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Photo by Max Petrosky / Collegian file photo

DEVELOPING
A DYNASTY*How one team title laid the foundation for Penn State wrestling's next 10 years*By Jake Aferiat
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Every dynasty's got to start somewhere, right?

Whether it's hiring a new coach, notching a signature win, tapping into existing talent or acquiring new talent, every successful program needs a spark.

Sometimes, it takes just one of those elements. Other times, it requires the confluence of them.

Here's the problem with identifying dynasties, though.

It often can't be done contemporarily, and often needs the benefit of hindsight.

Unless of course, you wrestled for Cael Sanderson during the start of his tenure at Penn State over a decade ago.

If you were on those teams, in the trenches everyday with some of the program's greats, then you knew — or at least had an inkling — that greatness was on the cusp.

Sanderson arrived in State College ahead of the 2009-10 season and quickly improved the team's performance at both the Big Ten and NCAA Tournaments.

Then, in just his second year at the helm, he took Penn State to new heights.

Ten years ago this week, on March 6, 2011, Penn State won the 2011 Big Ten Tournament, the first of 14 conference or NCAA titles Sanderson's won since coming to Happy Valley.

March 6 happens to be this Saturday, marking another first for Sanderson, as Penn State will host the Big Ten Tournament for the first time in Sanderson's tenure — a fitting homage to the milestone anniversary that put Penn State on the map.

It might seem like a meteoric

rise — perhaps unreasonably so — to go from fifth in the conference and ninth in the country in Sanderson's first year to winning both titles by his second year.

But to the wrestlers on those teams, it meant two things — Penn State got a good return on its investment in hiring Sanderson, and it was proof what he was doing

“Nothing is more valuable than actual real experience and actually showing up to the tournament and winning,” former Penn State NCAA champion Frank Molinaro told The Daily Collegian. “The first time, you try to put yourself in a position to win and hope for the best. The second time, you start thinking you might be able to win, and then you win the third or fourth one and now it's a pattern.”

Molinaro won his first of two Big Ten titles in 2011 and was one of five Penn Staters to win an individual conference title that year as well.

The Nittany Lions won the team race over Iowa by just a point that year thanks to key wins by James Vollrath in the consolation rounds at 157 pounds and Cameron Wade in the fifth-place bout at heavyweight.

“Everything that needed to go right went right, and then some,” Molinaro said.

Wade, Molinaro and others are quick to deflect any personal credit and instead noted how much of a team effort winning the title was.

“It was just an all-around great team win, and after the tournament and it just really showed the camaraderie we had as a team,” Wade told the Collegian. “I think for us to be able to pull through

and have each other's back every second of the tournament, every second of every day, and every second of the season and year, it just proved our tenacity.”

As much of a team effort as it was, two-time Big Ten and two-time NCAA champion Quentin Wright once again pointed to that proof of concept and validation that came from winning that first title.

Before Sanderson arrived, Penn State was led by three-time All-American alumnus Troy Sunderland, who went 115-90-2 and coached 25 All-Americans and three NCAA champions.

To wrestle for Sunderland and Penn State was one thing.

But as Wright recalled, to wrestle for Sanderson took things up a notch.

“It was amazing for everyone, because the people who survived the transition, they were validated for never quitting,” Wright told the Collegian. “That transition with Cael, Casey and Cody, they made it so miserable when it comes to just how hard things were that the only reason you were on the team is because you absolutely loved wrestling.”

Wright was the fifth of five Big Ten title winners that year.

Even though the team race didn't come down to him alone, he felt the pressure of not wanting to be the one wrestler

who didn't win.

“They all won before me, and there was a lot of pressure of ‘don't be that one guy,’ and I didn't watch all those other guys, and I found out afterward because I had to focus on winning my match,” Wright said.

Wright's focus paid off, but Penn State's tournament hopes began at 125 pounds where three-time NCAA qualifier Brad Pataky often got things started for the Nittany Lions.

“I think for us to be able to pull through and have each other's back every second of the tournament, every second of every day, and every second of the season and year, it just proved our tenacity.”

Cameron Wade

Former Penn State heavyweight

“So it was motivating to get things started off and was something I took a lot of pride in.”

Pataky never reached the podium as an All-American, and though he admits it stung at the time, he is grateful to have been a part of these early championship teams.

“I remember sitting in the locker room, and I had just lost my last match [at NCAA's] and coach Cody came in and he said ‘you may not realize it now, but five or six years from now, you're going to realize the accomplishment that we had made as a team,’”

Pataky said. “When I matured and looked back, I realized how much it really meant to me.”

Wade echoed a similar sentiment.

The former heavyweight was a three-time NCAA qualifier and fell short of his individual goals.

But because of the closeness of those teams and the relationships he made during Sanderson's early years, just being a part of those teams was well worth it.

“It stung not reaching my goals, but being part of a team and being able to see some of your great friends reach their goals was awesome to watch,” Wade said.

An equally important part of winning that Big Ten title 10 years ago was how it gave everyone even more to strive for.

Not settling and not getting complacent quickly became commonplace for the Nittany Lions — and was perhaps what they went on to become most known for.

“It had been the first Big Ten championship in the history of the school, and we were extremely proud and kind of amazed that we actually did it,” Pataky said. “It was the first Big Ten championship in school history, and now we've already got that, so let's get the next thing.”

The impact of those early Sanderson championship teams are clearly far reaching.

But for all the tangible impacts Sanderson and the winning he and his teams have done inside the confines of Rec Hall have had, it's the intangibles — the friendships and relationships, the off-the-mat moments, all of the other ethereal aspects, that really resonate.

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Fans made 1998 Big Ten Tournament special

By Ben Serfass
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Despite only spending six seasons in its new conference, Penn State was awarded the opportunity to host the Big Ten Tournament in 1998 for the first time in front of its home fans at the Bryce Jordan Center.

With the Nittany Lions' wrestling program joining the Big Ten in 1993, the program had spent the previous seasons working to properly establish itself in the powerhouse conference.

However, despite the rarity of the situation, then-coach John Fritz still had his focus set on having his team ready to compete at the highest level.

“There are so many great challenges with getting into the Big Ten and being prepared as a team,” Fritz told The Daily Collegian. “That's your big focus. I think that was the most important part of it, just having a team that was competitive and ready for the conference.”

Fritz, who coached at Penn State, also wrestled collegiately for the university — winning three national titles in the process.

With Fritz' great deal of success as a wrestler and as a coach, his appreciation for the blue-and-white faithful is apparent. Having his team wrestle in front of those fans made the tournament all that more special for the longtime Nittany Lion.

“That was definitely an added plus just because of our fans,” Fritz said. “We have such great, loyal fans who are known throughout the country. It was nice for them, because a lot of them did not have a chance to see

those conference tournaments before.”

In Fritz' opinion, it was those same fans that made wrestling in Happy Valley so unique.

While he does not believe it should matter in the grand scheme of things, the blue and white's former coach could not deny the effect the home crowd had on opposing teams.

“Psychologically, it does definitely have an effect here at Penn State, because we do have a great crowd,” Fritz said. “They're positive and they're knowledgeable, so it definitely has a good effect.”

The somewhat rare occasion of hosting the tournament is one that has happened just one other time for the Nittany Lions in 2009. That year, the blue and white failed to defend its home and finished seventh in the tournament.

Penn State will have its third shot at a home tournament victory this year, too, but without the typical fan support due to the coronavirus pandemic.

While the fans of Penn State wrestling are known for their knowledge of the sport, some athletes are knowledgeable about

the sport's history themselves.

Former Nittany Lion John Lange was well aware of the magnitude of the situation and opportunity that sat in front of them.

“We knew what it was,” Lange told the Collegian. “It was exciting, especially with it being my last year there. It was definitely something on your mind even the whole year.”

Lange, who had a great deal of success in his collegiate career in Happy Valley, credits that to the fans who routinely came to support him and his teammates.

“You had it in the back of your mind that you knew in the tough matches and the tough situations that the fans always help,” Lange said. “That's one of the beauties of wrestling.”

While the fan presence did offer Lange a sense of security, it also offered added pressure.

“It really just helped me stay focused,” Lange said. “You had that little feeling like ‘hey, you don't want to look bad in front of the whole crowd,’ and you make

sure you're ready to go. It helps push you to get that little bit of extra preparation.”

That little bit of extra preparation seemed to have paid off, as Lange was the lone conference champion the blue and white had that season. He believes some of the success he found inside the Bryce Jordan Center that weekend can be chalked up to the fans and the motivation they provided him during his individual bouts.

“You just knew going into the Big Ten Tournament that if you were in a tough spot, you could rely on the fans being in your corner,” Lange said. “Penn State fans are bar none the best in the country, so you knew they were always there and would give you that little bit of an extra boost.”

Lange accomplished the feat in his final year of college wrestling, and his title win would be the final match he would ever wrestle in Happy Valley, making his only Big Ten championship win all that more special.

“Winning a Big Ten title would have felt great, anyway,” Lange said. “I think it was just amplified immensely by doing it at home, especially the first time that Penn State had hosted the Big Ten Tournament.”

Unlike his teammate Lange, Biff Walizer did not win a Big Ten title in 1998. Still, he did finish as the runner-up in his weight class.

Walizer also felt that same sense of support Lange did during his own run of success.

“Penn State has a support base most programs don't have, so to be able to put on that singlet is a special feeling, and one that brings with it a lot of pride,” Walizer told the Collegian.

While the crowd support certainly did elevate the performances of certain members of the team, especially in the later matches, it also is believed to have helped the wrestlers on the roster who were considered to be relatively less experienced.

While the Nittany Lions had to wait until 2011 for their first Big Ten team title, the program did manage to finish in second place behind Iowa.

With the runner-up finish in 1998 — which at the time was tied for their highest finish in the ever-competitive Big Ten — Penn State came up just short as it finished only a mere 12 points behind the champion Hawkeyes.

“We wrestled well as a team,” Lange said. “If a couple of matches go another way, maybe we get the first Big Ten title, especially at home. That would have been nice.”

While the Penn State did not walk out on top, Fritz left the Bryce Jordan Center with a sense of dignity and satisfaction.

“We were proud,” Fritz said. “I was proud because the kids wrestled hard, and I was proud of the effort and the way the guys went out — [they] put it all out there.”

The Big Ten champion Lange was well aware of what he had accomplished that season and understood the importance of what it meant not only to himself, but to the fans as well.

“It means a lot because not a lot of people get to do it,” Lange said. The fact that I could do it at home in front of those fans, what better way to say ‘thank you’ to the fans than to win a title.”

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Virtual virus tutor launched at PSU

By James Engel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Though vaccine distribution has begun — which some hope might stave off the coronavirus — the global pandemic continues to infect thousands each day in the United States and abroad.

But as the global medical community continues to study and learn about the virus, Penn State researchers and others have collaborated to create resources like the “Declarative to Procedural-Skills to Obstruct Pandemics” (StOP) online tutor, which seeks to educate students and the broader population on how to avoid the coronavirus.

Frank Ritter, a professor in the College of Information Sciences and Technology, led the creation of the online tutor. Recognizing the oncoming gravity of the pandemic in early 2020, Ritter said he wanted to create a resource that gathered the most up-to-date information in one place.

The tutor involves people studying informational slides on the coronavirus before taking short quizzes relating to various aspects of the pandemic, according to its website.

Working with the methods studied by his Applied Cognitive Science Lab, Ritter and his team built an online tutor with quizzes and an abundance of information on the virus.

“I’m interested in how people think and learn — I’m interested



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

Students line up outside the White Building for coronavirus testing on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

in modeling how people think and learn, that is to say, simulating them,” Ritter said.

“That work has led into using the theories we have to build computer-based tutors.”

Working with various experts and colleagues, Ritter gathered information and built the tutor for release to the public near the beginning of the pandemic.

“This is the largest tutor we’ve ever built. This is the fastest we’ve ever built such a large tutor. This is the largest number of experts we’ve brought in to check our work, and all of that helped our processes,” Ritter said. “But it’s also useful when you have nothing to do and to be slightly

scared as well.”

One of the many collaborators who helped contribute to the creation of the tutor was Amanda Clase, a researcher with doctoral degrees in microbiology and immunology, who previously worked with the Department of Defense on biodefense projects.

“When I came to [the Applied Research Lab], I did so for the purpose of trying to bridge the gap between biodefense and public health, because the science is the same, but they don’t always interact a lot,” Clase said. “I think COVID has really exemplified the fact that those two topics need to work together more.”

Though the tutor was

researched and created by experts, according to Clase, it is meant to be available to anyone who wants to learn more about the coronavirus.

“Basically what it does is take all the information already out there in very disparate areas and puts it together in one source and provides some background so that people understand why public health officials are making the decisions that they’re making,” Clase said.

But as information changed, so did the tutor. The information given to the public in the early weeks of the pandemic often needed to be updated or changed. Even now, Ritter and his team try to

keep the tutor current.

“We’re still [updating the tutor],” Ritter said. “There’s a new page that we’re working on now about vaccines.”

After the publication of the tutor, Ritter and the team published a book based on the same material.

Additionally, Ritter co-teaches a special topics class on coronavirus prevention this semester.

Alexis Fenstermacher, now a nurse at Pittsburgh’s UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, served as a research assistant for the project during her senior year at Penn State. Fenstermacher graduated with a nursing degree in spring 2020.

In her role, Fenstermacher said she tried to keep up with the updates and recommendations from medical organizations while also pulling from her own nursing experiences.

“We did a lot of writing and a lot of checking each other constantly,” Fenstermacher said.

Ultimately, Fenstermacher said she was happy with the timely work the team put into the tutor and, later, the book.

“I think it turned out really great, and I’m really proud of the work that we did in such a short amount of time with such little knowledge of what was really happening and everything changing so often.”

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Penn State Texans react to Feb.’s winter storm

By Olivia Estright
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While most Penn State students were transitioning back to in-person classes in mid-February, some students from Texas couldn’t even log into their Zoom classes.

On Sunday, Feb. 14, the entire state of Texas was under a winter storm warning, and on Monday, Feb. 15, Penn State students began their first day of in-person classes for the spring semester.

Antonio Buerkert said he decided to stay home for another semester this year due to the “uncertainties” of the pandemic. Buerkert (sophomore-mechanical engineering) said he was still adjusting to “Zoom University” when the storm hit his home in southeast Texas.

“It was like throwing a wrench into the plan,” Buerkert said. “I had so much momentum going into the week, but then that Monday morning, I wasn’t able to get into Zoom [to] do anything.”

With the power outages across the state, Buerkert said that only having 15 hours of no power “was actually pretty good” compared to other areas in the state.

“We aren’t used to snow at all. Sure, we’ll get some ice on the ground, and some light snow on our cars, but never like the way it was that week,” he said.

Buerkert said waking up to see snow outside of his window reminded him of being back in State College.

“It was literally a throwback to last February when I would look out the window in my dorm and see a sheet of snow on the ground,” Buerkert said. “I was like, ‘Wait a second. This looks weird. I’m in Texas, not Penn State.’”

Buerkert said he realized it was actually colder in Texas than it was in State College. On Feb. 14, local Texas news coverage found the high was only 14 degrees while the high in State College was 32 degrees that same day.

Buerkert said because his family’s appliances are electric, their heater went out once the power did.

“We just were not prepared,” Buerkert said.

Valentine Pesola was forced to arrive back on campus later than expected due to the snow.

“I wasn’t even able to log into Zoom or do my schoolwork because there was no [internet] connection,” Pesola (freshman-political science and theater)

said. “Everything was shut down — even Waffle House.”

Pesola’s father had purchased a backup generator intended for hurricane season, and it helped their family for the first day. Once the gas was cut, however, they had to adjust.

“I remember completing a project next to the window during the day and with a flashlight during the night,” Pesola said.

As for professors, Pesola said some were “understanding” of her situation while others were “more passive aggressive.”

“I remember the one line from a professor that said, ‘I understand that a lot of places are experiencing crazy weather right now,’ which was a very interesting attitude to get hit with,” Pesola said.

“Once I returned to campus and he saw the news, I received a very different attitude.”

Pesola said Texans want to encourage north-erners to show them some “sympathy.”

“I want to emphasize [that] this is not the fault of the average Texan,” Pesola said. “We genuinely do not have the infrastructure to deal with it and any chance we had to deal with it was crushed by power companies.”

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Valentine Pesola
freshman-political science and theater

Davis Wolf said he boarded a flight to State College eight hours before the storm worsened. Wolf (freshman-atmospheric science) said contacting his family was harder than usual, because his family would have to drive around to find cell service.

“They found a spot near the [local] mall [with a] few cell towers that didn’t get killed by the weather, and they could pick up service there, but that was only while they were out driving,” Wolf said. “I would be talking to them in 30-minute windows every eight hours.”

Wolf said the roads weren’t as icy where he lived, but his family still lost power. He said his dad grew up in Pennsylvania so “he knew what to do.”

“For warmth, they boiled water on the gas stove,” Pesola said. “In order to get the gas stove to work, they would start my car in the garage, use an extension cord and start the gas stove.”

Wolf said his friends who went to college in Texas joked with him about the weather, and it didn’t stop them from enjoying their college experience.

“The college campuses for sure had the most fun,” Wolf said. “Even though in all of the apartments the water pipes were exploding, they were like, ‘We don’t care, this is fun.’ They were loving it.”

Victoria Sheeler came back to campus for the remote start of the semester. Even though she was away from the storm, Sheeler (senior-recreation park tourism management) said she

was “disappointed” to see everything happening.

“I wish I was still there for my family to help them out,” Sheeler said. “It was really weird being up here in Pennsylvania being away from everything.”

Sheeler said she received news from the messages her mom sent. From article links to daily pictures of a large icicle in the front of their house, Sheeler said she was up to date with what was happening with her family.

“My mom has guinea pigs, so she had to keep them covered with a blanket all the time to keep them warm,” Sheeler said.

In 2011, Texas faced a similar situation where it failed to protect its power grid. Sheeler said she knew there was a plan in place to “winterize” the grid, but the government never seemed to act on it.

“I’m still very angry about it because the whole situation was preventable,” Sheeler said. “The Texas government did not do anything, and 10 years later, the same thing happened. It just made me really mad that it happened again.”

Sheeler said seeing the news from her friends “broke her heart.” She said she saw pictures of the negative impact the weather had on the bird and bat population.

“One of the saddest things for me is that people were finding frozen birds all throughout their yard,” Sheeler said. “The birds just couldn’t handle the cold. It [was] so heartbreaking.”

Although her initial plans of driving 22 hours from Texas to State College were tampered with, Taylor Needleman said she’s happy she made it back.

“I got a flight on Valentine’s Day, and of course, that was the day the snow really started to come down,” Needleman (freshman-criminology) said. “My three checked bags didn’t make it either, so I had them shipped two days later. But, hey, they’re here now.”

In order to cope with the weather, Needleman said her town opened up “warming centers.”

“Our town hall and a few coffee shops that I went to downtown actually opened their doors, because they had electricity,” Needleman said. “People could stop in, warm up and they were served coffee.”

Needleman said she’s glad the chaos is over and hopes Texans don’t have to undergo a situation like the winter storm again.

“It can drive people crazy,” she said. “We were just absolutely not prepared for it.”

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Ken Minamoto/Collegian

OK Otter performs on stage during Penn State THON at the Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

OK Otter: Two years to top tier

By Joe Eckstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From performing at breweries to playing the mainstage at THON, the last two years for the band OK Otter have been anything but dull.

Lead singer and bassist Mike Doyle said the band truly came together after its first gig in late 2018.

“The actual origins were just booking a gig and having to learn songs for that gig,” Doyle, who graduated from Penn State in 2010 and 2013 with a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and a master’s in systems engineering. “The band doesn’t really come together until you book a gig.”

OK Otter’s roots can be traced back to the band members’ times as students at Penn State — a stepping stone in the band’s formation.

While playing in a different band, Doyle met Eric Weiss — now the lead guitarist for OK Otter — at a show. The relationship between the two would soon become more than just musical.

“[I] actually met my now-wife, who is Mike’s sister, through the band,” said Weiss, a 2013 Penn State graduate with a bachelor’s in architecture. “She used to get up and play. Obviously, being my brother-in-law, we stayed in touch after Penn State.”

OK Otter quickly became a family operation. Caitlin Doyle Weiss plays the guitar for OK Otter alongside her father, Mike Sr., who plays the drums, while her uncle Pat plays percussion and Doyle family friend John McGroary plays the accordion.

Caitlin graduated from Penn State in 2012 with a degree in information sciences and technology.

Compared to some of the other bands he was in, Mike Jr. said playing alongside close family and friends is “very low pressure.”

“I’ve been in a lot of bands and when you’re with other guys... you’re making sure you’re learning your song [and that] you get your parts down,”

Mike Jr. said, “and if you mess up, it’s a little more tense, [but with OK Otter], it’s very relaxed.”

For McGroary, being involved in a close-knit group like OK Otter is a great experience. He said he loves seeing the Doyle family work together.

“[It] is really great to see not only the close relationship, but [also] the different generations [of] the Doyle family getting involved,” McGroary said. “Everybody stands out on their own... Everybody’s got a real good expertise in a certain area. And then, when you bring that stuff all together, it’s even better.”

Before joining OK Otter, McGroary was a member of the band Blackthorn, a Celtic rock group dating back to 1990. Blackthorn has a “traditional Irish music influence,” and the band put out five albums while McGroary worked with them.

Despite having “a totally different vibe,” McGroary said segueing from Celtic music to classic rock has helped him improve as a musician.

Because the majority of OK Otter’s covers do not originally feature the accordion, McGroary will replace a string or horn section with his instrument for the band’s version of the song.

“I really enjoy it,” McGroary said. “It’s actually helped me a lot as a player listening to these other types of music and picking up these parts.”

As a result, McGroary was able to stay active during OK Otter’s second appearance at THON this year, where the group’s eclectic mix of songs were a virtual crowd favorite.

Compared to the group’s previous THON performance, Mike Jr. said it was unique to hear the Bryce Jordan Center so quiet this year.

“It was interesting when the sound guys were working because my dad was doing the sound check for the snare, [and] it was weird to hear just such an empty room,” Mike Jr. said.

Weiss applauded the work that went into this year’s virtual event, even if he said it felt somewhat

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State College piercers reflect on virus trends

By Courtney Benedetto
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As students seek a slightly less permanent body modification throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the piercers of State College have witnessed multiple trends come and go in the past year.

According to Tony Campbell, owner and operator of 814 Tattoo Co., the business has seen an influx of helix, or upper ear, piercing requests and a rise in piercing appointments in general. Campbell said he pierced a total of 29 times in one day last year — a new record.

With 26 years of piercing under his belt, Campbell said he noticed one of the biggest influences on piercing trends over the years has been celebrity actions.

“One of the Kardashians got her nipple pierced, and then all of a sudden, I was [piercing] nipples forever,” Campbell said.

Other piercers saw pandemic-related trends among their clientele.

Kady McKinley, a professional piercing apprentice at Ikonik Ink Tattoo and Piercing Studio, began her piercing journey during the pandemic. Recently, she has seen a trend of zodiac constellation ear piercings and people coming in with inspiration from Pinterest.

Due to the circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic, some of the studios have had to modify the types of piercings they currently offer.

Campbell said the mask mandate has gotten in the way of many piercings under the mask — like tongue piercings or ear piercings such as the conch — due to the irritation caused by the strings on the masks, so he is not currently offering them.

“If you have an irritation, [it] will lead to an infection almost 100% of the time,” Campbell said.

Jake Mullins — better known as Jake the Kidd, a tattooer and piercer for King Cobra Tattoo — said he also saw a drop in the number of people getting piercings at the start of the pandemic. He attributes this to the studio’s restriction on piercings under the mask, similar to 814 Tattoo’s.

However, Mullins said the tattoo appointments at King Cobra have been on the rise.

“I think everybody’s saving a lot of money being stuck inside all the time,” Mullins said. “The tattoo shop seems like one of the only safe places for them to be able to spend it.”

Mullins said people have still tried to request septum and tongue piercings over the past year at King Cobra in spite of the restrictions.

Some piercers like Campbell have even grown to like a few aspects of the coronavirus restrictions placed in their studios.

While 814 Tattoo used to hold 15 to 20 people at a time, Campbell said he has limited the capacity to four people in the studio at a time.

“I’m probably going to continue with this, even after we’re allowed to bring in a whole bunch of people,” Campbell said. “It’s just easy to manage.”

In addition to limiting the



Rebecca Marcinko/Collegian

King Cobra Tattoo, which offers tattoos and piercings, is located on East Beaver Avenue in downtown State College.

studio’s capacity, Campbell said he will continue wearing a mask even after it’s no longer necessary, as it was recommended by the Association of Professional Piercers before the pandemic.

Before the pandemic hit, Mullins said he was starting to see a trend with microdermals and a set of three piercings on the forward helix. But, there are a few piercings he said will always be trendy.

“When somebody asks me what the most popular things are, I’m always telling them, ‘It always has been and probably always will be nipples, nostrils and navels,’” Mullins said.

For studios that continued to offer facial and oral piercings, the piercers — like Jessie Lee Zimmer, a piercer and manager at Paper Moon Tattoo Company — have seen a different set of trends.

Since masks can hide piercings in professional job settings, Zimmer said she’s been piercing more nostrils, septums and lips.

“By the time we get rid of the masks, they’ll be healed enough to be able to be taken out for your job,” Zimmer said.

A few specific lip piercing trends Zimmer has started to see are the “Ashley,” which goes through the middle of the bottom lip and out below the lip, and the “Medusa,” which is centered between the nose and upper lip.

Stephanie Hutton, the studio manager and a part-time professional piercer at Ikonik, said Ikonik is also still piercing

under the mask, and the biggest recent trends have been types of jewelry.

According to Hutton, chains have been a popular piercing purchase. From ear chains to nostril chains, Hutton said Ikonik has been at the forefront of “ear’spiration” — what Hutton likes to call the samples of jewelry and piercing placements she shows to customers.

Despite the various challenges brought on by the coronavirus, some piercers see their work as a highlight in people’s lives.

As piercings have become a more normalized form of self-expression, Zimmer said she is beginning to see a trend in flashier jewelry.

“People come in to get [a piercing] done, and they feel so much better about themselves,” Zimmer said. “It gives them a confidence boost, and I get to help with that.”

Zimmer said she has noticed a burst of spontaneity within the piercing crowd as well.

“It’s about getting out,” Zimmer said. “It’s about expressing yourself [and] finding yourself, so I expect spontaneity and impulse.”

Like Zimmer, Hutton said the best part of piercing during the pandemic is bringing a little light to her clients’ lives.

“People are a little bit stir crazy and more impulsive,” Hutton said. “Covid has been really hard on bringing people down emotionally, but I feel that this gives them something to not only look forward to, but to make them feel good about themselves.”

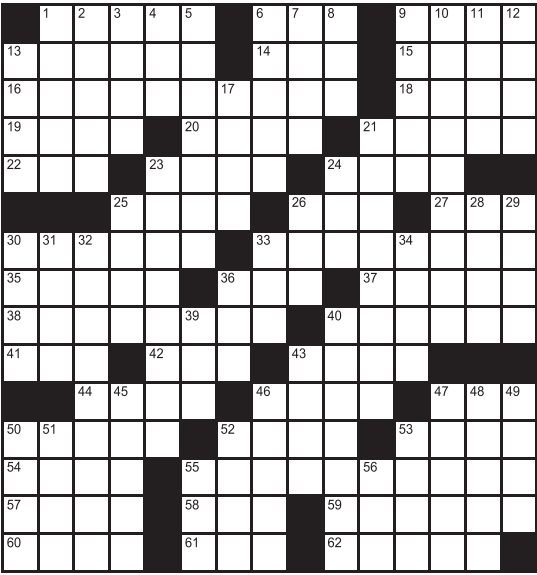
Jake Mullins
Tattooer and piercer for King Cobra Tattoo

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Follow her on Twitter at [@courtbenedetto](https://twitter.com/courtbenedetto).

Puzzles

Across

- 1 Silvery fish
- 6 Hound
- 9 Receptive
- 13 Doubting ____
- 14 ____ Khan
- 15 Windmill part
- 16 Absurd
- 18 Annul
- 19 Dill seed
- 20 Identify
- 21 Reunion group
- 22 Cry of success
- 23 O. Henry’s “The Gift of the ____”
- 24 Attention-getter
- 25 Radio operators
- 26 Carnival city
- 27 Gardner of “Mogambo”
- 30 Acid neutralizer
- 33 Relating to the earliest period of the Stone Age
- 35 Constructed
- 36 Source of heat
- 37 Cut of beef
- 38 Giving the cold shoulder
- 40 Wanes
- 41 Two-year-old sheep
- 42 Many, many moons
- 43 Stomach problem
- 44 Pair of oxen
- 46 Compassion
- 47 Astonish
- 50 Closet item
- 52 Himalayan legend
- 53 Junkyard dogs
- 54 Smog
- 55 “I never promised you a ____”
- 57 Son of Zeus
- 58 Uneaten morsel



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- 59 “Seinfeld” gal
- 60 Marries
- 61 Ref’s decision
- 62 Salamanders
- 10 Straw lid
- 11 Means justifiers
- 12 Newcomers, briefly
- 13 Lazy Susan
- 17 Trails
- 21 Chorister
- 23 Abuse
- 24 Have something to complain about
- 25 Sainly glow
- 26 Seafood delicacy
- 28 Holding device
- 29 Makes a scene?
- 30 Somewhat
- 31 Olympic sled
- 32 Extra-large
- 33 Work unit
- 34 One way of fitting
- 36 Roadhouse
- 39 Euripides play
- 40 Immunizing agent
- 43 Swallow-tailed hawk
- 45 Newspapers, etal.
- 46 Basil-based sauce
- 47 Bank check-up
- 48 Small songbirds
- 49 Feudal worker
- 50 “Heartbreak House” writer
- 51 Fabled racer
- 52 Part of N.Y.C.
- 53 Sticking point?
- 55 Decompose
- 56 Pub order

Down

- 1 After shoe or moon
- 2 Ways
- 3 Discharge
- 4 Resinous deposit
- 5 Salt shaker?
- 6 Ruth’s mother-in-law
- 7 Tropical fever
- 8 Kind of station
- 9 Seed structure

su|do|ku

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WORD SEARCH

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Hurricanes	G	U	L	F	O	F	M	E	X	I	C	O	E	S	N	D	S	V
Air Pressure	P	M	M	L	Q	S	Z	V	G	X	Z	Y	L	A	A	E	T	P
Alert	B	N	G	N	A	B	J	G	E	F	E	O	E	X	U	I	S	W
Barometer	K	J	P	N	E	K	P	R	C	L	A	C	N	R	D	Y	U	E
Caribbean	K	A	D	V	N	G	N	I	D	O	O	L	F	E	G	L	G	A
Damage	H	Y	T	R	V	J	U	Z	Y	X	L	C	S	Q	E	D	C	T
Deadly	A	Q	R	R	E	M	A	B	N	I	A	R	I	V	L	A	R	H
Debris	N	L	I	J	I	T	X	L	N	D	W	Z	N	T	R	E	E	E
Disaster	E	O	H	W	Y	N	S	L	E	K	T	U	F	I	Y	D	T	R
Doppler	M	U	S	S	M	S	A	A	N	R	E	I	B	K	E	S	E	E
Emergency	E	I	S	A	D	Z	N	F	S	X	T	B	F	T	A	U	M	D
Evacuate	R	Y	J	N	E	A	F	D	C	I	E	Y	A	Q	D	P	O	U
Eye	G	D	I	I	T	S	A	N	K	A	D	U	F	E	J	P	R	A
Fema	E	W	A	U	J	S	M	A	N	S	C	V	B	X	P	L	A	X
Flooding	N	L	R	M	O	M	E	L	P	A	T	R	J	L	G	I	B	L
Gulf Of Mexico	C	E	U	X	A	W	F	Y	V	R	I	O	E	L	O	E	T	P
Gusts	Y	A	I	D	Y	G	I	E	M	S	N	R	R	U	O	S	W	V
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Winds																		
Zone																		

STOP TRYING TO MAKE FETCH HAPPEN



Grace Miller/Collegian

Madison Downes (junior-biology) plays with her dog outside of Eastview Terrace on a warm March 3.

Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.

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	12	3	21			14	8	12	
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11				24					

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Penn State should do more to fight food insecurity

OUR VIEW

Nobody should head to bed without supper in this country of ours, college-bound or not.

One of the worst lies ever perpetrated by boomer-kind is the cruel cultural cliché that college students should subsist solely on cheap packets of Ramen noodles.

Ignoring the fact that your average chicken deserves more nutrition and nourishment than what such meals offer, or the large body of research that shows the physical and mental wellbeing of students suffers when their bodies languish from hunger, the widespread cultural acceptance of collegiate deprivation points to a wider systemic issue; mainly, the sweeping-under-the-rug of hunger and food insecurity in our society that turns the best of us into complacent maids.

Of course, nobody should head to bed without supper in this country of ours, college-bound or not. And the presence of hungry students on campuses still demands urgent attention and the quickest of remedies.

Temple University estimates that 45% of students in any college or university experience

hunger on a monthly basis. Assuming Penn State is ordinary in this regard, the conclusion that 45% of our peers struggle with food insecurity is not only warranted but also worthy of outrage. Hopefully, direct action directly follows from this anger.

But what must be remembered is that Penn State does not exist in a bubble, and has never been independent of the wider communities surrounding and supporting its functions. University Park calls State College (and the Centre County region as a whole) its home, and like any houseguest worth their salt, the university should act with succor toward the providers of hospitality.

Consider the following: nearly

21,000 residents of Centre County are food insecure, based on 2017 figures from Feeding America. Of this amount, about 8,000 people qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and rely upon the federal program to put food on their table.

Since these numbers come from the bygone era of 2017, it can be assumed that the pandemic (not to mention general widening inequality) has caused the ranks of food insecure households to swell.

If such considerations do not cause your head to shake, consider also checking that it's screwed on properly. Dwight D. Eisenhower once lamented that unchecked militarism signifies "a theft from those who hunger

and are not fed." The only real solution is to get militant about stopping such thefts and robberies from continually occurring instead.

As one departs from the monied districts of State College and delves deeper into the more rural expanses of Centre County, socioeconomic conditions decrease in real-time. With this decrease comes an increased likelihood of food insecurity.

We are stronger than our systemic weaknesses, however, and Penn State is obliged to assist in storing up quality food for hungry residents just as much as the local, state and federal government. By decreasing the amount of food insecurity both among and

beyond the student body, the university can better serve and honor the communities currently hosting it.

The Lion's Pantry food bank and other such initiatives are doing admirable jobs combating student hunger. Free groceries and repasts reveal a university abundant in compassion. This compassion is capable of expansion, however, and efforts to stop student hunger should aim to stop hunger full-stop.

Penn State could partner with local governments and craft larger networks of nutritional assistance. The roughly 455,000 pounds of food wasted at the dining commons might instead end up feeding the malnourished of Centre County. Perhaps partnerships with nonprofits could increase the ease and efficiency of such ambitions.

Any effort to remove not only the stigma around but the existence of food insecurity itself is worthy of praise.

We must not forget the needs of the starved, but rather fill the hungry with good things indeed.



MY VIEW | Caitlyn Frolo

Career searching is different this year, but it will be OK

As a senior at Penn State, I have had my fair share of experiences applying for internships — and now applying for jobs — as a college student.



Frolo

This has always been a tumultuous task in the past, with the need to ensure you are following the correct procedures.

Your resume must be reviewed and your cover letter must market you for success.

While the process can be time consuming and feel like you are taking another class on top of your course schedule, there were always ways to ensure your in-person interview makes you stand out.

In the year 2021, many are faced with the possibility of a remote internship or a work from home job, and this comes with a new way of applying to potential opportunities.

As someone who completed an internship remotely during the pandemic, applying for a role like this may come with the need to market yourself over a Zoom call as opposed to shaking someone's hand and using body language and your personality to express your qualifications and desire for a position.

Now, we must do things like being aware of our lighting and backgrounds on a video call and having to dress professionally from the waist up and wear headphones to ensure we can hear and communicate clearly.

Another thing we have had to adapt to as students is that career fairs are primarily being held virtually, and this can be confusing and scary for those who have never had the chance to attend an in-person fair.

With career fair sites like Brazen being used for fairs, there are so many ways employers can communicate with you during a fair in the form of chats, video calls and even voice-only calls.

Many of these interactions are timed to ensure many people can get through virtual "booths" in a timely manner, which leads to the possibility of being unable to ask all of your questions or leaving it up to the booth to decide whether or not to extend time to talk.

A big component of the search process now comes with sending emails as a primary form of communication, when in the past it was completely acceptable to show up to a potential employer's office to drop off a portfolio or ask to speak with someone.

While there are pros and cons to the way we have adapted to finding our next big

"The best thing we can do right now is continue to network."

Caitlyn Frolo

opportunity, at the core of the job search is your experience, and with the pandemic, many students have lost out on the chance to complete internships or do on-campus activities (or even classes) in person.

As we look to the future, there will likely be a whole new way of communicating your qualifications to others, and I think LinkedIn will continue to be at the forefront of this.

LinkedIn is a great way to share with others your successes as a student and as a potential new employee.

I know for me, I have found LinkedIn as a great place to send professional messages, share certifications and work I have done, and include relevant links to my experiences.

During the pandemic, LinkedIn has also been a place I have turned to to look for trainings and companies' hiring, as well as networking and trying to build my connections ahead of graduation.

While this pandemic has made it difficult for those applying to jobs and those who have

already had positions and later had them revoked because of hiring freezes, the best thing we can do right now is continue to network.

Networking is one of the best ways to get employers to notice you and your efforts as a student to prepare yourself for the real world.

With all of these changes to the way we prepare for the future, it is important to remember that all will be okay if we keep working hard and choose to participate in every opportunity offered amid this pandemic.

As long as we do what is available to us and create opportunities, I think as students, we will be able to show our strengths as potential employees in a new way.

As many will say today, "we are in unprecedented times." But being adaptable and flexible in the process of looking for internships or full-time positions this semester can add some stability to our hectic lives.

Caitlyn Frolo is a senior majoring in print and digital journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at cmf5906@psu.edu or follow her on Twitter at [@caitlynfrolo](https://twitter.com/caitlynfrolo).



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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Complaints

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Lamar Stevens: State College to Cleveland

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A promising season cut short, a senior year left without closure and a draft night where he didn't hear his name called — the last 12 months have been all over the place for Lamar Stevens.

But that calendar year has had a profound impact on the former Penn State star turned Cleveland Cavalier, and now Stevens has become a consistent part of the Cavs' rotation, averaging nearly 15 minutes per game as a rookie. He's already notched the first game-winner of his career when he sealed the game for Cleveland with a dunk against the Atlanta Hawks in late February.

Stevens is carving out his role in the NBA despite going undrafted and being signed as a two-way player, meaning he can spend time with Cleveland's G-League-affiliated Canton Charge and on the NBA roster throughout the season.

"Coming into training camp, you don't know what to expect as a two-way [player]," Stevens told The Daily Collegian. "I just wanted to take it day by day and just show what I was capable of."

Stevens has had to adapt his approach after being the go-to scorer for much of his career in Happy Valley, and he's found the best way to make an impact in the role he's been given.

"Being a guy that can score but mainly defend... that's what I wanted to show by controlling what I can control: my effort and my energy and stuff like that," Stevens said. "From there, each day I just grew more confident, and I was lucky enough to gain the trust of my teammates and coaches — that's what's gotten me to this point."

From inside the Penn State program, the belief in Stevens' potential at the next level was strong and unwavering.

After one of the most impactful careers in program history, how could his teammates and coaches not think he would make it?

"He's really carving out a great role for himself, and it doesn't surprise me," Penn State interim coach Jim Ferry said. "I've said that to all my NBA contacts



Michael Wyke/AP

Lamar Stevens is currently the only Penn Stater on an NBA roster.

when they were calling me about Lamar and his strengths and his weaknesses — I think Lamar has the opportunity to have at least a 10-year career because he's such a good person, such a competitor and he really does things the right way."

But that same belief wasn't necessarily held by NBA organizations, as during the association's draft, all 60 selections went by without Stevens hearing his name called.

"It was definitely a roller coaster because I think the draft kind of was surprising at times," Stevens said. "Guys that people thought would be picked didn't get picked, and guys that you didn't think were going to get picked earlier got picked up in the first round and stuff like that. So I didn't know what direction it was going to head in for me, personally."

Stevens certainly had the accolades, statistics and physical measurements to be a second-round pick.

He was an elite athlete at 6-foot-8, a two-time All-Big Ten selection and finished in the top five of the conference in scoring as a junior and senior.

Still, Stevens was passed up and went undrafted before signing as an undrafted free agent with Cleveland shortly after the conclusion of the draft.

"Honestly, going undrafted

gave me a lot more hunger," Stevens said. "Me being drafted, I don't think that matched my story."

"I wasn't really a top-100 guy coming out of high school. That made me hungry coming into Penn State. I was undrafted coming into the NBA and that made me hungrier... I just took that and used it as fuel to prove that I did belong and I could play in the NBA."

On the day of the draft, Stevens had lunch with former Penn State coach Pat Chambers, who coached Stevens all four years of his college career before resigning prior to the 2020-21 campaign.

Chambers remembers reminiscing with Stevens during that lunch about everything that led them to that moment together.

"It all shaped me and him, specifically him, into this draft night and this excitement of [whether or not he was going to be drafted]," Chambers told the Collegian. "Either way, you're about to reach your dreams and your goals."

Chambers said he knew even if

Stevens went undrafted, he would still find his way and make the most of the opportunity in front of him.

"It goes back to his mindset, his growth and maturity," Chambers said. "For some guys, that would have been devastating... that could have been a catastrophe for some, but not for him, because he is mature and he handled it the right way."

Stevens' signing with the Cavs marked the end to a tumultuous and unprecedented offseason.

The transition from his collegiate career to his pro one didn't go the way anyone could have envisioned due to the coronavirus.

Stevens and Penn State had climbed all the way to the No. 9 spot in the AP Poll during his senior season, and the Nittany Lions were poised to make a run in the Big Ten Tournament as well as the NCAA Tournament.

And then it all came to a halt.

The Big Ten Tournament was canceled, followed by the NCAA Tournament, and all of a sudden Penn State's most successful season in recent history was over, along with Stevens' career as a Nittany Lion.

"I definitely feel like I didn't get that closure," Stevens said. "We stopped playing, didn't get to go to the tournament, and then the coach who pushed me to be the player that I am today was let go, so it was just a lot."

"I think Lamar has the opportunity to have at least a 10-year career because he's such a good person, such a competitor and he really does things the right way."

Jim Ferry
Men's basketball interim head coach

seven points short of being the all-time leading scorer; here's a guy who decides to come back with blood, sweat and tears, and put Penn State basketball on his

back, and we don't get to hear our name called on [Selection] Sunday."

Stevens finished his career second on Penn State's all-time scoring ranks with 2,207 points, behind current Nittany Lion assistant coach Talor Battle's 2,213.

"That can be earth-shattering," Chambers said. "However, he handled it with great humility. He was down and upset for a little bit but then he realized the pandemic and COVID-19 was so much bigger than any of us, it brought us all to our knees."

"We used to say, 'humble and hungry,' make sure we walk around campus like that and treat people like that... I think he lives it, he walks that walk, and that's why an NBA organization like the Cavs love a Lamar Stevens."

After 24 games in the NBA, Stevens is still staying connected to his roots in State College.

"We're still in a group chat, texting and on Snapchat, we're always just sharing memories and stuff on there, pretty much every day," Stevens said. "I'm in constant communication with the guys, still trying to send them motivational things."

Stevens was the true leader of that Penn State team a season ago, and now in the NBA he's back at the bottom of the totem pole. But his experiences have shaped his perspective.

Even though he isn't physically with his former team anymore, Stevens still shows the same qualities of leadership he did when he was with the program.

The knowledge and experience he has accumulated from his short time in the league is something he wants to pass on to the guys who came after him.

After all, he is the only current NBA player on a roster to come out of Penn State.

"I know when I was at Penn State, I wanted to have that guy who was doing what I wanted to do, which was play basketball and make money, to come back and give advice and teach me some things I didn't know to help me get to the point they were at," Stevens said. "Now, with me being in that position, I want to be that person for the guys... so they can be the best players they can be."

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Dynasty

FROM Page 1.

"Now my career is coaching," Molinaro, assistant coach at Arizona State, said. "I think that's where I really learned about communication and people skills and just emotional intelligence — through building those relationships and solving problems and resolving conflicts, all the things you do as a team to be a championship team."

Every dynasty's got to start somewhere, right?

Now, it's clear that one weekend in March ten years ago helped get Penn State to where it is today, routinely atop the wrestling world.

And even though Wade and the wrestlers on those teams don't take all the credit, as alumni of the program and after being in the trenches all those years, it's nice to see.

"I think it was just showing that buying into Cael's system and program can really make a much better wrestler and make the team great — it's awesome to see what the team has continued to do these last 10 years," Wade said.

Every dynasty's got to start somewhere, right?

Clearly, the answer, by this point, is yes.

But that then prompts another logical question — when are dynasties supposed to end?

As long as Sanderson is at the helm of the program, that final question may go unanswered for years and years.

But it's evident where things started and what the key has been.

"It's always good to have somebody who's been there before. You don't always need someone who's like a cheerleader on the sideline, praising you all the time," Wright said. "Cael's the quiet leader that gives you that confidence of 'I know you've got it.' And that belief that he gives to all of his wrestlers is really that key to success."

'RACING WAS IN HER BLOOD'

How one Penn Stater turned a childhood passion into a competitive pursuit

By Gianna Galli
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As a 10-year-old girl, Brenna Schubert begged her dad to let her strap into a go-kart, despite the duo's original plan of taking on the miniature golf course.

It was the first time she had ever done so, like many kids at that age.

Except Schubert had no idea exactly who she was racing against or that her first few laps around a track would hit so close to home.

"She started out in front of me as I followed behind her," her father, Joe Schubert, said. "We got to a turn where I submarined her and I'll never forget, she had the look of a tiger in her eyes."

Joe knew at that moment his daughter was already following in his footsteps and that "racing was in her blood" too.

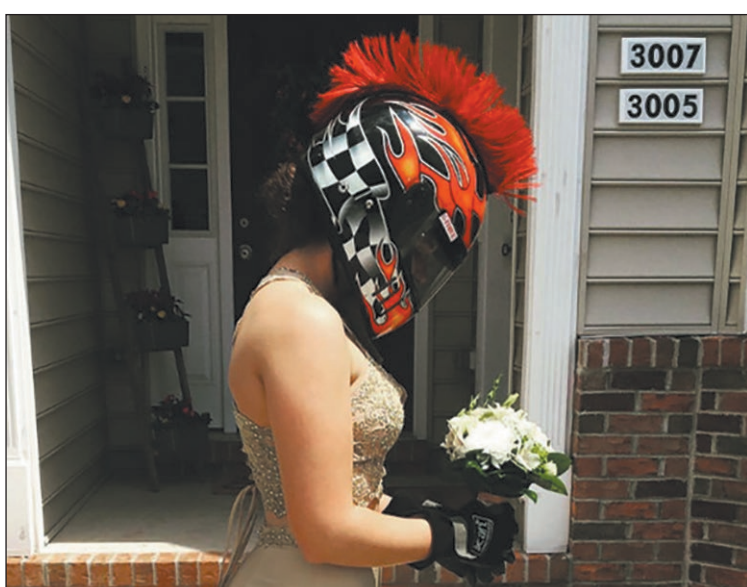
It hadn't yet registered to Schubert that her dad was more than her first competition on the race track, but also someone who would become a life-long coach at the tip of her fingers.

"I never knew about what my dad did professionally when I got into that go-kart," Schubert said. "But it was the biggest rush of adrenaline I ever felt, and I knew I wanted to do it forever."

Her father, a former professional drag racer in the The National Hot Rod Association — the largest auto racing organization in the world — said it only took this symbolic moment for him to know she would excel in a racing career if she chose to.

"As far as racing goes, she's got the fever. I told her you don't just start at the top, but she is already working her way up there just the way I did," Joe Schubert said. "And she's got the drive and the dedication to go far."

Shortly after Schubert's first experience at that miniature golf course, she started indoor competition with Lehigh Valley Grand Prix, a high-speed indoor go-kart racing operation she has been competing at for 11 years.



Courtesy of Brenna Schubert

Penn State junior Brenna Schubert at her high-school prom.

Early in her Lehigh career, she was a track champion and multiple time-record holder, according to her father, along with having competed in around 30 endurance races at indoor go-kart tracks since the start of her career.

However, Schubert quickly understood the success she was looking to accomplish on the track was never going to be found at the indoor racing level.

That's when her father put together an outdoor competition go-kart setup and bought her two of her own go-karts at the age of 13 to start racing competitively outdoors.

Schubert went on to win her first outdoor season in the Yamaha KT 100 Pipe Class as well as the SuperCan class, which led to her winning three seasons in a row and going undefeated from 2014-2016.

"I would not be a winner without my dad. He used to tell me — and he was serious — that if I didn't win a race, I was walking home," Schubert said. "And I would just win. Every time I'm angry when I'm racing, I'll break a record, and he used to purposely make me angry."

Having that pressure turns you into an animal and an amazing race car driver."

Stephen Mallozzi, a racing teammate of Schubert's, agreed with her about how she became an excellent race car driver.

"I will say it now, and I will say it again, and until I die: she is one of the very few people I want to see in outdoor karting," Mallozzi said. "You have to be as gracious in victory as you are in defeat, and Brenna is an exemplary representation of that at all levels."

Mallozzi met Schubert in her beginner racing days, and she put Mallozzi — a Team USA representative — to the test. It was very apparent to Mallozzi early on what Schubert was capable of becoming.

"The first time I met Brenna, I hated her. I was a pro at this race we competed in and no one was able to beat me. But I got stuck in a crappy car and she had a better one, so as I was in fourth place, Brenna was in fifth and she was all over me," Mallozzi said. "We were coming to the finish line and she tried to pass me, but I ran her straight into the wall, got a penalty for it and it ended up

costing myself the championship in the end.

"And so the rest of the weekend, I was like 'I gotta kick this girl's ass.'"

The two have formed a strong relationship of encouragement on and off the track over the past eight years, and Mallozzi knew from the start that Schubert's talent and passion were never going to stop her from getting where she wanted to be in her career.

Only what gets in the way of every racer was going to be Schubert's issue as well.

"Brenna has all the raw talent in the world, I'm just trying to help her figure out the other end," Mallozzi said. "It's been my goal for years to try to get her to the highest level of karting, because it is very limited that I see someone and think: 'Hot damn, they are just as talented at this as I am, if not more so.' And so it's hard to see someone like her not be able to have opportunities because of financials. It stinks."

According to Mallozzi, just buying the right equipment can "cost around \$10,000 on its own without the addition of entry fees, tires, mechanics, tools, parts and travel."

But Mallozzi also made a point of noting that on the national level, "things start to run at around \$90,000 per year."

"I made it through karting because I knew the right people, but racing isn't a sport for people who are financially stable — it's a sport for those who are loaded," Mallozzi said. "And that's the issue with the sport: opportunity costs money. You gotta pay to play."

Schubert said Formula Two racing is her sport's equivalent to the college football level, adding that football players are just one example of athletes who have the ability to earn scholarships or not have to pay as much to pursue a professional career.

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UPUA discusses Committee on Justice, Equity

By James Engel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Within Penn State’s University Park Undergraduate Association’s General Assembly are many committees that keep busy working toward their respective policy goals. But as the 15th Assembly nears the halfway point of the spring semester, one of the busiest committees is also one of the newest — the Committee on Justice and Equity.

Emerging out of the Committee on Outreach, the Committee on Justice and Equity was formed last year.

Najee Rodriguez, the chair of Justice and Equity for UPUA, has been involved in the committee since its inception. Elected as the first chair, he has sponsored and pushed for many of the committee’s initiatives on the floor of the General Assembly.

“I consider this committee 15 years in the making,” Rodriguez (sophomore-international politics and history) said.

“The UPUA has been in existence for 15 years, and the mission of the committee is something that should have been established from day one.”

Though he does not cite a specific event that may have caused the creation of Justice and Equity, Rodriguez said he recognized that the ongoing nationwide calls

for racial justice “expedited” the need for the committee.

Sustainability, according to Rodriguez, has been the main goal of the committee since its initial formation. Solidifying Justice and Equity’s place in the student government and setting precedent for future action were keys to the committee’s success, he said.

“We’re lucky enough to have a lot of representatives who are really immersed into the mission of the committee and realize the importance of what we do,” Rodriguez said.

As a policy goal from the beginning, better representation for historically marginalized communities became one of the first projects for the committee. Rodriguez said he and the rest of Justice and Equity pushed for more seats in UPUA for advocacy and community groups on campus.

The Black Caucus, Latino Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Caucus, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council and National Panhellenic Council received seats in the General Assembly in spring 2019. The LG-BTQA roundtable gained its seat later that year.

“I believe that the UPUA has been on this path of progress,” Rodriguez said.

As the 15th General Assembly



Jonah Rosen/Collegian file photo

UPUA meets in the HUB Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The Committee on Justice and Equity stemmed from the preexisting Outreach Committee.

has met throughout the spring semester, Justice and Equity’s cadre of representatives have written and passed a number of bills in support of its mission.

These include a formal condemnation of the “Zoom bombing” of Black Caucus’s Spring 2021 Virtual Involvement Fair presentation, support for Penn State Student Disability Services and handing out free school supplies to students.

But there’s still more to come, according to Vice Chair of Justice and Equity Aarathi Kallur. The committee plans to pursue a memorial for famous Penn State Black alumni Wally Triplett and Jesse Arnelle, she said.

The committee also plans to hand out vouchers to students who may struggle financially to receive routine medical examinations. Additionally, it plans to recognize the history of Indigenous peoples on the land that Penn State occupies, according to Kallur (sophomore-health policy and administration).

The reception of the new committee by UPUA has been positive, according to Kallur.

“Everyone understood that there was a need for a

committee like [Justice and Equity],” Kallur said.

But the vice chair also said she has seen cooperation between her committee and the broader Penn State community.

“I think the Penn State student body has definitely been supportive and reached out to us,” Kallur said. “We try to keep that line of communication open and get as many ideas in as possible.”

Lexy Pathickal, vice president of UPUA, was vital in the initial conception of the Committee on Justice and Equity.

Pathickal (senior-political science and economics) said she noticed similar committees in the student governments of Penn State’s Big Ten counterparts. Hoping to bring an equivalent group to University Park, Pathickal and others gathered in

formation about the potential of the new committee.

Now on sound footing and pursuing its policy goals, Pathickal hopes Justice and Equity will be an “ally” to Penn State students, serving as an institution that can always be turned to for help.

“I’m just hoping their creativity continues and their advocacy gets stronger and stronger even after me and [UPUA President] Zach [McKay] are gone from Penn State,” Pathickal said.

As the committee continues to carve out its space in the student government and Penn State community, Pathickal hopes for even more engagement.

“From here, we’re just hoping for more and more build up as the years go by.”

Aarathi Kallur
Vice chair of Justice and Equity



Rebecca Marcinko/Collegian

“The UPUA has been in existence for 15 years, and the mission of the committee is something that should have been established from day one,” Najee Rodriguez, committee chair, said.

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