

FINALS ISSUE

Recounting the fall at PSU

By Samantha Verrelli THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Throughout this fall semester, Penn State students finally reentered Beaver Stadium and returned to in-person classes.

Here's a recap of some of the fall semester's highlights.

Comedian Bill Burr visits Bryce Jordan Center on tour

Sept. 10 — Comedian Bill Burr came to Penn State as part of his "Bill Burr the Tour." Opening acts included comedians Joe Bartnick and Paul Virzi.

Penn State announces vaccination requirement for all employees at select campuses

Oct. 13 - Penn State announced a vaccination requirement for all University Park employees by Dec. 8, after President Joe Biden's Sept. 9 executive order requiring vaccinations for all federal employees, contractors and others.

On Oct. 19, Penn State extended the vaccine mandate for faculty and staff to six commonwealth an event in the HUB-Robeson campuses — Altoona, Behrend, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette and Harrisburg.

On Nov. 1, Berks and Schuylkill were added to the list.

Penn State then extended the deadline to upload status by Jan.

Hot Wheels Monster

Trucks perform live

Oct. 16-17 — Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live held three performances in Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center.

THON's Executive Committee announces in-person THON

Oct. 28 — Penn State THON's Executive Committee announced THON 2022 will be held in person - requiring proof of vaccination for all registered dancers, THON directors, captains and committee members, all student and staff press and performers, and all students and staff on a THON weekend pass list.

THON said more comprehensive safety plans for THON Weekend will be announced in January, and it is prepared to "pivot to an online only event should conditions require a change."

Love is Louder event held

Nov. 3 — Love is Louder was Center that the Jeffrey A. Conrad Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity hosted in response to Uncensored America's Milo Yiannopoulos "Pray the Gay er Charles Millard dies



Ariana Krammes/Collegiar

Mad Mex on Friday, Nov. 12. This semester, the popular Mexican bar and restaurant closed on Nov. 28. A replacement for its former location has not yet been announced.

event hosted in the Awav" Thomas Building simultaneously.

Featuring guest speakers, music, food and activities, the event sought "to inspire love and community" at Penn State, CSGD's Instagram post said.

Yiannopoulos' event also sparked a protest held by Penn State Students Against Sexist Violence outside of the event.

Four Diamonds co-found-

Nov. 4 — Charles Millard, Four Diamonds co-founder, died at 93 due to a "brain injury resulting from a fall he suffered hours earlier."

Four Diamonds, which is Penn State THON's sole beneficiary, seeks to conquer childhood cancer through providing assistance to families and children at Penn State Health Children's Hospital.

Country star Kane Brown performs

Nov. 6 — Country star Kane Brown's 'Blessed and Free Tour' came to the BJC at Penn State for a concert.

Opening acts included Nashville-based country band Restless Road and headliner Jordan Davis.

Students celebrate 100 Days 'Til THON

Nov. 10 — THON celebrated 100 Days 'Til THON in the HUB. The official theme, "Spark End-less Light," for THON 2022 was announced.

Penn State sophomore dies

Nov. 12 — Nineteen-year-old Penn State sophomore Justine Gross was found dead after being reported missing the day earlier and falling inside an 11th floor solid waste disposal chute.

A candlelight vigil was held in her honor outside of her apartment building, Beaver Terrace, a few days later.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra comes to Penn State

Nov. 16 — The American rock band Trans-Siberian Orchestra performed at the BJC as part of its Winter Tour.

State College holds 2nd annual Light Up

Downtown

Nov. 19 — The 2nd annual Light Up Downtown, hosted by the Downtown State College Improvement District, took place at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza.

The event featured holiday activities, a light show and a trolley, as well as Santa Claus' arrival in an Alpha Fire Company firetruck.

Mad Mex closes, set to be sold

Nov. 28 — To students' despair, Mad Mex, a popular downtown Mexican restaurant, closed.

It is unsure what will replace Mad Mex at this time.

To email reporter: sev5163@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @samverrelli0506.



With a return to in-person concerts and events this semester, country singer Kane Brown performed at the Bryce Jordan Center on Nov. 6.

Students reflect on memories

By Francie Ebert

immerse themselves back in the

"My favorite memory from the and criminology) said.

Jackson Ranger/Collegian



FOR THE COLLEGIAN

From university events to leisure activities, many Penn State students experienced exciting moments over the past semester and are now reminiscing on memories as the semester comes to a close.

August marked the beginning of the school year, and some students thrilled were to

Beaver Stadium football setting.

And although some felt this football season in particular brought a mixture of emotions, many embraced each tailgate and home game they could attend especially after the pandemic affected spectators in last year's season.

Izabella Sattler was able to experience her first home football game this semester.



The Penn State student section cheers during the Helmet Stripe game. Many said football games were their favorite memory of the fall.

semester would... have to be going to my first football game of the semester because I typically work on Saturdays, so I never get to go," Sattler (junior-business management) said. "But I got to go, and I got to go to three different tailgates with my friends.'

Many Penn State students find the most joyous times of the semester in the company of others.

My favorite memory was over Halloween weekend," LeNae Miller (sophomore-forensic science) said. "It was Friday, and it was just me, my roommate, her boyfriend — we were hanging out in my room, having a good time just enjoying each other's company. It was really good to just spend time with them and just relax a bit."

Around the middle of the semester, October on Penn State's campus was full of diverse festivities, including the Homecoming parade and spooky events.

Julia Clemens reminisced on the moments she spent with her friends at downtown State College's Sher Halal Gyro.

This semester, the small food truck became the perfect spot to grab a bite, meet new faces and revisit one of her favorite employees, Clemens (junior-psychology

"Anytime of night that they're open, it's always fun," Clemens said. "I always have so much fun with my friends going, and you always meet funny people in line, and the guy who works there is phenomenal."

Penn State has a variety of events planned through the year, but Shruthi Kripashankar found the Indian Culture and Language Club's Diwali celebration to be the most memorable event.

"It was a lot of fun," Kripashan-(senior-economics) kar said. "They called Jay Sean to perform for the event."

In addition to the excitement of the concert, Kripashankar said it was "a great way to just relax midway through the semester and celebrate that piece of home and bring it over here to Penn State.'

For Katherine Patterson, in light of the holidays, her favorite memory this semester was doing some arts and crafts with her friends in Redifer Commons.

[We] made these little snow globe things in Mason jars, but mine turned out really bad, but it's still like a fun thing to do," Patterson (sophomore-english) said. "And we went downtown to Yallah Taco, and it was just a lot of fun."

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Should finals be cumulative or not?

By Megan Brennan FOR THE COLLEGIAN

As finals week is approaching at Penn State, student Camryn Casadei said she "definitely prefers" noncumulative exams over cumulative exams, which span material from the entire fall semester.

agreed with her.

"The material is fresher in your mind," Casadei (freshman-communication sciences and disorders) said. "It makes it easier to study for the test."

Josh Calderon said noncumulative finals are "easier."

"It's easier to focus on a specific part of the course rather than having to remember things from September," Calderon (juniorelectrical engineering) said.

Even though noncumulative finals require less preparation time, Calderon said he doesn't feel they hinder his learning.

"I don't think that a noncumu-And other students largely lative final has anything to do with learning," Calderon said. "You don't learn less — there's just less pressure."

For Elizabeth Knapp, an added week between the last day of classes and final exam week would allow cumulative exams to be less stressful.

into finals week without a reading week or a week to really prepare, [exams] should be focused on recent material that we've learned," (sophomore-biology) Knapp said. "Then they wouldn't be so difficult and so stressful."

Knapp said if the additional study week was added, she would *'actually* prefer cumulative finals."

Shreya Sharma said she prefers cumulative exams but thinks they should focus more heavily on recent material.

"I feel like it should be new material that we're working on currently," Sharma (sophomore-

"I feel like, especially going biochemistry) said, "but it should have hints of old material so you have to apply yourself."

Sharma said she believes cumulative finals focusing on recent material "still show that you've learned throughout the semester" — without forcing students to cram old material.

Students have already proven their knowledge of previous material "through midterms,' Nykeima Roberts said.

'Finals should be noncumulative because we have midterms,' said Roberts (senior-sociology and Japanese).

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Visual arts students get creative with finals

By Ayden Mateo Herold THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With nearly an entire semester of designing, drawing, sculpting and crafting under their belts, Penn State's visual arts students are preparing their final projects for critique and some for exhibition.

Olivia McCormick said finals for students in the arts are "an interesting time."

"Even if you don't have a final project that you're working on. you really care about all the work that you're doing," McCormick (senior-fine arts) said. "If you're working in something like ceramics, for example, you have those final two weeks to finish glazing for critiques. So, everything sort of feels like a final."

Kylie Putt said her project, a large-scale image that tells a mythical story, was influenced by her ART 110 class' curriculum.

"A large idea behind most of our projects previously has been stepping away from the details and trying to work more gesturally and on a large scale to see the full picture," Putt (freshmancriminology) said. "So, that's why we're working on large paper, so we can utilize that and use what we learned from everything that we had done previously to make a large scale version of our project."

Some students like Samantha Peacock are creating their final projects without an explicit assignment.

"So luckily, once you get into the higher level art classes, you get a lot of liberty," Peacock (junior-drawing and painting) said. "So, there was no real prompt for [my project], it was just kind of like, 'OK, keep pursuing what it is that you're passionate about this past semester.""

Rather than creating a project for a specific class, Kristen Byrne said her final project was part of an independent study.

"What most people don't realize is that the BFA programs... is [that] in order to complete either jumbled or more clear ments of her life. The main focus your degree, you have to do work than just drawing everything outside of the work that you yourself." have for classes," Byrne (senior- Peacocl drawing and painting) said. "So a painting using a visual style several acrylic paintings, includthis semester, I am taking an that she has been working on this ing some made with watercolor stand on its own."



Penn State visual arts students work on their final projects for the fall semester. Some of the projects are prepared for critique while others are created for exhibition.

which independent study talking about semester, could be described as a "visual info dump." art and art activism, political art." "I take a topic and I create a McCormick said for her final

project she was given "a lot more creative freedom" and chose to "go outside of [her] comfort zone" creating a bv collage.

"It's a lot more challenging than I imagined," Mc-Cormick said. "Not only do you have to think about color and composition, you have to think about the message that you're

sending. When you're taking images from so many different sources, that [message] can be

Peacock said she was making

"The piece I'm working on currently is using that language to kind of talk about myself and the things that I enjoy and the things that

> Samantha Peacock Junior-drawing and painting

make me who I

am."

piece with the iconic imagery associated with it, [add] text and throw in as many aspects of the topic into this field," Peacock said. "The piece I'm working on currently is using that language to kind of talk about myself and the things that I enjoy and the things that make me who I am." The piece in

question is а painting covered in the titles and pictures of Peacock's favorite bands, interests and moin the center of the painting is a rendition of her eyes and glasses.

Byrne said she was creating

and oil pastels.

"All of them are around the theme of activism. The title of my show is called 'Political Discourse," Byrne said. "All of the works are going to have that opportunity for discourse between the participants who are going to be looking at it, and they're gonna ask questions and be like, 'Oh, why did the artist do this?"

Putt said her piece, which focuses primarily on the myth of creation, was inspired by artists who have worked on similar pieces like Inka Essenhigh and Julie Heffernan.

"I've always been interested in art history, so creation myth ideas have always been in the back of my head," Putt said. "It's interesting because a lot of the creation myths have been passed down verbally. I think that's really what drew me in."

Chloe Noah said for her sculpture course, her final assignment was to create a sculpture "that you can put your body into in some way [and] has to be able to

Given her class spent time learning to work with foam, a substance she calls "versatile." Noah (sophomore-film production) is creating a mushroom observers can stand in using foam and clay.

"At the base of the sculpture is a tree stump you could stand on. And then hanging from the ceiling, I have a mushroom cap that I'm creating," Noah said. "I'm putting red netting on the outside of it and kind of a fuzzy white fabric on the inside. I'm going to use some light as well to make it look as though it's like a lamp."

Hanging off of the mushroom structure will be a sling visitors can step into containing a mushroom-covered baby made of clay.

Liliana Bauman, another student in ART 110, said she enjoyed the freedom she and her fellow students were given.

"[My professor] doesn't put parameters on it, he's trying to make us think outside the box, [and] I think prove our art," Bauman (freshman-digital art media design) said. "So, it's compositionally challenging because it is a giant poster."

Bauman also said the length of her classes allowed her to better explore the topic for her project.

"I think having a studio class where I spend three hours a day just focusing on art allowed me to really understand what he was talking about instead of just being given a project like, 'OK, go draw landscape." Bauman said. "We talked about the methods to use and about composition and color and how the material you use is important and [how] if you use watercolor or charcoal, the vibe you get is going to be different when you're looking at

For her collage, McCormick was prompted to incorporate "disrupted realism" and human figures.

"So I'm going to be including a lot of faces, a lot of models, magazines, basically just trying to distort the reality of the human figure, which is challenging but really rewarding to see how different people react to it," McCormick said.

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FINALS ISSUE

'CHALLENGING TIMES' Do Penn State professors prefer in-person or virtual finals?

By Maggie McGovern FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Last year, Penn State students dealt with a variety of changes amid the coronavirus pandemic, such as adapting to virtual final exams.

However, students were not the only ones affected by the alternative testing method.

Some professors like Chris Skurka said they're witnessing differences between this finals season compared to exams taken during the height of the pandemic.

"That was a unique feature... having to transfer everything during virtual teaching to Canvas to conduct my exams online and recognize that I cannot police students when doing these exams on their own," Skurka, assistant professor of media studies at Penn State, said.

Skurka said he offered an open-note option for his finals, highlighting a need for flexibility.

"These are very challenging times that we are living through, and I think giving students more grace and more wiggle room to be successful in the classroom virtually or in person — is what everyone needs," Skurka said.

Campbell,

stability.

who

students to become special edu-

cation teachers, also said it's "imperative" for her students

to understand the impact of the

biggest change in testing was in

emotional, rather than academic,

"I feel like I had so many more

ris said of pandemic learning. and about," Skurka said.

students reaching out to me and

saying, 'Wow, I'm really just ex-

For professor Katie Harris, the

coronavirus in schools.

Assistant professor of special education at Penn State Aaron Campbell said she's ready to start returning to certain aspects of what education looked like before the pandemic.

"I think the standard that we set for our students will have to come back up," Campbell said. "I feel like we gave a lot of students a pass with how difficult it was... hausted,' 'I'm overworked,' 'I'm among other people, socializing For me, I expect the work to still experiencing burnout,"" Har- and interacting, and being out be high quality."



Students study in the Pattee and Paterno Library on Friday, Sept. 24. After over a year of atypical learning, some

be OK, we're going to make it

Harris was not the only pro-

"I feel [burnout is] especially

heightened this time around be-

cause we're excited to be back

in person, but I don't think we're

used to the emotional exhaustion

that goes along with being back

among other people, socializing

fessor who noticed burnout in

reassurance that it's going to much" burnout, and "everyone is

professors said students tell them that they're still experiencing burnout from virtual exams and classes.

teaches "I've just had to provide a lot of

through."

students, though.

for me... but I feel grateful that I was already doing that when COVID hit."

Professors also said they've seen differences between paper and online tests.

"There's a difference because I gave paper tests... and [students] didn't do as well because they didn't have access of Google and notes and things of that nature," Campbell said.

Skurka said he found when students completed open-note exams on their own, they "tend-ed to do a little bit better" than when they took in-person exams without notes, but it's "hard to say" exactly what is driving those differences.

"Anecdotally, there's probably less turning in assignments late now," Harris said.

"They're all kind of getting back to the regimen of studying and turning things in a timely manner.'

Campbell said returning to a relative normal moving forward will "have to do a lot with that professor and their comfort level" and "what things look like for their families.'

Skurka said he's trying to balance students "getting something out of the course but also recognizing students are human beings, and we are all trying to get by in these challenging, tumultuous times."

Final exams and projects are scheduled for the last two weeks of this fall semester, with some in person and some online. Skurka said he's observed students goals for the testing period despite pandemic setbacks.

"I think everyone's just got their eyes on what's right in front "It was definitely a learning curve of them."



The best energy drinks for finals

By Victoria Gough THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Harris said there is "not as

As an assistant teaching pro-

fessor of special education for

Penn State World Campus,

Harris taught online pre- and

was already kind of apprised of

all the technology, and as an on-

line professor, I sometimes feel

like we have to go over and above

to reach out and actually get to

know our students," Harris said.

"I feel really grateful that I

recovering" these days.

post-pandemic.

As a college student living with heart disease, I've long been able to survive the worst of the semester on just a single cup of coffee per day, as per my cardiologist's recommendations.

I could never do what I see so many of my peers doing pounding coffee and other caf- is great news for Red Bull loyalfeinated beverages left and right ists looking for something a little to power through final ams, stronger projects and presentations. However, my goal is to leave The Daily Collegian as the writer who risked her life the most for our readership. So without further ado, here's my definitive ranking of the best energy drinks to get you through finals week.

experience. I sat in the Humanities Reading Room in the Pattee Library after drinking most of a Rockstar, feeling exquisitely soft, as though my soul itself was malleable. I watched myself drink Rockstar.

Rockstar contains 160 milligrams of caffeine, which is equivalent to two cups of coffee. While for me this means I can only drink half of a Rockstar at a time, this

Jillian Wesner/Collegiar

The Pollock Testing Center on Thursday, Dec. 2. Some students said they don't like taking exams in the testing center because they said the atmosphere can be stressful.

Pollock Testing Center: Some 'would close it'

By Maggie Nygard THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With finals week approaching, most Penn State students are preparing for the inevitable - tak- find a time slot that works with it's distracting," Simmons (juing exams in ei-

ther the Pollock Testing Center or in class.

While some students prefer taking tests in their respective classrooms, others said they don't mind the Testing Pollock Center, like Nikhil Choudhuri.

He said he likes working on tests Pollock in the Testing Center because there's

it.

"I like that if there was something wrong with the computer, it was documented, and it wasn't going to be my fault," Choudhuri (senior-economics) said. "Whereas [during] COVID, it's like, 'Oh my gosh, my laptop died in the middle of the exam,' and then you have to prove it to your professor.'

While he said he sees the benefits of the Pollock Testing Center, he prefers in-class testing because there's usually uncertainty

testing center.

"I remember being panicked about [scheduling tests]," Choudhuri said. "Like, 'Oh, I have to

my schedule -

Unlike Choudsaid he doesn't "particularly" like the testing center. In terms of

the testing center more appealing, Hall (junior-economics) said he "would close it."

Ashney Simmons Junior "I think it's

harder to focus whenever I'm support available if he ever needs in that atmosphere," Hall said. 'It's off-putting. It's not a familiar

place like a classroom." For Honeya Alqah, it's the opposite because she said she prefers the Pollock Testing Center over in-class testing.

"In class, I feel like I get distracted," Alqah (junior-criminology) said. "In [the Pollock Testing Center], there are screens to cover everyone's computer, and I don't really care who is finishing or not.'

said she prefers in-class testing

when scheduling his test at the because she gets distracted in the Pollock Testing Center.

"In the Pollock Center, there are all the clicking [of the keyboards] and all the noises, and nior-rehabilitation and human going to be able to I can't focus on what I'm doing." take the exam." She said she believes the test-

She said she believes the testing center negatively impacts huri, Quinn Hall her ability to perform on tests.

If Simmons had to change one thing about the testing center, she said she would lessen "the amount of people" in the center changes to make at one time to make the "clicking noises" less prominent.

Although Marlana Stipa has never been to the Pollock Testing Center, she said she has heard stories from her fellow students.

"They really like it, from what I've heard," Stipa (seniorforensic science) said.

Shruti Mahadevan agreed with Stipa and added taking tests in the Pollock Testing Center was conducive to learning in college.

"My experiences have been good every time I've been there," Mahadevan (senior-data sciences and mathematics) said. "I don't think I would change anything about it."

To email reporter: mvn5325@psu.edu. However, Ashney Simmons Follow her on Twitter at @NygardMagdavvlena.

Red Bull

As far as energy drinks go, I've always been partial to Red Bull — I just love the taste of it, to the point that I've long wished for a caffeine-free version so I could drink it more frequently.

In fact, it's the only energy drink I've had before I began my review, as one serving contains 111 milligrams of caffeine — just a little more than a standard cup of coffee. While this is a benefit for me and others looking to limit their caffeine consumption, it's also a downside for those looking to pound enough caffeine to pull an all-nighter.

Red Bull has lighter carbonation than your standard soft drink. Combined with its mild flavor, Red Bull provides a more pleasant experience than one would expect from an energy drink.

The primary downside of drinking Red Bull at Penn State is that it's not sold anywhere on campus, meaning you would need to go downtown to buy one. And for the average college student during finals week, convenience is of the utmost importance.

Rockstar

There are a few different Rockstar flavors available in the on-campus convenience stores, including fruit punch and grapefruit.

However, for the sake of tastetesting, I chose the original flavor.

Rockstar tastes almost exactly like Red Bull, albeit more intense — it has more carbonation and a stronger flavor, both of which I found myself enjoying.

Then, I had a mild out-of-body

Bang

Bang is the energy drink I've seen the most on campus, and I speculate this is because of the wide variety of flavors offered in the on-campus convenience stores.

At Waring Commons' Market West, flavors include Blue Raspberry, Cotton Candy, Peach Mango and Star Blast.

I ended up buying Star Blast because I wanted to know which fruit it was supposed to taste like. After drinking half a can... I still don't know.

Bang prides itself on being calorie- and sugar-free, and it shows in its carcinogenic flavor. The beverage is cloyingly sweet at first with a strong chemical aftertaste - that would be all the zero-calorie sweetener.

I was amused by the little banner on the side of the can bragging that all of the company's products are made in the U.S. as though people who drink Bang care about what we put in our bodies.

One can of Bang Energy contains 300 milligrams of caffeine. After drinking it while lying in bed, my Fitbit registered that I had just completed a 30-minute run. I'm pretty sure I lost consciousness at one point, but I can't prove that.

Kickstart

Similarly to Bang, Mountain Dew's Kickstart offers a mindboggling number of flavors, five of which are available at Redifer Commons' convenience store alone: Original Mountain Dew, Fruit Punch, Orange Citrus, Grape and Black Cherry.

After much deliberation, I eventually decided on the latter - I would have chosen the original flavor, but I was never terribly fond of Mountain Dew.

I was pleasantly surprised by the Black Cherry Kickstart, as it reminded me of a standard soft drink.

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

the keyboads] and all the noises, and it's distracting. It's too much — I can't focus on what I'm doing."

"In the Pollock

Center, there are

all the clicking [of

Recapping memorable sports moments

By Michael Planey FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The sports of the 2021 fall semester have played out like none other, and this time — the coronavirus isn't dominating the headlines.

For two entire classes, the fall semester has provided the opportunity for students to have firsthand experiences of Penn State sports.

While the fall contained at least as many newsworthy events as its predecessors. Penn Staters will talk about many of these events for years to come.

The return of the White Out

In an "unrivaled" tradition in college sports, the then-No. 10-ranked Nittany Lions faced off against the No. 22 Auburn Tigers under the lights of Beaver Stadium.

College GameDay made a stop in Happy Valley for its fifth visit in as many years, as Penn Staters showed up early and stayed late to embrace Penn State folklore all while wearing white.

The game was tight, and neither team could pull away on the scoreline. But the sea of white turned out to be too much for the visitors, and the Nittany Lion faithful got everything it wanted nearly two years.



Fireworks spark over Beaver Stadium to kick off the White Out against Auburn on Sept. 18. The Nittany Lions beat the Tigers 28-20.

watching a 28-20 Penn State win. Quarterback Sean Clifford came to play, throwing 28-for-32, reaching 280 yards on the night and striking on two touchdowns — one of which found the hands of Jahan Dotson on his way to a second team All-Big Ten season.

Perhaps most memorable of all, though, was the energy brought to Beaver Stadium as 109,958 fans got to embrace a storied Penn State tradition for the first time in

Chloe Trieff/Collegian

Men's hockey puts on show in Hall of Fame

Game

Playing their first game outside Pegula Ice Arena, the Nittany Lions brought their best to Nashville, Tennessee, to face off against the No. 6 North Dakota Fighting Hawks.

The two teams played a nail biter in Bridgestone Arena, culminating in a Penn State upset with a final score of 6-4.

Both teams appeared excited to play on NHL ice, as the game was filled with penalties, many of which coincidental, giving the blue and white the ability to score three power-play goals.

This was Penn State's sixth win through its first seven games.

Although the top-10 victory was followed by four consecutive losses, defeating the Fighting Hawks proved the potential Guy Gadowsky and company carried going into conference play.

A Homecoming for the history books

Current students and alumni alike were present to watch Penn State and Illinois battle in one of the longest FBS football games in history.

Greatness" jerseys for the first allowing only two shots and scor-and only time over the course ing two goals of their own to send the full story.

of the 2021 season, the Nittany Lions welcomed the Fighting Illini onto a heritage-themed field their Homecoming during weekend.

Clifford was taking his first snaps under center since he left in the midst of Iowa's come-frombehind win over Penn State, as the blue and white was looking for yet another dominant performance in its star quarterback's return.

Only this time, the redshirt senior was unable to deliver, and the Nittany Lions fell 20-18 to the navy and orange for their first home loss of the season.

The two teams slugged it out across a record nine overtimes, starting the contest at noon but not leaving the field until after 4 p.m.

Men's soccer overtime upset over No. 7 Maryland

Thirty-one minutes into the penultimate match of regular season, Penn State already found itself two goals down against No. 7-ranked Maryland and with its Big Ten regular season title hopes on the verge of evaporation.

The Nittany Lions shut down Donning their "Generations of the Terrapins in the second half,

the match into overtime.

Four minutes into the first overtime period, junior midfielder Andrew Privett called game by scoring a remarkable set piece.

The win over Maryland provided the necessary spark to clinch the Big Ten title with a blue and white shutout over Wisconsin and Indiana falling in the last game of the season to hand Penn State its first piece of silverware since 2013.

Penn State followed up its regular season title with a Big Ten Tournament title without conceding a goal all tournament and besting Indiana in a rematch of the 2020 Big Ten Championship.

Shrews debuts

Starting off the season right, Penn State only needed one game to get newly hired head coach Micah Shrewsberry his first win as a Nittany Lion.

Shrewsberry's team played well, beating its Horizon opponent, Youngstown State, 75-59, led by a 23-point performance from forward Seth Lundy.

The Nittany Lions were dominant down low, outscoring the Penguins 44-18 in the paint with six times the number of Penguin second-chance points.

Shrewsberry has seen up-anddown results since then, but most notably, his team dragged a now-No. 25 LSU to overtime in a wild final sequence before ultimately losing the game 68-63.

Men's soccer's NCAA **Tournament blunder**

Fresh off a Big Ten double, Penn State had high ambitions heading into the NCAA Tournament as the No. 12-seeded team in the competition.

The Nittany Lions earned themselves a first-round bye, and coming into the second round of the tournament, they were set to play NCAA champion Hofstra.

Reportedly, the Big Ten regular season and tournament champions fell ill prior to the match, and on the night, the blue and white ended up being trounced in an 8-2 deluge on Jeffrey Field.

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Midfielder Andrew Privett (6) celebrates after scoring the overtime goal

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Jeremiah Hassel/Collegian

Kenny Johnson (15) goes for the puck against a team of Niagara forwards during the game on Oct. 21 at Pegula Ice Arena. The Nittany Lions defeat Niagara 4-0.

Hockey prioritizes academics

By Andrew Buckman THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Student-athlete — one comes before the other for a reason.

Doing poorly in school can cost a student to fail out, while doing poorly in sports will most likely just cost an athlete a few minutes of playing time.

In this way, academics directly affect one's ability to perform athletically, whereas that same correlation can't necessarily be found in reverse.

And with a daunting finals week rapidly approaching, student-athletes — especially those who are still in season - face an even tougher balancing act than most.

Junior defenseman Kenny Johnson recognized the anxiety such a week causes but added that he approaches it with a veteran outlook.

"With finals coming up, it's a little more stressful," Johnson said. "[As a] junior, I have a little more experience, having already gone through finals. I feel pretty comfortable."

The defenseman said he is doing his best to help out his teammates, despite not jumping through hoops to do so.

"I'm definitely someone everyone can come talk to,

especially the young guys," Johnson said. "I think they look at me as a guy that kind of knows what he's doing. I don't really go out of my way to help them, but they definitely feel comfortable coming to me if they have questions."

Veteran leadership is a big part of Penn State's culture — whether it's on the ice or in the classroom.

Guy Gadowsky said he believes most of the older players tend to help push academic excellence but noted that he hopes it's something that continues to spread throughout his squad.

"Really every leader, every upperclassman on the team is an example of that," Gadowsky said.

"It's something that we hope perpetuates, just like a lot of parts of our culture.

"I really hope that it's ingrained in us. I hope that everybody is willing to help and lead the way."

Gadowsky said freshmen are given upperclassmen as mentors to help introduce and acclimate them into the program, as well as to help them sort out any academic challenges they might face.

Sophomore defenseman Jimmy Dowd Jr. said his freshman year mentor was 2021 graduate defenseman Evan Bell, a person

he described as "fun" and a 'great guy.'

'Obviously, juniors and they've seniors, gone through for the past two or three years, so they know the deal and finals come up," Dowd Jr. said. "They're checking in with their mentees, making sure they have their work done."

Teammates aren't the only support these players have, though, as the coaching staff also plays a big role in making sure the team finds success off the

The 5-foot-9 defender said the blue and white's coaching group is consistent with its message that triumphing academically is important.

"They're always on top of us, making sure we get our schoolwork done," Dowd Jr. said. "They don't want us to just be successful on the ice, it's about the whole big picture here. They're always making sure we're doing well in the class-room."

For most, the bigger picture includes going pro in something other than hockey.

student-athletes Manv have dreams of playing professional sports, but most of them won't ever get that chance.

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