

BIG STAGE
BIG WIN

Photo by Noah Riffe/Collegian

*Nick Lee's upset of No. 1 Luke Pletcher at 141 pounds fuels Penn State's win over Ohio State in the annual BJC Dual*By Jake Aferiat
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It's as if Nick Lee's meteoric rise this season was seemingly inevitable.

Lee finished fifth at the NCAA Tournament each of the last two seasons — good enough for consecutive All-American nods at 141 pounds but still well short of becoming an NCAA champion.

But this season, Lee's been like a math equation or a chemical reaction that always yields the same output no matter how many times it's replicated.

Sure, there was a maturation process involved and perhaps it took time and some tinkering to figure out the necessary inputs into the equation.

However, after Lee upset Ohio State's No. 1 ranked Luke Pletcher at the Bryce Jordan Center on Saturday by 8-4 decision, there's little doubt as to what needs to go into the equation for Lee to continue his dominant season.

"He's just got to stay hungry and focused like he's been. Nick's extremely consistent the way he trains year round, his lifestyle — those things pay off and we're seeing that," Lee's coach Cael Sanderson said following the junior's win. "When you match the skill with the commitment, this is what you get."

Lee may not always get the buzz of some of his current teammates like Mark Hall and Vincenzo Joseph, but this year he's proven to be just as lethal and as much of a force as anyone.

Last year though, things were different — at least to Ohio State coach Tom Ryan. Penn State went into Columbus last season and started the night out with two upsets — Roman Bravo-Young at 133 pounds and Nick Lee at 141 — something Ryan didn't anticipate.

He conceded his assessment of where his team was at that point in the season last year missed the mark and losing the first two bouts never entered into his mind.

"I thought we were ready to win tonight," Ryan said at the time. "Where we thought we

were and what happened tonight are drastically different. I did not think this could happen."

This time though, Ryan wasn't taking Lee for granted and certainly didn't overlook him.

In the eyes of the 14th year coach of the Buckeyes, it was Lee's hunger and drive that gave Lee the edge over Pletcher.

"We knew 141 was going to be a war. Lee is really good," Ryan said following his team's 20-16 loss on Saturday. "It was a 1-2 matchup and we struck first but then he just kept coming and we just didn't deal with the keep coming-ness that happened in the match."

Lee's unrelenting offense and drive despite getting taken down early in the first period by Pletcher even inspired some of his teammates to persist as well.

"My first thought was Nick Lee got taken down and he still whooped his guy, so I can do the same thing," Joseph said after posting a 13-5 decision after also getting taken down early in the first period.

Joseph along with Hall and teammate Aaron Brooks were the only three Nittany Lions to post bonus point wins on the night, but it was Lee's win that got the crowd of 15,995 and his teammates most excited.

Heading into Saturday's matchup there was the normal, palpable buzz that surrounds any meeting of the No.1 and No. 2 ranked guys in a given weight class, but Lee's preparation for the week didn't change.

That's because it never does, though.

"I prepare the same way for everything. I don't know if there's a secret sauce or anything, it's just kind of consistency and consistently doing the right stuff," Lee said. "Nothing special this week, just making sure that I was the best I could be."

It's hard to imagine Lee has given anything but his best all season, and as it turns out, Lee's best rivals the best of anyone in the country. That's why it's easy to see how the Evansville, Indiana, native is 17-0 and has four

ranked wins including three top-10 wins and 15 bonus point wins.

And yet, Lee isn't jaded by the success he's had up to this point and still manages to find a way to get hyped and remain enthusiastic every time he dons a blue and white singlet and steps foot on the mat — and Saturday's bout was no different.

"I think I was pretty excited, I'm excited for every match, but we got 10,000 more people here tonight so that was pretty cool," Lee said. "I'm glad that more people got to experience the experience that is a Penn State wrestling match."

The two-time All-American earned a right to revel in the spotlight of the Bryce Jordan Center on a raised stage and on national television.

If nothing else, the noise and the fanfare is a way to keep him humble.

"I don't like to block it out I like to see it because, you know, not a

lot of people get to do that so just being grateful for that," Lee said.

The last two seasons, Nick Lee's finishes at the NCAA Tournaments have been markedly different.

As a freshman, he got pinned in the opening round only to battle all the way back for fifth place whereas last year as a sophomore, Lee fell to fifth place after suffering a 4-3 decision loss on Friday night of the tournament to Ohio State's Joey McKenna.

All year though, Sanderson and Lee have both stressed how he's jumped another level and is poised to be a legitimate title threat at 141 pounds.

So if given past results and the conventional wisdom that Lee might fizzle out, the general public was surprised by Lee's sheer dominance this season, they can be forgiven.

But it's Sanderson's job to believe in Lee and all his wrestlers, so he knew this was coming.

"I wouldn't say I'm really surprised — Nick's a pretty darn good wrestler," Sanderson said.

No matter where Lee's season ends come the postseason, he'll still go down as a "darn good wrestler," and he knows that.

Now though, he's just focused on taking the time to enjoy this win and all of the others as they come before the hindsight and potential second-guessing that comes with finishing a season sets in.

"There's no better time to appreciate it than now. It's really fun whenever you get to experience this stuff with your teammates and out of season you kind of look back and say, 'man, I wish I was back making weight in the BJC,' which is not something many people say, but it's fun," Lee said. "So in the moment it's awesome and I'll miss it."

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Noah Riffe/Collegian

No. 2 Nick Lee has his hand raised after defeating No. 1 Luke Pletcher during Penn State wrestling's match against Ohio State on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Bryce Jordan Center.

MY VIEW | TYLER KING

Don't undervalue Hall and Joseph's place in history

Kerry McCoy, David Taylor, Zain Retherford and Bo Nickal: the Mount Rushmore of Penn State wrestling.

With a program that has won as much as Penn State has in its history, it's hard to pinpoint the four best wrestlers to ever wear the blue and white singlet, but those four, who were honored at intermission of Penn State's victory over Ohio State in the annual BJC Dual on Saturday, are as good as it gets.

That list doesn't even include a pair of three-time NCAA Champions Ed Ruth and Jason Nolf, as well as recent fan favorites Quentin Wright, Frank Molinaro, Phil Davis and Nico Megaludis.

But two wrestlers who sometimes get lost in the shuffle were also in attendance at the BJC on Saturday, however they were helping the Nittany Lions to victory — Mark Hall and Vincenzo Joseph.

Penn State was trailing 9-6 coming out of the intermission

and in the blink of an eye, the Nittany Lions were up 16-9.

Joseph continued his undefeated senior season with a major decision over No. 16 Ethan Smith, while Hall pinned No. 7 Kaleb Romero in less than a minute.

If either of them fails to pick up bonus points, Penn State loses and nearly 16,000 people leave Happy Valley disappointed.

But their importance to the Penn State program obviously goes way beyond Saturday night.

Hall and Joseph have been integral pieces of the last three team titles won by the Nittany Lions and have made plenty of history along the way.

When the duo each won their first individual titles as freshmen in 2017, they became the first freshmen in program history to win NCAA titles.

Since then, they've each proceeded to make the finals every year since, with Joseph picking up his second title in 2018 (with a chance for a third this season.)

For Hall, even though he just has the lone title from his freshman season, he'll likely finish top 15 in program history in wins and is already seventh all-time in pins.

The Minnesota native has provided dozens of exciting moments at Rec Hall and his pin at the BJC on Saturday was just the latest example.

But beyond the wins and bonus point victories, Hall and Joseph represent an important gap between two different eras of Penn State wrestling.

Yes, they were both a part of that legendary 2017 performance at the NCAA Championships when the Nittany Lions won five straight individual titles from 149 to 184 pounds.

But their performances this season in keeping the program at the top of the college wrestling world in the years following the departures of Retherford, Nickal and Nolf is what's important.

Without Hall and Joseph, there wouldn't even be a slimmer of

hope at a 10th national title. Who knows, without Hall and Joseph, the Nittany Lions wouldn't even have eight or nine titles.

The duo might not have the wins and individual titles that

Nolf and Nickal do, but their importance can't be overlooked in the history of the program.

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Noah Riffe/Collegian

No. 2 Mark Hall flexes to the crowd after defeating No. 7 Kaleb Romero during Penn State match against Ohio State on Saturday, Feb. 15.

PSU alumna seeks to uproot criminal justice system

By Ashley Hayford
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Prior to running for New York Queens County district attorney in 2019, Penn State alumna Tiffany Cabán was inspired to become a public defender because of her grandfather who she said she “loved and adored.”

Her grandfather was an alcoholic and physically abusive to his wife, to the point where Cabán’s mother had to drop out of high school to care for her family.

He was only let back into the family’s lives when he became sick so that he could meet his grandchildren before he died.

“After I got older, long after he died, I thought about the fact that this really abusive husband and father and this really incredibly patient, kind and loving grandfather were both so equally true,” Cabán said. “[America’s system] didn’t take into account the fact that what my grandfather also was a dirt poor kid who came here from Puerto Rico, who served our country in the Korean War, came back with [post-traumatic stress disorder] and self-medicating with alcohol. Where were our systems in place to support him so that he could support his family?”

Cabán is now a national political organizer with the Working Families Party, a grassroots party comprised of multicultural working individuals who have come together to address their differences to “make our nation work for the many, not the few,” according to its website.

Cabán carries her belief that the criminal justice system cannot be separated from housing, healthcare, employment and education issues into all aspects of her career.

She will speak at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17 in Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center, in which she will discuss discrimination in the criminal justice system.

The event is sponsored by Penn State’s College Democrats, Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC), Latino Caucus, and LGBTQA Student Roundtable.

Currently, Cabán does electoral work for the Working Families Party across the country to identify, recruit and support progressive district attorney candidates.

Cabán’s “untraditional story” began at Penn State, where she was a first generation college student who turned down offers to play softball at smaller schools, opting for a “traditional college town experience.”

“Throughout my education, I navigated a lot of it by myself because my parents didn’t have that experience,” Cabán said. “[Penn State] was the only school I applied to and my parents freaked out a little bit when they found out. I hadn’t even visited the campus, I just saw some pictures.”



Courtesy of Tiffany Cabán

Tiffany Cabán marches with a crowd during an election campaign in Queens, New York.

Cabán graduated after attending Penn State for three and a half semesters, obtaining her degree with the fall 2008 class. Following graduation, she served as a public defender for seven years, a job she found both fulfilling and difficult.

“It was an absolute privilege to serve folks from the communities that I came from, but was most fulfilling for me was that there really wasn’t much that separated me from my clients on any given day,” Cabán said. “For so many people, who don’t have intimate connections to our criminal justice system just think, ‘Hey our criminal justice system exists to catch the bad guys,’ but the reality is that our system was built on systemic racism and it weighs most heavily on our black, brown and low-income communities.”

Cabán said the hardest part about being a public defender was building relationships with people whose crimes varied from stealing food from a grocery to homicides. She noted that one case of a young man and his son still sticks with her to this day.

She said the man was facing life in prison, and they lost the trial. One of the things public defenders do, when preparing for a trial, according to Cabán, is listen to phone calls from jail. She said almost every phone call started with the man talking about his son.

“When the guilty verdict came down, all I could think about was the fact that that little boy wasn’t going to have a father and what did that mean for him,” Cabán said.

Not only is Cabán a woman working in the criminal justice system, but she also identifies as a queer Latina. She said she believes America’s political system

was not built to empower most marginalized communities.

Therefore, she said she faced hardships every day.

“It is really hard to build power, to make space and to find a lane as a queer person or a Latinx person, but that also makes it that much more important to run and make sure that we have elected officials that represent our communities,” Cabán said. “People always say, ‘Why do you lead with saying that you’re a queer Latina from a low income community? That’s identity politics.’ That’s not identity politics. It just speaks to my understanding around intersectionality.”

During her political career,

Cabán was endorsed by high-profile organizations and politicians including the New York Times Editorial Board, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Elizabeth Warren. She said those endorsements helped her campaign, but they did not start her campaign momentum.

“People think that our campaign took off when those endorsements came in, but we knew that we were building something very special,” Cabán said. “We had a large collation of formerly incarcerated people, sex workers, undocumented immigrants all banding together. People that



Courtesy of Tiffany Cabán

Tiffany Cabán talks with a pedestrian.

Students from China weigh in on the coronavirus

By Melissa Manno
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Cases of the coronavirus have continued to increase, causing fear among people around the world.

As the sickness spreads, it hits close to home and impacts Chinese students at Penn State.

When Penn State student Rui Bai heard about the coronavirus spreading in Wuhan, she said her passion in philanthropy led to her organizing a fundraiser with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) to aid the hospitals that are helping to fight the spread of the deadly virus.

“It’s heartbreaking to find out that a lot of nurses and doctors are infected because they don’t have proper supplies to protect them,” Bai (senior-accounting) said. “A doctor without a respirator or proper protection is like a soldier without armor.”

Bai is an international student from China who has been in the United States for the past eight years.

As the THON chair for CSSA, Bai is in charge of various fundraising events held by the organization.

The fundraiser, titled “PSU CSSA Benefitting Wuhan,” raised \$9,285 so far. With the help of University Health Services, the organization purchased and shipped 1,000 respirators to the Wuhan Hanyang Hospital in China.

“We were so worried that the supplies weren’t going to make it to the hospital, but we just got the news that they arrived [Wednesday] morning and are being used,” Bai said. “We can’t help anyone, but we’re trying our best.”

Bai said if students want to help, they should do so by donating to organizations such as CSSA as opposed to purchasing and shipping out supplies on their own.

She said when the organization wants to send medical supplies, it sends a link and description to the hospital for approval.

“We don’t encourage students to buy and send stuff to hospitals directly because a lot of the medical supplies that are available right now aren’t qualified or are expired, so the hospitals won’t accept it,” Bai said.

Many people feel that the spread of the coronavirus and the media coverage surrounding it has caused a surge in racist attitudes toward Chinese individuals. In the

past month, Chinese people have faced various acts of violence and hate on American soil.

On Feb. 5, the New York Post reported a Chinese woman was attacked at a subway station, being verbally abused and called “diseased.”

Wenqin Gan, a Chinese Penn State student, said these incidences of violence made him angry and led him to stand outside of Pattee and Paterno Library with a sign that read, “Racism is the most dangerous virus.”

“People always think these contagious viruses, such as the coronavirus, are the danger, but we ignore how racism is more dangerous and contagious,” Gan (junior-computational data science) said. “Even if someone isn’t racist, if they are exposed to a group of racist people, they can start to act the same way.”

Gan hasn’t seen acts of violence or hate on Penn State’s campus, but said people still make comments that reveal racist attitudes toward Chinese students.

“I hear jokes like the ones you see on social media,” Gan said. “A lot of people say those things and it doesn’t make me feel good.”

In addition to being treated differently by their peers, Chinese students’ travel back home is limited by the virus.

The United States Travel Advisory listed China under a “Level 4” category, meaning U.S. citizens are advised not to travel there, and that if they do, they should be prepared for travel restrictions.

“I don’t think a lot of Chinese students here are directly impacted, but I’m sure they’re concerned about their family and friends back in China, and we also probably won’t be able to go home anytime soon,” Gan said.

Bai typically returns to China for the summer, but said that she will probably stay in the United States this year to avoid the possibility of being stuck in China.

“As international students, we typically go back to China for the summer and spend time with family,” Bai said.

“For me, I will probably choose not to take the risk that I can’t return to the U.S., so I’ll be staying in the states if the issue isn’t solved.”

Penn State students abroad are feeling the impacts, as well. Jiahao Yan, a Penn State student from Shanghai, is currently studying abroad in the Netherlands.



Courtesy of Wenqin Gan

Lia Warbuton (left) and Wenquin Gan (right) stand in front of the Pattee-Paterno Library protesting racism in wake of the Coronavirus.

“At public places in the Netherlands there have been occasions where I do feel that I’m being treated differently,” Yan (junior-philosophy) said. “It mostly comes from the older population, and some professors have asked me about it in front of my entire class, which is very uncomfortable.”

Yan said that he wouldn’t call his experiences “racist” — but he has noticed things to be a bit off.

“I definitely sense a degree of paranoia from the looks I get in public,” Yan said. “There is a lot of scary info coming from the news, but it’s a bit excessive in my opinion as the situation is quite contained still outside of China.”

Yan said he thinks people don’t realize that “statistically, the virus is less deadly than the common flu” and that a lot of the fear is driven by the media’s extensive coverage, which he described as “blown out of proportion.”

Chinese student Lia Warbuton was born and raised in Pittsburgh, but has family in China. She has also heard about discrimination of Chinese students abroad from her grandmother who lives in London.

She said her grandmother said, “Chinese students have been experiencing

have been probably the most significantly, disproportionately, harmfully impacted by our criminal justice system saying, ‘Hey we’re going to get behind a candidate because we think that she is going to serve our communities.’”

Penn State College Democrats president Kelsey Denny said she is sure Cabán will encourage students to be politically active in upcoming elections.

“My hope for the result of the Tiffany Cabán event is that Penn State students acknowledge and understand the transformative impact that Cabán has had on increasing Latinx and queer visibility throughout her race for DA of Queens,” Denny (senior-political science) said.

Penn State College Democrats executive vice president Tom Sarabok said bringing a Penn State alumna who identifies as a queer Latina was important to the organization.

Sarabok (senior-finance and history) added the College Democrats hope Cabán’s story resonates with Penn State students who plan to follow the same track in their professional lives.

“Cabán is truly a uniquely exciting individual,” Sarabok said via email. “On top of being an amazing representation of the brightest hopes for the future of the Democratic Party, she is also an established public defender, organizer and candidate who has already repeatedly showcased bold policy ideas that connect with Americans from many backgrounds.”

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TEDxPSU conference speaks on “continuum”

By Christina Baker, Noor Al-Ahmad and Kyle Hutchinson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

People filled Schwab Auditorium for the 10th-annual TEDxPSU conference on Sunday, Feb. 16, to hear speakers discuss topics surrounding “Continuum.” “Continuum” is defined as a sequence of events that don’t appear to be different from one another, but have distinctly different extremes. Each speaker taught lessons that revolved around this theme.

Samuel Richards

When Penn State professor Samuel Richards spoke at the first TEDxPSU conference 10 years ago, he said he wasn’t sure how the audience would receive his talk, but his wife sent a text to her parents that read, “This is going to be big.”

Richards’ talk that year, “A radical experiment in empathy,” asked Americans to imagine themselves in the shoes of both persecuted Arabs in America and the insurgents waging war against American society.

Shortly after Richards’ talk was uploaded to the TED website, a man from Iraq named Basim, whose family was killed in a mis-
sile strike in 2015, contacted him and said the idea he framed the situation for Iraqis was incredibly accurate. From then on, Basim Skyped into Richards’ sociology class once every semester.

At the end of his first TEDx-PSU talk, Richards urged the audience to “step out of your tiny little worlds and into the tiny little worlds of other people.”

He said he now realizes he was talking to himself, as well.

Richards said he wonders how, over the next 10 years, other TEDxPSU speakers’ lives will change.

Stan Herd

In 1992, Stan Herd said he went to a meeting in Trump Towers with Andy Weiss, vice president of The Trump Organization, to ask if he agreed Herd could create a piece of art on a Trump-owned property.

The piece that Herd created — a one-acre square of various vegetables — was planted with help from homeless New Yorkers, including a struggling actor and a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In creating this project, he spent his mornings working with homeless people, and his afternoons in Trump Towers updating Weiss on his progress.

One of the most important things about earthworks art, according to Herd, is how it changes the people who execute it. During the time he spent in New York, he witnessed the homeless people he was working on the project change.

Herd said he creates art for both the big picture — like the Fibonacci sequence — and the small picture — like one human heart.

Annabelle Schmitt

When Annabelle Schmitt was a freshman at Penn State, she downloaded several dating apps. Unfortunately for Schmitt, who is half-Taiwanese and half-white, many of her Tinder matches seemed more interested in her race than they were in her personality.

The messages she received inspired Schmitt to learn about fetishization of Asian women, leading her to embark on what she called a “white boy strike” and write a blog post about her experiences.

To Schmitt’s surprise, her blog post was criticized on a Reddit thread under r/hapa, a community for people who are



James Riccardi/Collegian

Will Hunt is a writer, archaeologist, and avid caver of underground cave systems across the world. Will Hunt spoke at TEDxPSU, a student hosted conference, on Feb. 16 in Schwab Auditorium.

half white and half Asian.

Schmitt learned about how American culture emasculates Asian men, and how even though Asian women get the highest response rates on dating apps, Asian men get the lowest.

White men have the highest response rates on dating apps, which is part of what Schmitt calls the “glorification of whiteness.” This phenomenon can also be seen in interracial dating when people of color would rather date white people than people of their own race, according to Schmitt.

Schmitt said she is the product of an interracial relationship between a Taiwanese woman and a white man, and she thanked her parents for showing her what a successful marriage looks like.

Schmitt also thanked her white boyfriend, whom she met during her white boy strike, for showing her what she wanted

from an interracial relationship — not someone who fetishizes her for her race, but someone who recognizes and respects the struggles that she faces

because of it.

Frances Blanchette

Frances Blanchette, a linguist who studies syntax, started her talk by asking the audience to consider the phrase “I didn’t do nothing.”

The sentence appeared in a cartoon, uttered by a defendant on the witness stand. He took it as a declaration of his innocence; the jury, comprised entirely of English majors, took it as a confession.

The sentence, Blanchette said, is a double negative, and it can be interpreted as negative or positive.

Double negatives are considered bad grammar, according to Blanchette, because Bishop Robert Lowthe declared them so in the 1700s. A majority of the audience agreed.

However, double negatives are common in many American dialects, and double negatives actually follow their own set of grammar rules. They always contain a contraction, like “didn’t” or “doesn’t,” according to Blanchette.

If that contraction is the first of the two negatives in the sentence, the double negative has a negative meaning. If the “n’t” is the second of the two negatives in the sentence, then the double negative has a positive meaning.

According to Blanchette, interacting with many dialects

has been found to help people better understand grammar.

“Don’t be afraid of no double negatives,” Blanchette said. “Appreciate them instead.”

Nate Brown

Dr. Nate Brown — professor of mathematics, researcher in Theoretical Mathematics and principal investigator of STEM Diversity Lab — recalled an instance at an airport in which he was asked by a stranger sitting next to him what he did for a living.

Upon stating he was a mathematician, the person whom he was speaking to visibly recoiled, claiming that they were not a “math person.”

“Let’s be crystal clear: math is a skill — it’s not a trait,” Brown said. “Practice and persistence are the keys to proficiency, small incremental improvements accumulate over time.”

However, Brown claims that persistence is especially difficult given the fact that most math environments are known for being low-empathy.

Brown discussed what he calls the “ugly stereotypes” about the people that most members of society expect to be good at math. As he points out, these stereotypes tend to favor white and Asian men and tend to put down women and people of color.

“Math is a skill to be learned not a trait you are born with or without,” Brown said.

Will Hunt

Will Hunt, author of “Underground,” described his experience in Le Tuc d’Audoubert cave in France.

Hunt saw 14,000-year-old foot and fingerprints and two clay sculptures of bison, remnants of a ritual dance. Archaeologists know nothing of the people who left those marks or what the bison represented to them, according to Hunt.

“We know almost nothing about what lies beneath our feet,” Hunt said. “But the underground is more of a mystery. It’s like a whole forgotten continent lying just beneath our feet.”

Hunt described being overcome by a rush of emotion.

“When you think of the underground, I want you to remember that the world is always larger and deeper and stranger and more mysterious than you recognize,” Hunt said.

Candis Watts Smith

Candis Watts Smith, associate professor of political science and African American studies, began her speech by noting that while performing menial,

everyday tasks such as going to the grocery store or the park with her 6-year-old son, strangers will stop her to compliment him and reassure her that her son is smart and handsome.

“When most people walk away, the first thing that comes to my mind is, ‘I hope the people who leave him as a child may see him as a grown man,’” Smith said.

As the author of two books on race and racism in the United States — “Stay Woke” and “Racial Status” — Smith said this thought runs through her mind, as it is easy to become a pessimist in her field of work.

Smith said many Americans have a very narrow understanding of racism, and they believe it’s obvious who racists are and distance themselves from people who say racist things and idealize the 1950s.

She wants to dispel the myth that the South is the most racist place in the United States, and that it will die off with the oldest generation.

By citing her own research and statistical work, Smith showed that issues relating to educational segregation, racial disparities in prison populations or the 20 most racially resentful states were prevalent in the South, Midwest and Northeast.

Smith said her work revealed that millennials don’t display a sense of urgency about issues relating to racial inequality, likely because research also shows that white parents do not discuss issues related to racism with their kids in order to protect them or instill their kids with “colorblind lessons.”

“It doesn’t have to be like this — we can do better,” Smith said. “We can have hard conversations with our kids so they don’t grow up like many of us did, thinking that talking about racism makes you a racist — it doesn’t.”

Dr. Judith Grisel

Dr. Judith Grisel, a professor of psychology and researcher in neuroscience and addiction, said she went through a hard journey of experimentation with drugs and alcohol consumption that resulted in her being kicked out of schools, becoming homeless, contracting hepatitis C and eventually finding help in rehabilitation.

“If you start drinking by [age] 14, you have seven times the chance of developing alcohol abuse problems,” Grisel said.

She discussed her struggles with addiction and recovery.

“The only way I could find anything worth doing was to be completely stoned,” Grisel said. “When the weed goes away, there’s a lot of despair.”

Grisel used graphs and images of brains to show how THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, affects the brain.

James Fitzgerald

James Fitzgerald, former FBI agent, discussed finding his life’s purpose through forensic linguistics.

He eventually became the lead investigator in the Unabomber case.

“I knew I didn’t want to sit down and count someone else’s money,” Fitzgerald said in reference to a line in a movie he watched as a kid, but remembered throughout his life.

In the TV series about the case, “Manhunt: Unabomber,” Sam Worthington played Fitzgerald, who played an important role in taking the serial killer down. He also served as a consultant during the show’s creation.

John Liechty

John Liechty, a professor of business and the lead organizer of the Dodd-Frank Act, based his talk around the question, “What if I had a hedge fund?”

Liechty said with it, he’d focus on finding a cure for type 1 diabetes.

He said the best way to encourage finding solutions for problems such as diabetes was to use his ideas of “the ever-growing prize,” the idea that rewards would be set for people who find cures and implement progress toward them, as well as “patent repository.”

Devon Still

Former Penn State and NFL football player Devon Still detailed his journey of multiple injuries that threatened his career, as well as his young daughter being diagnosed with an aggressive and deadly form of cancer.

Still talked of his resilience throughout both processes.

“People used to say that resilience couldn’t be taught and that you were born with it or not. That’s not true,” Still said. “Resilience can be taught, learned and trained.”

He also shared his “playbook” for his daughter to beat cancer, extending it out for anybody going through rough or difficult times, such as believing in yourself, giving battle a purpose and staying in the fight all four quarters.

“Every challenge is put in front of you to teach you,” Still said.

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Lawsuit against Borough Council divides community

OUR VIEW

The community would benefit from a compromise regarding Summers on Allen.

Five weeks ago, State College Borough Council approved “Summers On Allen” — a two-month long initiative that would turn the 100 block of South Allen Street into a pedestrian plaza. The project was approved through a revote, after the council originally voted against the initiative’s approval.

However, since the revote, it has been made public that complications regarding Summers on Allen now surpass varying opinions among business owners and council members on whether it’s worthwhile after all.

A lawsuit filed on Feb. 7 by several local businesses argues the council has violated its own charter rule by performing the revote. The four businesses that proposed the lawsuit — Connecting Point Computers, Cuts by Christy, Rapid Transit Sports and Woodrings Floral Gardens — formed a group they call “ASSETS,” the “Association of Allen Street Stores Expecting to Survive.”

Summers On Allen was brought forward for a revote by Councilman Evan Myers, who had voted in favor of

Summers on Allen the first time it was presented to the council. However, the majority of initial votes disapproved of the event. According to the council’s charter rules, a revote can only be brought up by a party who had previously voted in the majority, and Myers had voted in the minority, therefore violating the rule.

The reasoning behind the rule is understandable — it prevents the “losing” party in a vote from consistently bringing up the same issue. But in practice, perhaps the rule shouldn’t be so black and white, especially in this specific situation where new council members have joined since the last vote.

As of right now, there’s no way to know if the council intentionally violated this rule or if it was a genuine

oversight. Either way, the resulting lawsuit has seemingly layered on extra issues, especially between

disapproving businesses and the council, on top of the original qualms.

It’s possible the event might end up being halted because of these legal pursuits, though there has been no indication from the council of cancellation. The council’s statement about the lawsuit was vague, not signifying a plan of action. The State College Borough Council objected the claim, saying there is “no dispute” that the vote that took place on Jan. 13 was voted at an “otherwise proper-constituted meeting.”

The Collegian Board of Editors still maintains the previous support of Summers on Allen written in its Jan. 15 editorial. In theory, the idea sounds potentially enjoyable and unifying for many within the community. However, it feels as though disputes over Summers on Allen — within the council itself and between

the council and certain South Allen businesses — have diverted attention away from the borough’s efforts to unify the community. The suit raises questions of the council’s competence regarding its own rules, in addition to the conflicted opinions about the event itself.

The lawsuit is complicated — on one front, if Summers on Allen is cancelled, it seems as if avoiding the potential losses for a few businesses might be prioritized over thousands of State College residents and the experiences available to them.

However, the concerns of local businesses are also valid. Though Summers on Allen could benefit some businesses through foot traffic, there is a possibility it could negatively impact businesses like Connecting Points Computers — where, without store-front parking, customers might be faced

with carrying potentially heavy technology for longer distances from their cars to the store.

Despite potential roadblocks for businesses during the event, trying to make Summers on Allen a success shouldn’t be thrown away completely. The concerns should be taken into account, but perhaps compromises could be considered — such as, how long Summers on Allen might span for and more.

Unfortunately, with the existing suit filed, it’s hard to believe that such compromise will actually be met; it might just not be worth the trouble.

The situation has been complex seemingly from the get-go. Summers On Allen might have the potential to be a fun, beneficial experience for the community, and it’s hard to believe it couldn’t be salvaged somehow.

Though the legal situation has added another factor into this equation, perhaps more collaboration between the council and local businesses who have reservations could provide a more positive alternative for the community at large.

MY VIEW | Anonymous

My experience without healthcare during college

For about a year of my time at Penn State, I didn’t have health insurance.

While college is a time to grow through facing new life experience and lessons in living alone, debts and more, I was facing a completely different lesson that mostly low-income citizens have to face every day — obtaining proper health insurance.

If you have steady healthcare and never had to think about applying for your own, it is certainly something to be thankful for. Under the Affordable Care Act, young adults are able to stay on their parent’s health care until they are 26, but that is not always an option for students.

In the past two years, my mother’s healthcare has been on and off — her work was between insurances and we were left without healthcare. I had to take advantage of cheaper health care resources, paying around \$100 at health clinics when I had a medical emergency.

Recently, I sprained my ankle while breaking in a new pair of shoes and refused to go to the doctor knowing it would cost money out of my pocket. Despite not knowing what was wrong with my ankle and even limping in pain to class, I pushed off the fact that the pain could be a serious long term problem. I did not want to ask friends or my family for help, I didn’t want to feel helpless.

Despite having health insurance previously, it wasn’t

that great. I remember when my brother and I went to the dentist office covered by our insurance, we had to sit in a foldable beach chair where a cart was rolled up to clean our teeth.

But still, it was healthcare and a lot less concerning than having no healthcare at all. Many students do not worry about the subject of health care because of their parents’ plans. But if a parent works for themselves or a health care situation arises, students may face problems finding how to get health care that can fit into a college budget.

My friend recently went off of her parent’s health insurance due to financial reasons. She was waiting to get insurance again through the government’s Medicaid, which gives low-income citizens health insurance.

When she received the news her Medicaid went through, the first thing she did was get her teeth cleaned — she had not had dental insurance for three years.

Another friend of mine got in an accident driving up to State College last year. To be cautious, he went to the hospital to get tested for a concussion, and when it was all said and done, he left with a \$10,000 medical bill. He had to take only one class the following semester so he could pick up work hours to pay off the bill.

These situations happen more than college students might think.

Penn State requires their students to have health

“If you have steady healthcare and never had to think about applying for your own, it is certainly something to be thankful for.”

Anonymous

insurance to attend the university. They also offer students insurance at \$198 a month for full coverage. While this can be nice for those students who can no longer stay under their parent’s insurance, the price per month is unlikely for many low-income students, considering other college expenses.

In every approaching election, health care coverage is always debated. Many disagree with potential healthcare plans because of its ultimate increase in taxation. I want voters to consider the individuals, like many college students, who without free healthcare, or at least cheaper healthcare, will not be able to tend to any medical needs.

According to a report from Lookout Mountain Group, a collection of university health officials and other experts who formed after Barack Obama’s election, college students are one of the largest groups of Americans without insurance. Since Obamacare brought the

introduction of new healthcare plans like the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the proportion of students without health insurance has dropped from 19 percent to 8.7 percent, as of 2016. These decreasing numbers do not indicate that the problem is gone, but shows how affordable healthcare can truly help millions.

No student should have to avoid the doctor, wait three years to get their teeth cleaned, or take a semester off to work to pay medical bills.

There is a reason we came to Penn State — to get an education. That is the only focus that all students should have, even those individuals who were born into low-income families.

Medicaid is a viable option for many, but its continuous discussion in politics to lessen provided coverage is selfish of those who have never worried whether they can afford a doctors visit. I see a possible future of colleges assuring they can afford proper medical insurance, whether that be through the help of the government or the university.

But as of now, Penn State’s health insurance is surely unaffordable for any college student paying expenses on their own. I hope to see a future where no student has to worry about their expenses over their education.



DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Wheeler remains ‘little engine that could’

By Caleb Wilfinger
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Prior to the start of the 2019-20 season, one of the biggest questions surrounding Penn State was Jamari Wheeler.

In his first two years in Happy Valley, Wheeler established himself as one of the elite on-ball defenders in the Big Ten. He had carved out a niche for himself as a fierce competitor and “glue-guy,” a player that would do anything for the overall benefit of the team.

Nevertheless, there were still questions about Wheeler’s game.

Would he be able to produce as part of a deeper, and more experienced backcourt? Could he take the next step offensively as the starting point guard for a team with NCAA Tournament aspirations?

Twenty-five games into the season, it’s safe to say that Wheeler has answered those questions, and then some.

Wheeler has proven his worth to his team throughout the first four months of the campaign, and he did exactly that once again on Saturday, tallying 11 points on 4-of-6 shooting in 33 minutes.

Nine of his 11 points came from beyond the arc, marking the first time that Wheeler hit three 3-pointers in a game in his career.

The junior guard also chipped in four rebounds, six assists, and a couple of steals, showing his versatility and total impact on the game.

“He’s in the gym every day, working on his game and trying to

get better, so it was only a matter of time before the ball started going through the hoop,” Pat Chambers said. “We’re very confident in Jamari. I’ve never told him not to shoot. I just want to make sure that he takes good ones, and he did that today.”

It goes without saying that Wheeler’s calling card is his effort and intensity on defense.

Night after night, the experienced guard makes life miserable for opposing point guards in the deepest league in the country.

During this eight game winning streak, Wheeler has guarded the likes of Cassius Winston, Xavier Simpson and Marcus Carr, and locked down each player in crunch time.

Against the Wildcats on Saturday, Wheeler was wreaking havoc all over the floor, whether it be in transition defense or in the half court. It got the attention of the opposing coach.

“The first thing that jumps out at you is his energy,” Northwestern coach Chris Collins said. “I’ve never seen a guy — whether you watch him on tape or in person — I’ve never seen him have a bad day with energy. Even when he might not shoot it as well at times, he always brings A+ energy and that’s infectious on a team.”

But one of the most impressive things about Wheeler’s performance was his aggressiveness on the offensive side of the ball.

While the rest of his teammates were in the midst of a slow start, Wheeler opened the scoring for Penn State with a 3-pointer from



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Guard Jamari Wheeler (5) passes the ball during the game against Indiana at the Bryce Jordan Center on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

well beyond the arc.

He would follow that up with an assist on a Lamar Stevens 3-pointer just 90 seconds later and connected on his second triple of the half to break the Nittany Lions out of another scoring drought midway through the opening half.

And when Northwestern cut the Penn State lead to just 12 points early in the second half, Wheeler slashed to the bucket for a layup to stop the bleeding, and chipped in two assists and his

third 3-pointer of the game on the ensuing run from the hosts.

“I’ve just been trying to take what the defense gives me every time,” Wheeler said. “I think this just shows that I’ve been staying in the gym every day, and hard work pays off.”

At one point during the nonconference portion of Penn State’s season, Chambers called Wheeler “the little engine that could,” emphasizing the value of Wheeler’s optimism, hard work and dedication to the game of basketball.

Sitting in the media room of the Bryce Jordan Center on Saturday, following the eighth straight win for his team, Wheeler couldn’t stop smiling, especially when asked about his enthusiasm and passion for the game he loves.

“I’ve been playing [basketball] all my life, I love it,” Wheeler said. “I have a lot of fun and smiling while I’m out there is my way of showing it.”

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3-point barrage propels Nittany Lion offense

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Three point shooting is arguably the most important aspect of modern basketball, and Penn State’s improvement in that area has played a big role in its newfound success.

Against Northwestern the Nittany Lions attempted 31 triples, nearly half of all their field goal attempts (65) and seven more than their season average of 24.

Penn State converted on 11 of those attempts (35.5 percent) while holding the Wildcats to just 2-of-14 from beyond the arc on the other end.

The Nittany Lions had so many options and threats on the perimeter that Northwestern couldn’t afford to leave four of the five players on the floor open at any given time.

With Lamar Stevens playing at the four whenever he was in the game, the only non-shooter for Penn State would be Mike Watkins or John Harrar. But usually this wouldn’t be the case.

Jamari Wheeler has emerged as another guard who can knock down shots from the outside. He made a career-high 3-of-4 threes, and they were all relatively uncontested.

Wheeler isn’t known as a shooter, so Northwestern gave him space on the outside and were glad to help off of him when

Stevens had the ball, and Wheeler shot the ball with confidence and hit his open looks.

Myles Dread shot 11 threes on his own and connected on four. Stevens went 2-of-6 while Curtis Jones Jr. and Seth Lundy were the only two without the hot hand, combining to shoot 2-of-9 from deep.

“I think Myles is playing with incredible confidence right now, and the team overall is playing with incredible confidence,” Pat Chambers said.

The increased volume of three point shooting is something that has steadily been happening for this Penn State team over the course of the last few seasons.

The Nittany Lions average two more 3-pointers per game than they did a season ago, and five more than the season before that.

Penn State isn’t shooting drastically better from those seasons either. This year, the Nittany Lions are shooting the three ball at 33.5 percent, up just 1.5 percent from last year, but the increased quantity is paying dividends.

Penn State got so many good looks by forcing Northwestern

into difficult rotations and with quick ball movement.

The Wildcats had to focus a lot of their defensive effort on containing Lamar Stevens, and in turn it opened up opportunities for his teammates.

“Any time you’re playing against a really good team, there’s decisions you have to make in game planning,” Northwestern coach Chris Collins said. “And the reality is very few guys at the college level can guard Lamar Stevens one on one, he requires extra attention.”

Stevens would end up with 23 points, and almost every time he got the ball with his back to the basket, a second defender would be on him.

“When you get in a situation where you have to play a guy with two guys, or a man and a half, you’re going to be in rotation,” Collins said. “And I think what’s made [Penn State] a really good team this year is those guys’ ability to make shots off of him.”

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“The reality is, very few guys at the college level can guard Lamar Stevens one on one, he requires extra attention.”

Chris Collins
Northwestern coach



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

Guard Myles Dread (2) dribbles past Northwestern guard Pat Spencer (12) during the game against Northwestern on Saturday, Feb. 15.

MY VIEW | TYLER KING

Dread’s return to form proves crucial

As the shot clock wound down, Lamar Stevens surveyed the Northwestern

defense as he stood just beyond the 3-point line on the left wing.

With three Wildcats within five feet of him, he swung the

ball to the opposite side of the floor to Myles Dread, who caught the pass and released arguably the most important shot of the afternoon.

Just as the shot clock buzzer sounded, Dread’s 3-pointer fell sweetly through the hoop.

The sophomore from Detroit would hit another shot from beyond the arc in the final minutes and finish with 16 points in the Nittany Lions’ 77-61 win over Northwestern.

Just like that shot with under five minutes to go was timely on Saturday, Dread’s regained confidence and consistent scoring output has been timely in the absence of Myreon Jones, the Nittany Lions’ second leading scorer who missed his third straight game on Saturday.

In what has been an up-and-down season for Dread, he was removed from the starting lineup a little over a month ago after Penn State fell to Wisconsin at home and only recently returned to the starting lineup in Jones’ absence.

That loss to Wisconsin was the middle of a rough stretch for Dread in which he went three straight games without a made 3-pointer. But he held himself accountable and continued to work everyday in practice.

“Nobody wants to be pulled out of the starting lineup, but I give him a lot of credit for what

he’s doing,” Pat Chambers said after Saturday’s win. “He didn’t sulk, he didn’t complain.”

The last of those three games in which Dread didn’t knock down a shot from beyond the arc was the loss to Minnesota on the road on Jan. 15. Since then, the Nittany Lions have won a program record eight straight Big Ten games and Dread has found his shot once again, making at least one 3-pointer in all eight games on this current win streak.

But his last two performances — 12 points in the road win over Purdue and the 16 points he put up on Saturday — have been incredibly important.

Myreon Jones doesn’t just average close to 15 points per game. He also stretches the defense as one of the most efficient 3-point shooters in the conference. Without him, all eyes were on Dread to be a knockdown shooter for the Nittany Lions.

So far, he’s answered the bell. “I think Myles is playing with incredible confidence right now,” Chambers said.

Chambers is right, the confidence Dread has right now is undeniable. He’s not just standing on the perimeter waiting for catch-and-shoot 3-pointers. One of the most impressive shots he made Saturday came early in the second half when he recognized a hard closeout, pump faked and took two steps forward, calmly knocking down an elbow jump shot.

Dread’s hot shooting stroke combined with his consistent defensive effort could be enough that Chambers might be forced to leave him in the starting lineup even when Jones does return.

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Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

Penn State forward Lamar Stevens (11) hugs guard Myles Dread (2) in celebration after the Nittany Lions defeated Northwestern 77-61 Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Bryce Jordan Center.

COLD AS ICE

In frigid temperatures, Colby Kneese stood tall in goal to propel Penn State over St. Joseph’s

By Andrew Porterfield
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State put on a defensive clinic in its second home game of the 2020 season.

MEN’S LACROSSE The Nittany Lions defeated Saint Joseph’s 19-4 on Saturday afternoon in what has been the best defensive showing from the team so far this season.

Penn State’s stout defensive day led the team to its least goals allowed all season, five less than the previous best of nine.

Allowing only two goals in the first three and a half quarters of play, the Nittany Lions felt as though the crucial feeling of team chemistry was through the roof all day long.

“We were connected all over the field,” senior defenseman Nick Cardile said.

The defensive unit provided a fallback for a Penn State attack that had its fair share of hiccups early on.

The offense couldn’t find the back of the net until five minutes into the game, but the defense didn’t allow for the bleeding to worsen.

Although Penn State had an opportunity to play in front of 1,207 fans at Panzer Stadium, the game-time temperature of 25 degrees provided a mental and physical obstacle for the team.

Hailing from Texas, Colby Kneese’s lacrosse experience with frigid weather primarily comes from his time at Penn State.

Today’s game was so cold, it called for a change in uniform for the senior goalie.

“First time wearing



James Riccardo/Collegian

Goalie Colby Kneese (34) saves a shot on goal during Penn State’s game against St. Joseph’s. The Nittany Lions defeated the Hawks 19-4 Saturday, Feb. 15 at Panzer Stadium.

sweatpants, so it was a little chilly. Never worn before,” Kneese said.

Kneese may want to begin wearing sweatpants more often, because he had a day to remember in goal.

He made 12 saves in 52 minutes of play, and now averages 10.3 saves per game in his career.

Kneese’s start to the season was slightly below the standard he has set previously, totaling just 17 saves in his first two games against Lafayette and Villanova.

Coach Jeff Tambroni was glad

to see Kneese’s hard work out of the spotlight culminate into a day full of highlights.

“Colby really played well — kudos to him,” coach Jeff Tambroni said.

“He’s had a couple of really good weeks of practice and it was nice to see him come out here and put a full game together from start to finish.”

With Kneese’s great game in goal also came an opportunity for another goalie to hop in and showcase his abilities.

Redshirt freshman Aleric Fyock made the first appearance of his career for the last eight minutes of the fourth quarter.

He allowed two garbage-time goals from the Hawks.

“It’s the best, you know,” Kneese said.

“They work just as hard as I do on a weekly basis so they deserve to be in the game just as much as I do.”

Heading into its affair against a tougher opponent in Yale next weekend, Penn State isn’t

patting itself on the back for its performance today.

Yale put up 18 points in its six-goal victory over Villanova on Saturday, and its win was characterized by a seven-goal first period that proved too lethal for Villanova to come back from.

“Even though we gave up four goals, there’s still room for improvement,” Cardile said.

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PSU finishes on the right side of big runs

By Zach Keffer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State rode a five-point halftime lead to victory against Lehigh thanks to a 7-0 run that spanned just under 10 minutes long.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE The streak kicked off via a free position goal from midfielder Sophia Triandafilis, the first goal of a hat trick for the junior.

“We want to make sure she stays aggressive to goal and takes those one-on-ones,” coach Missy Doherty said.

The next three goals scored by Penn State would come from free position shots.

The Nittany Lions had seven first-half free position shots, four of which were goals, and held Lehigh to just one.

“We tried to open up better lanes than we did the last time for the players dodging to cage,” Doherty said.

Doherty said this causes defenders to crash inside from a further distance away, which is usually going to result in more fouls.

“You don’t get those fouls unless you’re really challenging hard,” Doherty said.

Penn State scored on six of their 13 free position shots, while Lehigh was only granted three opportunities the whole game.

At one point during the run, Penn State scored three goals in under a minute and a half of play.

Triandafilis put away her second goal of the half which resulted in a Lehigh timeout.

“I think we needed to get a little more physical on the draw,” Doherty said.

Immediately following the stoppage, Penn State won the next two draws and scored on each of those possessions.

“I think that was a key for us all game,” Doherty said.

The biggest contributors to the seven-goal streak were Triandafilis, who scored two goals, and senior attacker Maria Auth, who scored two goals and added an assist.

Auth would finish with a hat trick and a team-high four assists for a total of seven points in the win.

“It’s a credit to my teammates,” Auth said. “Assists usually come when the cutters work hard, so I don’t want to take credit for that.”

Senior midfielder Shannon Moore, sophomore attacker

Lauren Craft and senior attacker Katie Schluederberg all added goals as well.

Penn State opened the second half with three straight goals, two coming from sophomore midfielder Mary Muldoon.

But with the help of a power-play goal and an empty-net free position shot, Lehigh put together a 5-1 run to cut the lead to three late in the game.

“I think our games are so long that at some point, other teams are going to have runs,” Doherty said.

With the lead at just three, Triandafilis cut across the middle and put away a dagger to give Penn State a cushion with two minutes to play.

“We were losing momentum a little bit,” Triandafilis said. “To get that goal back brought kind of brought the hype back to the offense.”

Doherty was also impressed with the late goal from Triandafilis and the attacking unit as a whole.

“We’re waiting for our attack to mature,” Doherty said, “and that was a pretty mature set.”

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Noah Riffe/Collegian

Head coach Rob Cooper during Penn State’s game on Friday, March 15, 2019 at Medlar Field.

Penn State’s freshmen shine in North Carolina

By Ben Serfass
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State wrapped up its first weekend of the regular season posting a record of 3-1, and the trend down in Cary, North Carolina was the emergence of its young talent.

On opening day it was no secret who stole the show.

Freshman catcher Matt Wood was playing the role of designated hitter for the day, making his collegiate debut batting in the two hole in the lineup.

The young backstop was raved about by other players in the off-season for his ability to make contact.

His ability to barrel up pitches was on full display as he led the Nittany Lions to their first win of 2020. Against Bucknell, he reached base four times and had three hits. He also scored three of Penn State’s nine runs.

Wood found himself behind the plate to start both games in Saturday’s double header. In game two, his RBI single drove in Cole Bartels which gave the Nittany Lions a lead that they would not relinquish.

In the final game of the weekend, Wood finished with his second three hit game of the series. He added two RBI singles to his resume and the Nittany Lion’s winning effort.

The freshman worked himself on base in three of the team’s four contests this weekend.

Right-handed pitcher Logan Evans also impressed in

his debut.

The 6-foot-5 hurler completed two and a thirds innings and earned his first career win for the Nittany Lions in the process. He retired six of the seven outs he recorded by way of strikeout.

Outfielder Tayven Kelley made his first appearance in a pinch hitting role in the first game of Penn State’s double header against NJIT.

After going 0-1, he was given another opportunity in the form of a start in game 2. Kelley doubled to left to open the bottom of the second.

Two batters later he would come around to tie the game at 2 after a Ben Khailer sacrifice fly.

Kelley also singled in his start on Sunday.

Brenden Franks recorded a hit in his single at-bat. He appeared as a pinch hitter for second baseman Gavin Homer in Sunday’s game.

Johnny Piacentino also made his first appearance, both on the mound and in the batter’s box, of his young career.

The right hander threw only a third of an inning against Bucknell. Later in the weekend, he was given a pinch hitting opportunity against Monmouth. In his only at-bat of the weekend he doubled home Penn State’s 14th run of the contest.

Braden Halladay managed to get in two innings of work against the Hawks. The Florida native threw two scoreless innings and allowed only one hit.

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Samantha Wilson/Collegian

Midfielder Sophia Triandafilis (23) chases the ball during the game against Lehigh at Panzer Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 15. Penn State defeated Lehigh 13-9.

PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★ You sense that you might need to get more involved than you originally intended. Someone could be pushing you too hard for your taste. Unless you state your limits, he or she has no way to judge what is happening. Tonight: Make it an early night.

Students living, working on swine farm

Quincey Reese
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After completing freshman year, it is customary for students to continue living in a dorm or move off campus to an apartment. Other Penn State students, however, choose to stray from these selections, including some individuals from the College of Agriculture.

David Buckwalter and Eli Baker chose an alternate form of housing — the barn at the Swine Research Center past Beaver Stadium.

According to swine farm manager Mark Kreidler, all of the barns at University Park offer limited housing spaces to students who are interested in working and living directly on the farm. Kreidler said the swine farm has both “live-in” and “walk-in” workers who have to divide the tasks evenly among themselves each day.

He added, however, that the live-in students are always in charge of the morning chores — seeing as they have the living location to accommodate the 6 a.m. start time — before the walk-ins arrive at around 8 a.m.

Buckwalter (sophomore-animal science) said as the first people to work in the morning, he and Baker (senior-agricultural systems management) are tasked with making sure the roughly 550 pigs are healthy and functioning normally before the day begins.

On top of this, both students help the farm’s efforts by feeding the pigs in the indoor and outdoor locations, as well as the nursery, making the feed, scraping the pens, making sure the pigs are clean and pressure-washing various rooms and spaces of the barn.

Both Buckwalter and Baker also assist with breeding and farrowing — the process by which piglets are born.

Baker said being involved with these tasks is one of his favorite aspects of the job.

“I particularly enjoy the days where we have baby pigs born,” Baker said. “Being able to bring life into the world, take care of

them and help them grow a little bit [is really rewarding].”

Buckwalter also expressed a fondness for these tasks. He added that despite the less glamorous chores he has to complete, he enjoys the job overall.

“Being able to help with producing more pigs is something that makes you feel good, but there’s also the pressure-washing and cleaning up after them which sometimes isn’t that fun,” Buckwalter said. “It’s all part of the job.”

The swine farm only offers one room for two students to share each academic year. Kreidler said this arrangement can be difficult to organize sometimes, seeing as the singular room availability requires the selection of either two female or two male students for the room.

When deciding who will live in the room — which is located directly above the barn’s office — Kreidler said he and his fellow manager Ben Kline choose students who “demonstrate that they have a strong work ethic and [sense of] responsibility.”

Although not a requirement, Kreidler said it is preferred that students work at the farm prior to requesting the barn room so they can prove themselves while working for him at the center.

In line with the typical requirements of barn live-ins, Buckwalter and Baker have to work at least five hours per week in order to pay for their housing on the farm. Kreidler said they can work up to 20 hours a week, however, meaning that anything they earn beyond rent payment goes directly to the students.

Despite the challenges, Kreidler said he believes his arrangement is ideal for students interested in pursuing a career with animals or agriculture, especially because the rent is cheap and he gains work experience.

“This is livestock. They’re large animals, it’s dirty, it’s hard work,” Kreidler said. “But it teaches them a lot of responsibility and teamwork.”

Baker said the more challenging parts of the job are



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Eli Baker (senior-agricultural systems and management) feeds pigs on the grounds of the Penn State Swine Center on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

outnumbered by what he has learned from it.

“It kind of gives you an appreciation for some of the work that goes on here, and overall there are tons of details that go along with [agriculture] that are really good experiences,” Baker said.

He added that although he sometimes faces tasks he is unaccustomed to, overcoming any potential difficulties is just a matter of “training and getting used to things.”

Stemming from this, Buckwalter said working alongside his roommate and managers has created a positive environment and work experience.

“It’s nice living right there and seeing them just about every day,” Buckwalter said. “It’s a family, it’s a community, and we work well together to get the job done.”

Both Buckwalter and Baker said managing their time to accommodate their work on the farm and school responsibilities is not a major difficulty for them.

Buckwalter said he treats his job on the farm similarly to how one would an extracurricular activity.

“It’s definitely something I have to be mindful of when I’m arranging my schedule and I have to stay organized with the calendar,” he said. “It’s just like another club for me and I treat it

like that, because I do enjoy my job a lot.”

As for living in the barn, Baker said he has to make some sacrifices, but still likes the middle ground provided by his housing location — in part because of the Beaver Stadium view.

“It’s really nice, because I am pretty close to campus and it’s not too close,” Baker said. “I’m still kind of secluded and it’s nice to be out there.”

Buckwalter said the transition from being a freshman on campus to a sophomore in an atypical location off campus presented him with an adjustment period, but he said he ultimately likes the location.

“I like it a lot more than living on campus,” Buckwalter said. “Being able to live on the countryside and being surrounded by mountains is something I really love.”

With Baker having lived in the barn since summer 2019 and Buckwalter since fall 2019, Kreidler said he feels both students have served as good workers and residents on the farm.

“They’re both willing to go above and beyond, they get along with each other, and they’re pleasant,” Kreidler said. “If I could have two like them all the time, it would make my job a lot easier.”

Kreidler added he and Kline heavily rely on Buckwalter, Baker and all of the other student workers.

“[They] allow us to do what we do,” he said. “We need student labor to get the work done, so [their help] is invaluable.”

Kreidler said that both Buckwalter and Baker will be moving out of the barn room at the end of this semester.

Because the Swine Research Center does not have any other male student workers, Buckwalter said he will live in a different employee housing option — provided by the Department of Animal Science — upon graduation.

Two female students will take their place in the room on the farm, according to Kreidler.

Despite this transition to separate employee housing, Buckwalter said he will continue his work on the farm since it is an experience he is glad to take part in.

“My whole life I’ve been around pigs... I can’t really find myself anywhere else besides the pig farm,” Buckwalter said. “It’s something that’s really unique and I love telling people about it, because I’m extremely passionate about it.”

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Palmer Museum showcases African art in exhibit

Becky Marcinko
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Palmer Museum of Art is now featuring a collection of African art in the exhibition “African Brilliance: A Diplomat’s Sixty Years of Collection,” featuring African art collected by Allen and Barbara Davis.

Allen worked as a foreign service officer located primarily in Africa, according to museum curator Patrick McGrady. He also worked as an ambassador and advisor of African affairs in the United Nations.

McGrady said Davis started collecting African art “almost immediately” during the thirty years he spent in Africa. He said the museum purchases some artwork from Davis, but was gifted other pieces. This led to the discussion of the possibility of an exhibition, according to McGrady.

Erin Coe, director of the Palmer Museum, said the exhibition was made possible not only by Allen and Barbara’s collection of art, but because they “graciously opened their home to curators and others on numerous occasions during the planning of the exhibition.”

According to McGrady, the exhibition is a “small representation” of Allen’s collection.

He said “African Brilliance” contains 83 objects out of the thousands Allen

has acquired through his time in Africa.

“It really does show the breadth and the depth of his collection that he built over 60 years,” McGrady said.

William Dewey, associate professor in the departments of Art History and African Studies, said the exhibit took about four years to come to life. He said the exhibit required extensive work from a large team, which included Ph.D. candidate Janet Purdy, doctoral student Emily Hagen, master’s candidate Caroline Bastian, and many other students, staff and faculty.

Dewey previously curated the exhibit “Sleeping Beauties,” which centered on African headrests, before he began teaching at Penn State. He said the exhibit was originally organized from the Fowler Museum at UCLA. He later gave a talk at Penn State about “Sleeping Beauties,” and the exhibition was eventually hosted at the Palmer Museum.

Dewey said Allen contacted Penn State to express his interest to donate African art. He said other art was also borrowed from other museums like the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

The Palmer Museum was given the Strategic Initiative Seed Grant for the exhibit from Penn State’s Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost to fund an online catalogue,



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

Patrick McGrady, senior curator at the Palmer Museum of Art, talks about the African Brilliance special exhibit Thursday, Feb. 13.

according to Coe.

According to Dewey, the grant produced the possibility of presenting the exhibition in a “different, unusual way.”

The online catalogue provides an opportunity to see every side of each of the various pieces in the exhibition through 360 degree photography. Dewey said this is unique, as museum-goers aren’t able to see artwork from each side at an in-person exhibition.

The website features video interviews with Allen and various “African voices.” These inter-

views are with African members of the Penn State community and their experiences with the types of objects from Davis’ collection.

Dewey said he is glad to bring African art to the Palmer Museum because it exposes the community to a different type of art.

“African Brilliance” is the first major exhibition of African art in approximately 25 years, according to Coe.

“Western and European art is primarily seen in museums and on the wall,” Dewey said. “The

African art that we’re showing, even though it is in a museum, it was not intended for that purpose.” Dewey said the art in the museum is functional because Africans used it for healing, showing status, initiation, and as a feature of everyday life.

“This is what we do,” McGrady said. “We try to show as wide a variety of art for as many people that we have in our various audiences.”

McGrady explained the difference between other African art made primarily for tourists, and the art of Davis’ collection. He said African people made different objects and textiles for tourist trade and for their own use.

“So many collections are full of objects that are just made for tourists,” McGrady said. “This collection, because Allen was so richly steeped in the many traditions of Africa, he understood and talked to other folks who could delineate the difference those that were made just for the folks that were visiting for a short time.”

“African Brilliance” will be exhibited at the museum through May 24.

“It’s brilliant. It’s really beautiful stuff,” Dewey said. “I think [students] will be really surprised if they come see it.”

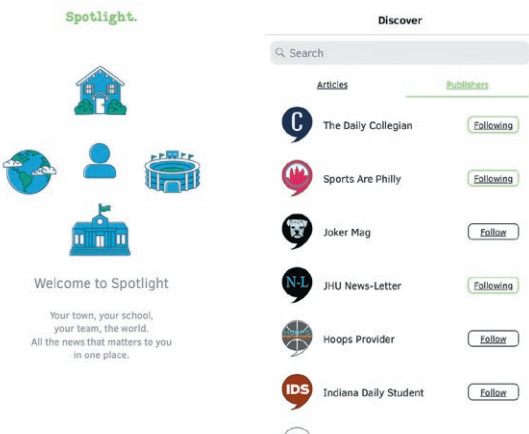
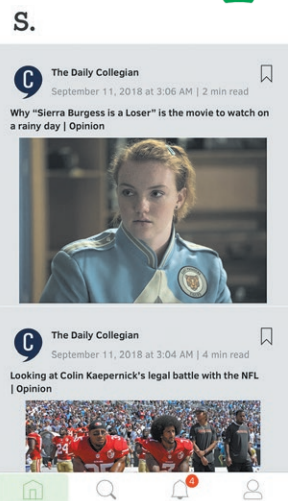
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