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‘A DREAM TO COACH’

How Penn Staters Matt and Chris Bahr carved out professional careers in two sports

By **Andrew Destin**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The outcome of an entire game can hinge on one kick.

And while it might seem like a simple act, it’s quite intricate — requiring everything to fall in place or even out of place, hoping the offense stalls and requires a field goal to be made.

With the game on the line, the difference between victory and defeat can rest on the foot of one player.

Former Penn State kicker Matt Bahr’s right shoe won a lot of teams a lot of football games, but his role as a kicker and what factors into his job goes beyond just having a strong leg.

“I am the least important part,” Bahr told The Daily Collegian about a successful kick. “Without the other parts working, my part will never happen. Yet, I’ll get all the credit for success and deservedly the blame for our failure.”

A two-time Super Bowl champion — once with the Pittsburgh Steelers, the other with the New York Giants — Bahr developed his passion for kicking from a young age, but in a different sport.

So too did older brother, Chris, who also won a pair of Super Bowl titles kicking for the then-Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders.

It was their father, Walter, who instilled in them to play many different sports throughout the years of their childhoods, including both football and soccer.

With a dad who served as the captain of the U.S. national team for nearly a decade and played in the 1950 FIFA World Cup when the U.S. famously defeated England 1-0, it’s only natural both Bahr children gravitated toward soccer.

Yet, the Bahr brothers’ shared desire to play multiple sports allowed each to kick for Penn State’s football team while simultaneously playing soccer in the 1970s.



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Matt Bahr poses for a photo during his time at Penn State.



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Former Penn State kicker and soccer player Matt Bahr attempts a kick during a Penn State football game.

Utilizing the now-universal soccer-style kicking technique, both Bahrs took their talents from the pitch to the football field every Saturday at Penn State.

“It’s not a big transition,” Matt Bahr said about the differences in kicking for soccer and football. “It’s mostly similar. Yeah, there’s a couple of things you can do to make things better but that’s just too complicated.”

Matt said keeping the place-kicking process simple was his secret.

His dad was head coach of the men’s soccer program at Penn State for 15 years, including all four years Matt studied at University Park.

With “soccer-style” kicking yet to usurp “straight on” kicking as the dominant technique, Matt and Chris received much of their coaching from their dad.

Kickers previously approached the ball from directly behind rather than at an angle as done in soccer-style kicking. The older technique is limited in its control and power, which are crucial to being a prolific kicker.

Then-running backs and place-kicking coach Fran Ganter said the Nittany Lions changed their practice schedule to permit Matt and Chris to begin placekicking after soccer practice had finished — with Walter helping run the show.

“I basically just stood around with a stopwatch and listened to [Walter] for a couple of years, and he was teaching me as well,” Ganter said about learning how to coach kickers, which he did for the remainder of his 33 years coaching Penn State football. “This guy was unbelievable and I learned so much from him, not only about soccer-style placekicking but just how he handled kids.”

“I learned everything I knew about placekicking from Walter Bahr.”

While Walter was only Chris’s

soccer coach for his senior soccer season, Chris agreed with Matt about their dad’s advice to keep both placekicking and soccer simple.

“He was a guy that knew the game as good as anybody,” Chris said about his dad as a soccer coach. “I knew it was a simple sort of game and he made it so simple from that standpoint, that I had fun playing.”

Both Chris and Matt said soccer was their favorite sport growing up.

Each had brief stints playing professionally in the now-defunct North American Soccer League, with Chris as a midfielder for the Philadelphia Atoms and Matt as a defender for both the Tulsa Roughnecks and Colorado Caribous.

Though Matt was the third-highest paid American in the entire NASL and soccer was his favorite sport as a kid, he made just \$12,000 a year and missed the amateur nature of collegiate soccer.

“I did not necessarily enjoy pro soccer,” Matt, who now works as an engineer based in Pittsburgh, said. “People were playing for a living and it just wasn’t the same kind of joy I got playing college soccer.”

Each brother spent just one year away from football before returning to Penn State for their respective senior seasons.

The strong-legged Bahrs never found the physical aspect of kicking to be difficult, but noted significant differences between the fast-paced nature of a 90-minute soccer match and standing on the sidelines for most of a football game.

“The hard thing about [kicking] was not being active in the game,” Chris, who now works as a financial adviser out of Boalsburg, said. “You basically have no control over the outcome. In soccer, I felt like I had some say in

the outcome. It took me a while to learn to just kick and not be part of the game.”

Chris was drafted in the second round of the 1976 NFL draft by the Cincinnati Bengals, starting a career that lasted until 1989.

Matt went to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the sixth round of the 1979 draft, putting together an NFL career that lasted until 1995.

Before moving onto the professional football ranks, Matt said he prepared himself for the mental aspects of placekicking by practicing “everything like it’s a game” at Penn State’s football practices.

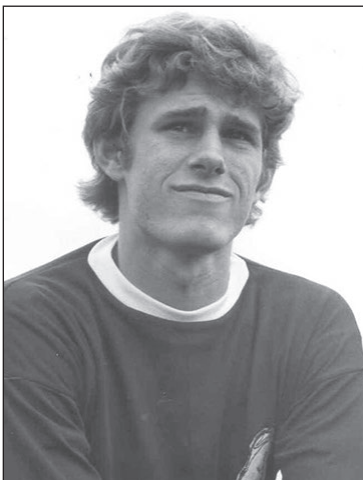
“Practice with your helmet on, and since you’re only getting maybe eight to 10 kicks in a game, don’t practice 50 to 70 field goals in a practice session,” Matt said. “That’s unrealistic. Make the most out of fewer kicks and then you’ll get the game-like attitude of ‘I’ve got to make this one.’”

Once he felt confident with his practice, whether, in football or soccer, Matt said the mental and physical aspects of kicking would work in unison.

“A lot of coaches say ‘put it out of your mind’ for a last-second field goal or penalty kick, or something like that,” Matt said. “I say ‘No, embrace it.’”

The mental toughness both Matt and Chris demonstrated at Penn State come as no surprise to Ganter.

Matt graduated with a degree in electrical engineering while Chris received his Bachelor of Science in biology while also playing two sports at the same time.



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Chris Bahr poses for a photo during his time at Penn State.

Matt and Chris played four years of soccer and three years of football at the collegiate level then went on to play both sports professionally — something that seems improbable these days.

As a result of their sheer athletic prowess coupled with their approach to kicking, Ganter said the duo was among the many football players who made his coaching job “so much fun.”

“They were solid as a rock,” Ganter said. “Just their demeanors and the way they approached the whole thing was so impressive. They’re both so poised. Those guys were awesome. They were just calm, cool, collected, confident. Just a dream to coach, really.”

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Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Former Penn State soccer and football player Chris Bahr kicks the ball during a game for Penn State’s soccer team.

Penn Staters of color share experiences at PWI

By **Madigan Lubold**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Institutions can change and evolve to create new norms regarding race and ethnicity, according to James Franklin, Penn State’s head football coach.

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, Franklin and other Penn State community members of color hosted a discussion about race in the university’s second installment of the roundtable series, “Toward Racial Equity at Penn State: Social Difference, Social Equity and Social Change.”

Participants in Tuesday night’s event, “What will be the New Normal?” discussed the hardships and obstacles people of color face every day at Penn State.

“Racism exists at Penn State,” Jennifer Hamer, a professor in the department of African American studies, said. “[Racism] guides our decisions about where to safely live, shop for groceries, go to the theater, dine out and what neighborhoods are safest for us to jog in, to ride our bike or walk our dog.”

Hamer said racism at Penn State is “historical and persistent,” and that there is no “We Are” when the emotional and physical safety of ethnic minorities is undervalued.

One of Carlos Norman’s biggest struggles in coming to Penn State was having to bear the costs of the university and trying to find an inclusive community.

“You often hear percentages about how many Black people there are, but really quantifying that, 3,000 Black people versus over 30,000 white people, it can be a culture shock,” Norman (senior-industrial engineering) said. “Being a first-generation college student, I was doubting my own intelligence.”

Norman said he worked two jobs every semester during his time in college while trying to make his family proud.

Nyla Holland, the president of University Park’s Black Caucus, said she felt pressured to overcompensate in a classroom setting.

“I remember having a fear of being representative of my entire

race,” Holland (senior-political science and African American studies) said. “So I got to every class 15 minutes early. I did all my reading so I could participate. I felt a need to combat every false and negative stereotype about Black people and Black students, so I over-prepared to make up for that.”

Holland said she also faced racism outside of the classroom setting.

During her first weekend attending Penn State, she said was walking with a group of Black students in downtown State College when a car packed with white students in a Jeep yelled, “You all look like monkeys at a zoo.”

“I didn’t share [the experience] with many people,” Holland said. “But I was able to debrief and unpack that with the group while we were combating racism.”

Holland said she formed a group of people who she trusted and relied on during a time of uncertainty.

Carmen Hernandez, a Penn State Berks student, said she wishes people at Penn State

would stop laughing at her accent.

“We are working very hard, and we put ourselves in a really tough situation to overcome that phobia of speaking out loud because we do know that we have an accent,” Hernandez (senior-communication arts and sciences) said.

Hernandez said an unknown individual once approached her on campus and asked to see her student identification card. She advised other students to “say, ‘I belong here’ because I worked hard to be here,” if they find themselves in a similar situation.

Norman said it can be hard to feel situated at Penn State for some minority students, but when things do get hard, it’s important to remain optimistic.

“When you feel these experiences, and you feel like you want to give up, remember why you’re here,” Norman said. “And remember that sunshine always comes after rainstorms.”

Hamer asked that everyone leave the event with the willing-

ness to change Penn State.

“Penn State cannot return to the old normal,” Hamer said.

Brandon Short, a member of the Penn State’s Board of Trustees, said the event welcomed a “new normal” in which students will engage in a dialogue.

“I am Trayvon Martin, I am George Floyd, I am Jacob Blake,” Short said.

“Generations before us have fought for social justice. Now it’s time for us to pick up the baton and carry on that fight.”

Holland said she wants to carry on the fight and feel comfortable at an institution where success isn’t measured by race.

“I want a campus climate that doesn’t have to put up signs or slogans to market itself as inclusive,” Holland said.

“I want a Penn State where our differences are celebrated, but that aren’t determinants of how far I get or how comfortable I feel in a space. That’s the normal I want to be in.”

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Volunteers bring Arboretum to life

By **Conner Goetz**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After a several month long hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Arboretum at Penn State has resumed its weekly volunteer gardening sessions.

Kelly Oleynik, the Arboretum’s volunteer coordinator and a development assistant, said staff members were receiving emails asking when volunteers could return to work in the garden.

Oleynik said she had been working to assess the best time to bring volunteers back.

“Now, it’s a standard volunteer session 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday and Thursday,” she said. “It works out really well for our crew.”

Oleynik’s crew, a regular group of seven to eight retirees, is the “crème de la crème” of volunteers, she said.

Members come in to rake leaves, water plants and maintain the garden.

In order to keep everyone safe amid the pandemic, all attendees are now required to wear masks, and the arsenal of hoes, trowels and shovels are also sanitized regularly.

Before any volunteers are allowed to work in the garden, they must complete an online risk acknowledgment form and an application to determine their ideal job placement and hourly availability.

Beyond that, Oleynik looks for people who “can really enjoy the space, that this is something they want to invest their time and energy [in].”

The Arboretum currently employs eight full-time, and one part-time, employees, which is why “volunteers are so critical” to maintaining the garden, according to Oleynik.

Oleynik also depends on



Josie Chen/Collégian

Richard DiMarcello of State College trims the hanging branches off the trees at The Arboretum at Penn State on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

employees from Penn State’s Office of the Physical Plant for larger projects, such as groundskeeping and mulching.

According to Oleynik, Kim Fanucci is very involved in the day-to-day garden management.

Fanucci, a horticulture technician for OPP, helps to run the volunteer program in addition to her other groundskeeping duties.

“Since November, this is where I’ve been, and I’m very happy to be here,” Fanucci said.

During the volunteer sessions, Fanucci said she takes care of the grounds and helps others

to get situated.

One of the most important aspects of maintaining the garden is preparing for different seasonal changes, Fanucci said. Currently, the Arboretum is preparing for fall.

“We planted fall décor, and today we worked on the [large planters scattered around the grounds],” Fanucci said.

Ralphine Gentzler is a regular volunteer at the weekly sessions, and said she has worked in the garden for several seasons.

When Gentzler, 81, of State College retired five years ago, she began her adventure in volunteering by planting wildflowers in Hartley Wood behind the Arboretum with her husband, Gary.

“I saw they needed volunteers to work in the main garden, so we’re here Tuesday to Thursday, nine to noon, that’s year round,” Gentzler said. “We do anything, we plant, I love it.”

Gentzler said she was originally inspired to get involved at the Arboretum because she doesn’t have a place to garden where she lives, and she wanted to get back into the practice.

“It’s something for everybody to do here, even if you have limited knowledge of gardening they show you what to do,” Gentzler said.

Interested individuals may get involved with the Arboretum’s efforts via its website.

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Josie Chen/Collégian

Steve Schroedel of State College pots new plants into a vase at The Arboretum at Penn State on Tuesday, Sept. 8.



Josie Chen/Collégian

Ralphine Gentzler of State College trims the stems of newly potted plants at The Arboretum at Penn State on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Coalition of Graduate Employees demands university move classes online

By **Madigan Lubold**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As schools across the country close due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Coalition of Graduate Employees thinks Penn State should, too.

CGE called Penn State’s decision to bring students back to campus “reckless,” and organized a “Day of Action” on Labor Day to make graduate employees’ voices heard.

The day of action consisted of signing petitions and calling administrators to protest Penn State’s decision to continue in-person instruction amid the pandemic.

CGE wants Penn State to meet five of its demands to achieve “COVID justice,” according to CGE member Bailey Campbell.

Campbell (graduate-electrical engineering) said CGE wants Penn State to give graduate students and faculty members a say in the decision making process regarding the status of the semester.

Additionally, Campbell said CGE wants Penn State to pay for all coronavirus-related expenses, including testing; provide compensation at pre-coronavirus levels for faculty and staff members; give international students protection, both ensuring their enrollment status and their financial aid packages; and provide students and faculty adequate computer access to complete courses online.

Campbell said graduate students had no say in the decision making process of Penn State determining whether to have faculty and students return to campus this fall, which she thinks is “ridiculous.” University spokesperson Lisa Powers said via email Penn State has addressed demands the CGE has made.

Powers said the university has provided resources to both students and faculty for

remote instruction, and has communicated its potential plans with CGE of pivoting to only virtual teaching, if necessary.

Penn State also regularly connects with student leadership representatives and university recognized organizations during the decision making process, and has outlined resources for international graduate students with visa and enrollment concerns, Powers said.

The university’s decision to close or stay open will decide on a range of criteria, Powers said.

“[This is dependent on] the level of COVID-19 disease prevalence on any given campus, trend lines in case numbers, the number of hospitalizations, isolation and local hospital capacities, different types of course instruction and whether students would be required to vacate residence halls,” Powers said.

“The University is working to take into account these and other critical public health factors as well as other elements of well-being and needs expressed by faculty, staff and students.”

Campbell said the choice to hold the protest on Labor Day — a federal holiday to tribute workers’ contributions to the country — was deliberate.

Campbell said graduate employees do not have the day off, as instruction continues to take place, but many administrators took the day off. Nonetheless, Campbell said it didn’t affect the protest much.

“Making us work on Labor Day while administrators take the day off is a slap in the face for employees,” Campbell said. “It shows the level of contempt the university has for all the workers.”

Campbell said Penn State doesn’t operate without its staff and graduate students. Therefore, CGE used this day of action to remind Penn State how graduate employees “deserve to be treated.”



Collégian Creative

According to Powers, CGE encouraged a “ZAP attack” by using its social channels to try to disrupt university operations, including its COVID-19 Operations Control Center.

“We do not know who, exactly, initiated those electronic attacks,” Powers said. “Such attacks are potentially harmful to public health and could be illegal, and will be investigated by University police. We are dismayed that anyone would try to disrupt the University’s public health efforts.”

According to Campbell, Penn State continues to blame students for the influx of positive coronavirus cases. However, she said the university is responsible.

“Penn State created a petri dish of COVID by bringing everyone back to campus,” Campbell said, adding it was a “dangerous” decision.

Similarly, Jess Rafalko, a communication coordinator for the CGE, said the decision to bring members of the Penn State community back to campus was “irresponsible” for the entire State College community.

“I do not blame the

students or workers,” Rafalko (graduate-English) said. “I blame the university for making that reckless decision for clearly financial reasons.”

Rafalko said Penn State is “showing a lack of compassionate leadership” by seemingly basing its decisions on financial desires.

If Penn State needs more financial support, Rafalko said it should lobby the state and federal government, not take money from students and families.

According to Powers, students across campus have responded positively to the decision Penn State made to return to on-campus learning experiences.

Additionally, the university provided flexible options to meet student and family learning cost needs, Powers said.

However, the CGE continued with the choice to protest that decision for many reasons.

Katie Warczak, a member of the press committee for CGE, said Penn State can only justify charging full tuition if students are on campus.

“Penn State’s reasoning may

be more altruistic than what I perceive, but if they are open to provide a sense of normalcy or a ‘college experience,’ it’s a noble but negligible goal,” Warczak (graduate-English and African studies) said.

“Penn State is focused on the bottom line rather than the health of students, faculty staff and community members. They’re on the wrong path.”

The protest aimed to elevate community members’ voices, as they are also impacted by Penn State’s decisions, Rafalko said.

The protest received much engagement with at least 69 volunteers, according to Campbell.

Warczak pointed out the State College Area School District recently moved to online instruction, which helps CGE’s case.

“There needs to be a safe way to continue learning without risking the health of students, faculty and community members,” Warczak said.

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What do Title IX changes mean for Penn Staters?

By Lilly Riddle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On May 6, the United States Department of Education released new guidelines for addressing campus sexual assault at colleges and universities across the country.

The regulations went into effect Aug. 14 and impact all institutions that receive federal funding, including Penn State.

But many higher education associations said the three-month span wasn't enough time to sort through and implement the guidelines set forth in the 2,000-page document.

On June 10, the American Council on Education sent a letter to Betsy DeVos, the secretary of education, asking for a delay of the Aug. 14 deadline.

But other organizations are attacking the regulations on the basis of the policies themselves.

Just eight days after the policies were announced, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of sexual assault survivor advocacy groups — including Know Your IX and Girls for Gender Equity — to prevent the provisions from being implemented.

Despite actions taken to block the new guidelines, changes were still made to Penn State's policies.

Penn State announced the key provisions to the university community on Aug. 24 in an email explaining the major alterations.

"Many of these provisions have already been in place at Penn State for several years, so certain components within our existing procedures have not changed," the email read. "...We remain committed to the safety and well-being of our students and employees."

According to Chris Harris, the Title IX coordinator for Penn State's Affirmative Action Office, an "interdisciplinary" team of about 40 people — including legal counsels, Office of Student Affairs workers and Affirmative Action Office members — collaborated to comb through the extensive documents.

One of the new regulations' key provisions changes the way investigations into alleged sexual misconduct are carried out.

Previously, a single university investigator from the school's Title IX office would gather facts before determining whether actions against the accused party should be taken, and what those sanctions would be.

Now, however, colleges and universities are required to allow live hearings and cross-examinations, which can be carried out by each party's adviser. The adviser can be a university administrator, a family member or an appointed attorney.

Given testimonies can then be used as evidence.

Although hearings have been a part of Penn State's process for addressing sexual misconduct in the past, the addition of live cross-examinations is new.

Now, hearings will occur before a three-person panel of trained members from the university's Title IX Hearing Board. A legal counsel will also be appointed to the case to serve as a resource for the panel, addressing questions or explaining procedural intricacies.

Many groups, including the National Women's Law Center in Massachusetts, have criticized this new rule, stating in a lawsuit against the DOE that it "disproportionately and inappropriately burdens potential complainants... such that the cumulative impact of the Final Rule will be a chilling effect on future complaints of sex-based harassment, in an environment where such harassment is already dramatically underreported."

In terms of a potential chilling effect the new provision may have on the number of cases brought forward, Harris thinks it's something many schools, including Penn State, are "wrestling with."

"I'm very concerned about folks saying, 'You know what, I'm not even gonna report or talk to anybody from the university,'" Harris said. "And I don't want to see that happen."

On May 15, the University Park Undergraduate Association released a statement on its Instagram account addressing the changes and urging the DOE to revisit the regulations, saying the new guidelines "fail to address the needs of Penn State students."

Harris added, however, the



Noah Riffe/Collegian

The Student Affairs office located in room 222 inside of the Boucke Building on Monday, Aug. 24.

regulations afford Penn State "a lot of discretion" when it comes to formal resolutions, which could allow parties to avoid a live hearing in some cases.

Dara Purvis, a professor of law at Penn State whose work concerns the relationship between gender and the law, agreed that the live hearings could create a criminal trial-like environment in which people feel uncomfortable coming forward about their experiences with sexual misconduct.

"We know that someone testifying to people, talking about their sexual assault, can be traumatic," Purvis said. "We know that cross-examination can magnify that trauma."

Purvis said she doesn't see how the quality of the live hearings — which will be held via Zoom — as well as "every step in the process" of addressing a complaint, won't be negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're just losing so many points of contact between students and administrators and professors and people they might reach out to," Purvis said. "I think the pandemic is going to magnify the phenomenon of underreporting just because it's harder to check in on students."

Two more changes to the policies alter what falls under Title IX jurisdiction.

For one, colleges are no longer required to address allegations of misconduct that occur outside of the U.S. or off university property, such as allegations made during study abroad programs or in off-campus apartments.

Harris said Penn State plans to handle such cases through student code of conduct procedures.

Secondly, the new policies redefine what constitutes enforceable harassment, narrowing the definition to "any unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal educational access."

Reports of stalking, dating or domestic violence do not need to meet this standard.

According to Harris, these cases would still be addressed using student code of conduct rules or other university policies if they don't fall under the new definition.

Another one of the regulations' alterations allows Title IX officials at any given school to use either a "preponderance of the evidence" standard — which requires something to more likely than not be true — or a "clear and convincing" standard — which requires a higher burden of proof.

The Aug. 24 release said the "preponderance of evidence" standard will continue to be used at Penn State.

Ultimately, Purvis worries the new guidelines excessively shift the focus of sexual misconduct cases from the respondents — those responding to allegations of misconduct — to the accusers, which can exacerbate existing problems of underreporting.

"I think the overwhelming data shows that this is a big problem, and we are not doing enough to help people who have experienced sexual assault," Purvis said.

According to Purvis, preventative measures and resources — such as educating students on consent — are also needed to supplement investigative procedures.

"I don't think American society has a particularly healthy way of talking about sex and what consent means and why it's important," Purvis said.

"This is a way bigger problem than colleges, and certainly one university or all of the universities in the country can't by themselves change the way we learn about consent, so we're always going to need these kind of processes... but I think all of us should be trying to both prevent [sexual misconduct] and take action after the fact."

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School of Theatre creates virtual fundraiser ‘The Living Room Project’

By Maddie Turner
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Typically, Penn State Centre Stage hosts an annual fundraiser including School of Theatre alumni who return to State College.

However, this year's fundraiser was canceled due to the spread of the coronavirus. In its place, a virtual event was born: "The Living Room Project."

According to a press release, the premise for the new fundraiser was to show how some students have coped during the pandemic.

There were two episodes in the series, one in June and one in August. Both episodes featured performances from alumni.

Episode one can be viewed here and episode two can be viewed here.

The Living Room Project directly benefits the School of Theatre Future Fund. The fund "offers financial assistance to help offset the needs of students in the School of Theatre who are adversely impacted and in need of emergency assistance," according to a Penn State news release.

The show was hosted by Rick Lombardo, the director of the School of Theatre and artistic director of Penn State Centre Stage.

Lombardo said the idea for the show was created by two School of Theatre alumni, Rob Schnieder and Wes Drummond.

"We began talking about shifting to a virtual fundraiser, and the idea emerged with just about all of our alumni in live entertainment in lockdown, along with our current students," Lombardo said. "Perhaps we could start a series exploring how they were coping in this new reality, connect alumni with current students and create opportunities to share living room performances."

Another School of Theatre alumna, Allison Lee was a producer for the second episode of the series.

"We knew with the economy slowly tanking that students were going to find themselves in uniquely difficult financial situations, so we felt we could find a way to contribute," Lee said.

There are currently not any future episodes in production, according to Lee.

Moreover, Lombardo said the first

episode of the series was about social justice issues and the Black Lives Matter movement.

"We also have worked to address what was happening in Minneapolis at the time just a week before we aired," Lee said.

"The death of George Floyd embroiled the entire nation in this conversation of social justice and racial equity, so we attempted to address that through discussion and asking some questions."

Soon after the first episode aired, Lee started to create the second episode of the series.

According to Lee, the second episode included mostly alumni, but had one student participant. Lee said it was "important" to include a student participant since the fundraiser is benefiting students.

Lee said many alumni are still being creative and learning new skills during the spread of the coronavirus, which is why the School of Theatre wanted to highlight these artists in the series.

Ellie Milewski, another School of Theatre alumna, was included as one of the performers involved in the project.

Milewski, who graduated in May 2020, had a conversation with Ed Bairlen, a class of 1967 graduate, for the project.

In their conversation, they discussed the conditions of their graduations. Milewski graduated during a global pandemic while Bairlen graduated during the Vietnam War.

Milewski said she enjoyed the opportunity to speak with Bairlen. They noted the differences and similarities between their times of graduation as well as the continuous social injustices in the United States over the years.

"I think we really need to listen to each other and focus on what's most important... like human life, racial equality, exercising our right to vote, empathy, human decency..." Milewski said.

"Connection and listening to each other is so important right now, and the Living Room Project is a platform that is promoting that, while raising money for students."

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PSU: Don't send students home

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, Dr. Anthony Fauci advised universities on national television that they should not send students home amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Penn State should heed the advice given by the long-standing director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases — despite the fact that some Penn State community members are urging the university to send everyone home as coronavirus cases on campus rise.

Fauci said on NBC's "Today Show" that sending university students home is "the worst thing you could do." He supported his claim by saying many universities host students from different areas, and sending these students home could subsequently lead to the spread of the coronavirus to outside communities.

As we head into the

OUR VIEW

Dr. Anthony Fauci's warning should be taken seriously by the university

third week of the semester, Penn State has reported 211 coronavirus cases at University Park. Although there is a risk that campus will become a petri dish for the virus if students stay here, it's better to have students remain.

Many Penn State students live or interact with people at home who are more at-risk for the virus or are immunocompromised. Students' return home could lead to tragedy.

Surely off-campus students could choose to remain in State College in the event of a campus closure. However, on-campus students would have little to no choice whether they remain on campus or return home. It would not be fair to

make these students go home and potentially infect their close ones.

Instead, Penn State should utilize its resources like Fauci advised and allow students to isolate and quarantine on campus. Doing the opposite could negatively impact countless communities across the nation.

Clearly the decision to keep students here would harm the State College community. However, the initial decision to bring students back to campus has already put the State College community in harm's way.

Sadly, the university is now put in a position of deciding whether it would rather hurt one community or many.

It is unfortunate that Fauci didn't make his

recent remarks sooner, as many universities have already sent their students home amid spikes in on-campus coronavirus cases.

Universities like the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have resorted to remote instruction again and other universities, like the University of Pittsburgh, decided to delay in-person course instruction after some students broke coronavirus guidelines.

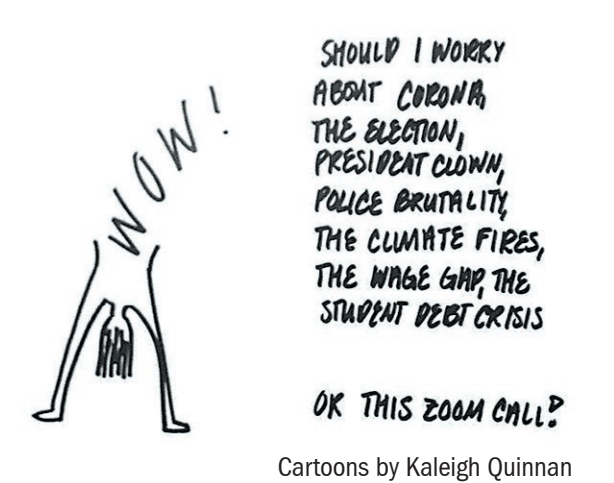
As of right now, Penn State's case numbers can be contained with its facilities and resources, but it is tough to tell what will happen if cases continue to rise. On-campus isolation and quarantine locations could eventually fill up.

If students could test negative before being sent home, that would be the most ideal situation for dismissal. At the same time, it is a lot to suddenly ask thousands of students to pack up their things and travel back home amid a global pandemic.

It's also a lot to ask families to again rearrange their lives so students can live at home, especially when families had expected their students to live on campus or in State College until Thanksgiving.

And testing negative before being sent home isn't a fool proof plan — a student could test negative the day before traveling home and contract the virus right before leaving, or contract it through a method of transportation while leaving.

At this point, there is no safe and foolproof plan to send students home — and there may never be.



Cartoons by Kaleigh Quinnan

MY VIEW | Braden Dyreson

Penn State is trying to clone me

Editor's note: This is a satirical column. Penn State is not trying to clone you.

Penn State has begun to randomly test students for the coronavirus in an effort to mitigate the virus' spread on-campus and in the community. When I took my test, I had to spit into a tube for 20 minutes.

The testing lab would probably need about 20 minutes worth of spit. It was so much saliva it moved past being gross and just became difficult.

I felt like I did not have to workout that day after all the energy I exerted spitting into the tube.

Every day, many students are receiving the exact same tests and spitting gallons into tubes in order to get tested. These tubes of our DNA are presumably being sent to a lab in order to be tested, but that is all they are doing with them.

What if the university wants our DNA for another, more nefarious reason?

I think Penn State University is trying to clone its students.

It's the only logical conclusion — what else are they doing with all of that DNA? Disposing of it in a responsible way that adheres to the biomedical

standards and regulations? I don't think so.

Let's lay out the facts for the case.

We know the Penn State administration is secretly a bunch of lizard people. We know, because of the documentary Jurassic Park, that they have the ability to clone.

Using this factual evidence, what rational person would say they aren't trying to clone us?

Now your mind is probably buzzing with questions and thoughts like, "Why are they trying to clone us?" and "Is Jurassic Park a documentary?" and "I thought this was a news publication, what am I reading?"

There are many potential answers to the question "Why are they trying to clone us?"

Maybe they are pumping our clones full of steroids and training them from birth to become superior athletes.

In 20 years, the football team will look like bulkier versions of us.

It seems only logical that the university would use my clone as the starting quarterback.

On the other hand they could be building an "Alumni Park" up by the Intramural Fields where alumni and donors can walk



Graphic by Jessica Cook, photo by Josie Chen/Collegian

around a replica of campus and have our cloned versions shout, "We Are," at them.

They could also be building an army that can fight Ohio State's army of battle droids in some sort of "clone war."

The fighting would spread from our flat earth to other flat discs across the galaxy resulting in a "star war"

However, they are most likely cloning us so they can charge both ourselves and our clones tuition for this semester.

Maybe tuition will literally cost "an arm and a leg" for your clone with the university selling their limbs on the black market.

In conclusion, the university is trying to clone us. That is a fact.

The lizard people are everywhere. The Nittany Lion is secretly just a person in a suit. "LionCash plus" is a lie (what about "LionCash negative?" That is what shows up on my screen whenever I swipe the card).

We are...clones. Wake up sheeple.

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Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include graduation year. All writers should provide their address and phone number for

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Penn State focused despite no season

By Madeline Lapreziosa
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When the Big Ten announced it had postponed its season, the news hardly fazed coach Char

FIELD HOCKEY

Morett-Curtiss and Penn State field hockey. When the coronavirus pandemic abruptly ended the team's spring season and sent students home in March, Morett-Curtiss made sure to keep her players connected despite the distance.

"Right away, we made efforts to stay connected through Zoom meetings and did a really good job of putting the players into smaller groups," Morett-Curtiss said.

Morett-Curtiss additionally set up Zoom meetings with alumni of the program, to help her current players stay connected.

Much of the team returned to University Park in July and have since been in a preparation phase.

"Our players have had an amazing attitude," Morett-Curtiss said.

"Every day they've come out to train has been 100% effort. Their energy, their connectivity, their coachability, the fitness they brought to the field in August, it's just been outstanding," she added.

Morett-Curtiss, who enters her 34th season at the helm of Penn State, used her experience as a former Olympian to advise her team dur-



Noah Riffe/Colegian

Penn State field hockey huddle before Penn State's match against Ohio State on Friday, Oct. 25, 2019 at the Penn State Field Hockey Complex.

ing these unprecedented circumstances.

She was part of the United States team that boycotted the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, which placed her in a similar situation to what Penn State faces now — unable to play through no fault of her own.

"I never felt that I had skipped a beat in my goals and my passion to be an Olympic athlete and represent the U.S. team and I think that's exactly how these players feel now," Morett-Curtiss said. "We have this great opportunity right now to spend time

without a little bit of the stress and pressure."

In order to keep her team motivated and ready to play, Morett-Curtiss detailed her plan to soon organize weekly intrasquad games, which will be played in four quarters with the potential for overtime.

"These players love the sport of field hockey. I think they missed it throughout the spring," Morett-Curtiss said.

"While we aren't one of the conferences that are gonna be competing against other collegiate teams in the fall, we're really gonna replicate as much of

the competition as we can."

These games should provide the opportunity for Morett-Curtiss and her players to hone their game and focus on improvements for the upcoming season.

"We really want to improve our transition game; we're also asking for our players to show a lot of versatility between positions," she said.

For the time being, Morett-Curtiss is focused on maintaining the team's fitness level, which could prove to be a key factor in the future.

"I'm a fitness freak and I always want my team to be the

fittest team on the field," she said.

Morett-Curtiss also explained that the opportunities to learn and grow are still plentiful even though no games are on the immediate horizon.

"They're not as afraid to make mistakes, and you want them to make mistakes because they'll learn from those mistakes on the field," Morett-Curtiss said. "I think they just feel more confident in how they're practicing. They're not really holding back and I think it's given us more of a learning platform in a way that they can absorb it a little bit more confidently."

Senior forward Bree Bednarski described her and the team's mindset throughout the fall as they prepare for a potential spring season.

"We're goal-focused, we're set, we're locked in, we're ready to go," Bednarski said. "We want to train hard and want to get better, and we're gonna prove that when the time comes."

In spite of the unusual situation they find themselves in, the Nittany Lions don't plan on losing any ground toward their goals for the upcoming season.

"With field hockey, you stay motivated because we're still gonna have a season whether it's in the spring or next fall," Bednarski said. "It's just more time right now for us to get even better than we're at the moment."

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Matt Rourke/AP

MY VIEW | BEN FERREE

Trump lacks awareness of social climate in sports

On Sept. 22, 2017, President Donald Trump took the stage at a campaign rally in Huntsville,

Alabama, and attacked NFL players who knelt during the national anthem.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say,

"Get that son of a b--- off the field right now," the 45th president of the United States said. "Out. He's fired! He's fired!"

Nearly three years later, on Sept. 1, Trump put the "highly political NBA" on blast in a tweet following players boycotting games last week in response to the shooting of Jacob Blake by police.

"Basketball ratings are WAY down, and they won't be coming back," Trump said in a tweet. "I hope football and baseball are watching and learning because the same thing will be happening to them. Stand tall for our Country and our Flag!!!"

Other professional sports leagues across the country are leading the charge in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Trump, however, has continued to largely ignore any systemic issues of racism against Black people in this country and is quick to side with the "stick to sports" argument.

He himself said he won't watch sports where players kneel for the national anthem.

However, Trump has been quick to inject politics in sports when it favors him, most recently with the Big Ten not playing college football this fall.

Since Aug. 28, Trump has

tweeted five times about wanting Big Ten football to return.

In this same time, Trump also tweeted about the coronavirus pandemic five times.

And while tweets don't necessarily correlate to importance of an issue, isn't it concerning that Trump tweeted the same amount of times about Big Ten football and a pandemic that has now infected over 6.2 million Americans and killed over 188,000?

Trump is using the Big Ten not playing football as a campaign tool, hoping to swing votes as ultimately everyone wants football to return.

As the November presidential election moves closer, nearly half the schools in the conference are in "swing states."

Is it a coincidence that Trump hasn't tweeted about the Pac-12 or SEC once?

Trump's most recent tweet about the Big Ten wasn't even attempting to hide the political message.

Trump is very good at campaigning — that's not a secret.

Playing the Big Ten card, on the surface, seems like an easy shot to appeal to crucial voters in Big Ten states.

However, these tweets show a lack of awareness of what is really happening in this country.

First of all, everyone would be playing football if the coronavirus pandemic was handled better and if real leadership was shown at a national level.

But the biggest and most tragic issue with these tweets is the fact that the president is ignoring a movement against social injustice — a movement in which athletes are playing a big role.

Athletes like never before are

making their voices heard.

Black Lives Matter appears on the NBA courts in Orlando and the NCAA is allowing players to wear social justice messages on uniforms.

At Penn State, athletes are also making it a point to be vocal.

Senior defensive back Lamont Wade has continued to speak out for what he believes in and spoke at a protest earlier this summer. Junior offensive lineman CJ Thorpe gave a passionate speech at a Black Lives Matter protest in State College in June, as did former men's basketball standout Lamar Stevens.

Trump needs to open his eyes.

There are bigger movements and issues going on in sports than whether the Big Ten should play this fall.

Athletes are humans first and foremost. Humans who are tired of seeing racial injustice on a daily basis in this country.

But instead of noticing this and starting a dialogue, Trump tweets "Play College Football!"

Athletes have been making it clear these issues of systemic racism are more important to them than playing a game.

So no, LeBron, nor any athlete should "shut up and dribble."

The sports world has truly come a long way from Michael Jordan's "Republican's buy sneakers too," statement.

This change is rightfully only going to grow stronger, and unfortunately, America's president could care less about what is going on in this country unless it is to his benefit.

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MY VIEW | MAX JORDAN

Use caution when idolizing athletes

Professional athletes are regular people.

They have to wait at the DMV, go grocery shopping and pay taxes like everyone else.

While they earn more money than the average American,

what really sets them apart from the masses is the fame that gives them a louder voice — particularly through social media — to convey their thoughts and beliefs.

But the voices of athletes should not be viewed as any more or less important. We must look critically at the messages being spread and not just assume a level of truth or importance simply because they come from those we otherwise admire.

There have been two instances in the past week-and-a-half that highlight why it is important for people, especially children, to view these messages critically and think about whether a favorite player is someone to be admired for who they are as a person, or strictly for their athletic prowess.

Last week, San Jose Sharks forward Logan Couture tweeted a statement accusing a man of assaulting him for simply mentioning Donald Trump by name in Toronto. While he did not explicitly state his endorsement of Trump, he is not an American citizen and cannot vote regardless.

The following day, former Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher shared a post comparing a game Brett Favre played after he lost his dad to NBA players deciding to boycott the games for a few nights because a Black man was killed by American police officers.

Regardless of Urlacher's political beliefs, this was extremely tone-deaf and disregarded the state of America in the year 2020.

With people's outspokenness toward police and those in support of police trying to fight back — especially over the last several months — this one should have "stayed in the drafts."

These two examples should not come as a surprise.

People in major sports

leagues come together to compete from all over the world. It absolutely makes sense that not everyone is going to share the same political opinions as others.

That being said, it's time to understand that people can be good at sports while not being good people.

ESPN's 10-part documentary *The Last Dance* aired this summer profiling the career of Michael Jordan. For years people have debated whether Jordan or LeBron James is the best player in NBA history, but it would be hard to make a case that James isn't the better human.

Jordan largely kept to himself in his heyday, and despite tremendous opportunities to use his fame and fortune to further civil rights and speak out in favor of the Black community, he never took full advantage of those opportunities.

In the 1990 North Carolina U.S. Senate race, he refused to endorse Democratic challenger Harvey Gantt over incumbent and extremely conservative Republican Jesse Helms after Jordan famously said "Republicans buy sneakers, too."

While Jordan is certainly under no obligation to endorse anyone, James has been a major advocate for the Black Lives Matter movement and has even opened the "I Promise School" in Akron, Ohio, aimed at at-risk children. He has not shied away from using his fame for good.

Now ask yourself which athlete you would rather have your children look up to as a person.

It's hard, even for adults, to separate an athlete from their personality.

We grow so invested in the athletes on our favorite teams and we want them to succeed so badly — but sometimes we have to remember that some people just aren't good people.

At Penn State, I have seen nothing but great things said from players and coaches on all teams. Coaches like James Franklin, Carolyn Kieger and Guy Gadowsky have all openly discussed their unwavering support for the BLM movement.

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

Game day, minus the game

On what would have been Penn State’s first game day of the 2020 fall season, Beaver Stadium, the surrounding fields and Penn State’s campus are void of the usual throngs of fans on Saturday, Sept. 5 due to the Big Ten’s decision to cancel the fall 2020 football season because of concerns over COVID-19. Penn State would have faced off against Northwestern Saturday.



Students walk by Beaver Stadium in Penn State football jerseys on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Elyssa Zucker (freshman-communications), Anna Vig (freshman-biobehavioral health) and Breanna Miller (freshman-political science) take photos in front of Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Smokey Kishbach, Theresa Maher, Tim Kishbach, Jamey Perry and Mike Maher, all of State College, host a tailgate by themselves at their usual spot by Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Pedestrians walk past an empty Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Justin Tressler, of Harrisburg, holds his one-year-old son Jaxon up to the Nittany Lion Shrine on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Beaver Stadium sits empty on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Students wear jerseys while walking past Beaver Stadium for a photo-shoot on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Parking spaces sit empty in front of Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 5.



Jamey Perry, Mike Maher, Tim Kishbach, Theresa Maher and Smokey Kishbach, all of State College, host a tailgate by themselves at their usual spot by Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 5.