,” Chambers said. “We would talk to our team all the time about the situation, and to really try and get them to understand.”

Players soon realized that this was going to be more than just the game and that it would linger around them for years to come.

Former Penn State men’s basketball Billy Oliver was a junior at the time. Oliver and his teammates knew that the upcoming season would be a whole lot different and there would be a lot of adversity.

“This is something that was going to be over us for the rest of the season,” Oliver said. “We are going to have to deal with it as it comes.”

As being an athlete on campus, the student-athletes had to deal with the media already, but they were used to being asked questions about the game on the court or field — not about something outside of their sport.

Oliver said he feels like the media was tough to deal with, because he and his teammates didn’t have any connection to football — just Penn State.

“Negative news vans were outside the Bryce Jordan Center and were parked along the football stadium,” Oliver said. “We were being chased [inside] every day to practice with media asking for comments and questions on something we knew nothing about.”

Paterno was fired in the middle of the fall sports season, just days away from the basketball team’s first performance of the season against Hartford.

The crowd wasn’t normal, and Chambers thought that even with all of the distractions, that it all would still go away when the ball is thrown up in the air at tipoff.

“I remember it being a very small crowd, and I’m probably being kind,” Chambers said. “When the ball goes up and you get in between the lines players play, and coaches coach, and that’s what we do for 40 minutes.”

Like the coaches, the athletes too tried to use their sport as a distraction from the volcano erupting behind them.

Former women’s soccer player Lexi Marton, who was a junior in 2011, remembers the game vaguely, but she and her teammates were appreciative that they had a sport to take their minds off of things.

“What I do remember was the fact that we had soccer to focus on, which for me at least was a blessing,” Marton told the Collegian. “The other thousands and thousands of Penn State students that were on campus probably could only think about Joe Paterno being fired and the ongoing investigation. For me and for my teammates when we’re on the field, that’s an escape for us. That’s our happy place.”

The happy place wasn’t filled with only rainbows and butterflies, though, because Sandusky’s name followed many student-athletes even on the field.

Oliver couldn’t remember anything directly said to him, but he said he was heckled for just being attached to the Penn State name.

“You can imagine,” Oliver said. “Everything that could have been said was said. Some students can be particularly vicious and there were no holds barred, even with something like this.”

The jokes and the taunts didn’t stop with the game. They followed some all the way back to her home — like Marton in Canada.

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