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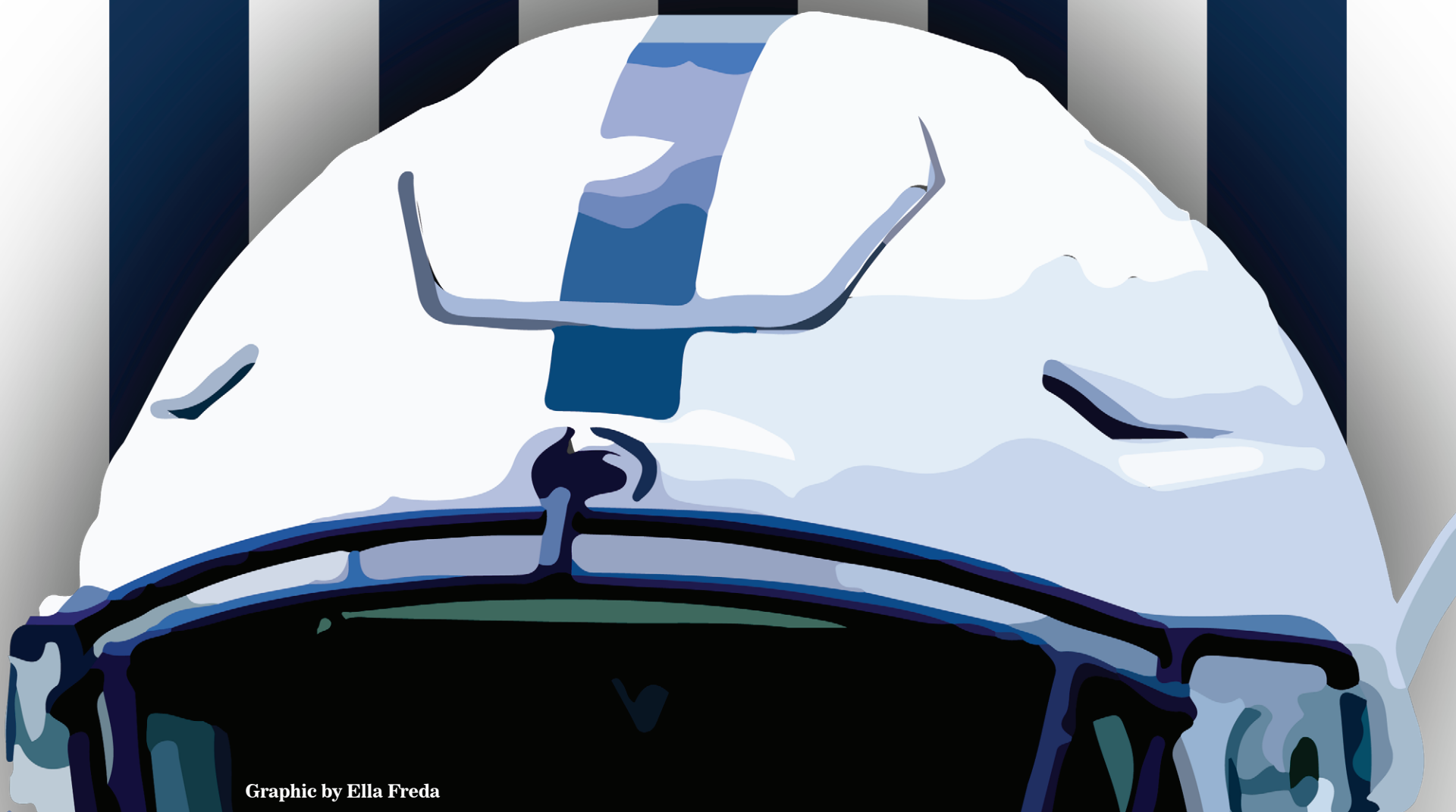
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OHIO STATE (7-0)
BUCKEYES

(6-1) PENN STATE
NITTANY LIONS



AN ELITE BENCHMARK



Ohio State players to watch

By Spencer Ripchik
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State has its second ranked matchup in the span of three weeks, and this time, it's No. 2 Ohio State — its toughest opponent of the season.

The Buckeyes are undefeated on the season, and their offense is strong again, scoring the second-most points per game in the FBS and the most in the Big Ten with 49.6 points per game.

Coach Ryan Day's squad is on pace for another Big Ten title and has a real shot at winning the National Championship.

Here are Ohio State's players who make up the championship-caliber team that will come to Penn State on Saturday.

C.J. Stroud, quarterback

Ohio State's high-powered offense is led by junior quarterback C.J. Stroud, who's in his second year starting for the Buckeyes.

Stroud's strength is his ability to get the ball into his playmakers' hands, and he's extremely productive in the red zone.

The Inland Empire, California, native leads the FBS with 28 passing touchdowns, which is four ahead of second place. He also leads the FBS in passing efficiency with 203.86 rating.

Stroud was a Heisman Trophy finalist last season and is the current favorite seven weeks into the season.

Penn State's secondary is one of the best in the nation and will



Ohio State wide receiver Emeka Egbuka makes a defender miss against Iowa on Oct. 22.

go against the best quarterback in the Big Ten and one of the best in the nation, so the "No Fly Zone" celebration will have to come out a lot for the Nittany Lions to slow down the Buckeyes under Stroud.

The last time Stroud played Penn State, he threw for 305 yards and a touchdown in the 'Shoe.

Emeka Egbuka, wide receiver

Last year, Ohio State had a duo of wide receivers, Chris Olave and Garret Wilson, who are both now in the NFL.

But like every year, the Buck-

eyes reloaded at receiver.

Receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba emerged as Stroud's favorite target in the Rose Bowl without Wilson and Olave.

However, he's been dealing with injuries all season, so sophomore Emeka Egbuka has stepped up into the lead role.

He shares a lot of targets with the son of NFL Hall of Fame receiver Marvin Harrison, Marvin Harrison Jr., but Egbuka leads the team with 41 receptions and 735 receiving yards.

Egbuka has had four games with over 100 yards receiving and was close to five in the seven

games the Buckeyes have played.

The second-year receiver, paired with Harrison Jr. and the slow return on Smith-Njigba, is going to give Penn State's secondary a handful.

Michael Hall Jr., defensive tackle

Last season, there were no question marks surrounding the offense, but there were some surrounding the defense for Ohio State.

This year, Ohio State has buffed up the defense, and it starts with redshirt-freshman defensive

tackle Michael Hall Jr. on the inside.

Hall Jr. leads the team with 4.5 sacks, which ties him for fourth in the Big Ten.

The second-year player didn't play much in 2021 and didn't play against Penn State last season, so it's a new face for the Penn State offensive line to worry about.

At 6-foot-2, 290 pounds, Hall Jr. is a big body in the middle of the line and has been disruptive in both the pass and run games.

Denzel Burke, cornerback

Ohio State has had a couple of lockdown cornerbacks in the past couple of years in Denzel Ward and Jeff Okudah, and it looks like sophomore Denzel Burke might be next.

Burke battled an injury at the start of the season but is now back and looking like his freshman All-American self once again.

Burke has four pass breakups on the season, which is the most on the team. Last year, he led the team with 13 pass breakups.

His first collegiate interception was returned for a touchdown in 2021, using his speed and athleticism to take it to the house.

Burke is very good in press coverage and looks like a veteran on most pass plays with textbook breakups.

Penn State offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich is going to have to get creative to try and pass the ball away from Burke.

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

OSU QB 'leading the Heisman race'

By Spencer Ripchik
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Dec. 11, 2021, Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud sat in the four chairs in New York City, awaiting the results for the Heisman Trophy winner.

His name wasn't called — it was Alabama's quarterback Bryce Young. Now in 2022, Stroud is back in the running, the favorite, and he comes to Happy Valley to take on No. 13 Penn State on Saturday.

"Their trigger man is what makes them go," James Franklin said of Stroud at his weekly press conference on Tuesday.

"He's the one that distributes the ball to all those different playmakers and does a really good job doing it."

Stroud and Ohio State's offense is flying high, averaging the second-most points per game in the FBS and the most in the Big Ten with 49.6.

The second-year quarterback has thrown for 2,023 yards and an FBS-high 28 touchdowns, so Penn State's defense has a big challenge on its hands.

Usually, the Nittany Lions have a scout team that replicates the opposing offense, but Franklin said it's hard to have a player act like Stroud.

"When we build the scout team each week, you're literally saying this guy should play him and this guy should play him," Franklin said.

"But there are not too many people in the country that have

a quarterback like [Stroud], let alone a quarterback like that on the scout team, so that's hard to pull off."

Franklin said the team is going to use its "good-on-good work" to get the team up to speed for an offense of Ohio State's caliber.

Stroud is dotting up defenses this season, and he has an arsenal of offensive weapons to dump the ball to.

Sure, he lost receivers Garret Wilson and Chris Olave to the NFL Draft — both first-rounders — but Ohio State, like every year, reloads.

The Buckeyes have two stand-out receivers, Marvin Harrison Jr. and Emeka Egbuka, who have stepped right up and filled those holes alongside returning receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba.

Smith-Njigba has been battling injuries all season, so Harrison Jr. and Egbuka have carried the weight, with Egbuka leading in receiving yards and Harrison Jr., the son of NFL Hall of Famer Marvin Harrison, leading in receiving touchdowns.

Ohio State might have one of the best receiving corps in the nation, but Penn State has one of the best secondaries in the nation to combat those receivers.

"You can make the argument that the strength of our defense is our secondary if you were ranking all three levels," Franklin said. "That's a strength of ours for sure. We have a lot of confidence in those guys, and they're going to need it."

Penn State's secondary has

seven interceptions, and cornerback Joey Porter Jr. leads Penn State with 11 pass breakups, tied for second-most in the FBS.

Porter Jr. will be tested, but maybe even more so will the Nittany Lion lined up across from Porter Jr. be tested, who will have to cover Ohio State's receiver No. 2.

The Buckeyes' No. 2 and No. 3 receiver can be a No. 1 on most teams, so Penn State's other corner will have to be ready, too.

Despite Ohio State having a very strong passing attack with its receivers, Franklin went over how Penn State can't forget about the run game and the Buckeye tight ends.

The Buckeyes' tight end Cade Stover has the fourth-most receiving yards on the team with 231 yards and two touchdowns.

Ohio State has been using a duo of running backs, TreVeyon Henderson and Miyan Williams, to help out on the ground, and each have rushed for over five yards per carry this season.

Both played last week against Iowa despite being banged up with injuries, and they only rushed for a couple of yards since Ohio State used mostly Stroud and his receivers to put 51 points on the Hawkeyes.

Ohio State's offense is going to be a big hurdle for Penn State's defense to cross, especially because it has the Heisman frontrunner, Stroud, under center.

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



James Franklin addresses the media following Oct. 26 practice. "We've taken some steps in the right direction," Franklin said.

Moving toward elite

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It's been four years since James Franklin delivered a famous rant in the Beaver Stadium press room following Penn State's 27-26 loss to Ohio State.

"We're not an elite football team yet," Franklin said. "As hard as we have worked, from average to good, from good to great, the work that it's going to take to get to an elite program is going to be just as hard as the ground and the distance that we've already traveled."

That was in 2018, two years removed from beating the Buckeyes and claiming a Big Ten Championship.

Despite narrowly dropping contests to Ohio State in 2017 and 2018, the Nittany Lions looked like they soon could be on their way to reaching elite status.

Now on a six-game losing streak against its top Big Ten foe, has Penn State made any progress?

"I think, in a lot of ways, we've taken some steps in the right direction," Franklin said Tuesday. "But there's still some areas that we need to get resolved."

As Franklin regularly states, it takes 365 days a year to compete as a top program in college football, on and off the field.

With newly hired administrators, such as Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi and Ath-

letic Director Pat Kraft, Penn State is doing more of the things that can make its football program run more successfully than maybe it had in the past.

A freshly renovated Lasch Building stands out among the list of improvements, but there have been others from faculty, nutrition and recruiting standpoints, Franklin said.

"That's why I think I've voiced this over and over again, the excitement I have for the leadership that we have in those two positions," Franklin said. "And that's with total respect and appreciation for the past as well."

The hope, for Franklin, is that once all boxes are checked from an off-the-field standpoint, the results on the field will follow.

Over the past few years, however, results haven't always shown through, specifically against ranked opponents, which has limited Penn State's ability to compete for a conference championship among a loaded Big Ten East — or a spot in college football's four-team playoff format.

"In a conference like the Big Ten, you maybe have a little bit more diversity in how people are built throughout our conference," Franklin said. "Where in a lot of conferences, pretty much everybody's running a similar style throughout the entire conference."

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



Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud fires downfield against Iowa on Oct. 22. "There are not too many people in the country that have a quarterback like [Stroud]," James Franklin said.

Max Ralph



What to watch for: Ohio State was my preseason pick for the national championship, and nothing has changed eight weeks in. C.J. Stroud is slinging it and will give Penn State fits. The Nittany Lions will cover the spread, though, simply because they always play Ohio State close at home.

Score: Ohio State 34, PSU 27

Seth Engle



What to watch for: Penn State's had at least a shot prior to every match-up this season. Against Ohio State? Not so much. Ohio State dons one of the best offenses and defenses in the country and is 100% in red zone attempts. Penn State shouldn't have too much in the tank in stopping the Buckeyes.

Score: Ohio State 38, PSU 25

Zach Allen



What to watch for: Penn State is back on track after being derailed by Michigan two weeks ago, but now it's up against its toughest opponent yet in Ohio State. Ohio State's offense is as explosive as it gets, which will prove to be the difference. I expect the defense to halt Ohio State's offense more than it's used to, but it won't be enough to upset them.

Score: Ohio State 31, PSU 20

Spencer Ripchik



What to watch for: Ohio State's offense is must-see TV each week, and this will be one of its toughest road games of the season. Penn State's strength is its secondary, but the Buckeyes have too many weapons out wide. With the best quarterback in the Big Ten C.J. Stroud slinging the ball, it'll be a long afternoon for Penn State.

Score: Ohio State 35, PSU 24

Guest Picker: Andrew Buckman



What to watch for: C.J. Stroud is in the mix for the Heisman again and has the best receiver room in the country. With that being said, Penn State has the best secondary in the Big Ten and Jaxon Smith-Njigba will be on a snap count. This is Penn State's year to shock the world.

Score: Penn State 35, OSU 31

Freshman Ioane gets surprising buzz

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The 2022 Penn State recruiting class has already made its fair share of waves this fall, from Drew Allar to Nick Singleton to Kaytron Allen to Abdul Carter. However, one of the more surprising members of the group — both for his on-field presence and his journey to Happy Valley — has generated quite a bit of buzz in the past week.

Interior offensive lineman Vega Ioane, a native of Graham, Washington, was a longtime Washington Huskies commit before a change in coaching staff led him to decommitting. Then, new Penn State special teams coordinator Stacy Collins, who had prior experience recruiting on the West Coast, swooped in with an offer to bring Ioane to Happy Valley.

It all came together quickly, and a surprise commitment from Ioane on National Signing Day in December polished off a group that finished tied for the highest-rated recruiting class in James Franklin's Penn State tenure.

"He kind of loved the thing of Penn State, getting an opportunity to go away a little bit and just concentrate on school and football and just worry about that part of his life," Eric Kurle, Ioane's high school head coach, told The Daily Collegian. "Stacy's a really good recruiter and a really good guy I trust, so I felt that he would take care of him over there in the fall."



Max Ralph/Collegian

Vega Ioane (71) saw limited action, but he has been a hot topic during practice ahead of the clash with Ohio State on Oct. 29.

Fast forward 10 months, and Ioane has taken his first snaps as a Nittany Lion, including a few in the White Out last Saturday — a moment coaches have said he was highly appreciative of.

As Penn State put the finishing touches on a blowout of Minnesota, Ioane stepped in at right guard with a handful of starters still on the field. He blew open a hole for Nick Singleton to score his second touchdown of the night, quickly sending Twitter into a frenzy.

Franklin said Tuesday that

Ioane's appearance against Minnesota wasn't originally in the plan, and the Penn State staff hopes to redshirt him this season. However, Franklin added that they "may not be able to," which may have something to do with the fact that starting left guard Landon Tengewall and second-string center Nick Dawkins have been inactive in recent weeks with injuries.

Ioane, who Kurle said didn't play football in junior high and was unsure of the sport until the end of his freshman year of high

school, has now gone from a surprising addition to the roster to someone coaches and players alike seem to be very high on.

"That man is strong as hell," defensive tackle Hakeem Beamon said last week. "He's gonna be one of them ones, like, very soon."

After Penn State got thrashed in the trenches by Michigan two weeks ago, Franklin gave a number of comments about a need for his team to get bigger and more physical up front. Ioane, though young, might be part of that new wave at 6-foot-4 and 336 pounds.

He's one of those guys, Franklin said, who's "naturally" 340 pounds and looks more like he weighs 315 pounds. That's appealing in itself, but Kurle and Franklin alike noted the agility he possesses with good size.

"He's very athletic [and] mobile. He's physical. Usually you don't have both of them. That kid can move," Kurle said. "You look at him, and you feel like, 'OK, he's not fat. He's a good looking 340.' He's not sloppy, let's just say that."

Beyond the field, Ioane's gotten rave reviews thus far. Franklin said he held midseason meetings with offensive freshmen this week, and Ioane is full of energy and someone who's "super appreciative" of where he's at, dappling Franklin up as he walked out the door.

"I think the biggest thing is his work ethic and his physicality and understanding that this is the opportunity for him to help himself and his family," Kurle said. "Maybe hopefully going to the next level of the NFL but with a college degree for sure."

It's yet to be seen exactly how much Ioane will be used the rest of the way — if at all — but his limited action this past week-end certainly caught plenty of eyes.

"Dynamic personality, he's a great guy," Kurle said. "You guys are gonna love him there."

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OSU's offense shines

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Another year, another matchup with Ohio State that could make or break Penn State's season.

Donning one of the best overall units in college football, the Buckeyes are eyeing their way toward an undefeated season and another go at a national championship. With a win Saturday, the Nittany Lions could begin to make a run at a College Football Playoff.

With just days left of practice, James Franklin spoke with reporters Wednesday evening to discuss his team's preparation and an update on the status of one of Penn State's premier defensive players.

"They got a good scheme, they got a bunch of weapons," Franklin said of Ohio State. "They've done a really good job, there's no doubt about it."

On both sides of the ball, there's not a whole lot the Buckeyes aren't great at.

Their offensive ranks No. 2 nationally in points per game — an average of 49.6 over seven contests — behind only Tennessee. Meanwhile, their defense is almost just as dominant, No. 5 nationally in opposing points per game in Jim Knowles' first season as defensive coordinator.

What may be most impressive, however, is Ohio State's 100% conversion percentage in the red zone this season.

"When you talk about red-zone offense, when you're able to run the ball or throw the ball, that's valuable," Franklin said. "To be able to run the ball, people are going to play specific coverages, and the quarterback makes big-time, accurate throws."

The Buckeyes' quarterback, C.J. Stroud, is likely the cur-

rent favorite to win the Heisman Trophy, carving up defenses with poise in the pocket and precision on his pass attempts.

It helps, too, that Stroud has an army of weapons around him, from running backs TreVeyon Henderson and Miyan Williams to wide receivers Emeka Egbuka, Marvin Harrison Jr. and Julian Fleming — a Catawissa, Pennsylvania, native who Penn State recruited heavily in 2020.

"Obviously, it stings when you see them," Franklin said of facing former recruits like Fleming. "If they go far away, and you never play those people, it's a little bit out of, sight out of mind."

That's the argument Franklin and his staff sometimes make when recruiting an in-state prospect, he said, citing that if a player goes far away, they won't be close to home as much.

Regardless, Fleming is a Buckeye and he's turned into one of their greatest offensive threats, having hauled in 327 receiving yards and six touchdowns — third on the team in both categories.

To halt Fleming and the rest of Ohio State's receiving core, it'll be increasingly important for Penn State to find success in pressuring Stroud in

the pocket.

The potential return of defensive end Chop Robinson, who was inactive for last week's matchup against Minnesota but was seen practicing on Wednesday, would likely boost the Nittany Lions odds of doing so.

"It's still early in the week, but he was able to practice today," Franklin said. "Obviously, you guys know he's been an explosive playmaker for us on the defensive side of the ball. Against this unit, their ability to throw the ball, being able to get pressure on the

quarterback and make him uncomfortable in the pocket, that would be valuable."

2023 Big Ten schedule

The news early in the day Wednesday surrounded the release of the 2023 Big Ten schedule.

For Penn State, its streak of opening conference play on the road will continue into next season, traveling to Illinois on Sept. 16. Following the schedule release, Penn State athletic director Pat Kraft voiced his displeasure.

"It is incredibly frustrating and disappointing Penn State will be starting our Big Ten football slate next year on the road for the eighth straight season and for the 13th in the last 14 years," Kraft said in a statement. "When I arrived on campus, I shared with the conference staff my concerns and repeatedly referenced their failure to address this issue in the past. I have been in communication with Commissioner Warren, and I am confident this issue will be addressed."

Kraft shared with reporters at Big Ten Football Media Days this past summer that he had already talked to the conference officials and that the issue would hopefully be resolved.

"It stinks. I called the conference office and said this is unacceptable," Kraft said then. "This shouldn't happen at Penn State."

Franklin, who has previously voiced his concern about the issue, was asked about it on Wednesday, but he didn't have much of an answer at this time, focusing on Penn State's upcoming matchup with Ohio State.

"I prefer to talk about it later. Pat's already addressed it," Franklin said. "I could bring it up and then do another dramatic pause for a couple seconds."

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Ryan Bowman/Collegian

Four Penn State defenders tackle Minnesota's Mohamed Ibrahim in momentum-shifting win.

White Out win provides momentum shift for Penn State

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Let's be Frank, the proof is in the pudding, and Minnesota and Michigan were the pudding for Penn State.

The sky was seemingly falling down after Penn State fell utterly flat on the road against Michigan, but James Franklin and Co. did exactly what was needed — and more — to get this show back on the road with a win over Minnesota in the White Out.

What Penn State proved Saturday night in front of a sea of white was simply what we thought about this team all along — this is a very solid football team, it just doesn't have the chops to hang with Michigan (and more than likely Ohio State, though we'll find out for sure next week), especially in one of the toughest road environments in the country.

Minnesota is no pushover this season, even without Tanner Morgan available at quarterback for the Golden Gophers. P.J. Fleck's group has had some injuries derail its season, but it's a team filled with upperclassmen and super seniors, built to win in 2022 with a chance to make noise in the conference even if it's more than likely out of the championship race.

Considering Minnesota's goals as an offense so closely mirror what Michigan does well, running the ball 30 times a game behind a really good running back, Penn State's ability to hold Mohamed Ibrahim to his worst yards-per-carry number of the season showed that Franklin and his staff were serious about not letting this season spiral.

Manny Diaz loaded up the box and trusted his talented secondary in man-to-man cov-

erage, which paid dividends and probably would have against Michigan, but hindsight is 20/20.

Penn State also took this week-end as an opportunity to play both Abdul Carter and Curtis Jacobs for the majority of the defensive snaps — something that was necessary but hadn't quite happened yet. And, of course, the pair walked away as the team's leading tacklers on the night, proving once again why both need to be on the field at all times.

The Gophers were also one of the most stout defenses in the country heading into the White Out, ranking No. 4 in opponent points per game prior to Penn State's 45-point outburst. It was a talented, veteran defensive unit that Sean Clifford tore to shreds in an extremely important bounceback game for the Nittany Lion offense.

Not to mention, Penn State generally stayed more consistent and on schedule offensively than it has all season.

Now, even with a loss against the Buckeyes next week, Penn State is in prime position to finish with double-digit wins in 2022 thanks to a weak schedule the rest of the way.

Fans are restless and always will be, especially when it comes to the quarterback spot. But if someone told them Penn State would finish 10-2 this year, the majority would've been more than happy with that outcome.

It's always easy to get caught up in the heat of the season instead of looking at the bigger picture, but all of Penn State's goals are still in front of it in 2022, and Minnesota was exactly the kind of win Franklin hasn't been able to put together in the past couple of years.

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David Dermer/AP Photo

Ryan Day (left) and CJ Stroud (right) have created one of the most electrifying offenses in college football, which is ranked No. 2 in points per game.

PROMISES UNFULFILLED

Penn State employees find racial justice initiatives 'mission critical' despite budget challenges

By Sam Verrelli
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor's Note: Some of the sources in this story are anonymous to protect their identities. The Daily Collegian has verified through fact-checking that these individuals are members of the search committee.

Penn State's budget is proving to be the "most challenging issue the university faces today," President Neeli Bendapudi said during the Town Hall meeting on Sept. 14, which has led some anonymous committee members for the Search Committee for the director of the Center for Racial Justice to frustration.

"I certainly did not anticipate the financial challenges we are facing today," Bendapudi said in the meeting focused on budget and tuition outlook.

Numerous Penn State employees felt disheartened by Bendapudi's decision to hold off on plans for a new Center for Racial Justice — "dropping a bomb" on the committee.

These plans began under former President Eric Barron's tenure and were recommended to be continued as Bendapudi took over the presidency.

However, funding has not yet been allocated to the center because of tightening on this year's budget.

Total budgeted revenues for the 2022-23 fiscal year are \$8.6 billion with the deficit funded



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

President Neeli Bendapudi speaks during a Board of Trustees meeting. At the Sept. 4 meeting, she discussed budget challenges and racial justice initiatives.

and vice provost for educational equity at Penn State, said via email.

Whitehurst said "as we move forward, be assured that Penn State remains committed to fostering equity and diversity, and creating a culture of inclusivity."

In July, the Board of Trustees voted to raise tuition by between 5% and 6%, and to increase salaries by 2.5%.

Bendapudi implemented a 3% budget recession for the 2022-23 academic year — which expects

longterm employees during the Sept. 14 meeting.

The strategic hiring freeze will be effective through at least the summer of 2023, and Wyatt DuBois, Penn State spokesperson, said via email that it's not a complete freeze on hiring.

Since the implementation of the freeze, Penn State University Health Services announced a new senior director, Bruce Kraut.

"Searches to fill critical roles will still move forward as Penn

regarding the budget are being questioned by employees, including a recent \$71,000 salary raise for Sara Thorndike, treasurer and senior vice president for finance and business.

And there are also questions surrounding the Board of Trustees recently spending nearly \$318,000 on meals, lodging and other expenses of six in-person meetings.

According to Spotlight PA, trustee spending peaked in the 2015-16 fiscal year when the board spent more than \$415,000 on meetings.

Oct. 6, the search committee for the director of the Center for Racial Justice sent a letter to Bendapudi expressing discontentment that the university didn't allocate funds for the director and the center.

The letter stated that the search committee is "extremely disappointed" in this outcome, "especially at such a late phase in the process."

The letter states, "juxtaposing the assurance that restorative and racial justice are a core concern for the university with the inability to fund a research center, as the major first step in addressing important issues is therefore all the more surprising and distressing."

According to an anonymous member of the committee, Barron recommended the center and had promised during his tenure that it would go forward.

The committee met last spring when looking nationally for a director, and in September after Bendapudi asked to meet with the search committee, the members were "blindsided" to hear that the university "had no money" for the center, according to the anonymous member.

However, the source said the administration never released figures to the committee anticipating what the center would cost.

"We had done a lot of work, and

a lot of money had been spent to get ready for this," the member said.

However, a second anonymous member of the committee said they felt like Bendapudi was "throwing her predecessor under the bus" with this decision.

"[Barron] promised things to which he didn't have the money, leaving [Bendapudi] with the mess to clean up," the second committee member said.

According to the first committee member, this isn't the first time a Penn State administration has broken a promise for more diversity.

"At various moments in Penn State's history, going back to... into the 1970s, Penn State made various promises to invest in racial justice," they said. "Very rarely have those promises been fulfilled... that's a broader historical pattern at the university."

The committee calls for "early public transparency," stating this is "critical" regarding the setback with moving forward with the implementation of the center.

The letter from the committee also addresses concerns from the More Rivers To Cross report, stating that addressing these concerns is "mission critical" for the university.

The More Rivers To Cross Report is a 2020 report on the status of Black professors at Penn State, bringing issues that needed more attention to the Select Presidential Committee and Barron.

According to the letter from the committee, "the establishment of a Center for Racial Justice was the first step to show the university's commitment in the areas addressed by the Presidential Commission on Racism, Bias and Community Safety."

Gary King, a biobehavioral health professor, was a part of the report that found a lack of Black representation at the university.

"What it appears to show is that the Select Presidential Commission on Race Bias and Community Safety at Penn State was a fraud because nothing came out of it," King said in reference to the Center for Racial Justice.

According to the second anonymous member of the committee, the committee has heard nothing from Bendapudi in response or "acknowledgement" of the letter.

DuBois said Bendapudi will be in touch with the committee and will be able to share more information when it becomes available.

"I don't know what's in the president's heart or what's on her mind," the second anonymous committee member said. "I can't speak to that, but so far her actions are not those of someone committed to racial justice on this campus."

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Lily LaRegina/Collegian file photo

At the Board of Trustees meeting, Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi said she "did not anticipate the financial challenges" the university is facing.

from reserve balances, and Penn State's total operating budget for 2021-22 was \$7.7 billion.

However, during that year, Penn State experienced a nearly \$200 million deficit, and the university projects a \$149 million loss for this upcoming fiscal year.

"My understanding is that there has been a pause while further discussions with key senior leaders and constituency groups, including the DEI colleagues doing the diversity work at the ground level, are taking place," Marcus Whitehurst, professor

to generate savings of \$46.2 million — and has taken multiple measures to save costs for the university, such as a strategic hiring freeze.

Penn State lists reasons for the freeze, including, "significant inflation, flat state funding for a third consecutive year, tuition freezes in three of the last four years of enrollment and revenue pressures at least partially due to the pandemic."

However, Bendapudi said she's aware employee pay has not kept up with inflation, especially for

State will continue to hire for positions that support the university in important ways," DuBois said.

Bendapudi also created a new vice president of enrollment management during the freeze, to which she said she "always knew the position was critical, and it will help boost enrollment, therefore creating more revenue."

According to a trustee budget presentation, the university has saved nearly \$4 million in August with the hiring freeze.

Some of Bendapudi's decisions

Where should student tuition money go?

By Elonic Ward
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For many Penn State students, where their tuition money goes is a mystery. From new student resources to multiple intramural buildings, students said they have a few ideas as to where their tuition should be allocated.

According to Penn State University Budgeting Office, tuition is considered a main source of income for the university's operating budget, which covers the university's teaching, research and service efforts.

However, some students said they think that their tuition money goes to more than just the general funding.

"I definitely think that a lot of our tuition money goes to the sponsorships, and the Penn State commercials," Abena Brantuo said. "The constant increase in the board's pay, that is definitely another part of where our tuition money is going."

Brantuo (freshman-biology) said while she knew that tuition money goes toward various campus renovations, she thinks tuition is allocated in other areas of the university.

The other areas, in particular, are instruction, research, public service, institutional and academic support, as well as student aid and services, according to the budgeting office.

For Nailah Oliver, she said she believes part of the tuition goes to helping professors, facilities, administration and student activities, but she would like to see it go to more resources for students.

"A significant portion of tuition I also think goes to health care and research as well," Oliver (graduate-engineering science and mechanics) said. "I would like to see it go to paying for more people to work at the library, so it can be 24 hours again, or just having more things to do and more resources around campus for students."

While some students were for the idea of resources being added, others found that with the sudden tuition increase, many new additions to the campus itself could be added with the money.

Andrew Sedzia said he has hope that the university is putting the money to "good use," as he has seen the construction of the new engineering area in West 1 Building at Penn State.

"Maybe another IM

Building, I mean it's cool and pretty big, but I feel like there should be another one," Sedzia (freshman-computer science) said.

Sedzia said with his major, he hopes Penn State uses the tuition money to help construct better facilities with high-quality computers. He said right now, the computers they use are "not bad but could be better."

Although some students said they hoped the university would build new amenities, others said Penn State should focus on what's readily available.

"They are building so many other buildings when they should just start fixing the buildings they already have," Anastasia Zola said. "Some buildings are just very old, and they look run down."

Zola (freshman-biomedical engineering) said in the end, the university should allocate more money to focus on the students, who are the university's "top priority."

John Pikiewicz was more focused on how more money could be put into the environmental aspect of the university, such as starting a new ocean engineering major or starting an ocean

clean-up club.

Pikiewicz (freshman-chemical engineering) said he also would want to know exactly where his tuition money goes, as it would have an effect on him in some way.

"If it was all going to athletics and not all of it was going to renovations, teacher salaries, improving our research facilities, then it would be kinda

disappointing," Pikiewicz said. "If it is going more into athletics, then we are prioritizing that over academics."

New institutions and resources for students were some of the main ideas that many students believed should be addressed with their tuition money, but others had different ideas.

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



Ella Freda/Collegian

The persistent weather forces fans to cover up during Penn State football's game against Northwestern at Beaver Stadium.

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'BATTLE' FOR WHITE OUT

By Emily Muniz
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State student Olivia Carnes entered Beaver Stadium an hour and a half before the Nittany Lions and the Minnesota Golden Gophers kicked off the White Out, thinking she and her friends had plenty of time to find a seat.

Though she entered through security easily, Carnes (sophomore-criminology) said the fear sank in once they were seated.

"We were trying to go through our portal, and the cops started pushing us back," Carnes said.

The police inside of the stadium told Carnes and her friends they would have to enter a section that their tickets weren't for to get into the student section.

Shortly after finding a seat on the steps in a different section, Carnes said she watched as her 5-foot-2 friend was "pushed" by a man who was over 6 feet tall.

Throughout the game, Carnes said she witnessed acts of violence — including a finale where a man punched a girl. Carnes said her friends began crying out of fear.

At the end of the night, Carnes recalled her roommate saying she's "not going to White Out next year," claiming that she will sell her ticket.

To address the problems from the game, Penn State Athletics announced it will provide student section ticket holders a non-transferable wristband along with their student section ticket. When entering any portal, it will be required for students to show



Caleb Craig/Collegian

Students discussed issues during this year's White Out. "I've gone to White Out games for as long as I can remember," Joey Draper said, "and Saturday was probably the worst Penn State game I've ever been to."

their wristband. Penn State Athletics said via email that "safety is a primary concern," and the university is "aware of the issues that student fans encountered on Saturday night while entering the bowl."

Other students said they've experienced the violence at White Outs in years prior.

After attending the 2021 White Out, Alexis Fogle said her sister didn't know if she would "ever want to go back to White Out."

Fogle (senior-criminology) arrived at the 2021 game early with her sister and waited to get into the game before the gates even opened. People were pushing to

get into the stadium, which led to a boy behind her to pass out.

"Since there were so many people, he couldn't get out through the crowd to get out," Fogle said.

Fogle said late in the game, she watched as a girl at the top of the student passed out. The girl never made it down to the paramedics because there were so many people sitting in the aisles.

Fogle felt unsafe in the bleachers and said the security was "just standing there not really doing anything."

After leaving the student section to go to the bathroom, Fogle said they tried to push their way through a group of students who

were blocking the aisles and screaming in their faces.

"I got separated from my sister, and eventually, they punched her while she was trying to make her way to me and threatened to punch her again," Fogle said.

Different from her 2021 experience, Fogle said she had a great time at this year's White Out.

"The only issue is just people bringing in people that have other tickets, and they don't have a student section ticket," Fogle said.

Morgan Boal agreed the main issue with the White Out is how easy it is for students to sneak those without student section

tickets in. Boal (junior-media studies) entered Beaver Stadium's gates at 6:45 p.m. and ended up sitting at the top of the student section. Though she said she had a good time in the end, going through the student section was "a battle."

"There were a lot of people who just kind of snuck in, so it was super cramped, and it was kinda hard to move around," Boal said.

Boal had no issues with the security but instead with the students around her.

"A lot of people have been tailgating for like 12 hours. A lot of people were really drunk and that wasn't great because there were people saying really questionable things," Boal said.

Due to the September approval of alcohol sales in Beaver Stadium, students of age have been able to purchase beer in the stadium — and continue drinking from tailgates, according to Boal.

Long-time Penn State football fan Joey Draper said this White Out was "unsafe and disappointing."

"I've been to so many Penn State games," Draper (freshman-communications) said. "I've gone to White Out games for as long as I can remember, and Saturday was probably the worst Penn State game I've ever been to."

Draper said he arrived at the gates at 5:30 p.m. and was stopped by security. When he was trying to get through the tunnel, he remembered students behind him saying "two security guards can't stop all of us."

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

Western Equestrian Club saddles up

By Kate Irwin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For some, the idea of riding a horse is something scary or old-fashioned, but for members of Penn State's Western Equestrian Club team, it's time for them to saddle up for their new season.

According to OrgCentral, the Penn State Western Equestrian Club was established in 2014 "to bring together Penn State students with an interest and passion for horses and the western discipline."

The club's goal is also "to provide a community for [its] members to learn about horses, improve their riding skills and compete on an intercollegiate level."

Rachel Lexon, the president of the club team, said she's been interested in horses since she was a little girl.

"I've always said I knew how to ride before I could walk," Lexon (junior-biology) said. "When I was in third grade, we got our first real show horse, so I've been showing for almost 15 years."

Lexon, who grew up in Bellefonte, said she competed at major horse events throughout middle and high school. It was her coach she had growing up who convinced her to continue riding horses while at Penn State.

"He said, 'Hey, I also coach the western team here at Penn State, and I think it would be a really cool opportunity for you,'" Lexon said. "And here I am now, running the club."

Kathryn Boothby, the secretary of the club, said she's been riding "on and off most of [her] life" but "definitely took a few breaks."

"I feel like anytime I fell off, I quit riding," Boothby (senior-rehabilitation and human services) said. "Then I still kept riding just for fun throughout high school."

Boothby said she specifically joined the equestrian club to find a community.

"When I got to Penn State, I knew I needed to join a club," Boothby said. "Because it's so

intimidating — you need to make friends that aren't your friends from high school, so I was just like, 'Why not just [join] the riding team, that's pretty much how to make friends.'"

According to Lexon, members of the team generally "lesson" once a week for an hour.

"It also depends on the events that they show in," Lexon said. "All of our riders compete in horsemanship, but then some compete in ranch riding and reining as well, so they get one horsemanship lesson and then one ranch riding or reining lesson."

The team's first horse show of the season is coming up on Nov. 6, and it'll have two shows on that same day.

"For the fall semester, we have four shows, which are coming up in November, and then we'll have six regular season shows in the spring," Lexon said.

As members of the "western" style of riding, the team leans into the cowboy aesthetics.

"The western team is like the classic cowboy look — you got the cowboy hat, the chaps, the boots, the whole thing," Lexon said.

Lexon described the horsemanship criteria that's judged at competitions.

"The judge is judging the rider on their innate horsemanship ability — their ability to get on any horse, any place, any location, any time and be able to present it in a way that makes it look like the best horse in the world," Lexon said.

The riders and horses will then be judged, depending on their level, at a walk, jog, extended jogs and lead changes, according to Lexon.

"They're scored one at a time with the idea of, 'What would a cowboy do out on the ranch?' is the best way to describe it," Lexon said. "It's like your working horse."

The reining portion of the competition is also based on individual patterns, Lexon said, with lots of "figure eights, big sliding

stops and fast turns" that require more of an "athletic horse and a lot of precision from the rider."

According to Boothby, the team's competition season usually starts off in mid-October and runs through the beginning of March.

Boothby also said the community of the equestrian team has been great for her.

"I feel like half the people on the team I would not have talked to... until I met them on the team," Boothby said.

Hayley Leasure, the social media chair for the team, joined the equestrian team last spring but said she didn't start riding until this fall.

Leasure (junior-civil engineering) said she now rides her aunt's quarter horses, Spirit and Derby, and just recently bought a filly of her own named Indi.

"I've done barrel racing and other western gaming, so I'm new to the horsemanship of riding," Leasure said. "But I already love it."

The 12 members of the team are all girls this year. Leasure said she's looking forward to spending more time with the team.

"I'm excited to go to shows and get to travel with my teammates," Leasure said. "As the social media chair, I'm most excited to get to share our team with the public."

For Lexon, it has been particularly rewarding to find a community of people her age who are also interested in riding.

"I've been in the horse industry for a really long time — I'm a big part of it," Lexon said. "But it's nice to meet people that are the same age as me that are also into this... having conversations with them and learning to work with people the same age as me in the horse industry has probably been the best part of it for me."

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Alina Lebedeva/Collegian

Sophia McClennen is a professor of international affairs and a director for the Center for Global Studies in the College of the Liberal Arts.

Professor aims to 'change the conversation'

By Jessie Nguyen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A Penn State professor, a published author and a founding director for a billion-dollar center among many other roles, Sophia McClennen has done it all.

McClennen, a faculty member for the Penn State School of International Affairs, teaches courses in cross-cultural conflict resolution, human rights in media studies and political satire.

Having been at Penn State for around 20 years, McClennen said she "never really imagined" living in central Pennsylvania "the whole life."

"I think Penn State is a complex place to work. Overall, the students are great, but it's a very big institution with quite a lot of bureaucracy. So it's not always easy, by any stretch," she said. "I am proud to be part of such a strong institution, [but] it's also hard to work for a university that seems to basically stop and focus on football most of the fall. That's just kind of weird for me."

While McClennen works most closely with students in her graduate courses, she still finds time to teach one undergraduate interdomain class every other year.

Claiming that her classes are neither writing- nor discussion-intensive, McClennen said "[she doesn't] know why [she] wouldn't be able to do all of that."

"I work a lot outside of the traditional things, and I don't like quizzes. I do have a midterm in my undergrad gen ed because you kind of have to just make sure people are paying attention," she said. "Across all of my teaching, though, I tend to try to have my students do more inquiry-guided direct learning, so they're learning by doing. That's a big part of how I teach."

Aside from her time in the classroom, McClennen is a director for the Center for Global Studies at Penn State College of the Liberal Arts. She said CGS partners with other institutions like the University of Pittsburgh

and is committed to advancing teaching research, outreach and global studies.

According to its website, CGS is one of the six centers in the U.S. to receive both Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies grants ever since McClennen founded the center in 2010.

"I will have had 16 years of federal funding for it; I've brought in over six million in grant money to support it," she said. "Here in [University Park], we administer FLAS grants [so] undergraduates and graduate students can advance their knowledge of languages and cultures connected to the seven languages we support."

Besides helping students achieve success in cultural studies, the center also supports faculty financially with their research.

"When faculty do global studies research and need to travel internationally, their research agendas are more expensive. And so the center is there to try to help bridge that gap," she said.

"We offer research, travel awards to faculty so they can get to the places they need to get to do their work."

A research assistant working under McClennen and a project associate with CGS, Olivia Gearhart knows firsthand what it's like working with her professor.

Gearhart, who is simultaneously pursuing bachelor's degrees in global and international studies and French and a master's degree in international affairs, said McClennen is "willing to go the extra mile to help her students in any way they need."

"I know previously, she talked with someone who graduated last year about jobs and making sure that she could help him in negotiating different things that he wanted, like salary or vacation time, paid time off, those kinds of things," Gearhart said, "which is something that we aren't really taught in school. So it was nice to have someone kind of looking out for us that way."

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



Ella Freda/Collegian

Hayley Leasure is the social media chair for The Penn State Western Equestrian Club and joined last spring before starting to ride this fall. "I'm excited to go to shows and get to travel with my teammates," Leasure said.

PSU must be proactive in preventing danger on campus

The past few days on Penn State's campus have been a chaotic mess — one that could have been avoided.

To kick off the weekend, the long-anticipated White Out on Saturday was anything but fun for students attempting to enter the student section in Beaver Stadium.

They were met with both security guards, who were attempting to regulate entry, and students, who kept pushing crowds forward.

Some students jumped over objects to get closer to the entrance of the student section and even threatened violence to other students and security guards.

Once the game started, people in the section continued to be violent, with students throwing objects and packing themselves in between rows and in aisles.

The situation was dangerous to both students and security, but it unfortunately doesn't come as a shock. It's nothing new for Beaver Stadium — especially during the White Out.

There have been complaints in the past that students have felt unsafe in the overcrowded student section.

On Wednesday, Penn State Athletics sent out a release saying it's "aware of the issues that student fans encountered on Saturday night while entering the bowl of Beaver Stadium via the vomitories."

OUR VIEW Students' opinions are important to prioritize when confronted with escalating situations

It's impressive that Penn State Athletics actually acknowledged the situation from Saturday and how dangerous it was — because this kind of transparent message is rare at Penn State.

The release said Beaver Stadium will implement nontransferable wristbands for students to validate their student tickets, which was a smart decision and more than what was expected following the weekend. At each portal, the release said students will "be required" to show their wristband to enter.

However, it seems too late to have waited for a dangerous situation like Saturday to instigate a change. Penn State Athletics should have acknowledged the problem and implemented changes earlier — the problems of students being rowdy and sneaking others into the section aren't new.

Then on Monday, the Penn State student-run organization Uncensored America was set to host Gavin McInnes, founder of the Proud Boys, and Alex Stein, comedian and BlazeTV

contributor, for "Stand Back & Stand By."

The Southern Poverty Law Center identifies the exclusively-male Proud Boys as an "extremist" hate group. It's known for its misogynistic rhetoric, as well as its white nationalist and alt-right ties.

The event was supposed to be a politically provocative comedy night, but the university canceled the event due to threats of "escalating violence" — less than an hour before it was set to begin at 8 p.m. in the Thomas Building.

Penn State "determined that it was necessary to cancel the speaking event in the interest of campus safety" after the protest organized by the Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity began.

Leading up to the controversial event, students called on the university to cancel, fearing for their safety with McInnes on campus. The Proud Boys is recognized as a terrorist group in New Zealand and Canada.

The cancellation was announced a little too late. The

university knew the situation had a high possibility of escalating — why else would it have had so many police officers from various departments prepared?

Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi wrote a message to the community following the cancellation, and it partially placed the blame for violence on those protesting, which is ironic, as the university said free speech was allowed on the grounds — its reasoning for not canceling the event in the first place.

Bendapudi said "too many people" will be left with the message that "one can manipulate people to generate free publicity, or that one can restrict speech by escalating protest to violence."

But it's all just damage control. If Bendapudi condemns protesters for the threat of violence, it would make more sense to avoid that threat in the first place — when the speakers were first invited by Uncensored America, and students were clearly uncomfortable.

Or maybe, the university is pri-

oritizing avoiding a lawsuit over students' safety and comfort.

Between both dangerous situations that occurred this weekend, it's clear Penn State doesn't have a grasp on its student body.

If Penn State continues to ignore concerns students have before disaster strikes, they will continue to act out like they did this weekend. A university's main job should be the student body — not its reputation.

Penn State continuously asks for donations from its alumni network, but when the university allows an environment and events that makes students feel unsafe to continue — why would it expect to accrue more donations?

Of course, a university needs a strong financial foundation to function, but if actions are taken just to please the alumni network with its image, there's no point.

The frightening events this past week proved the university is being reactive instead of proactive in its responses. Even with clear safety concerns, nothing seems to change until there's bad press about Penn State.

Penn State's administration needs to better hear and understand its students — and it must become more aware of the negative effect silence has.

Inaction is action at the end of the day, and if Penn State continues to act late, that sends a clear message, too.



Cartoons by Fernanda Lopez

MY VIEW | Oliver Ferguson

Swapping PSU football for rugby in Ireland



Ferguson

One of the things I thought I'd miss about Penn State while in Ireland is sports.

But honestly, this hasn't been the case.

The University of Limerick is really into sports — in fact, it calls itself "Ireland's sports campus."

The university offers students opportunities for all kinds of sports including the Gaelic games. The Gaelic games are a collection of four different sports that are native to Ireland — these include Gaelic football, hurling, Gaelic handball and rounders.

These games are a big source of national pride for Irish people. We discussed in my Irish politics class how the formation of the league that facilitates these games — the Gaelic Athletic Association — was a large source of Irish pride, especially during the years preceding the Irish independence movement.

I think my favorite of the Gaelic sports is hurling. I had never heard of this before arriving in

Ireland. It's a sport similar to something like lacrosse, but you have to use a baseball bat-like stick to hit a ball into either goalposts attached to a net for one point or the goal itself for three points.

This year, County Limerick's hurling club won the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship — this is a huge deal for the whole Limerick area. When I first arrived, I noticed green flags on nearly every house and storefront in the area. I asked my cab driver what they were for and he said it was to celebrate County Limerick's hurling title.

It reminded me of the signs people would put in their yards in Pittsburgh to celebrate the Pittsburgh Penguins in the NHL Playoffs.

There are two other sports that are really popular in Ireland other than the Gaelic sports — soccer and rugby.

I think it's impossible to find a country in this age that doesn't have a large following of soccer. While it definitely isn't as popular as other sports in Ireland, it's still pretty popular — especially with the Irish women's team qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Rugby is the other sport that's very popular in Ireland — it's probably the most popular non-Gaelic game. The country as a whole is good at it. In fact, Ireland is currently ranked No. 1 in the world in national rugby rankings.

I didn't know too much about rugby before coming to Ireland. My cousins both played it at their universities, and I learned a little bit from them. I knew it was a little like American football, but you couldn't throw the ball forward, you could punt it at any time, and it has about as much contact as

American football just without pads.

Rugby is a really cool sport. Last week, I got the opportunity to go to a Munster Rugby match. Munster is the Irish province Limerick is in, and the team's stadium Thomond Park is in Limerick City.

It was great. The team was facing the Vodacom Bulls, a South African club — and it won.

The environment was really cool. It reminded me of a Penn State football game with all of the chants and songs the crowd was singing during the game.

Long story short, I haven't had to worry about a shortage of sports to watch while being away from Penn State sports — Ireland has a lot of new and familiar sports that anyone can get interested in.

Especially if Penn State football plays like it did against Michigan, this might be for the better.

Oliver Ferguson is a junior majoring in political science and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at omf5042@psu.edu or follow him on Twitter at [@oliverf2002](https://twitter.com/oliverf2002).

"It reminded me of a Penn State football game with all of the chants and songs the crowd was singing during the game."

Oliver Ferguson



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'I'm trying to constantly evolve'

By Tyler Millen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With season two of Micah Shrewsberry's tenure beginning in less than two weeks against Winthrop, Penn State looks to continue to grow as a team both offensively and defensively.

After leading the Big Ten in scoring defense a year ago, the Nittany Lions 'gritty not pretty' mentality will continue to develop and, as Shrewsberry alluded to, a strong defensive mindset will continue to be the standard.

Shrewsberry outlined that in order for the team to keep improving, he will need to continue developing his skills as a coach and putting the team in the best position to win.

"I'm trying to constantly evolve and continue to grow as a coach," Shrewsberry said. "I know we need to be better earlier. Like we played Michigan State the second game of the year in the Big Ten and they ran us through the gym. We're playing them to start the Big Ten this year so the transition defense better be pretty good on that day."

For Shrewsberry's group, the veteran leadership this team possesses will prove critical throughout the Big Ten slate as the current leaders, along with new ones like fifth year guards Andrew Funk and Camren Wynter, will continue to push this team and play a key role in late



Caleb Craig/Collegian

Penn State men's basketball coach Micah Shrewsberry said in order to watch the team develop, he's continuing to "grow as a coach."

game situations. The blue and white lost nine Big Ten games by eight or less points, with its defense and strong rebounding keeping it in games. Now, the goal is to win these close games and improve as a unit as Shrewsberry emphasized how important late game situations are.

"We're doing more late game situations because that's where we needed to get better," Shrewsberry said. "Let's get as many of those in as possible and work on all of these in different ways where it's not just our older guys, it's our younger guys that are getting better at this."

Senior guard and forward Seth Lundy is one of the players looking to take on an even larger role this season. The Paulsboro, New Jersey, native recognized his ability to grow from the teaching of Shrewsberry and the staff.

Lundy was second on the team in points per game with 11.9 and shot 34.8% from three point range on 184 attempts. Despite his strong offensive numbers, Lundy illustrated his ability to be a more well-rounded defender and leader; critical qualities for this team.

"The game slowed down for me and I was just so focused on stopping my man," Lundy said. "This year, I just need to be a guy

who's gonna be a team defender and not just, you know, an individual defender, so just helping be a better defender off the ball."

Myles Dread is another key leader for Penn State and, despite playing through injury last season, the fifth-year senior is fully healthy to start this season and is a key option for Shrewsberry.

While he only averaged 6.2 points per game, the Detroit, Michigan, native ranked second on the team in three pointers with 55 as his physical frame posed problems for opposing big men.

Dread also discussed the attitude and determination of his teammates and how everyone

has bought into Shrewsberry's system.

"I think just the energy and that excitement in the locker room, you know, everybody's just really excited to get started," Dread said. "We got a lot of bright eyed and bushy tailed guys that are coming in and getting ready for the grind and they have such a positive attitude about them that it makes me feel good."

Jalen Pickett is another fifth-year senior returning for his final season in college. The Rochester, New York, native ran the offense for the Nittany Lions and was the top scoring player who averaged 13.3 points, 4.4 assists and 4.3 rebounds in 31 games.

Shrewsberry alluded to a big confidence boost for Pickett, who hit his stride in the latter half of Big Ten play a year ago.

Similarly to Dread, Pickett discussed how everyone believes in Shrewsberry's style of game with all players working hard in practice, especially with players competing for playing time.

"I think definitely just being more comfortable in the system," Pickett said. "Having a year under my belt, knowing what [Shrewsberry] wants and how we're trying to play this year is definitely going to be key for us and then knowing the personnel that we have out there at all times; the freshmen are really good. They're good players, and they're hungry."

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Ellen McIntyre/Collegian

The Nittany Lions skated out of Pegula Ice Arena with their final win before entering the season's Big Ten play.

Nittany Lions remain disciplined

By Joe Tuman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

To say Penn State is off to a good start to its season might be underselling the 6-0 blue and white.

Now the No. 16 team in the country, the Nittany Lions were able to win in both blowout fashion and in high-pressure circumstances throughout most of their first three series.

One major high-pressure scenario came last time out for the blue and white against St. Thomas. There, it took an overtime score from senior forward Connor McMenamin to earn the victory.

It was critical for Penn State to walk out of Pegula Ice Arena on Friday with a win, giving the undefeated squad further momentum as it headed into the crux of its season — Big Ten play.

Ahead of its pair of contests with Wisconsin, Guy Gadowsky said his players are in a strong collective spot at the moment, especially after the recent win over the Tommies.

"I think us being in that situation and being out to come out with a good result speaks to the culture of the guys right now," Gadowsky said.

Gadowsky speaks of the culture of his team constantly, an area he's regarded as improved this season from years past.

With that in mind, any behind-the-scenes advancements for Penn State could prove beneficial when it comes to Big Ten play. A season ago, the blue and white posted just a 6-17-1 record against its biggest rivals.

However, with the culture seemingly in a place where Gadowsky wants it to be, the Nittany Lions may substantially improve that mark.

One concern that could be raised for a series of this magnitude is how some of the inexperienced players might

respond. Penn State has seen several younger players earn substantial playing time thus far, notably on defense.

Yet to Gadowsky, this isn't something to be worried about. The longtime head coach believes all his players will take the steps needed to prepare for a big-game feel.

"If they're curious, they're going to ask their teammates," Gadowsky said. "We have a philosophy of being mentally tough in every situation, so it's up to them to experience it and see how they do."

Mental fortitude is always something to strive for, but it'll be especially important for Penn State's efforts to succeed across the next stretch of games.

Following the road series with the Badgers, the Nittany Lions will host now-No. 4 Michigan, before traveling for away games against the nation's top team, No. 1 Minnesota.

Junior starting goalie Liam Souliere said for Penn State to flourish it'll need to reflect on how it's performed thus far this season.

"I think it's just refining on the little things that we didn't do especially right or not good enough during the past three weekends," Souliere said.

One aspect of the game that hasn't needed much refining quite yet is Penn State's ability to simply score the puck.

Through six contests, the offensive output was steady, with the Nittany Lions tallying 5.2 goals per game. However, that high volume will be challenged against more successful and established teams in the Big Ten.

Freshman forward Alex Servagno said in order for Penn State to continue its offensive outbursts, it'll need to continue to be aggressive.

"There's gonna be a lot more talented guys, so we're going to have to keep shooting more

pucks," Servagno said. "With how deep our forwards are, I think once we get more shots on net, it'll be that much easier to win games."

The forward position is a productive and deep one for the Nittany Lions. With so many different players having opportunities to contribute, Penn State's offense has been in a groove as of late.

Gadowsky said, when heading into play against major rivals, this strength-in-numbers approach can only help elevate all the players in Penn State's locker room.

"The depth of our forwards has produced some very positive internal competition," Gadowsky said. "I think they all understand that there's good players sitting out every night."

If the blue and white's coach is confident in his depth and is also pleased with where the team's chemistry lies, Penn State will have a chance to compete against what Gadowsky labels as "the monsters of college hockey" aka the Big Ten.

Succeeding against that batch of teams is easier said than done, however. When two teams with a long history step on the ice, competition will almost always elevate.

That's a feeling Gadowsky says he knows exists, even if it isn't always easy to explain why.

"It's hard to put your finger on it," Gadowsky said. "I don't think the game is different, what we do isn't different. Emotions are heightened, but otherwise it's the same game."

Ahead of this uptick in competition, Penn State will surely need to continue replicating what's proven successful so far this season.

For Souliere, in order to sustain his early play, it's important not to let the situation rattle him, even if the stakes are now bigger.

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

MY VIEW | ANDREW BUCKMAN

Women in sports

"Go back to the kitchen," "didn't ask" and "Who cares?" are all things you might see on Twitter under a woman's sports post.

Those users are losers. Women's sports are underappreciated — with a lack of coverage and deep-rooted sexism at the base of the problem.

A 2019 study done by Purdue and USC found women's sports coverage was virtually the same nearly 30 years prior on televised news and highlight shows.

That's a problem. The argument that decreased coverage is based on advertisers' unwillingness to pay for advertising, while true, is a big part of why the issue exists in the first place.

The most valid part of the argument stems from overall public interest in women's sports in comparison to men's. It's an undeniable fact that women's basketball garners less viewership than men's basketball in the U.S., but it's also a fact that women's basketball is far less advertised, promoted and covered.

This is the case for almost every sport across the nation, meaning women's sports are caught in a vicious cycle with very little opportunity to escape.

Ultimately the problem exists in the general, deep-rooted sexism within a wide majority of sports fans. People are obviously allowed to like the Nittany Lions' men's soccer team more than the women's team; that's simply a matter of preference and doesn't necessarily have to pull from gender-based bias.

Where the problem lies is when critics make it a basis of quality. Collegiate sports, specifically soccer, are inherently poor and sloppy. If you're telling me you would rather watch Penn State men's soccer over Erica Dambach and company based on quality, at this point in time, you're delusional.

Recent success, specifically as it relates to Penn State, should suggest women's sports are celebrated rather than ridiculed. What I don't understand is why it has to remain that way.

Field hockey is electric, and Penn State has consistently been one of the top teams in the nation under coach Charlene Morett-Curtiss.

In 35 years under Morett-Curtiss, Penn State won 14 Big Ten regular season or tournament titles, including six over the past decade. The blue and white has more Big Ten wins and tournament titles than any other

"Watching sports shouldn't be gender-based, it should be based on quality of play and matchup more than anything."

team since 1992, the year it joined the conference.

In 42 years at the helm of the women's volleyball program, Russ Rose won seven National Championships and 17 Big Ten titles. Rose is the all-time winningest coach in program history and forged one of the most dominant runs in sports history 2007-2010, winning four straight national titles.

Rose and Morett-Curtiss are two of the greatest coaches in the history of collegiate sports and spent decades leading two of the greatest collegiate program's ever.

Outside of Cael Sanderson, no men's coach at Penn State has proven to be a consistent winner at a high level over a period of more than a couple years.

James Franklin won 11 games in two seasons and was rewarded with one of the biggest contracts in collegiate sports history. In those same couple of seasons, women's hockey set the program record for most wins over a two-year span while winning a conference title in 2020-21.

Despite this clear discrepancy in success level, those pieces of paper were far bigger news than either one of those record-breaking seasons.

Maybe the media should take the most fault, maybe advertisers should, maybe fans should carry more of an open mind — but more than likely, it's on all of us.

It's fun to watch good teams win — people should do it more. Watching sports shouldn't be gender-based, it should be based on quality of play and matchup more than anything. Going to Penn State should mean you choose to support all Penn State sports.

Sports are supposed to be fun, not grounds for people to tear apart women simply because they can. Women in sports should be celebrated for doing cool things, just like men.

Andrew Buckman is a senior majoring in a broadcast journalism and is a Daily Collegian sports editor. His email is amb8644@psu.edu.

Time for a review of 'Midnights'

By Caroline Sliver
FOR THE COLLEGIAN



Evan Agostini/Invision

Taylor Swift attends an event at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 9, 2022. Her album, "Midnights" was announced at the MTV Video Music Awards in August, and the people have been waiting.

Since singer-songwriter Taylor Swift announced her 10th studio album, "Midnights," at the MTV Video Music Awards in August, the world has been waiting.

Her other nine studio albums span the genres of country, pop, R&B and folk — so fans were completely uncertain as to which genre Swift would choose for her 10th album.

From her extensive album roll-out and hype-building strategy across social media platforms — notably the "Midnights Mayhem with Me" TikTok series that introduced the track list — the release of "Midnights" was simply unavoidable if you were anywhere online.

But then again, you really wouldn't want to avoid what might be Swift's strongest album to date.

"Midnights" marks the return of Swift's glitzy synth-pop style that garnered international acclaim on "1989" and "reputation."

This time, though, she layers on the matured introspective lyricism of "folklore" and "evermore" to create a record that tells the story of 13 sleepless nights in a way that is both a lone late-night reflection and an instant hit.

This combination of initially incompatible elements works so well because Swift learned from

"folklore" and "evermore" that taking risks can pay off — from experimental production choices like pitched-down melodies, to unexpected cadences and using more of her lower range.

The subdued folk-pop style of her previous two albums gave her expert lyricism a chance to shine. And, now that we know what Swift is capable of, she was ready to go back to what she does best — being the biggest pop star of her generation.

"Midnights" is an ongoing conversation between Swift and

herself — even songs that are directed to lovers or enemies don't exactly intend for the subject to be the audience.

Listening to "Midnights" is more like reading Swift's diary, and it feels like you've landed on a special, private piece of art rather than listening to the most popular album in the world right now.

Album opens "Lavender Haze" and "Maroon" help set the scene for a technicolor romantic experience for the small nighttime hours.

These tracks guide you into

Swift's updated pop sound and promise that she'll bear her heart to you by the end of the 44-minute run time.

Swift's highly anticipated collaboration with award-winning artist Lana Del Rey, "Snow on the Beach," was the biggest disappointment of the album.

Del Rey's voice is really only detectable in the second half of the chorus, but that half is enough to make you angry that it wasn't a full verse.

Swift and Del Rey's voices blend beautifully as they

capture the seemingly impossible feeling of falling in love, though the sound doesn't exactly elicit the vibe of "midnight."

And, although the album may start out romantic, it wouldn't be a Taylor Swift record without piercingly pinpoint-accurate observations about Swift herself.

The bridge of "You're On Your Own, Kid" rivals the infamous bridges of "All Too Well" and "champagne problems" that built Swift's songwriting reputation.

The song explores Swift's insecurities while visiting home with a bluntness that's reminiscent of "this is me trying" and "mirrorball."

"Anti-Hero," the album's lead single, explores similar themes — making these songs a great listening choice at midnight, if you like to experience emotional turmoil.

"Karma," perhaps the most anticipated track on "Midnights," will become a defining song in Swift's career.

After exploring the concept of revenge across the entirety of her sixth studio album, "reputation," "Karma" retroactively describes how Swift has overcome her sometimes negative perception in the public eye.

The glam, trap-infused pop style that Swift and producer Jack Antonoff...

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

PSU student-run business pushes buttons

By Paige McCarrick
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State students now have a new accessory to choose from to showcase their Nittany Lion spirit on campus and at sporting events.

Sophia DiJoseph is introducing a new small business on campus, as she's been "pushing her buttons" around campus and on Instagram.

Students can purchase Penn State buttons for \$2 from Game Day Buttons by Sophia.

DiJoseph (freshman-secondary education) launched her first post to her business' Instagram

account on Sept. 25, as a photo of various buttons were featured with different Penn State sayings, logos and designs.

Each button that DiJoseph makes includes recognizable Penn State quotes such as, "Think fast, run fast," "Happy Valley," "We Are" and "Viva La Valley."

DiJoseph explained what sparked her interest in starting the business.

"I noticed that the buttons were getting really popular on TikTok with schools in the South. I went downtown to find some Penn State buttons, and I could only find them in one store,"

DiJoseph said. "And that store only had buttons that were 'beat Michigan' and 'beat Purdue,' and I just wanted some cute Penn State support buttons."

DiJoseph explained that her problem of not being able to obtain buttons made her purchase a button maker on Amazon — but she said she didn't expect this to turn into a business.

"They were originally just for me, of course, but then I was thinking that other girls would want some too. So I posted on Instagram and ended up selling a few of them and then just kept going," DiJoseph said.

DiJoseph shared that this was

not an unusual approach when exploring her creative side, as she had a small business, where she would make different accessories, in her hometown outside of Philadelphia.

"I've always been more of a crafty person — at home I used to sell different T-shirts and stuff that I would make," DiJoseph said. "I have a Cricut that can cut vinyl, and then I iron the vinyl onto certain shirts, so I sold those at home. I've always had the entrepreneurial spirit."

DiJoseph also explained how she makes the buttons and said she's open to creating customized buttons for customers.

"I haven't done any so far, but I would be happy to [make customized buttons]. I design all of the stuff on Canva, and I print it at my dorm, cut them out and make them," she said.

DiJoseph said she didn't expect to sell many buttons at first, but she has now sold to about 20 students on campus. She said customers normally buy more than one.

She said her first goal was to sell to one person, and now that she's surpassed that goal, she wants to keep moving forward.

"I've noticed a decrease after my first big thing of selling [the buttons]," DiJoseph said. "A goal would be to, one, keep making designs and, two, continue adding new customers. I've definitely made more profit than I expected

to at this point."

Makayla Otero said she thinks the button business is a great idea and would recommend the buttons to more students, as she likes "supporting small businesses."

"I actually think it's really cool because she wanted a button, and [the store] didn't have them, so she just made it herself," Otero (freshman-biochemistry and molecular biology) said.

Otero also said the buttons are unique for different events on campus, as she believes DiJoseph is "tailoring that to what she notices people like."

Otero added that she's "excited to see what else comes out."

"There's different ones for different occasions. I've never really seen the hype in buttons. It's never been a thing from where I'm from, but being here, it's a good way to show school spirit. You don't have to spend \$20 on a T-shirt or on a hat, so it's something cool you can have," Otero said.

Brianne Turner said she believes DiJoseph is doing a great job at advertising the buttons.

"I think she did well advertising the buttons because she would post on multiple group chats to clubs that she had this button business, and she always posts the options that she has. I saw the options on Instagram, so I was interested," Turner (freshman-architectural engineering) said.

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



Courtesy of Sophia DiJoseph

A Penn State student-run business launched on Instagram and has sold customized buttons to about 20 students on campus so far.

Crossword

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- Across**
- 1 Back talk
 - 5 Band bookings
 - 9 Twosomes, in song
 - 14 Stew bean
 - 15 Lightly cooked
 - 16 Cove
 - 17 Rainbow goddess
 - 18 Shortly
 - 19 Alabama city
 - 20 Modus operandi
 - 22 Belgrade native
 - 24 Mole
 - 25 Cast off
 - 26 Diving duck
 - 28 Elephant Boy of 30's film
 - 31 Where a ship can run
 - 35 Pothook shape
 - 38 Explorer's org.
 - 40 Sp. title
 - 41 The old college cheer
 - 42 Are We There Yet? star
 - 45 Bank offering, for short
 - 46 Assumed name
 - 48 Ref's ruling
 - 49 Children's game
 - 50 Secured, as sheets of paper
 - 53 Physical
 - 56 Diviner's deck
 - 58 Short golf shot
 - 61 Sci-fi figures
 - 64 Likable
 - 65 Soap, e.g.
 - 67 Vogue
 - 69 Ship part
 - 71 Locks in a barn?
 - 72 Collapsible shelter
 - 73 Lab item
 - 74 Encouragement
 - 75 Fur capitalist
 - 76 He and she
 - 77 Mantas
 - Down**
 - 1 Slender
 - 2 Buenos _____
 - 3 Mormon Church founder
 - 4 Casements
 - 5 Alum
 - 6 Goffer Woosnam
 - 7 Income type
 - 8 Nero's tutor
 - 9 Pay out
 - 10 Article in Le Monde
 - 11 Building additions
 - 12 Office fill-in
 - 13 Command to a dog
 - 21 Harem room
 - 23 Piano piece
 - 27 Lenore poet
 - 29 UK cable channel
 - 30 Consume
 - 32 Military group
 - 33 One of Asta's masters
 - 34 Downer
 - 35 Historic periods
 - 36 Preserve, in a way
 - 37 LaBeouf of Transformers
 - 39 Play the part
 - 42 Bali resident
 - 43 Tiny guitar, briefly
 - 44 After shoe or shadow
 - 47 On target
 - 51 Verdi's "___ tu"
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 - 55 Indistinct sound
 - 57 Choppers
 - 59 Coronet
 - 60 Sharp-tasting
 - 61 Ms. Kett of old comics
 - 62 "___ intéressant"
 - 63 Fall mo.
 - 65 Do in
 - 66 Popular jeans
 - 68 Modern (Prefix)
 - 70 Compass dir.

Word Search Out To Sea

H F L D H U F K O N Q S E G D I R B
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- Brig
- Cabin
- Canoe
- Cockpit
- Crows Nest
- Deck
- Dinghy
- Dory
- Galley
- Halyard
- Hull
- Kayak
- Keel
- Knots
- Mast
- Port
- Rudder
- Sails
- Schooner
- Starboard
- Steamer
- Stern
- Tiller
- Trawler
- Whaler
- Yacht

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Kakuro

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