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#3

VERSUS

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OHIO STATE (1-0)
BUCKEYES

(0-1) PENN STATE
NITTANY LIONS



#18

WITHOUT A WHITE-OUT

Photos by Collegian Photo Staff

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Freiermuth a step closer to goals

By **Andrew Porterfield**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In the red and white turf of Indiana’s end zone, Pat Freiermuth did what he’s done many times before — caught a pass for a touchdown.

Freiermuth leaked out of Penn State’s bunch package before finding himself quickly wide open as a Sean Clifford pass was thrown his way.

“Tm back, I’m back,” Freiermuth said as he crossed his arms and struck a pose in front of hundreds of thousands of viewers on national television.

But Freiermuth’s first quarter touchdown didn’t only substantiate his decision to come back to Penn State this fall — it also put him in sole possession of a program record.

Freiermuth’s score marked his 16th career touchdown reception, breaking the Massachusetts native’s tie with former Nittany Lion and current Miami Dolphins tight end Mike Gesicki for the most touchdown receptions by a tight end in Penn State history.

His early efforts proved not to be enough in Penn State’s overtime loss against Indiana, though, and James Franklin knows his feature tight end was not happy with the result, despite shooting up the program leaderboards.

“Pat would tell you himself that he would trade that record for a different result on Saturday,” Franklin said. “For us, with team success comes individual recognition, and I think that’s how our players approach it.”

After swallowing the Nittany Lions’ controversial loss to the Hoosiers, Freiermuth has found himself taking in his record and what it means for him and those who helped him get there.

“Taking some time to reflect on it, it’s obviously a great accomplishment for myself,” Freiermuth said. “And not only for myself, but for the team. I couldn’t have gotten where I got breaking that record without Coach Bowen, Coach Franklin, Cliff and Trace — and Tommy even throwing that ball one time.”

Half of Freiermuth’s touchdown catches have come from current Penn State starting quarterback Sean Clifford, while seven were off of passes from Trace McSorley and one was thrown



Darron Cummings/AP

Tight end Pat Freiermuth (87) makes a touchdown reception during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Indiana, Saturday, Oct. 24, in Bloomington, Indiana. Freiermuth broke the Penn State program record for touchdown receptions by a tight end in the first quarter.

by past second stringer Tommy Stevens.

Committing to Penn State in just his junior year of high school over other history-rich programs such as LSU, Notre Dame and Ohio State, Freiermuth’s record reminded the tight end why he chose to don the blue and white uniform in the first place.

“It’s a great honor to be a record holder at Penn State and such a great, established program. I’m always going to be blessed to be a part of this program,” Freiermuth said. “I’m always going to be blessed to be a part of this program.”

Surpassing Gesicki to claim the No. 1 spot on Saturday,

Freiermuth was already ahead of Nittany Lion greats such as Ted Kwalick and Kyle Brady.

Despite having not played together in college, Freiermuth and Gesicki have fostered a mentor/mentee relationship over the course of the younger one’s time in Happy Valley.

And Gesicki congratulated Freiermuth directly after the record breaking performance.

“I’ve heard from Mike, he texted me and reached out to say ‘Congratulations man, keep going,’ and I’m really appreciative of him,” Freiermuth said.

With nobody in front of him on the tight end touchdown

leaderboard, Freiermuth now turns his attention to a thriving Ohio State team.

Freiermuth has never been a member of a Penn State team that has beaten the Buckeyes, and those previous misfortunes were a driving factor in his decision to step into Franklin’s office and announce his return to the program on Sept. 16.

“It’s disappointing being so close but then ending up losing the game both years that I’ve been here against Ohio State,” Freiermuth said.

“Part of the reason why I came back was to get the opportunity to beat them.”

In the Nittany Lions’ 28-17 loss to the Buckeyes a season ago, Freiermuth was the game leader in receptions with six catches and put up a 40-yard performance.

Freiermuth has totaled 84 receiving yards and one touchdown in two career outings against the only team

Penn State has lost to in each of the last two full seasons.

A team captain for the second straight season, Freiermuth has and will continue to be tasked with keeping his teammates’ heads up while the program looks to avoid its second loss of the season in just two games.

In his first two seasons with the Nittany Lion program, Freiermuth demonstrated a more silent leadership style to his teammates and coaching staff, as he led with his actions and star performances.

“Pat will put out some grunts and yells and things like that, but he’s not necessarily overly verbal,” Franklin said prior to Penn State’s game against Indiana.

Through just one game of his first season as an upperclassman, however, Freiermuth has used his voice in the locker room more often — especially after the team’s crushing loss to Indiana.

“Pat’s become more of a vocal guy, he’s definitely a character off the field,” Clifford said. “Pat’s a great example of somebody who came in Sunday ready to work and getting guys into a good mood getting ready for this week.”

Projected to go in the first round of the 2021 NFL Draft according to CBS Sports, Freiermuth likely only has one season remaining before he steps to the professional stage.

And he still has a number of tasks uncompleted on his college football bucket list.

“It’s still my wallpaper on my phone and it’s above my bed right now,” Freiermuth said. “My three goals are to break all the records for tight ends here at Penn State, be an All-American and win the Mackey Award.”

Holding the touchdown record, Freiermuth is 546 receiving yards and 53 receptions away from breaking Gesicki’s other two tight end records.

As for the other accolades, Freiermuth was named to the Mackey Award preseason watch list earlier this summer, and could become a consensus All-American with a standout season in a harsh Big Ten schedule.

But for now, he’s one step closer to etching his name atop the Penn State tight end totem pole.

To email reporter: abp5641@psu.edu.

Follow him on Twitter at [@aporterfield7](https://twitter.com/aporterfield7).

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS
#18

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Jonathan Sutherland	S/Jr.	21	Noah Cain	RB/So.	47	Alex Furmanek	LB/Fr.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Fr.
1	JaQuan Brisker	S/Sr.	21	Tyler Rudolph	S/Fr.	47	Tommy Friberg	TE/H/Fr.	78	Golden Israel-Achumba	OL/Fr.
2	Micah Bowens	QB/Fr.	23	Curtis Jacobs	LB/Fr.	48	Cody Romano	S/So.	79	Caeden Wallace	OL/Fr.
2	Keaton Ellis	CB/So.	24	Keyvone Lee	RB/Fr.	49	Michael Wright	SN/Fr.	80	Malick Meiga	WR/Fr.
3	Donovan Johnson	CB/Jr.	25	Daequan Hardy	CB/Fr.	50	Max Chizmar	LB/Jr.	80	Justin Weller	WR/Jr.
3	Parker Washington	WR/Fr.	26	Caziaah Holmes	RB/Fr.	50	Will Knutsson	OL/So.	82	Zack Kuntz	TE/H/So.
4	Journey Brown	RB/Jr.	27	Aeneas Hawkins	DT/So.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/Fr.	83	Johnny Crise	WR/Fr.
5	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB/Sr.	27	Jaden Seider	S/Fr.	51	Jimmy Christ	OL/Fr.	84	Theo Johnson	TE/Fr.
5	Jahan Dotson	WR/Jr.	28	Devyn Ford	RB/So.	52	Blake Zalar	OL/Fr.	84	Benjamin Wilson	WR/Sr.
6	Cam Sullivan-Brown	WR/Jr.	28	Jayson Oweh	DE/So.	53	Fred Hansard	DT/Jr.	85	Isaac Lutz	WR/Sr.
7	Will Levis	QB/So.	29	Sebastian Constantini	CB/Jr.	53	Rasheed Walker	OL/So.	86	Brandon Strange	TE/H/Fr.
8	Marquis Wilson	CB/So.	29	Henry Fessler	WR/So.	54	George French	OL/Fr.	87	Pat Freiermuth	TE/Jr.
9	Joey Porter Jr.	CB/Fr.	30	Joseph Bruno	RB/Fr.	54	Fatorma Mulbah	DT/Fr.	88	Norval Black	WR/Jr.
9	TaQuan Roberson	QB/Fr.	32	Dylan Farronato	S/Fr.	55	Antonio Shelton	DL/Sr.	89	Grayson Kline	TE/H/So.
10	Lance Dixon	LB/Fr.	33	Bryce Mostella	DE/Fr.	55	Anthony Whigan	OL/Jr.	90	Rafael Checa	K/So.
10	TJ Jones	WR/Fr.	34	Shane Simmons	DE/Sr.	56	Amin Vanover	DE/Fr.	91	Chris Stoll	SN/Jr.
11	Daniel George	WR/So.	36	Zuriah Fisher	LB/Fr.	57	Ibrahim Traore	OL/Fr.	91	Dvon Ellies	DT/Fr.
12	Brandon Smith	LB/So.	36	Makai Self	CB/Fr.	59	Kaleb Konigus	OL/So.	92	Jake Pinegar	K/Jr.
13	Ellis Brooks	LB/Jr.	37	Drew Hartlaub	S/Jr.	62	Michal Menet	OL/Sr.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/Fr.
13	KeAndre Lambert-Smith	WR/Fr.	36	Tank Smith	RB/Fr.	63	Collin De Boef	OL/So.	93	Levi Forrest	P/Fr.
14	Sean Clifford	QB/Jr.	38	Lamont Wade	S/Sr.	66	Nick Dawkins	OL/Fr.	93	Bradley King	P/Jr.
15	Enzo Jennings	S/Fr.	39	Robbie Dwyer	LB/Fr.	69	C.J. Thorpe	OL/Jr.	94	Jake Wilson	DE/Fr.
16	Ji’Ayir Brown	S/Jr.	40	Jesse Luketa	LB/Jr.	70	Juice Scruggs	OL/So.	95	Cole Brevard	DT/Fr.
17	Joseph Johnson III	CB/Fr.	43	Trevor Baker	TE/H/Jr.	71	Will Fries	OL/Sr.	95	Vlad Hilling	K/So.
17	Mason Stahl	QB/Fr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Fr.	72	Bryce Effner	OL/So.	96	Anthony DaSilva	K/Fr.
18	Shaka Toney	DE/Sr.	44	Joseph Appiah Darkwa	DT/Fr.	73	Mike Miranda	OL/Jr.	97	Carson Landis	K/P/Fr.
19	Trent Gordon	S/So.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Fr.	74	Olu Fashanu	OL/Fr.	97	PJ Mustipher	DT/Jr.
19	Jaden Dottin	WR/Fr.	45	Charlie Katshir	LB/So.	75	Des Holmes	OL/Jr.	98	Jordan Stout	K/P/Jr.
20.	Adisa Isaac	DE/So.	46	Nick Tarburton	DE/So.	76	Justin Kopko	OL/Fr.	98	Dan Vasey	DE/Jr.
						77	Judge Culpepper	DT/So.	99	Coziah Izzard	DT/Fr.

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES
#3

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Jonathon Cooper	DE/Sr.	16	Cade Stover	TE/Fr.	41	Josh Proctor	S/Jr.	70	Josh Fryar	OL/Fr.
1	Justin Fields	QB/Jr.	16	Ryan Watts	CB/Fr.	42	Lloyd McFarquhar	CB/Jr.	71	Josh Myers	C/Jr.
2	Kourt Williams	DB/Fr.	17	Bryson Shaw	S/Fr.	42	Bradley Robinson	LS/Sr.	72	Tommy Togiai	DT/Jr.
2	Chris Olave	WR/Jr.	17	Danny Vanatsky	QB/Jr.	43	Robert Cope	RB/Jr.	73	Grant Toutant	OL/Fr.
3	Demario McCall	RB/Sr.	18	J.P. Andrade	QB/So.	43	Ryan Batsch	S/Jr.	74	Max Wray	OL/So.
3	Teradja Mitchell	LB/Jr.	19	Dallas Gant	LB/Jr.	44	Ben Schmiesing	LB/Jr.	75	Thayer Munford	OL/Sr.
4	Julian Fleming	WR/Fr.	19	Jagger Laroe	QB/So.	46	Cade Kacherski	LB/Jr.	76	Harry Miller	OL/So.
4	Lejond Cavazos	CB/Fr.	20	Pete Werner	LB/Sr.	47	Justin Hilliard	LB/Sr.	77	Paris Johnson Jr.	OL/Fr.
5	Baron Browning	LB/Sr.	21	Marcus Williamson	CB/Sr.	49	Patrick Gurd	TE/Fr.	78	Nicholas Petit-Frere	OT/So.
5	Garrett Wilson	WR/So.	22	Steele Chambers	RB/Fr.	50	Nathan Brock	OL/Sr.	79	Dawand Jones	OL/So.
6	Jameson Williams	WR/So.	23	Marcus Hooker	S/So.	51	Trayvon Wilburn	LB/Jr.	80	Corey Rau	TE/Sr.
6	Taron Vincent	DT/So.	24	Shaun Wade	CB/Sr.	52	Antwuan Jackson	DT/Sr.	81	Jake Hausmann	TE/Sr.
7	Sevyn Banks	CB/Jr.	24	Marcus Crowley	RB/So.	52	Wyatt Davis	OL/Jr.	82	Sam Wighusz	WR/Jr.
7	Kamryn Babb	WR/So.	25	Xavier Johnson	RB/So.	53	Luke Wypler	OL/Fr.	83	Cormontae Hamilton	DL/Fr.
8	Javontae Jean-Baptist	DE/So.	26	Cameron Brown	CB/Jr.	54	Tyler Friday	DE/Jr.	84	Joe Royer	TE/Fr.
8	Trey Sermon	RB/Sr.	28	Dominic DiMaccio	K/Jr.	55	Jerron Cage	DT/Jr.	85	Austin Kutscher	WR/Jr.
9	Jack Miller III	QB/Fr.	28	Miyan Williams	RB/Fr.	55	Matthew Jones	OL/So.	86	Chris Booker	WR/Sr.
9	Zach Harrison	DE/So.	29	Zach Hoover	P/Sr.	56	Aaron Cox	DL/Sr.	87	Elijah Guckiner	WR/Jr.
10	Cameron Martinez	DB/Fr.	29	Darryl Sinclair	CB/Sr.	57	Zaid Hamdan	DT/Jr.	88	Jeremy Ruckert	TE/Jr.
10	Mookie Cooper	WR/Fr.	30	Kevin Dever	S/Jr.	58	Ty Hamilton	DL/Fr.	89	Luke Farrell	TE/Sr.
11	Jaxon Smith-Njigba	WR/Fr.	32	Tuf Borland	LB/Sr.	59	Zach Stevenson	OL/So.	90	Jaden McKenzie	DT/Fr.
12	Tyreke Smith	DE/Jr.	33	Master Teague III	RB/So.	59	Darrion Henry-Young	DL/Fr.	91	Drue Chrisman	P/Sr.
12	Lathan Ransom	S/Fr.	34	Mitchell Rossi	RB/Sr.	60	Ryan Smith	OL/So.	92	Haskell Garrett	DT/Sr.
12	Gunnar Hoak	QB/Sr.	34	Alec Taylor	DB/Jr.	61	Gavin Cupp	OL/Sr.	93	Jacolbe Cowan	DL/Fr.
13	Gee Scott Jr.	WR/Fr.	35	Tommy Eichenberg	LB/Fr.	62	Chris Kuhn	OL/Jr.	94	Roen McCullough	LS/Jr.
13	Tyreke Johnson	CB/So.	36	K’Vaughan Pope	LB/Jr.	64	Jack Jamieson	OL/Jr.	95	Blake Haubeil	K/Sr.
14	Ronnie Hickman	S/Fr.	37	Mitchell Melton	LB/Fr.	66	Enokk Vimahi	OL/Fr.	96	Michael O’Shaughnessy	P/So.
14	C.J. Stroud	QB/Fr.	38	Cameron Kittle	DB/Fr.	67	Jakob James	OL/Sr.	97	Noah Potter	DE/Fr.
15	Craig Young	LB/So.	38	Marvin Davies	WR/Fr.	68	Ryan Jacoby	OL/Fr.	98	Jake Seibert	K/Fr.
15	Jaylen Harris	WR/Sr.	39	Cody Simon	LB/Fr.	69	Trey Leroux	OL/Fr.			

A look back on historic White Outs

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Every year, over 100,000 spectators pack into Beaver Stadium to make up an iconic sea of white, producing game-altering levels of noise in Penn State's biggest home matchup of the season.

The opponent and the date change every year, but the White Out game has been a staple in Happy Valley for over a decade.

But Saturday night, Penn State will be without a White Out crowd in its biggest home game for the first time since its inception in 2004 — welcome to 2020.

The Nittany Lions will host No. 3 Ohio State in primetime for the second game of both teams' Big Ten seasons, looking to do what they did back in 2005 when the tradition was cemented into the roots and culture of Penn State football — upset the Buckeyes.

For years now, fans of the Nittany Lions have planned around this specific game to experience what many believe is one of the greatest spectacles in sports today.

"I think it's the best annual scene in the sport, hands down — I think it's one of the best annual scenes in any sport," ESPN's Chris Fowler told The Daily Collegian. "For sure in college football, it's the biggest gap between what should have been and what will be."

Fowler, ESPN's lead announcer for college football alongside Kirk Herbstreit, has roots in State College — both of his parents spent time as faculty with the university and Fowler spent his younger years in the town attending Penn State games.

"The first time I experienced [the White Out] was the first time I called it, I want to say it was the 2014 game," Fowler said. "The most powerful memories I have are of the last four years when we've done two Ohio State and two Michigan games — especially the two Ohio State games are right up there with the favorite memories I have in 32



Collegian File Photo

Penn State fans hold up lit up phones while singing Sweet Caroline during the Penn State White Out game against Michigan at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017. The White Out tradition began in 2004.

years of doing this."

Fowler had the chance to witness the evolution of the White Out from its start in 2004 when it struggled to gain popularity after it fell on a loss to Purdue.

After the 2005 win over Ohio State, it started to grow.

"They knew they were on to something," Fowler said. "It was beautifully marketed, everything was just done with the right touch and the right instinct in order to make it what it is — this kind of thing doesn't just happen, not when it's an original thing."

That game was a catalyst that helped the White Out become the tradition it is today.

Another, integral part of the tradition's growth was the organic nature of how it came to be, starting with just student before including the entire crowd, according to Fowler.

"...It was only one game per year, and then holding back, not forcing it on regular fans but letting them come to it," Fowler said. "Letting them demand to be a part of it, and that's the way it went from students only to full stadium."

The White Out game has produced some of the most

memorable games in Penn State's recent history, most notably the 2013 4-overtime game against Michigan and the 2016 upset of Ohio State.

Former Penn State quarterback Christian Hackenberg played in six overtimes in White Out games during his time as a Nittany Lion — moments that he won't forget.

"When you're playing, you almost tune all of those elements out because you're focused on the game, and there are atmospheres, but you try to train yourself as an athlete to not be influenced by external factors and just focus on the task at hand," Hackenberg told the Collegian.

In the historic win over the Wolverines in 2013, the former quarterback had an experience he will always associate with the spectacle of the White Out.

Late into the overtime portion of the game, Hackenberg had what he described as his first "come to Jesus moment" in terms of experiencing what a big-time college football

atmosphere was like.

"I kind of just snapped out of that locked-in game mode and looked around and was like, 'Dude this is pretty insane, like this is insane,'" Hackenberg said.

"It's a historic game for a lot of reasons — that was the first time I realized how loud and insane Beaver Stadium was from the perspective of a player on the field."

Hackenberg was the No. 1 ranked quarterback prospect for his class coming out of high school, and had the opportunity to play at almost any program in the country.

During his recruitment process, he visited top schools around the nation and took in some historically classic games.

"I'm not biased. I've been to Alabama, my recruiting visit to Alabama was for the 'Game of the Century,' the 9-6 win over LSU. I've been to Tennessee, South Carolina — all over the SEC," Hackenberg said. "Nothing compares to a White Out."

The year after Hackenberg

and his team beat Michigan, Ohio State spoiled the big game for the Nittany Lions in another overtime thriller that finished 31-24 in double-overtime — James Franklin's first season with the team.

The first and only time Franklin beat the Buckeyes was in 2016, a game that may be regarded as his biggest win with the program.

"The blocked field goal with Grant Haley scoring on it — they come back after being an unranked, two-loss Penn State team, almost a three touchdown underdog..." Fowler said. "Them winning that game was right up there with the most electric moments I have had the privilege to call."

The heroes of that game were Haley and safety Marcus Allen, who blocked the kick Haley returned to put Penn State up in the dying moments of the game and seal the win.

Defensive end Torrence Brown played in every game that season for the Nittany Lions and was roommates with Allen.

"I just remember Grant [Haley] was pointing to the sky the whole time, he was just thanking God and everything," Brown told the Collegian. "I love that about Grant, he's always been a great guy."

The play was accompanied by the Beaver Stadium crowd going crazy, throwing pom poms and erupting with sound.

"Eventually, when it's blocked and scooped up, there's this explosion of noise," Fowler said. "It was just a hell of a fun play to call — not just that play, but the comeback, the post-game scene, the euphoria."

The clock struck zero, the crowd rushed the field and a mass celebration ensued, which eventually turned into crowds flooding the downtown streets of State College.

"It was nothing like I had seen before," Brown said. "We always knew [the fans] were awesome, they always showed their support, but them being able to come [onto the field] and celebrate a win with us in that way was just special for me."

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AT



GAME INFO

OHIO STATE AT PENN STATE

Place: Beaver Stadium

Time: Saturday 7:30 EST

TV: ABC

Spread: Ohio State -12.0

Over/Under: 63.5

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Devyn Ford

In the absence of Journey Brown and Noah Cain, Devyn Ford will be the new No. 1 running back. Ford had 69 yards on 20 carries and a touchdown against the Hoosiers.

Jayson Oweh

One of the silver linings of the Nittany Lions' loss was the play of defensive end Jayson Oweh. Oweh was able to put pressure on the quarterback last week and will look to do the same against Ohio State.

BY THE NUMBERS

3

Penn State has lost three straight games against Ohio State dating back to 2017.

17

Sean Clifford had 17 carries for 119 yards last week and is likely to be used as a runner once again.

18

Penn State dropped to No. 18 in the AP poll this week, its lowest ranking since 2018.



Courtesy Penn State Athletics

Devyn Ford (28) runs against Indiana at Memorial Stadium. The Nittany Lions were defeated by Indiana 36-35. Ford ran for 69 yards on 20 carries in the loss against the Hoosiers and will start against Ohio State.

Young PSU RB's fill crucial roles

By Justin Morganstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Heading into the 2020 season, Penn State possessed one of the most talented backfields in the country, composed of a solid mix of veterans and new additions.

This group was supposed to be led by redshirt junior Journey Brown, coming off of a hot second half of 2019, wrapped up with a Cotton Bowl offensive MVP award.

But just days before the season began, it was announced by the team that the Meadville, Pennsylvania, native would be out for the foreseeable future due to an undisclosed medical condition.

While the Brown news was disappointing for James Franklin and the Nittany Lions, the team was also well aware that it had a sophomore duo of Noah Cain and Devyn Ford to rely on for production in the backfield.

Cain looked to be Penn State's lead back in its opener against Indiana, and seemed on point after his first couple of runs.

But during that first drive, Cain left the field with an injury, unaware that it would be the last time he would put on a Nittany Lion uniform this season.

Now after an 0-1 start, a strong point for Penn State has turned into a question mark.

But according to Franklin, the current group, including Ford and freshmen backs Caziaiah Holmes and Keyvone Lee, will have roles similar to the ones they played against the Hoosiers.

"We played all three of those backs on Saturday. Devyn got the majority of the carries, but Keyvone and Caziaiah have played well as true freshmen," Franklin said. "Our circumstances have changed and everybody's dealing with this to a degree, and we came into the season with our running back room, considered maybe one of the strongest [in the country]."

While running back was Penn State's most talented position, it was also its deepest.

The Nittany Lions are now thankful for this depth considering it needs to be used this early in the season.

Star tight end Pat Freiermuth is one of those who is grateful to have such a talent-filled backfield that can replace some of the production of Brown and Cain.

"I think there's expectation in that room to be great, with Saquon, Miles, JB and all the

other guys that left a legacy," Freiermuth said. "I think the young guys have really kind of embraced that, coming to work every single day. I'm excited to see what Devyn does this week, and the same with Keyvone and Caziaiah."

Now, Ford will get a unique opportunity to be the starting back after being third on the depth chart just a couple weeks ago.

"I thought [Ford] did some really nice things. I thought his mentality was really good," Franklin said. "His leadership is gonna be key with those younger guys as well."

However, Ford will now have to enter a new chapter of his career — being a starter.

"I just think [he's] gonna have to change [his] mentality," Franklin said. "It's one thing when Noah was starting back, and Devyn was gonna rotate in and be a complimentary piece, but he can now be the guy."

"I think he'll grow into that [and] there's no doubt that he has the talent to do that."

While Ford will receive a good portion of the load this week against Ohio State, Holmes and Lee will also get their chance to make an impact in Kirk

Ciarrocca's offense.

And while developing them and bringing the two along slow would have been what Franklin wanted, he is aware that this is a unique situation.

"When we got started with this, [Holmes and Lee] were fourth and fifth on the depth chart. So now we're in a situation where they're going to play prominent roles," Franklin said. "We've seen flashes of really good things from them during practice and training camp and meetings, but we thought we'd have a little bit of time to let them gain some experience."

Although the experience may be lacking, Penn State will have to look to its young talent to step up when it is most needed. It will need a next man up mentality.

"Whoever we're going to have available on the field for Saturday, they have to be ready and they have to treat this week the right way," offensive guard Mike Miranda said about the running back room. "They have to prepare if they're going to be playing a lot and playing an important role for us."

To email reporter: jum668@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at: [@jmo31800](https://twitter.com/jmo31800).

Joey Porter Jr. shines in first start

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Midway through the first quarter on Saturday, Joey Porter Jr. saw a lane, and one thought came to his mind.

"I gotta make the hit."

And that is exactly what the redshirt freshman corner did, recording his first career sack, and in the process got the attention of defensive end Jayson Oweh.

"It was crazy, I was coming into the A gap and I was sure I was gonna get [the quarterback]," Oweh said. "Then, I saw Joey running in and smacking him. I've never seen something coming like that, at that type of speed."

Porter finished his first career start with five tackles — tied for second most on the team, and one sack and a pass breakup, proving the young corner is ready for his new role.

But according to Porter, he has more to give.

"I felt like I did okay," Porter said after the game Saturday. "I got some stuff I need to improve, there's always stuff you need to improve on. So I'm just going to take this as a learning experience, go back and watch film and try to get better for next week."

The son of 13-year NFL veteran and four-time Pro Bowler Joey Porter has turned a corner in his second year in Happy Valley, and

the results are already showing on the field.

"After the bowl game last year, I didn't like how I performed or how I was at the time," Porter said after the game Saturday. "I knew I needed to flip my life around and actually be focused. Ever since then, I've just been on the grind. I'm happy that the coaches noticed and that they named me the starter."

However, it hasn't just been the coaches who have noticed Porter's commitment, as defensive tackle Antonio Shelton recognizes the improvements the Bakersfield, California, native has made.

"I think Joey took advantage of the opportunity that was in front of him," Shelton said. "To take yourself from no reps or minimum reps, to now being a starter in a year is a very, very difficult thing to do."

"He took the opportunity, he ran with it and it really shows his maturation within the program."

Porter was in a competition this offseason to win the starting corner job opposite of senior Tariq Castro-Fields, and ultimately it was a combination of his work ethic and athletic ability that won him the job.

"He's longer, he's fast and he's more comfortable on defense now. He is out there making plays," Shelton said. "If it's between a pass breakup and the

interception, he's not afraid of going for the interception."

"He's willing to take that risk. The future is very bright for Joey."

According to Oweh, one of the scariest things about Porter and his athleticism is that he is still growing.

"The crazy part is that he is still growing into his body," Oweh said. "He's not at his full man strength yet. I'm really excited to see how he develops. He wants to

work too, so that's the good thing about it."

In his freshman season last year, Porter ended up redshirting, but appeared in four games, totaling three tackles and one pass deflection in limited action.

Tight end Pat Freiermuth has also recognized the growth of Porter, and said spending time at home with a NFL veteran only helped Porter's maturation.

"I think the quarantine helped with him being with his dad and his dad pushing him harder showing him what it's like to reach that goal and what he has to do," Freiermuth said. "He came back ready to work, pushed the other corners and proved what he can do."

"Now, this is his time, and I'm excited to see what he does the rest of the year."

Freiermuth, who is projected as a top draft prospect this spring, knows Porter has the talent to accomplish what he wants if he puts the work in.

And according to the tight end, Porter wants to be the best.

"I know he wants to be an All-American, I know he wants to be a first round pick and he wants to be one of the best corners to ever play here," Freiermuth said. "He has all the tools and the work ethic to do that."

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Courtesy Penn State Athletics

Joey Porter Jr. (9) sacks Indiana quarterback Michael Penix Jr. during a football game in Memorial Stadium.

Benjamin Ferree



What to watch for: Ohio State

was dominant in Week 1 and has one of the most talented rosters in college football. Penn

State will keep it close as they try to avoid an 0-2 start, but the Buckeyes will be too much to handle for the young team.

Score: Ohio State 33, Penn State 16

Evan Patrick



Patrick

What to watch for: If Penn State

plays this game the way it played the fourth quarter and overtime against Indiana, an upset could be possible.

But, with the loss of Noah Cain and the struggles on offense, Ohio State should have its way and come out on top.

Score: Ohio State 31, Penn State 20

Justin Morganstein



Morganstein

What to watch for: Former Penn

State commit Justin Fields will make his first trip to Happy Valley on Saturday as an Ohio State Buckeye.

Fields, a Heisman Trophy candidate, went an efficient 20/21 passing last week with 276 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Score: Ohio State 34, Penn State 18

Andrew Porterfield



Porterfield

What to watch for: Penn State's

front seven will be the most important group in this one. If guys like Jayson Oweh and Shaka

Toney can routinely affect Justin Fields in the Ohio State backfield, Penn State will have a fighting chance.

Score: Ohio State 42, Penn State 38

Guest Picker: Jake Aferiat



Aferiat

What to watch for: Penn State

played a sloppy game in basically all facets against Indiana. Despite professing that

they've cleaned things up, it seems like an insurmountable gap to make up in such a short amount of time against a white hot Buckeye team.

Score: Ohio State 42, Penn State 28

Halloween & cultural appropriation

By Melissa Manno

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Every Halloween, people retire their normal attire to personify ghosts, vampires, witches — and sometimes other people’s cultures.

According to Penn State students, Halloween costumes can be a major culprit of cultural appropriation, which can be harmful to marginalized communities.

Egyptian Student Association President Youhanna Meleka said he defines cultural appropriation as “individuals or other groups in society misusing or deliberately undermining another culture by maliciously mocking it in different ways.”

He said cultural appropriation affects the Egyptian community at Penn State like it affects any underrepresented group with prideful heritage on campus. Although he said there haven’t been any major issues in the past few years, he said there is some underlying ignorance about Egyptian culture that can be displayed during Halloween.

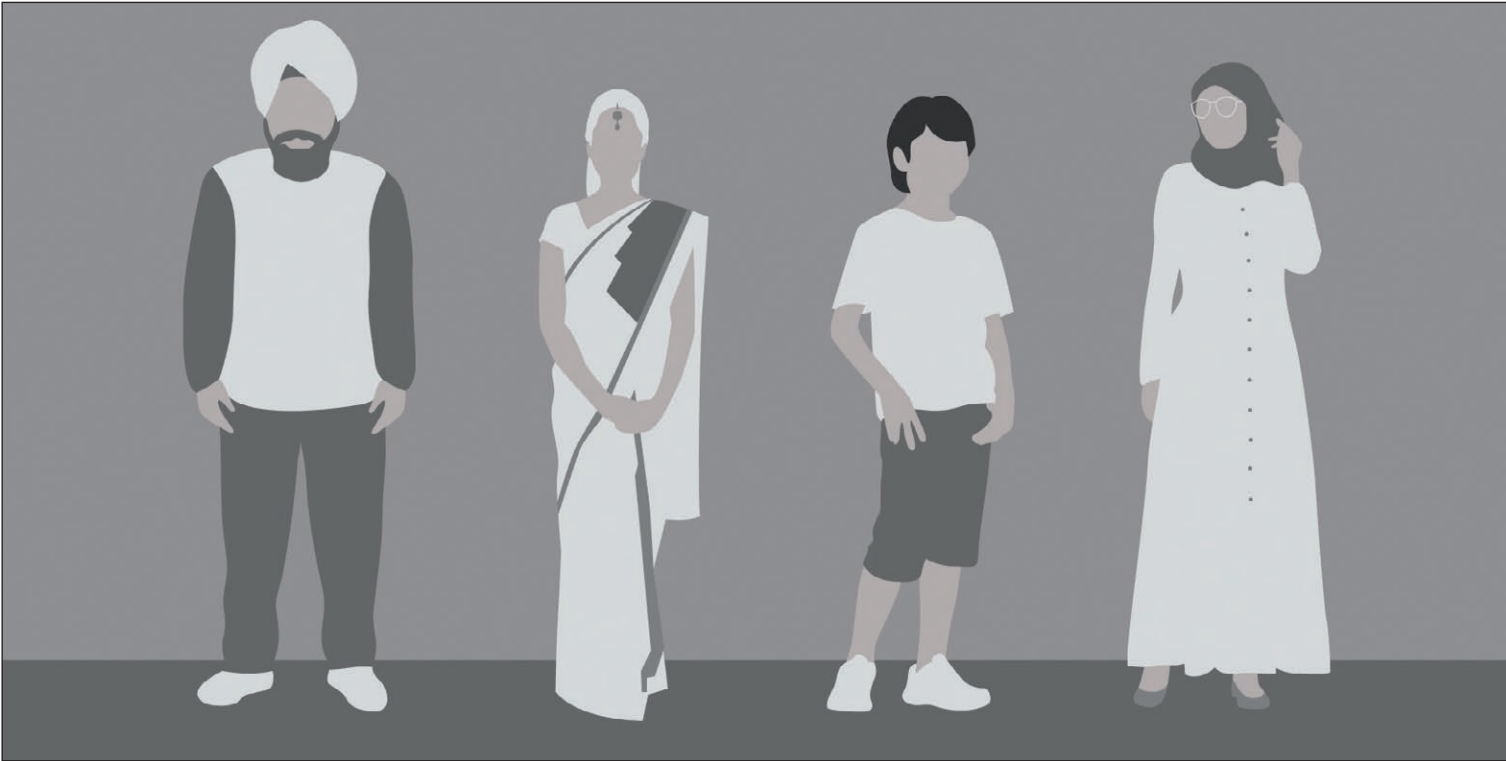
“An all-Egyptian costume party that mocks our culture would be considered culturally inappropriate and offensive,” Meleka (junior-industrial engineering) said. “But wearing a pharaoh costume isn’t considered culturally inappropriate if your intention isn’t malicious in terms of portraying hate or undermining Egyptian culture.”

He said Egyptian costumes are acceptable as long as they’re worn with the right intention and frame of thought. However, he said the disrespectful costumes that miss the mark can be harmful to society.

“The impact can be immense because it disengages people whose culture is being mocked by society,” Meleka said. “It builds a sense of tension and discrimination against them.”

Mexican Student Association President Estefania Ledesma said cultural appropriation often disrespects the Latino community. She has seen this during Halloween with college students dressing up in sombreros and ponchos, or using Day of the Dead costumes — which she said “make a mockery of Mexican culture, traditions and religion.”

“Most of the pieces people like to use for Halloween have a sig-



Graphic by Erin Hogge/Collegian

nificant historical background for the Latinx community, and to see people disrespect these pieces by using them as costume is really offensive,” Ledesma (senior-veterinary and biomedical sciences) said.

“It’s very hard for people to see cultural pieces that have so much historical and religious significance in our home countries be made into a cheap costume.”

She said dressing up as a Latino figure or celebrity is okay, as long as it’s done respectfully.

“Dressing up as your favorite Latinx artist is fine, as long as you don’t try to darken your complexion or talk in an accent,” Ledesma said. “I find it very offensive when people darken their skin for costumes because there’s a huge issue in Latin America where people with darker complexions are mistreated.”

Ledesma said one of the most common occurrences of cultural appropriation she sees in October every year are Day of the Dead costumes with face paint, which she said holds significant religious meaning.

“I find it highly disrespectful and see people in these costumes to be mocking Mexican culture,” Ledesma said. “My people shouldn’t be used as your next Halloween costume.”

President of Black Caucus

Nyla Holland said there are so many costumes people can wear that aren’t somebody else’s culture — and that “if it’s questionable, choose something else.”

A major instance of Black cultural appropriation in costumes is people practicing Blackface, which she said includes the darkening of one’s skin tone, doing a stereotypical “Blaccent,” and using Black hairstyles.

“I think if someone is trying to capture the essence of a particular famous figure by not doing the above things, that’s understandable,” Holland (senior-political science and African American studies) said via email. “But it doesn’t make sense to be a Black anything if you aren’t Black, because that perpetuates harmful stereotypes.”

Holland emphasized that these costumes are part of a bigger societal issue where people undermine or try to take ownership of Black culture.

“I think one thing cultural appropriation does is gaslight Black people into thinking that our culture, our history and our customs aren’t our own or aren’t culturally significant,” Holland said. “It can whitewash our culture, causing people to be misinformed and perhaps less prideful in our own creations.”

Navajo student and President of the Indigenous People’s Student Association Tim Benally said he sees cultural appropriation of his community in the profitization and romanization of Indigenous people by non-natives.

He said there are numerous examples of people mocking Indigenous culture in society, whether it be team’s mascots, in history classes or with Halloween costumes.

Benally (senior-psychology) said headdresses are often popular during Halloween, but that many people who wear them as part of a costume have no knowledge of their actual meaning.

“Each piece of the headdress represents a ceremonial accomplishment or sign of bravery that I doubt many kids have considered, let alone earned enough to wear,” Benally said via email. “It’s a sign of great disrespect when any feather touches the floor.”

Another costume he said he’s always upset to see is “sexy Pocahontas.”

According to Indian Country Today, Pocahontas was around 10 years old when she met John Smith, who was around 27. Benally said costumes like this continue to wrongfully sexualize Native American women and children,

which is an issue on reservations today.

“Native American women get disproportionately stolen, raped and assaulted at a higher rate than any other demographic, which is why there’s a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement,” Benally said. “It breaks my heart to see people perpetuating the sexualization of Native women who I know have endured some of the hardest realities American history has to offer.”

Although people might not think Halloween costumes hold much weight, Benally said costumes mocking marginalized groups contribute to an ignorance about their culture and perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

“As a Native person, I feel that many of my non-native peers love romanticizing Native concepts but are extremely quick to disassociate about the real history that my ancestors have endured through generations and continue to endure today,” Benally said. “It’s dehumanizing and there’s no excuse when you are only accepting what you like about a person and unwilling to face the realities of how you contribute to the struggles of their people.”

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Crabs State College: Project to business

By Rachel Suga

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For many students, group projects can be a nightmare — but the creators of Crabs State College have proven to be the anomaly, making a business for themselves by selling crabs and other related dishes.

A little over two weeks ago, students in Engineering 407: Tech Entrepreneur class were assigned to make \$600 in less than a month, leading to the start of the project.

Though the first week was a bit slow, orders have grown every week, according to Emma Snelling, the leader of the Crabs State College operation.

The team took to social media

and networking through friends. Suddenly, orders began flooding in, and Crabs State College is quickly gaining traction and notoriety from its patrons and Instagram supporters.

Braden Heisler said every member of the group has an engineering leadership development minor — the reason they’re all in the class.

The entrepreneurial-like minor created challenges for the group members, but the food service-based business has persevered, and group members have been encouraging one another despite it being a “hectic” environment, according to Heisler (junior-industrial engineering).

“Emma is running with it and doing great things,” Heisler said.

“Just being able to coordinate things is a little difficult in Zoom, but [as a group we’re] making it work. We’ve kind of established a good communication base.”

Multiple collaborators on the project, including Heisler, described Snelling (junior-mechanical engineering) as extremely hard working and dedicated to the business.

Snelling said she was inspired by her home state of Maryland to bring crabs to State College, as there are little establishments that would or could sell fresh seafood in central Pennsylvania.

Driving home every few days to pick up fresh products, Snelling said her main goal is to create products customers are willing to return to the business for, as she is vividly aware that especially during a pandemic, it is difficult to get a tasty meal at a reasonable price.

“I keep telling my friends, a dead animal is ruling my life right now,” Snelling joked.

Working in food-related service since she was 14 years old, Snelling has built upon her knowledge of the business in order to develop Crabs State College.

Collaborating with her father at home, Snelling also discussed how the business has impacted her life in more ways than one in such a short time.

“I think when I told [my dad] about this, he was really excited, and it really struck a new level for me [in] my relationship with my dad, because this is someone that I can count on,” Snelling said. “He’s just always there and willing to help me. He literally stayed up until 3 a.m. to make food with me.”

Support has been flooding in for the class-project-turned-small-business, as friends of



Courtesy of Kathleen Haseleu

Emma Snelling, founder of Crabs State College, poses for a photo with her custom crustacean product on Oct. 22 in State College, Pa.

Snelling and Heisler have been posting on Instagram about their sandwiches and crab meals, spreading the word.

The business’s grassroots advertising has been facilitated by Danielle Costantino, a friend of Snelling, who has known about the project since the very beginning.

Costantino (sophomore-mechanical engineering) said she was excited to help her friend, as she liked the concept of the business and “really likes seafood.”

From the beginning, Costantino helped spread the word of Crabs State College by word of mouth.

“I messaged all my friends and we had a crabs night on Friday,” Costantino said. “We each ordered two sandwiches, and it was so good that we did it the next night.”

Collaborations and “test kitchens” are on the horizon for Crabs State College and its staff, according to Snelling.

Though the future of the project is unclear, Snelling said she is grateful and joyfully surprised at how successful the endeavor has been, as she hopes to continue running Crabs State College for at least the next few weeks.

Though the future of the project is unclear, Snelling said she is grateful and joyfully surprised at how successful the endeavor has been.

Snelling recently said that as the crabbing season is coming to a close, she is developing an updated menu and hopes to continue her business, despite her project in the class coming to a close.

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Courtesy of Emma Snelling

Danielle Costantino and Kathleen Haseleu eat food from Crabs State College on Oct. 22. Costantino has helped spread the word about Crabs State College among students.

Sheldon Fields: “Unicorn” in nursing

By Madigan Lubold
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State professor Sheldon Fields thinks of himself as somewhat of a mythical creature in his field.

“I am a unicorn in the world of academic nursing,” Fields said.

Fields, the first Black man to serve as the associate dean for equity and inclusion in the College of Nursing at Penn State, was born in 1970 in Brownsville, New York.

“I was born to an African American mother and a Puerto Rican father,” Fields said. “I grew up on welfare, but [I didn’t] realize I was poor because everyone around [me] was poor.”

He was the youngest of six children raised by a single mother, and was one of the only children to formally graduate high school. He also was the only person in his family to receive a doctorate.

Fields said he owes his Aunt Lorraine credit for inspiring him to become a nurse.

Aunt Lorraine was his role model. She was a nurse practitioner with a car and a house, and was the “matriarch of the family.”

“I was a smart kid, fortunately,” Fields said. “I may have grown up in poverty, but I was smart.”

Fields went to a public school for gifted and talented students, and then later skipped eighth

“Nursing was overwhelmingly a white, female profession. It still is.”

Sheldon Fields

grade due to his capabilities and intelligence.

However, during his freshman year at Binghamton University, Fields realized how “inadequate” his high school education was.

“Even though I graduated top of my high school class, I was like, ‘why am I still so far behind?’” Fields said. “I really didn’t have the background.”

After graduating from Binghamton’s Decker School of Nursing in 1991, Fields began his first nursing job at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where he developed an interest in oncology.

He then continued his education at Columbia University, but was shortly displeased with the quality of the program. Fields returned to Binghamton to finish his master’s in family nursing.

“Just because it’s Columbia doesn’t mean it’s all that,” Fields said. “But, I did wind up with my Ivy League education.”

Fields received his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was the first Black male to graduate with a doctorate in nursing.

There are few Black men in nursing at Fields’ level with the credentials he has, Fields said.

Fields became the first Black male the University of Rochester had ever hired in nursing when he took a faculty position there.

“Nursing was overwhelmingly a white, female profession,” Fields said. “It still is.”

Fields said the nursing industry is 91% women and majority white.

According to Fields’ nephew, LaMont Fields, his uncle has been “very influential both personally and professionally.”

“[Fields] encouraged me to advance my education,” LaMont said. “Throughout my four years [in college], he’s been more than an uncle, but an adviser, a mentor.”

LaMont described Fields as “resilient.”

“Fields is the type of person that when he puts his mind to something, he does it,” LaMont said. “Look at his resume — his rap sheet is amazing. He’s an educator, a researcher, an analyst nurse practitioner, a nurse entrepreneur — the list goes on. Just seeing how resilient he is about nursing and his degrees is ‘right on brand.’”

LaMont looks up to his uncle as a “changed agent.” Fields steps into a space where his demographic isn’t well represented, but is needed, LaMont said.

“He sees the trees before the forest — and those trees are lots of the challenges that he has faced,” LaMont said.

Fields’ closest friend, Beverly Logan, said it took a “great sense of self” to tackle and overcome racial barriers in his field.

“He is very clear on who he is and what’s important to him,” Logan said. “He perseveres. He looks at obstacles as speed bumps, and whatever the problem may be, he will find a way to solve it.”

As Fields has been the “first” in many areas of his life, Logan said



Courtesy of Sheldon Fields

Sheldon Fields is the first Black man to serve as associate dean for equity and inclusion in the College of Nursing

that is what motivates him.

“Sheldon has been committed to health care and the sciences, and I think that it humbled him that he made it, but then it became a motivation,” Logan said. “It’s important for Fields to be that role model to males of color, to show them that ‘it is possible, it is doable.’”

According to Fields, there is no use in being the “first” if he didn’t teach and bring people along.

Fields puts himself in the position to be an active mentor particularly for men of color in nursing because they need support, he said.

Fields currently serves as the National Black Nurses Association’s first vice president, and he said he is in line to become the organization’s second male president, he said.

In a profession dominated by white females, Fields said he doesn’t let his identity stop or doubt him.

“I’ve been a nurse for 30 years. I committed to this profession and I love being a nurse,” Fields said. “I just wish the doors to a career in professional nursing were more open, which is why I took the position at Penn State, because I get to help in my quest to diversify the profession.”

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Sunny State club spreads kindness

By Rachel Suga
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In a world where kindness can seem dwindling, one Penn State club has tried to fill this need on campus.

Sunny State’s goal is to spread happiness and love by completing random acts of kindness like leaving Post-it Notes with kind sayings written on them across campus, according to the group’s Facebook page.

Sunny State is an organization that tries to remind students they are “exactly where they need to be” while they are stressed during the school year.

Gianna Baresse, the president of Sunny State, feels a strong connection to the club and its goals.

Baresse (junior-biobehavioral health) recognized how helpful it is for her to experience small things in daily life that can make her feel better, including talking to others and relating to her fellow students.

“I’m so glad to be a part of something so great,” Baresse said. “It personally made such a big difference in my freshman and sophomore years.”

Having been in the club since its first year in existence, Baresse has watched it grow and change, making friends in the process.

As a club centered around doing random acts of kindness, the group gathers to do nice things that will make strangers smile.

“When we’re in person — obviously this semester it’s a little different — we have a meeting every week and break off to do random acts of kindness,” Baresse said. “I suppose it’s not random if it’s planned, but the whole point is that people aren’t expecting it, more so than the fact that it’s planned.”



Courtesy of Shivani Sowmyan

Sunny State strives to spread happiness across campus with Post-it Notes.

In the past, Sunny State has gone to the HUB-Robeson Center or the Pattee and Paterno Library to give out coffee and candy to bring joy during stressful points of the school year, like midterms or finals.

Other projects have included painting rocks and placing them all over campus, which Baresse said was fun to see on strangers’ Instagram stories after the rocks were placed.

Continuing to meet as a club during the pandemic was difficult, but Baresse has been doing individual challenges with her Sunny State members, such as placing Post-it Notes in random places all over campus like they did before the pandemic.

Megan Galvin, the historian of Sunny State, had a similar experience to Baresse.

Galvin (sophomore-plant sciences) was in search of a place where she would fit in as a freshman, and she connected with the officers of Sunny State and eventually became one herself.

“I was looking for friends because I was new, and thought about where... the best place [would] be, club-wise,” Galvin said.

“A random act of kindness club seemed like the place where everyone would be super inviting and excited to be good people without being asked to. It just seemed like something I’d really like to be a part of.”

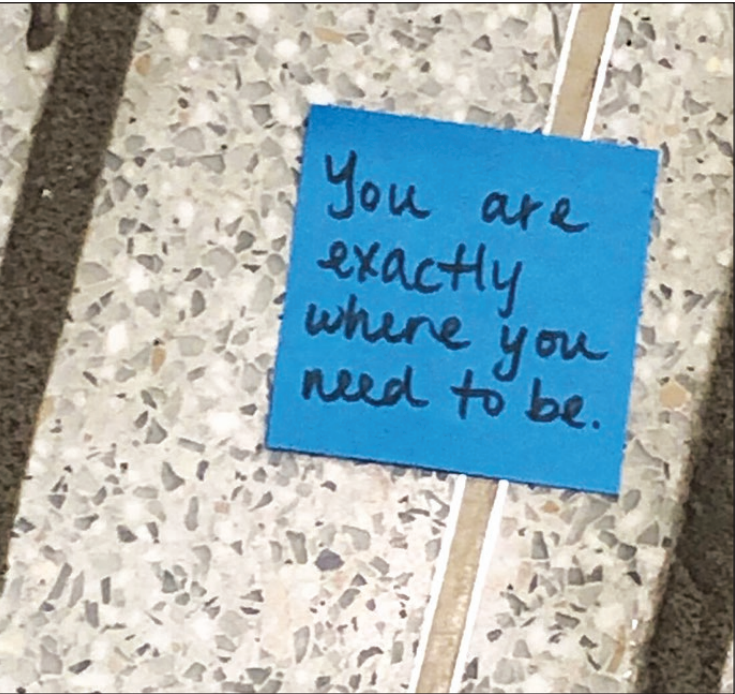
Galvin said she recognizes that giving out free candy to strangers is not a social norm.

Parents would gasp at the thought of taking candy from people their children do not know, but Sunny State tries to make students’ days happier, although there can be a few confused faces at the offer, according to Galvin.

Galvin said she would like to have more outdoor events in the future, especially at the Arboretum because she loves plants, and meeting over Zoom has been a challenge.

Sunny State brings happiness to its members, too, even though the purpose of the club is to bring joy to other people that may or may not be strangers.

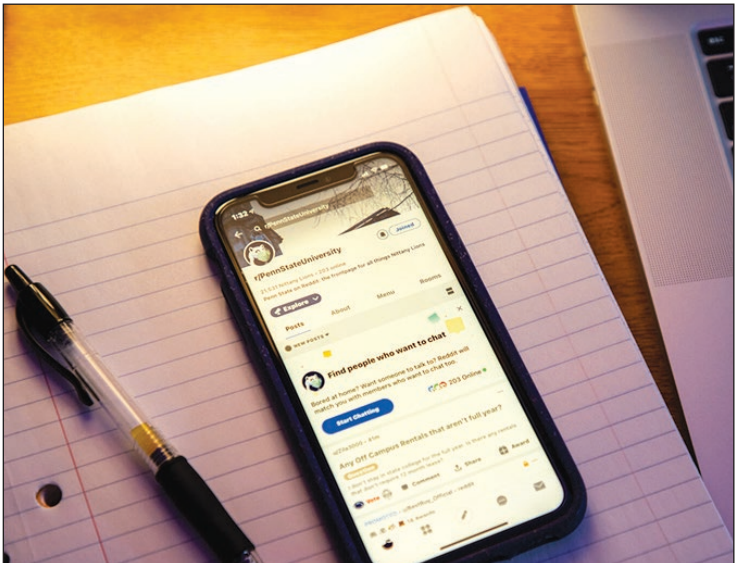
“Everyone that’s in it just cares a lot about everybody else, and it’s just the most down to earth, comforting feeling to be around them,” Galvin said.



Rachel Suga/Collegian

Sunny State is centered around doing random acts of kindness throughout campus.

To email reporter: rms6538@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at [@rachelsuga-media](https://twitter.com/rachelsuga-media).



Andrew Maier/Collegian

Students use r/PennStateUniversity to make friends and learn about the university.

Reddit creates online community for students

By William Aguirre
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Penn State subreddit is a growing online community that encourages users to post and discuss anything related to the university.

Reddit is an online media aggregation and discussion board where posts are organized into different user-created pages known as “subreddits.” The student-run Penn State page has over 21,000 users, and is still gaining more traction.

The site usually sees 600 to 700 interactions on the most popular posts in a month, according to Michael Cao, one of the subreddit’s moderators.

This community was originally created under the name r/PSU by Class of 2007 Penn State graduate David Rusenko. Rusenko is the founder and CEO of the web hosting service Weebly, which hosts over 30 million sites.

Shortly after its inception, Rusenko and his classmate, whose Reddit username is Huginn, scrapped r/PSU and replaced it with the current subreddit, r/PennStateUniversity, because of confusion with other universities that have the same “PSU” abbreviation.

Rusenko and Huginn’s goal was to establish a resource for students to share and discuss information relevant to other students. When the site was first started, the most common posts were articles from news and sports sites.

Although he is less active than he was when he was a student, Huginn is still on the team of students and alumni that moderates the site. Huginn believes the majority of moderators should be current students.

“I’m just there for moral support. It’s very student run,” Huginn said. “I’m a business consultant in real life.”

The site received a significant spike in traffic in November 2011, following the arrest of Jerry

Sandusky, according to Huginn.

As the site grew in popularity, the types of daily posts users make have diversified. One of the current moderators, Aviral Malhotra, noticed the topic of posts will often change based on current events.

“There are usually timeframes where something political happens, and there’s a week or two weeks of political debate on Reddit,” Malhotra (sophomore-finance) said.

Posts and comments discussing classes, current events and user creations are also common. As a result of the anonymity of Reddit, some students are willing to open up about personal matters.

Malhotra said talking with other students in the subreddit helps him learn different perspectives from students, as opposed to when he’s talking to friends or family.

The moderators are planning an “Ask Me Anything” online Q&A with a professor from the Eberly College of Science who is yet to be announced.

As students graduate, the moderator team’s goal is to make sure it always has several current students. Cao (junior-information sciences and technology) said he discovered the online community in July 2018.

Cao found the site when he was applying to colleges.

“I was unable to visit most of the colleges I applied to,” Cao said. “I looked to other avenues in order to gain more information and insight about the colleges that I was applying to. Naturally, that led me to different forums, and different subreddits.”

Cao became active in the Penn State subreddit when the moderator team reached out to him after noticing he had previous experience with managing social media and online communities of a large nonprofit organization.

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

How a student runs a clothing company

By Anan Hussein
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Almost a year ago, Austin Thomas came up with an idea to help his friends during the winter: sherpa lined jeans.

A year later, his product surpassed \$44,000 in revenue.

Thomas (senior-supply chain management) started JERPA Jeans in October 2019 in an attempt to fix a problem he said he noticed during football games and tailgates.

“Some of my friends would wear thermals under their jeans... to kind of layer up so they’re not cold,” Thomas said.

According to JERPA’s website, its “signature product” is jeans lined with sherpa, a fabric that resembles wool.

Thomas said flannel lined jeans and baggy fur lined jeans were already available, but this is not what he had in mind.

Moreover, Thomas said a baggy fit wouldn’t relate to the demographic he’s trying to reach. Instead, he thinks younger people prefer a more tailored fit, but the jeans are still for everyone.

Thomas said he noticed sherpa was quite popular among celebrities, especially in jackets and other clothing — but never in jeans.

Early on, Thomas said he faced many challenges trying to find the right product, and it was a

process of trial and error.

“One problem was that the jeans would keep you warm outside and sweaty inside, so we needed to find that balance,” Thomas said.

After finding the right supplier, Thomas said the next step was tweaking the color and fit.

Another challenge Thomas said he faced was storage for the products, so he tailored the brand’s business model around that.

Thomas said different types of clothing, like shirts, are released at once in a bundle. After this product sells out, JERPA moves on to the next idea. However, some items are restocked, such as the hoodies, because there is demand for them.

Thomas said he hopes to have the jeans in stock year-round in the future to help people who experience winter at different times of the year and to prevent losing potential revenue.

To spread word about the brand, Thomas launched an ambassador program with the help of his friend, Bradley Kraut.

Kraut (sophomore-advertising and public relations) saw an

Instagram post from Thomas asking for help developing the brand last September and decided to join in.

Kraut said he was not sure how it would go initially, but quickly became excited at the jeans’ potential.

Kraut said he started by showing the jeans to people on his dorm floor — and this was a hit.

“I kind of wanted to make it like a community in a way,”

Kraut said.

Kraut would hand-deliver the jeans to students and give them shout outs. He recorded the process and tagged the purchasers on his social media.

“With any new product or new company, people are skeptical like ‘Hey I don’t really know if I want to buy this product,’” Kraut said. “But once people started seeing me post this person and that person and football players they’re like, ‘OK, what’s all this hype about?’”

The ambassador program initially started with around 30 people where only three members were active, according to Thomas. Now, there are 55 active ambassadors of 70 total.

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

“I kind of wanted to make it like a community in a way.”

Bradley Kraut
JERPA Jeans Ambassador

How to make football spookier

By Kit Schroder
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With Penn State’s first home game set to kickoff against Ohio State at 7:30 p.m. on Halloween, the night will be packed with excitement for Penn State students.

But there’s an opportunity for the football team to provide even more entertainment while playing the Buckeyes. Here are some ways the football team can get more in the Halloween holiday spirit come gameday.

Jack-o'-lanterns instead of helmets

It’s time to swap the blue and white helmets for some creatively carved jack-o'-lanterns. Pumpkins are thick, so they’ll protect the players, right?

It would be a great team bonding exercise to get the players to carve their own pumpkin helmets before the game, and they would look extremely stylish when running onto the field.

They could even save the insides of the pumpkins to make some pumpkin recipes to celebrate after the game when they claim victory over Ohio

State, since they’ll surely be hungry. Pumpkin bread, anyone?

Temporarily change our colors to orange and black

We have all 364 days of the year to represent the blue and white proudly. A Halloween night game only happens once in a lifetime.

It’s time to take to the field with some paint and let the Nittany Lions score touchdowns in a more festive endzone. I’m sure all the fans can scrap up some orange and black to watch the game in too — if they’re not already wearing costumes.

Play in the dark

There’s not going to be any fans in the stands, so why not take this game to the next level and just turn the lights off all together to make this game spooky?

We wouldn’t even have to tell Ohio State that’s what’s happening, and it would be a jump scare for them every time they think the Penn State players are getting close. Is it even Halloween if there really are “all of the lights?”

Coaches and cheerleaders dress up in costumes

While the football players will be sporting their jack-o'-lantern helmets, the coaches, cheerleaders and Lionettes have to get into the spooky Halloween spirit as well.

The cheerleaders could be flying into the air as zombies, the Lionettes could be dancing around like glow-in-the-dark skeletons and the coaches could be mummies.

Give the players candy every time they play well

These poor football players aren’t even going to get the chance to go door to door to collect candy and show off their costumes this year.

How about every time they do something that benefits the Nittany Lions, we let them pick a piece of candy they want? This will not only encourage them to play better, but also give them the Halloween experience everyone loves and deserves.

Make the game a “Thriller” dance competition

Actually, why are we even playing football on Halloween? Isn’t that a Thanksgiving festivity? Instead, it’s time to channel our inner “Glee” and let the players perform “Thriller” by Michael Jackson.

It could still be Penn State vs. Ohio State, but whoever has the better dance moves and scarier makeup — which would for sure be in Penn State’s favor.

To email reporter cas7114@psu.edu.
Follow her on Twitter at [@kschro15](https://twitter.com/kschro15).

Students discuss virtual events

By Courtney Benedetto
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

During the coronavirus pandemic, music lovers are experiencing concerts with a twist — a virtual twist.

In an attempt to still give students a live event experience, Penn State’s Student Programming Association occasionally hosts celebrities for virtual concerts.

On Oct. 5, SPA hosted YouTuber David Dobrik for a virtual Q&A session.

Tusha Pham said she highly anticipated the webinar with David Dobrik.

Pham (sophomore-film) had “high expectations” for the event. After attending, her favorite part was “getting to know more about David and Natalie.”

Pham said she was also impressed by the engagement between Dobrik and the virtual audience.

“They were focusing their attention on Penn State students, so it was nice to see that,” Pham said.

One week later for Penn State Homecoming Week, SPA hosted Noah Cyrus for a virtual concert.

Maya Yoxtheimer only “caught the last half” of Cyrus’ performance, but said “it was really awesome.”

“I’m a huge concert junkie, so it was really nice to have that vibe back again,” Yoxtheimer (junior-Spanish education) said.

According to Yoxtheimer, a downside to the livestream was the fact that there was no recorded version of it for those who missed parts of the concert. She said she wanted to rewind it and watch from the beginning.

Not all students have gone to one of Penn State’s virtual events, though, and this is for a variety of reasons.

Emily McKeown was interested in seeing comedian Nicole Byer’s virtual Q&A session, but

she said she forgot.

“If I would have gotten an email, like ‘oh this is happening tonight,’ it might have reminded me to go,” McKeown (graduate-special education) said.

Allie Foxx said she shared McKeown’s lack of knowledge of the events.

Foxx (freshman-business) explained how she did not know about many of the virtual events and therefore had “no opportunity” to attend.

“I think I would have gone if I knew about them,” Foxx said.

Matt Day said he knew about the events and wanted to watch Shaq’s virtual performance on Aug. 20, but he only found out about it two days in advance.

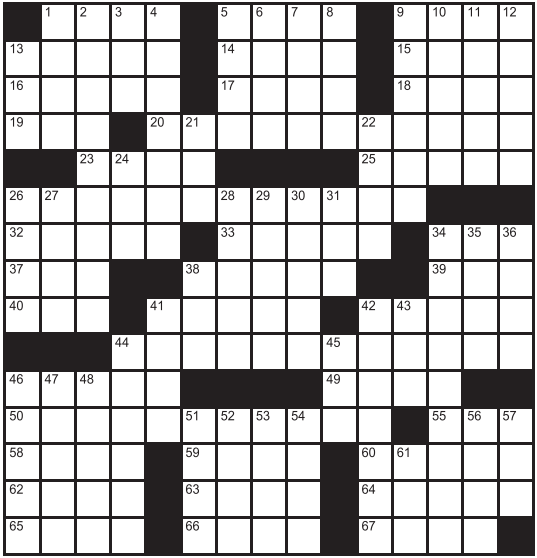
Day (sophomore-computer science) has not been able to go to any of the virtual concerts or Q&As because he has “just been doing work” this semester.

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

Puzzles

Across

- Hat-tipper’s word
- Balkan native
- Not hearing
- Yoga practitioner
- Ornamental handbag
- Highest point
- Choir voices
- Rural route
- Paranoiac’s worry
- Hit the slopes
- Orea
- Graceful bird
- Pays to play
- Various places
- Grownup
- Yell
- Slovenly person
- Fleur-de-—
- Moses’ brother
- Tokyo, formerly
- Big name in Giants history
- Everglades wader
- Sleeper’s woe
- Master
- Very, in music
- Hideous
- Christmas tree decoration after an earthquake?
- Used to be
- Loyal
- Kind of arch
- Kick out
- Breakfast staple
- Asia’s shrinking — Sea
- Ill-tempered
- Breather
- Stag
- Notices



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Down

- Condensed —
- Laws that protect trade
- Big deal
- Aquatic rodent
- Peddle
- And others (Abbr.)
- Mysterious letter
- Coffin
- Strauss opera
- Plaudits
- Detergent plant
- Celebrates
- Owns
- Night spot
- Star Trek speed
- Electrifying swimmer
- Light ring
- Computer menu option
- The Lord of the Rings figure
- Midafternoon
- Bronx cheers
- Ages and ages
- Thrifty
- Brain wave
- Hockey score
- Gone by
- Border lake
- Shoelace sheaths
- Campaigner, for short
- Most like a ghost
- Good name for a lawyer?
- Later on
- Boot camp boss
- Punches
- Ham’s father
- Site of the Taj Mahal
- Close
- Cabbage
- Makes a scene?
- Dump
- Victory sign

WORD SEARCH

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M D Y Q D P P H E U C S E R G E S N
G A L B B U R E H C A E T X S J H L
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D O H E R O E S N T B N E W Y O R K
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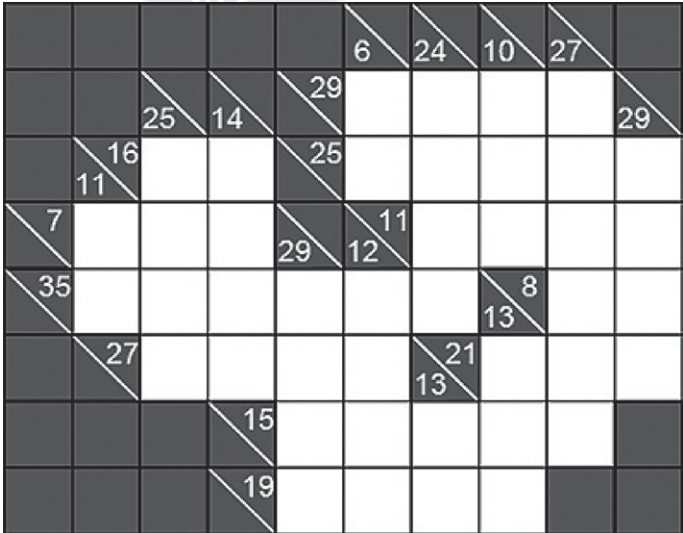
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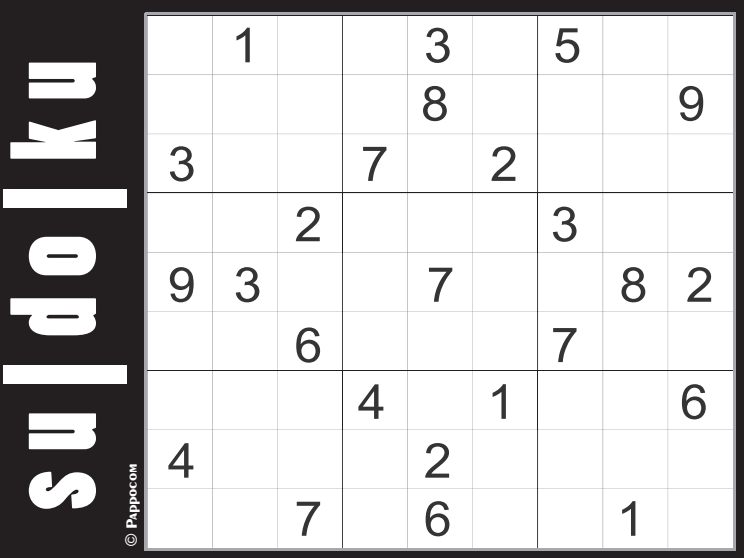
PRINCIPAL
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Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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



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University webinars show efforts to be transparent

OUR VIEW

Webinars hosted by Eric Barron help keep Penn State community informed

More information is never a bad thing — that’s a thought we have not only as journalists, but as students and humans living through such unprecedented times. Since Oct. 8, Penn State President Eric Barron and various other university experts have hosted weekly webinars over Zoom in an effort to address and answer questions submitted from faculty and staff about the coronavirus pandemic and other “related critical topics.”

This appears to be a great opportunity for the university to help inform its community.

But are these webinars effective?

As students, we recog-

nize that these townhall-style webinars are focused primarily on the concerns of faculty and staff, though the information presented is also often relevant to students and the broader Penn State community.

Since the start of the semester, The Daily Collegian has received news tips and covered stories regarding the concerns of Penn State faculty and staff.

Though the coronavirus pandemic has presented

everyone with new challenges, many faculty and staff members expressed they were especially in the dark.

These webinars seem to show legitimate effort by the university to better inform faculty and staff, allowing these individuals to submit questions prior to the Zoom call via a Google Form and also submit questions during the webinar via Zoom’s Q&A feature.

As students, not only should we advocate for transparency from our university, but we should care that the university’s faculty and staff are well taken care of — after all, they’re the ones directly taking care of us.

Hosting webinars weekly is a smart idea, compared to, say, monthly. Even if there might not be any new information available from week-to-week, the webinars demonstrate that an effort is being made to help ease the mind of the public.

But still, there is always

more to be hoped for.

Since questions are submitted by faculty and staff ahead of time, it might lead one to wonder if Penn State is picking and choosing the questions it chooses to address during these webinars.

During the introduction to the first webinar, Curtis Chan addressed those watching saying, “Many of you have shared questions ahead of the meeting and we will probably have more questions than we have time for today, so we’ll be condensing some of these questions we’ve recited ahead of time in order to answer as many questions as possible.”

Viewers are in a position in which they must trust the university to not only answer all questions submitted, but also take care not to alter the meaning of questions when “condensing” them.

Perhaps a better idea, though maybe more work, would be to have faculty

and staff members ask questions live over Zoom, imitating an in-person town hall. This way, it would be known for certain that the university is addressing each question.

Recordings of the webinars are posted online and captioned, but it might also make sense for the university to release a document every week that transcribes and answers each of the questions received from both the Google Form and Zoom’s Q&A feature.

The webinar system seems to be the university reaching out a hand to its faculty and staff, looking to genuinely better communicate with those who might have felt lost beforehand.

And though it may not be a perfect system, the webinars are undoubtedly a positive resource for the Penn State community, and the university seems to be making a sincere effort in today’s challenging climate.

The university will host its fourth town hall meeting Thursday at 3 p.m., hearing from Barron, Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Sims, and Director of the COVID-19 Operation Control Center Kelly Wolgast.

MY VIEW | David Tilli

Print is dying and you should care

Little space needs to be wasted here about the value of a free press.

The Constitution may have missed the mark when it came to slavery, suffrage and general equality, but its advocacy for a liberated printing press was truly inspired.

Of course, the First Amendment only freed printing machines from governmental control; it did not equalize them in terms of either access or usage.

There still exists a fundamental inequality in whose stories get told and who exactly gets to tell them.

This inequality is growing more pronounced and dire each year, as vaster and vaster swaths of the country become news deserts. The trickle of information dries up in these areas, and residents are left with a barren media presence.

According to a study from the University of North Carolina, more than 1,300 communities in America have met this terrible fate. Additionally, 20% of community newspapers either went belly-up or merged with other newspapers.

Often, these mergers lead to a scaled-back public service (or if you prefer to get all

capitalist about it, a scaled-back product).

The classic newspaperman axiom goes: “If it bleeds, it leads.”

The bloodletting of the news industry, however, is hardly leading the average American into bouts of despair and despondency. And though losing news coverage may seem like small peanuts when compared to the other problems facing the average American (mounting debt, taking the kids to soccer practice, a looming fascist takeover, etc.), small peanuts can turn into larger ones.

The death of an independent press brings with it many changes. Among the most startling is how much more easily power can corrupt and how much more easily this corruption can go unnoticed and unchallenged.

If you think politicians and other authority figures get away with too much currently, imagine how much more they can get away with once the main occupation responsible for bringing their abuses into the light goes into the dark itself.

In terms of square miles, Centre County is more than double the size of New York City. A total of 162,385 individuals call the region their home. While the area may be lacking in population density, it’s still

“Journalism is an intrinsic good, however, and its ever-approaching extinction should make us all chew our nails in worry.”

David Tilli

dense with stories and individuals bursting to tell them. The human experience has no geographic boundary and no demographic threshold.

As for writing, the Centre Daily Times is the only major newspaper serving this corner of the state. Like many local papers, the Centre Daily Times has seen its staff reduced in the past decade. With staff reduction comes the reduced ability to print all the news fit for publication.

For sure, residents of Centre County also receive excellent news coverage from The Daily Collegian, but full disclosure: the Collegian is a student newspaper, made by Penn State students for a primarily Penn State audience.

Our scope is limited by pedagogical mandate. The farthest our coverage usually extends is the State College area, which represents a sliver of Centre County real estate.

If I had the solution to the

problem, I would not be writing this column on a kitchen table found on the side of the road.

This much is obvious, however: the contemporary model of journalism is failing.

The pay-to-play subscription method works only for the largest and most established papers, while the average publication shrinks in staff size and revenue until the ink dries up permanently.

Pieces like the preceding tend to devolve into cliché and sentimentality. Reporters are deified and portrayed as the true gatekeepers of democracy.

The Fourth Estate becomes the last defense against tyranny.

This is all gobbledygook. Journalism is an intrinsic good, however, and its ever-approaching extinction should make us all chew our nails in worry.

Centre County is a textbook example of this phenomenon, where the reporter-to-resident ratio is hopelessly skewed.

Centre County may not be the center of the world, or even of the state, but it still deserves to have its stories told and voices heard.

David Tilli is a senior majoring in journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at dmt45@psu.edu or follow him on Twitter at [@davewithtilli](https://twitter.com/davewithtilli).



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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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als. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them during the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday and Thursday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

Complaints

News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

Patnesky reigniting Behrend program

By Ben Serfass
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When choosing to undertake the responsibilities of head wrestling coach at Division III Penn State Behrend, a school that went roughly 40 years without a wrestling program, Bobby Patnesky decided to take on an improbable task.

He'd later prove it was not an impossible one.

Patnesky, a former Division I wrestler at West Virginia and former head wrestling coach at Division I Davidson, has led the Behrend program the last four seasons and turned it into a respectable wrestling school in western Pennsylvania, after the program had been nonexistent for 38 years.

During his 12 seasons as head coach at Davidson, Patnesky finished second in school history with 60 wins and coached five Southern Conference champions.

Many would scratch their heads at Patnesky's decision to leave a Division I school to kick-start a Division III program, but that's not how the coach saw it.

"I definitely viewed it as a challenge," Patnesky told The Daily Collegian. "Being from southwestern Pennsylvania I wanted to come back closer. So that was a big part of it. [Plus] it was Penn State, and you know the reputation Penn State has."

Another factor in Patnesky's decision to return to Pennsylvania was his family.

Family has had a large impact on both his life and his wrestling career, but it was also a big part of what brought him to Behrend.

By taking the job at Behrend and moving just outside Erie, Pennsylvania, Patnesky — an only child — went from being eight hours away when he was at Davidson, to now just two hours away at Behrend.

"I can tell you that my dad never missed a match of mine," the Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, native said. "He was always there. I'm an only child too, so my parents are really all I have in my immediate family. Being two hours away, I probably see them once or twice a month, where when I was eight hours away, I would see them maybe three times a year. So it definitely is very important to me."

That same sense of community and family is one that he tries to implement on his wrestling teams as well.



Courtesy of Penn State Behrend Athletics

Penn State Behrend wrestling coach Bobby Patnesky kneels down to coach one of his wrestlers during a match. Patnesky was previously the coach at Division I Davidson and coached five Southern Conference champions in 12 seasons.

"Because our family is tight and we're there pulling for each other, things can sometimes be a little bit easier," Patnesky said. "I think that team cohesion and that team unity is a very important factor in building a championship squad."

Patnesky received his undergraduate degree in communications from West Virginia and master's degree in athletic administration from Ohio University.

The wrestling coach prides himself on the idea that he is able to use both degrees when building his young program.

"When it comes to communication, obviously, that's the building block for everything," Patnesky said. "If you don't communicate effectively, you're going to have problems and issues resolving things that you want to get accomplished."

His leadership and positivity is something that was evident to one of his former top wrestlers, Jake Paulson.

Under Patnesky's tutelage, Paulson was the first Behrend Nittany Lion to reach the NCAA Southeast Regional tournament, placing third in 2018.

Throughout his journey to the top of the Division III wrestling ranks, Patnesky was by Paulson's side every step of the way.

"He was just telling me to just go there and just keep doing my thing," Paulson told the Collegian. "He was just trying to make sure I wasn't nervous, and was just trying to make it not a big deal, but he was also having me enjoy the moment."

Paulson won five consecutive matches at the 2018 regional tournament, thanks in part to Patnesky's coaching.

One of the main things his coach stressed to him was to stick to the same strategies that had gotten him to that point.

"He just kept telling me to keep doing the little things," Paulson said. "The little things are what's going to matter — score at the end of the period, not giving up points at the end of the period and just pushing the pace. Just making sure I was keeping up what I was doing, really."

Although Paulson has been one of the young program's most successful wrestlers thus far, Patnesky is constantly encouraging and rooting for each of his athletes.

This sense of support has been visible to Behrend athletic director Brian Streeter during both practices and matches.

"He's dealing with some kids who love wrestling," Streeter said. "He treats every one of his kids like they're champions. He

coaches them that way. Whether the person loses in 30 seconds or in 10 minutes it doesn't matter. He takes each athlete he's had and he stays behind each one of them, which is great."

Aside from just offering support on the bench, he also wrestles with his athletes in practice.

"It just shows us that he's giving 110% as well," Paulson said. "During matches he is coaching us, and he's just putting everything into his emotions out there. I really feel like that just feeds us, feeds the bench and gets everyone going."

Patnesky isn't a coach who's typically reserved or quiet during matches, but that's perfectly fine by his boss.

"Sometimes you love watching wrestling coaches because they're a little more animated on the sideline than the kids on the mat," Streeter said.

"He's moving and his neck is moving, his shoulders are moving, his arms are moving, he's squatting down... that motivates his kids. They know he's 100% behind them."

Streeter has been the athletic director at Behrend for 23 years and was one of the forces behind bringing back wrestling.

One of the qualities Streeter was looking for when hiring

his next wrestling coach was patience.

"When he came here, he knew he was walking into a first year program," Streeter said. "He's been great and patient with everything we've done so far."

Prior to Patnesky's arrival, wrestling had been absent from Behrend for decades, and something the new program lacked was a facility to train in.

Behrend is in the process of adding a new recreation center, which its wrestling team will be able to use, but as of now the team is still without a proper facility.

"Right now [Patnesky] is trying to do makeshift stuff in one of the gyms we have on campus," Streeter said. "It's good and it works, but it's not ideal, especially when you see kids coming out of high school facilities that are terrific."

One of the many challenges Patnesky faced upon taking the job was bringing attention to the new program, even among Behrend students.

Early during his time at Behrend, Paulson recalled outdoor team workouts on campus to raise awareness for the team.

In terms of growing the program, it helps that Patnesky grew up two hours away.

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



Collegian file photo

Women's lacrosse coach Missy Doherty yells during the NCAA quarterfinal against Penn on May 21, 2016. Penn State defeated Penn 8-4. In 2020, Doherty managed to bring in the nation's top ranked freshman class.

Doherty has big goals for freshmen

By Spencer Ripchik
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

In the 11 years that Missy Doherty has led Penn State's women's lacrosse, she's always been able to pull in good recruiting classes.

But this one's different.

The team's 2020 recruiting class was ranked No. 1 in the November issue of the Inside Lacrosse magazine — an honor Doherty takes pride in.

"We're really excited for the recognition," Doherty said. "We have had some amazing teams since I have got here, and to be able to continue on that tradition of having some really fantastic teams is great."

The freshmen players, many of whom were members of that class, are taking the recognition and using it as motivation in the 2021 season.

"I thought it was kind of cool to get the recognition, but now I feel like we're excited to go out and show everyone why we are ranked No. 1," freshman

midfielder Alaina Hamood said.

The women's lacrosse team went 5-2 before the season was canceled in the fall due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Because of this, the freshman class has been forced to adapt to university life in ways their older teammates didn't have to.

"We are not allowed to do a lot of the things in the fall that we probably would have been able to do because of the pandemic," freshman midfielder Kristin O'Neill said.

Despite this need for the freshmen — and the rest of the team — to adapt, the pandemic has not gotten in the way of the young players, as they know they are expected to perform well right away.

"We know we want to be good, so we discipline ourselves and hold each other accountable," Hamood said.

For the freshmen, the virus is only an off-field problem — on the field play is normal.

"The practices that we have been allowed to have are super competitive and at a game pace," O'Neill said. "On the field, it has

still been super challenging like I expected it to be."

O'Neill and Hamood have the same goals for their season — to learn and to work as hard as possible, something that Doherty looks for in her players.

"We try to recruit players that are well driven and ready to play," Doherty said.

Doherty had a tough time recruiting for the upcoming classes due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We were pretty nervous because we couldn't evaluate players as the summer progressed," Doherty said. "But a lot of tournaments ended up happening and being filmed, so we were able to do a fair bit of research."

Even with the different off-season, Doherty hopes that this season her new players will be contributors to make the team competitive in the Big Ten.

"We're excited for the freshman class. I think they've come in here, competed well, and will certainly be contributors this year," Doherty said.

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

MY VIEW | ANDREW DESTIN

Men's hockey ranked too high

The Penn State men's hockey season has yet to begin, but the Nittany Lions might be ranked too high.



Destin

USCHO.com released its initial preseason men's hockey rankings Monday afternoon and put the Nittany Lions in the top-ten.

The Nittany Lions were the highest ranked team in the Big Ten and No. 9 overall in the country, the program's highest preseason ranking in history.

Meanwhile, fellow Big Ten programs Ohio State (No.10), Michigan (No.12), Minnesota (No.14) and Notre Dame (No.20) are all ranked below Penn State.

Coming off a 2019-20 season where the Nittany Lions finished 20-10-4 overall and 12-8-4 in conference play, this year's Penn State team lost 11 key players from the prior season's unit.

Among the Nittany Lions' losses are Nate Sucece, who is Penn State's all-time leader in points and goals, former captain Brandon Biro and last year's starting goaltender Peyton Jones.

This trio of since-departed seniors were key components of a graduating class that won 85 games over the last four seasons.

Filling the voids left by bruising forward Nikita Pavlychev and prolific goal scorers like Evan Barratt and Liam Folkes will hardly be an easy task.

Yet, USCHO seems to think otherwise.

On March 23rd, USCHO's final rankings put Penn State at No. 8 in the country, after the Nittany Lions were crowned Big Ten regular-season champs last season.

With the departure of key contributors from last season's squad, USCHO's ranking assumes Penn State will replicate or even surpass last year's success.

A one position drop in the rankings from eight to nine could even be viewed as a disservice to the accomplishments of last season's team.

Year in and year out, Guy Gadowsky has found a way to consistently bring his team's win total around 20 for the season.

Though Penn State's men's hockey program is just eight years old, it has developed into a consistent force atop or near the top of the Big Ten.

But entering the 2020-21 season, Gadowsky has never had to weather the losses of such a multitude of impact players.

Four of Penn State's top six goal scorers from last year have moved on from the program.

The loss of defenseman Cole Hults, a two-way threat who had the team's best +/- at 23 and finished fourth on the team in points last year with 30, results in a sizable pair of skates needing to be filled.

Additionally, fellow defensemen Kris Myllari and Jamez Gobetz will no longer be donning the blue and white this season.

The loss of Jones, who finished last season with a 2.60 goals against average, leaves a hole on the backline.

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