



# VERSUS



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@DailyCollegian

# COACH CHAOS

## AND HIS WILD DOGS





# PENN STATE

## Nittany Lions (2-0)



No.	Name	Position/Elig.
1	KJ Hamler	WR/Fr.
2	Isaiah Humphries	S/Fr.
2	Donovan Johnson	CB/Fr.
2	Tommy Stevens	QB/Jr.
3	DeAndre Thompkins	WR/Jr.
4	Nick Scott	S/Sr.
4	Ricky Slade	RB/Fr.
5	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB/So.
5	Jahan Dotson	WR/Fr.
6	Cam Brown	LB/Jr.
6	Justin Shorter	WR/Fr.
7	Koa Farmer	LB/Sr.
8	Mark Allen	RB/Sr.
9	Trace McSorley	QB/Sr.
9	Jarvis Miller	LB/Jr.
10	Brandon Polk	WR/Jr.
11	Micah Parsons	LB/Fr.
12	Mac Hippenhammer	WR/Fr.
13	Ellis Brooks	LB/Fr.
13	Grayson Kline	QB/Fr.
14	Sean Clifford	QB/Fr.
14	Zech McPhearson	CB/So.
15	Michael Shuster	QB/So.
16	John Petrishen	S/Jr.
17	Will Levis	QB/Fr.
17	Garrett Taylor	S/Jr.
18	Johnathan Holland	TE/Jr.
18	Shaka Toney	DE/So.
19	Trent Gordon	CB/Fr.
20	Jabari Butler	CB/Jr.
20	Johnathan Thomas	RB/Sr.
21	Amani Oruwariye	CB/Sr.
23	Ayron Monroe	S/Jr.
24	DJ Brown	CB/Fr.
24	Miles Sanders	RB/Jr.
25	Brelin Faison-Walden	LB/So.
26	Jonathan Sutherland	S/Fr.
27	Aeneas Hawkins	DT/Fr.
27	Cody Romano	S/Fr.
28	Jayson Oweh	DE/Fr.

No.	Name	Position/Elig.
29	Henry Fessler	WR/Fr.
29	John Reid	CB/Jr.
30	Kevin Givens	DT/Jr.
31	Christopher Welde	WR/Jr.
32	Journey Brown	RB/Fr.
33	Jake Cooper	LB/Sr.
33	C.J. Holmes	RB/So.
34	Shane Simmons	DE/So.
35	Justin Neff	S/Fr.
36	Jan Johnson	LB/Jr.
37	Drew Hartlaub	S/Fr.
38	Lamont Wade	CB/So.
39	Frank Di Leo	LB/Jr.
40	Nick Eury	RB/So.
40	Jesse Luketa	LB/Fr.
41	Joe Arcangelo	TE/Jr.
42	Dae'Lun Darien	LB/So.
42	Ellison Jordan	DT/So.
45	Joe DuMond	LB/So.
45	Charlie Katshir	LB/Fr.
46	Nick Tarburton	DE/Fr.
48	Shareef Miller	DE/Jr.
49	Daniel Joseph	DE/So.
49	Cade Pollard	P/Fr.
50	Max Chizmar	LB/Fr.
50	Will Knutsson	OL/Fr.
51	Alex Gellerstedt	OL/So.
51	Jason Vranic	LB/Sr.
52	Ryan Bates	OL/Jr.
53	Fred Hansard	DT/Fr.
53	Rasheed Walker	OL/Fr.
54	Robert Windsor	DT/Jr.
55	Antonio Shelton	DT/So.
58	Evan Presta	DT/Fr.
62	Michal Menet	OL/So.
63	Collin De Boef	OL/Fr.
64	Zach Simpson	OL/Jr.
66	Connor McGovern	OL/Jr.
68	Hunter Kelly	OL/DL/So.
69	C.J. Thorpe	OL/Fr.

No.	Name	Position/Elig.
70	Juice Scruggs	OL/Fr.
71	Will Fries	OL/So.
72	Bryce Effner	OL/Fr.
73	Mike Miranda	OL/Fr.
74	Steven Gonzalez	OL/Jr.
75	Des Holmes	OL/Fr.
76	Sterling Jenkins	OL/Jr.
77	Chasz Wright	OL/Sr.
79	Charlie Shuman	OL/Sr.
80	Danny Dalton	TE/H/So.
80	Justin Weller	WR/Fr.
81	Cam Sullivan-Brown	WR/Fr.
82	Zack Kuntz	TE/H/Fr.
82	Tyler Shoop	WR/Jr.
83	Nick Bowers	TE/H/Jr.
83	Alex Hoenstine	WR/Fr.
84	Juwan Johnson	WR/Jr.
85	Isaac Lutz	WR/So.
86	Daniel George	WR/Fr.
87	Pat Freiermuth	TE/H/Fr.
88	Dan Chisena	WR/Jr.
88	Judge Culpepper	DT/Fr.
89	Brandon Clark	WR/Fr.
89	Colton Maxwell	WR/So.
90	Damion Barber	DT/Fr.
90	Rafael Checa	K/Fr.
91	Chris Stoll	SN/Fr.
92	Jake Pinegar	K/Fr.
93	Blake Gillikin	P/K/Jr.
93	PJ Mustipher	DT/Fr.
94	Joe Calcagno	SN/Fr.
95	Donnell Dix	DE/Sr.
95	Vlad Hilling	K/Fr.
96	Matt Aloni	SN/Fr.
96	Kyle Vasey	SN/Sr.
97	Carson Landis	K/P/Fr.
98	Kevin Cahill	SN/Fr.
98	Dan Vasey	DL/LS/Fr.
99	Yetur Gross-Matos	DE/So.
99	Justin Tobin	K/So.

# KENT STATE

## Golden Flashes (1-1)



No.	Name	Position/Elig.
1	Nick Faulkner	LB/Jr.
2	Will Matthews	RB/Jr.
6	Matt Bahr	LB/Sr.
7	Jamal Parker	CB/Jr.
8	Elvis Hines	S/So.
10	Kavious Price	WR/Jr.
10	Quan Robinson Jr.	CB/Sr.
11	Justin Rankin	RB/Jr.
11	Jordan Silva	DL/Sr.
12	Darrick Edwards	RB/Jr.
12	Raymond James	DB/So.
13	Will Phillis	QB/Fr.
13	Erik Simpson	S/Sr.
14	John Henry Bronczek	S/Jr.
14	Dustin Crum	QB/So.
15	Woody Barrett	QB/So.
15	Keith Sherald Jr.	CB/So.
17	Marquez Glover	QB/Fr.
18	Pyrce Taylor	QB/Fr.
18	Xavier Williams	RB/Fr.
19	A.J. Musolino	LB/Fr.
19	Donte Ross	WR/Sr.
20	Trey Harrell	WR/Jr.
21	Montre Miller	CB/Fr.
22	Jim Jones	LB/Sr.
22	Javaughn Williams	WR/Fr.
23	Isaiah McKoy	WR/Fr.
24	Raekwon James	RB/WR/Sr.
25	Craig Elmore	RB/Fr.
25	Juantez McRae	S/Sr.
26	Richie Carpenter Jr.	DB/Jr.
26	Myles Washington	RB/TE/Jr.
27	Isaac Vance	RB/ATH/Fr.

No.	Name	Position/Elig.
28	Mandela Lawrence-Burke	LB/Jr.
29	Capone Blue	CB/Fr.
30	Darryl Marshall	CB/Sr.
31	Akeam Peters	S/Jr.
32	Dalton Hicks	LB/Jr.
33	Jo-El Shaw	RB/Jr.
34	KeSean Gamble	LB/So.
36	Jeremiah Salaam	CB/Fr.
37	Cepeda Phillips	LB/So.
38	Jae'Vante Ray	S/Jr.
39	Miles Daniel	CB/So.
41	Rodley Jolicoeur	S/Fr.
42	Jordan Felice	DE/Fr.
43	Tyler Britton	DE/LB/So.
44	Matt Harmon	LB/Fr.
45	Adam Dulka	TE/So.
46	Mitch Lengyel	TE/So.
49	Keenan Orr	WR/Fr.
49	Kalil Morris	NT/Sr.
50	Sebastian Spear	LB/So.
51	Connor Parks	DL/Fr.
52	Ishmael Robinson	LB/Fr.
53	Alex Hoag	DE/Jr.
54	Nate Warnock	OL/Jr.
55	Julian Sams	OL/Fr.
56	Elijah Ratliff	DL/Fr.
57	William Luckey	LB/Fr.
58	Theo Eboigbe	DE/Sr.
59	Will Burns	DL/Fr.
60	Dalton DeChristopher	K/Fr.
62	Mike Morris	OL/Fr.
64	Bryce Gibbs	OL/Jr.
65	Luke Dye	OL/Fr.

No.	Name	Position/Elig.
67	Nathan Monnin	OL/So.
68	Mike Marinelli	OL/Jr.
69	Sam Allan	OL/Fr.
70	Jack Clement	OL/Fr.
71	Eddie Brecht	OL/Fr.
72	Jamil Viaud	OL/Jr.
73	Zach Whaley	OL/Fr.
75	Adam Gregoire	OL/Jr.
76	Chase Van Hoef	OL/Jr.
77	Daniel Johnson	OL/Fr.
78	Zach Corrigan	OL/So.
80	Johnny Woods	WR/Sr.
81	Dominic DiGioia	WR/Jr.
82	D'J Edwards	WR/Fr.
83	Lon'Kevious McFadden	WR/Fr.
84	Jalil Nelson	WR/Fr.
85	Mark Williams	TE/Fr.
86	Zaquon Tyson	WR/Sr.
87	Mike Carrigan	WR/Jr.
88	Conor Brumfield	TE/Jr.
89	Antwan Dixon	WR/Jr.
90	Colten McFadden	K/Fr.
91	Neiman Novitski	DL/Fr.
92	Theo Majette	DL/Jr.
93	Matt Bell	DL/So.
94	Grant Urenovitch	P/So.
94	Dennis Wariboko	DL/Jr.
95	Joey Palumbo	LS/Jr.
96	Derek Adams	P/Jr.
97	Zayin West	DE/Fr.
98	Dominic Hill	NT/Jr.

# Confident offensive line should only get better

By Matt Lingerman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

If Penn State's offense was running on all cylinders against Pitt on Saturday, the offensive line was the ignition.

Although the Nittany Lions allowed more tackles for loss against the Panthers than they did during Week 1 against Appalachian State, the offensive line was visibly more effective in giving Trace McSorley time and opening holes for the running game.

"This year [the offensive line] has a different sense of confidence about themselves," McSorley said. "When they come in, every single week, they feel like they can be the deciding factor in the game by dominating the line of scrimmage and being that force for our team."

That was certainly the case at Heinz Field, as Penn State turned in five rushes of 20 yards or more and was able to stretch the secondary in the passing game.

McSorley didn't register a rush until his third quarter touchdown, but the quarterback said that was more due to his reads telling him to hand the ball off than a reluctance to run. Considering Penn State averaged 6.4 yards per rush — up from the 4.7 yards per carry the Nittany Lions averaged against Appalachian State — and



Collegian File Photo

**Offensive lineman Michal Menet (62)** inspects the Feista Bowl trophy during Fiesta Bowl Media Day at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017.

ran for 211 yards as a team, those reads were spot on.

"I think rushing yards is probably the biggest [stat] for offensive lines," center Michal Menet said. "Even though we have great backs, the more push we get the more movement we get off the ball, it makes their job a lot easier. So, I think rushing yards is one of the biggest things that we think

signifies how we're playing as a unit."

The o-line was able to find success on a variety of rush plays, from KJ Hamler's jet sweep touchdown in the first quarter to read-options to a designed QB draw late in the game.

McSorley was also given more time in the pocket last week as opposed to Week 1. Although the

passing numbers weren't quite as efficient, he was flushed from the pocket much less and was able to connect with receivers down the field on a few occasions.

"Obviously we have one of the best o-lines in the Big Ten," defensive end Daniel Joseph said. "I would say the best o-line in the Big Ten. Lining up against them every day, that's what makes us

better, makes them better. Iron sharpens iron... I think for them, they continue to do their job, protect the quarterback, make big plays for our offense."

Penn State will look to improve upon a strong offensive line showing at Pitt on Saturday against Kent State.

The difference is that the Golden Flashes defense plays an odd front, similar to the Appalachian State 3-4 defense that gave new guard-turned-center Menet some problems.

"I think it's a little bit of a challenge to snap the ball and have a guy right head up on you," Menet said. "I was used to it a little bit going through camp but I think that was good for me to see Week 1 so I could really see the areas I need to improve going against an odd front."

Menet also said getting reps against as many different looks as they can early in the season will help the Nittany Lions down the road. The offensive line should continue to get even better, especially now that Will Fries has apparently won the right tackle job.

He and Chasz Wright had split time in the first two games, but Fries was recently designated as the starter on the depth chart heading into Week 3.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



# TWO YEARS LATER

*Plenty has changed within the Penn State program since the last time Kent State visited Happy Valley, but one thing hasn't — Trace McSorley*

**By Tyler King**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

This Saturday, Trace McSorley will be Penn State's starting quarterback for the 30th time in his career. When he heads out onto the field for the first time, the team on the other side will bring back some memories.

As McSorley surveys the Kent State defense for the first time, he might have a flashback to 2016. A redshirt sophomore back then, McSorley made his first career start against the Golden Flashes. Saquon Barkley was standing to his right in the backfield. DaeSean Hamilton, Chris Godwin and Mike Gesicki were his main passing targets. When he looked to the sideline, Joe Moorhead was there calling the plays in his first game as Penn State offensive coordinator.

This Saturday, as the ball is snapped and McSorley snaps back to reality, he won't see any of those people. Barkley, Godwin and Gesicki are playing Sundays. Moorhead is now the head coach at Mississippi State.

But aside from the new faces and the countless records McSorley has broken or is on pace to break this season, not much has



**Trace McSorley (9)** looks for an open player during the Kent State game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. Penn State defeated Kent State 33-13.

changed. "I don't see too much of a difference," McSorley said. "We've still been aggressive and tried to establish our run game."

Redshirt junior wide receiver Brandon Polk has known McSorley longer than anyone else on Penn State's roster. The two played at Briar Woods High School for two years. The one year they didn't play together,

Polk's freshman year, the two squared off against each other and Polk still hasn't forgotten it.

"It was my freshman year because I played at a school called Freedom High School, and I remember all week, they were talking about Trace McSorley, Trace McSorley," Polk said. "I had heard of him because my dad and his dad were really close friends, and they came and they killed us and that's kind of when I knew about Trace McSorley and the things that he could do."

ing a fast start," McSorley said Wednesday.

"The last two games we've been able to score on the first drive, but then we kind of hit a little bit of a wall."

According to McSorley, one of the biggest reasons the offense has hit a lull after its first drive is because of the passing game not

being as far along as he would like, something he puts squarely on him.

"A lot of it I would put on myself just not being accurate," McSorley said. "I'm not putting the ball in the right spots or where it needs to be for our guys to make plays."

While McSorley is right that he can be more accurate with the ball, his receivers, specifically his two most experienced targets Juwan Johnson and DeAndre Thompkins, have had their fair share of struggles.

"They know that we have confidence in them and that they're going to pick it up and get going," McSorley said. "The time's going to come where it starts to fall into place."

One other aspect of the Penn State offense that isn't up to the program's high standards is the explosive plays. KJ Hamler is making explosive plays left and right, but the offense as a whole can be doing better, something James Franklin mentioned after the win over Pitt.

"I think we can be even more explosive," Franklin said.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



**Trace McSorley (9)** looks to pass during the TaxSlayer Bowl against Georgia at EverBank Field on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2016. Penn State lost 24-17.

The rest of the Penn State team and the 100,000-plus fans in Beaver Stadium on Sept. 3, 2016 quickly found out what he could do as well. Although it wasn't his sharpest game by any means, the potential was there.

McSorley threw for over 200 yards and ran for nearly 50 on the ground.

"I remember the first touchdown pass to start," McSorley said. "I remember it took us a little bit to get going. It wasn't as smooth sailing as we all would've wanted."

Struggling to get going would become a common theme for that 2016 team and that still holds true for the first two games of 2018.

"We always emphasize hav-



**Penn State quarterback Trace McSorley (9)** celebrates after scoring a touchdown at the football game against Pitt on Saturday, Sept. 8.

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# EMBRACE THE CHAOS

Why Sean Spencer, aka Coach Chaos, and his ‘Wild Dogs’ are so wild

By Patrick Burns  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As the quarterbacks spoke calmly to reporters on the away sideline at Beaver Stadium during Penn State’s media day, special teamers fiddled with their phones while sitting on benches on the opposite side of the field.

The demeanor of every other position group was somewhat similar.

Except for one. Near the south end zone, various defensive linemen engaged in an impromptu dance-off to Drake’s “Nice for What.”

After an afternoon that included plenty of dancing, more than a few expletives, and a whole lot of energy, it was well evident that these Wild Dogs are a totally different breed.

“Our chemistry is real different from everyone else on the team,” redshirt sophomore defensive end Shane Simmons told The Daily Collegian. “We are much closer and we ride for each other.”

That bond has provided results on the field, as few defensive lines across the nation have enjoyed as much success as Penn State’s since Sean Spencer took the Nittany Lions’ defensive line coach job in 2014.

Penn State has posted three straight 40-sack seasons, including an NCAA-leading 46 sacks in 2015.

But as Shareef Miller and his teammates have learned, being a Wild Dog is more than just football, and it isn’t just a nickname.

To Simmons, it’s a brotherhood.

To Kevin Givens, it’s a family.

To Shaka Toney, it means playing nasty.

To Ryan Buchholz, who had to retire in August due to injury: “It means we’ve got each other’s back.”

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The word energy is almost always mentioned whenever Spencer’s name comes up.

“Coach Spencer has a lot of energy to him,” redshirt freshman defensive end Daniel Joseph said. “A lot of flavor.”

Spencer, known to some of his players and colleagues as Coach Chaos, recently blasted Drake’s “Nonstop” in an effort to get his



Collegian file photo

**Penn State defensive line coach Sean Spencer** encourages safety Malik Golden (6) as he exits the field after a play during the game against Kent State at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016.

players motivated for a late-night meeting.

At practice or during pregame warmups, the 47-year-old can be found dancing alongside his players. During games, he’ll reward players with a bear hug after a significant tackle or sack.

“There’s always that fire to him,” Joseph said. “It’s consistent every week.”

Spencer, a Hartford, Connecticut native, may have played safety at Division II Clarion University, but he’s right at home in the defensive line room.

After getting to know Spencer throughout the recruiting process, there was only one coach Miller wanted to play for.

“There’s a lot coaches that I couldn’t really relate to and they ain’t bring that energy that he had,” Miller, a Philadelphia native, said. “The vibe just wasn’t there.”

“You could just tell it was a different vibe with coach Spence,” Miller said. “And he never switched up since day one.”

Spencer arrived at Penn State as part of James Franklin’s inaugural staff, faced with the task

of replacing Larry Johnson, a Nittany Lion legend who has long been regarded as one of the top position coaches in the country.

Over 14 years at Penn State, Johnson groomed six NFL first round picks, seven first-team All Americans and 15 first team all-Big Ten selections.

Upon accepting the job, Spencer welcomed the challenge with open arms.

“I have my own way about me and I know coach Johnson did a great job here,” Spencer told reporters in 2014. “But I have my own way about me. I’m going to make my own history.”

In addition to leading the Nittany Lions to three consecutive seasons with 40 or more sacks, Spencer has coached an All-American, developed three NFL draft picks and had nine players earn all-Big Ten accolades.

“[Spencer] is deeply admired by both our players and coaches,” Franklin said in a statement. “Sean’s boundless energy, on and off the field, is what makes him unique.”

\*\*\*

Shareef Miller is quiet and laid back by nature. But on the field, his actions are anything but that. And when he speaks, his words command attention.

“There’s no one better than me,” the redshirt junior defensive end said. “I know what I bring on Saturdays and to this Penn State team.”

Miller has developed into the quintessential Wild Dog.

He’s different than some of the greats that have come before him, like the fearsome trio of Anthony Zettel, Carl Nassib and Austin Johnson, all of whom are currently on NFL rosters.

But he’s versatile, isn’t afraid to get his hands dirty, and brings the same game-changing ability.

And now, he’s a leader.

“His evolution across the board has been really impressive,” Franklin said. “I couldn’t be more proud of him the type of teammate he is, the type of student he’s become, you know, the type of player he is, the leader. He’s done a great job with the defensive line.”

Miller has lofty goals, but he doesn’t want to be alone in achieving them.

“We want to be the best,” Miller said. “But in order to be the best,

you gotta work.”

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Year after year, the Wild Dogs continue to reload. Pitt found that out the hard way this past weekend. In last Saturday’s 51-6 destruction of the Panthers, Penn State’s D-line spent most of the second half in Pitt’s backfield.

The Nittany Lions’ defensive line racked up 27 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks against the Panthers, holding their in-state rivals to negative two yards in the third quarter and just 69 total yards in the second half.

Most teams would struggle to replace four key linemen in one offseason, a reality Penn State was faced with this summer, but Spencer’s philosophy of rotating linemen as much, if not more, than any other coach in the country has eased the transition.

This year’s starting defensive tackles, Givens and Robert Windsor, each have plenty of experience under their belts, while Simmons, Joseph, Yetur Gross-Matos, Ellison Jordan and Antonio Shelton all saw time last

season. “If you’re in the top six or seven DTs and top six or seven DEs, there’s a chance you’re going to play,” Spencer said in August.

Ten different defensive linemen have seen the field so far this season. And if things go according to Spencer’s plans, each and every one of them are playing for each other.

Each week, the D-line holds a dog tag ceremony, where players pick tags out of a bucket to determine which teammate they’re playing for that weekend.

On gameday, the group corrals a white rawhide bone into the stadium, with “Wild Dogs” printed in navy blue.

“Everybody is family here,” Miller said. “We all brothers, everybody got a different personality. I’m a quiet, laid back kind of guy. But being around guys like Fred [Hansard] and Damion [Barber] is bringing me out of my shell a little bit.”

\*\*\*

The Happy Valley version of the Wild Dogs might have an expiration date, as Coach Chaos will have the title ‘head coach’ in front of his name sooner rather than later. Spencer has spoken at great length about his ambitions to be a head coach, and has reportedly received multiple offers to coach elsewhere.

That dream is a step closer to becoming a reality, thanks to defensive coordinator Brent Pry. Pry, who has coached with Spencer since 2011 dating back to the pair’s days at Vanderbilt, gave up his title as associate head coach to keep Spencer on staff this off-season.

“Coach Spencer and I are awfully good buddies,” Pry said after this year’s Blue-White game. “Spence had a lot of teams come courting him. He does a great job in our program and we wanted to make sure he stayed here.”

While the future might take him elsewhere, Spencer’s work at Penn State isn’t done. Far from it, in fact.

“I’d like to win a national championship here first,” Spencer said with a smile.

To email reporter: [pab5404@psu.edu](mailto:pab5404@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@PatrickBurns\\_](https://twitter.com/PatrickBurns_).



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

**Kevin Givens (30) and Shareef Miller (48)** celebrate after sacking Michigan’s quarterback at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017.



Collegian file photo

**Defensive end Shane Simmons (34)** attempts to get past Ohio State offensive lineman Jamarco Jones (74) on Oct. 28, 2017.

## Family competition has bred Zech McPhearson

By Thomas Schlarp  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Zech McPhearson and competition go hand-in-hand. After all, the two have been linked since birth.

Growing up in a household with six older brothers who all played collegiate football or were drafted into the MLB, it’d be an understatement to say that McPhearson had some pretty big shoes to fill.

The youngest of eight, the battle for top-dog status in his own home made for scuffed walls and an angry mother.

Even when McPhearson stepped onto Penn State’s campus for the first time in 2016, it was under the shadow of his older brother, Josh, a running back who graduated last year.

So when the Nittany Lion secondary lost the likes of Grant Haley, Christian Campbell and Marcus Allen among others to the NFL, the notion of staring up at a depth chart with highly recruited cornerbacks like Tariq Castro-Fields and Amani Oruwariye far from struck fear in the redshirt sophomore cornerback.



Collegian file photo

**Cornerback Zech McPhearson (14)** breaks up a pass to Northwestern wide receiver Macan Wilson (15) during their game at Ryan Field on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017. No. 4 Penn State won 31-7.

“The whole spring, I knew I had to take a big step forward,” McPhearson said. “Losing a lot of cornerbacks from the previous year, going into the Blue-White game, every practice I approached it like a game....My confidence just

kept building through that whole spring ball. That was a big boost for me.”

But days before the Pitt game, that very confidence McPhearson had spent months building may have begun to waiver with

his fellow Penn State defenders.

The team had just snatched victory from the jaws of defeat against Appalachian State and provided a defensive effort that James Franklin said his biggest takeaway was an inability to

tackle. McPhearson had just two stops.

And come 12:28 left in the second quarter of the Pitt game, the Penn State defense was still scrambling to find its mojo.

The Panthers had already thrashed the Nittany Lions for 113 rushing yards in the first quarter.

Pitt running back Qadree Ollison had just taken a handoff from his quarterback Kenny Pickett, broke through a hole at Pitt’s own 15-yard line, and widened his eyes as he saw 85 yards of open field between him and the end zone, an easy score to move the Panthers ahead 13-7.

That is, however, until he does a quick rearview mirror check only to find a 5-foot-11, 188 pound, No. 14 dressed in white bolting toward him.

“My adrenaline was pretty heavy, so I was just like, ‘I’ve got to catch this guy,’” McPhearson said.

“I just tucked my head down and started running full speed. It was just making a stop and not giving them a big play.”

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



# Tight end competition is wide open

By Matt Lingerman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State knew coming into this season it had some holes to fill at skill positions.

None of those voids were bigger — literally — than the loss of 6-foot-6 tight end Mike Gesicki. His 57 catches in 2017 were best on the team, and his 563 receiving yards and nine touchdowns made him the preferred security blanket for Trace McSorley.

But now, Gesicki is catching passes from Ryan Tannehill as a member of the Miami Dolphins, and McSorley is searching for someone to make up for the tight end's production as best he can.

Through two games, three tight ends — redshirt sophomore Danny Dalton, redshirt junior Jonathan Holland and freshman Pat Freiermuth — have combined for eight catches and 85 yards.

"I think Jon Holland has done a really nice job, and I think Dalton has done a really nice job and I think Freiermuth has earned the right to get reps and has done a really good job in the run game," coach James Franklin said. "I think we've got a really nice complementary package of guys there, but I do think we've got to be more complete."

Each member of the trio brings something of value to the Nittany Lions. Holland is the most experienced (though not by much) and has been featured the most in the passing game. Freiermuth has been impressive as a blocker and at 6-foot-5, possesses a frame



Zack Gething/Collegian

**Penn State tight end Jonathan Holland (18)** runs through Pitt defensive back Dennis Briggs (20) at the football game against Pitt at Heinz Field on Saturday, Sept. 8.

most similar to Gesicki's. Dalton's skillset is somewhere in between.

So far, none of them have set themselves apart as a clear favorite of McSorley or the coaching staff. But that may be subject to change.

"I don't think we ever really say our plan is to do things by committee," Franklin said. "We do that until someone clearly takes a hold of the job and takes a separation from the next guys. If there's no separation, we keep rotating." Franklin added that's not

necessarily a bad thing and that it doesn't mean he isn't pleased with the tight end play. Rather, the coaching staff believes it has three effective options who are all relatively equal in their value at this point.

In terms of experience, Holland is the clear frontrunner. He was the only of the three to have caught a collegiate pass prior to this season. He's long and quick, and as Holland's confidence as a route-runner grows, he could become a go-to option for McSorley. But Dalton and Freiermuth have turned heads too.

"[Dalton]'s a grinder," center Michael Menet said. "That's probably the best way to put it. He works his butt off every single day, always trying to improve, always getting better, always getting extra work in the weight room."

On the field, Freiermuth is the hardest to miss. He's been brought in on running downs many times over the course of the first two weeks, and for the most part the Nittany Lions have had success when that's been the case.

In fact, in just over 10 offensive snaps for Freiermuth against Appalachian State during Week 1, Penn State scored two rushing touchdowns.

"He's strong, he's powerful," Franklin said of Freiermuth. "He

carries his weight the way you really want football players to carry their weight, in their lower half. It hasn't seemed too big for him, and he's approached it the right way... I think you'll see his role continue to grow as long as he keeps approaching it the way he has so far."

While it's pleasantly surprising for a true freshman tight end to be so strong in the run game, there's still more for Freiermuth to learn if he's going to be the one who separates himself from the

rest of the pack.

Beyond that, it could be a signal to opponents that Freiermuth coming onto the field means a rush is likely.

"I think Pat has stepped up," wide receiver Mac Hippenhamer said. "He is mature. I think you have to be mature as a true freshman, and you have to grow up fast."

For McSorley, the tight end group going by committee hasn't negatively affected him. He still threw for 230 yards Week 1 and played better than his stat line suggested against Pitt.

"[The tight ends] are all really similar as far as the routes that they're running and they all do a really good job of getting open," McSorley said. "So for me, it's not really a matter of getting into a rhythm with those guys."

However, as the season goes on and the opponents are more formidable, it may not behoove the Nittany Lions to continue to rotate the three. McSorley might prefer to develop a bond with one like he did with Gesicki.

But the tight ends themselves are the only ones who can force Franklin to make that decision.

"The dynamics of [rotating tight ends] can be different, but we never really necessarily say we want to do things by committee," Franklin said. "It's all waiting for someone to establish himself, to separate himself from the pack."

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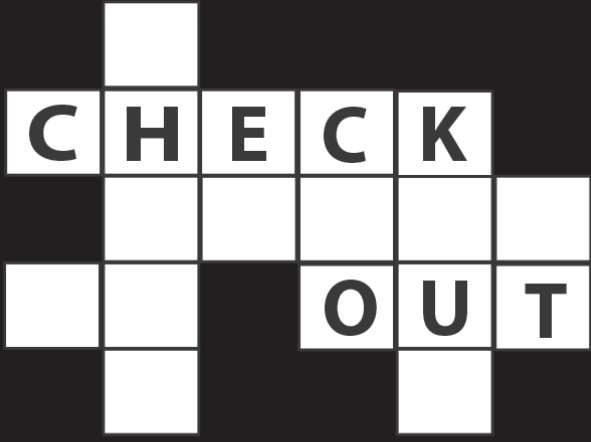
Collegian file photo

**Danny Dalton (80)** tries to catch the ball during the Blue-White Game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, April 16, 2016.



Zack Gething/Collegian

**Pat Freiermuth (87)** high-fives students after the game against Pitt at Heinz Field on Saturday, Sept. 8. No. 13 Penn State defeated Pitt 51-6.



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PENN STATE VS. KENT STATE



GAME INFO

Penn State vs. Kent State  
Time: 12 p.m. Saturday  
Place: Beaver Stadium  
TV: FS1  
Spread: Penn State -35  
Over/under: 64

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Penn State: WR Juwan Johnson

Juwan Johnson hasn't had the fastest start to the season, and he'll be looking to have a big game in the final nonconference game of the season. Johnson draws plenty of attention from the defense, but drops have plagued the start to his season.

Penn State: CB Donovan Johnson

Redshirt freshman defensive back Donovan Johnson has seen a good amount of playing time to start the season and he's impressed. Watch for him to continue to come onto the field in nickel packages.

BY THE NUMBERS

0 Senior wide receiver DeAndre Thompkins has yet to grab a reception this season.

2 In his debut against Kent State two years ago, Shareef Miller notched two sacks.

118 Miles Sanders ran for a career-best 118 yards in the win over Pitt last week.

20 The Nittany Lions topped the Golden Flashes by 20 points the last time the two teams met.



Trace McSorley (9) tries to dodge defensive players during the Kent State game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. Penn State defeated Kent State 33-13.

Kent State offense presents Penn State defense with new challenge

By Tyler King  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Each quarterback the Penn State defense has faced in the first two weeks of the season has presented a different challenge. Appalachian State's Zac Thomas was a relative unknown coming into the season having attempted only 10 college passes before the season opener. But he torched the inexperienced Nittany Lion defense, throwing for 270 yards and 2 touchdowns. Thomas proved that wasn't a fluke as he threw for 295 yards and 3 touchdowns in the blowout win over Charlotte. But here's the most impressive stat — he didn't throw an incomplete pass in the game, finishing a perfect 14-of-14. Pitt quarterback Kenny Pickett proved himself more useful as a runner than as a passer last week.

Even though his stats suggest he didn't have much of an impact on the game, Pickett picked up a few key first downs on scrambles in the first half. Now this week, Penn State could be facing its toughest challenge yet at the quarterback position. Kent State quarterback Woody Barrett is a former Auburn signee that transferred to Kent State from junior college. Barrett had other offers from Alabama, Louisville and Michigan State, so James Franklin is aware of Barrett's natural abilities. "Highly, highly-recruited kid. Played in the Under Armour All-American Game, signs with Auburn, transfers out to a junior college and now is starting at Kent State," Franklin said. "He's 6-2, 236 pounds. He can run. He can throw. He's dynamic." Barrett was rated as one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the country as a recruit and that showed in the Golden Flashes' season opener. Kent State visited another Big Ten team, Illinois, to start of the 2018 season and gave coach Lovie Smith and company every-

thing they could handle. Barrett threw for 270 and 2 touchdowns in the air and ran for over 115 yards on the ground, getting into the end zone once more with his legs. "The quarterback's a problem. Woody Barrett is a problem," Franklin said. "You see guys come through blitzing and he stands in the pocket, they hit him, they bounce off, he keeps his eyes down the field, delivers the strike, will beat you with his legs. He's a problem. So, we've got to be ready and prepared for him." The player who lines up next to Barrett on offense is running back Justin Rankin, Franklin also acknowledged as someone his defense will have to key in on. "Justin Rankin does a nice job for them, as well, 5'9, 211 pounds," Franklin said. Rankin was here two years ago when the Golden Flashes visited

Beaver Stadium and he was the feature back then as well. Rankin ran for 82 yards on 13 carries during Penn State's 33-13 win to kick off the 2016 season. Still just a junior, Rankin wasn't extremely effective against Illinois, but ran all over Howard's defense last weekend. The Ohio native finished with nearly 150 yards on the ground on just 12 carries. Kent State is led by young head coach Sean Lewis. He became the youngest FBS coach when he was hired away from Syracuse in 2017 at the age of 31. Despite his young age, Franklin is still very aware of Lewis. "I have a lot of respect for [Lewis]," Franklin said. "We did a travel camp with those guys a few years back in Chicago and got a chance to get to know him a little bit. Very, very impressed." Lewis has quickly risen up the ranks as a bright offensive mind

and it's no surprise he's playing two Big Ten teams, Illinois and now Penn State, early in the season. "Obviously his background is on the offensive side of the ball. He's a Big Ten guy, played at the University of Wisconsin for Barry Alvarez," Franklin said. "So, he understands this conference as well." The Penn State defense responded well to its struggles in Week 1 with a strong performance against Pitt, but things won't get any easier in the final tune-up before Big Ten play. "Their tempo is extremely quick. They like to spread you out," Jan Johnson said. "They will spread you out, run the ball and if you're not out there to cover the receivers, they will throw the ball." To email reporter: [tbk5155@psu.edu](mailto:tbk5155@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at @King\_TylerB.



Penn State head coach James Franklin paces the sidelines during the game against Kent State at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016.

Tyler King



What to watch for: Penn State fans can plan on leaving the stadium at halftime this week. The Nittany Lions will have their best game of the season to date in the final tune-up before Big Ten play gets underway. We should see Sean Clifford again this week. Score: Penn State 55, Kent State 13

Patrick Burns



What to watch for: Even following a solid performance last week, some questions remain on PSU's defense. Keep an eye on the linebacker rotations, as they creep closer to a solution. On offense, PSU won't have any trouble facing yet another odd-front defense. Score: Penn State 52, Kent State 17

Matt Linger



What to watch for: After finding a groove in the running game at Pitt, I think Ricky Rahne will let Trace McSorley to air it out Saturday. I also expect the defense to build off of its stout showing against the Panthers. Score: Penn State 51, Kent State 9

Thomas Schlarp



What to watch for: Familiar score, but much more lopsided on the field than last week. We should finally get to see a lot of those freshmen everywhere. one has been waiting for with this year's redshirt rules. Score: Penn State 51, Kent State 6

Asst. Sports Editor: Jake Aferiat



What to watch for: The Penn State offensive unit has been on full display the past two games. If the Nittany Lions continue to diversify the play call and mix things up offensively, it could be another high scoring affair. Score: Penn State 49, Kent State 21



# DAILY COLLEGIAN

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## Alcohol education programs across the BIG

By Lauren Lee  
and Shannon Harney  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In 2009, Linda LaSalle, then a Health Promotion and Wellness employee, spoke about the shortcomings of Penn State's AlcoholEdu program on an episode of the podcast "This American Life." By 2018, she would find herself on the witness stand in the Centre County Courthouse, testifying about a different iteration of the program.

In the podcast, LaSalle said the mandatory online alcohol safety program had "no real success" because, though students saw "tremendous knowledge gains," there was no significant behavior change.

"It feels very defeating," LaSalle said in the podcast. "I feel like there's not very much we can do, that there are so many things that contribute to this problem that are out of our control."

AlcoholEdu was swapped out in 2011 for the Student Alcohol Feedback and Education program, an online program required for all first-year Penn State students who are under 21. SAFE aims to educate students about the effects of alcohol to help them make informed decisions.

This August, LaSalle testified about SAFE in the latest pretrial surrounding the hazing death of Beta Theta Pi pledge Timothy Piazza.

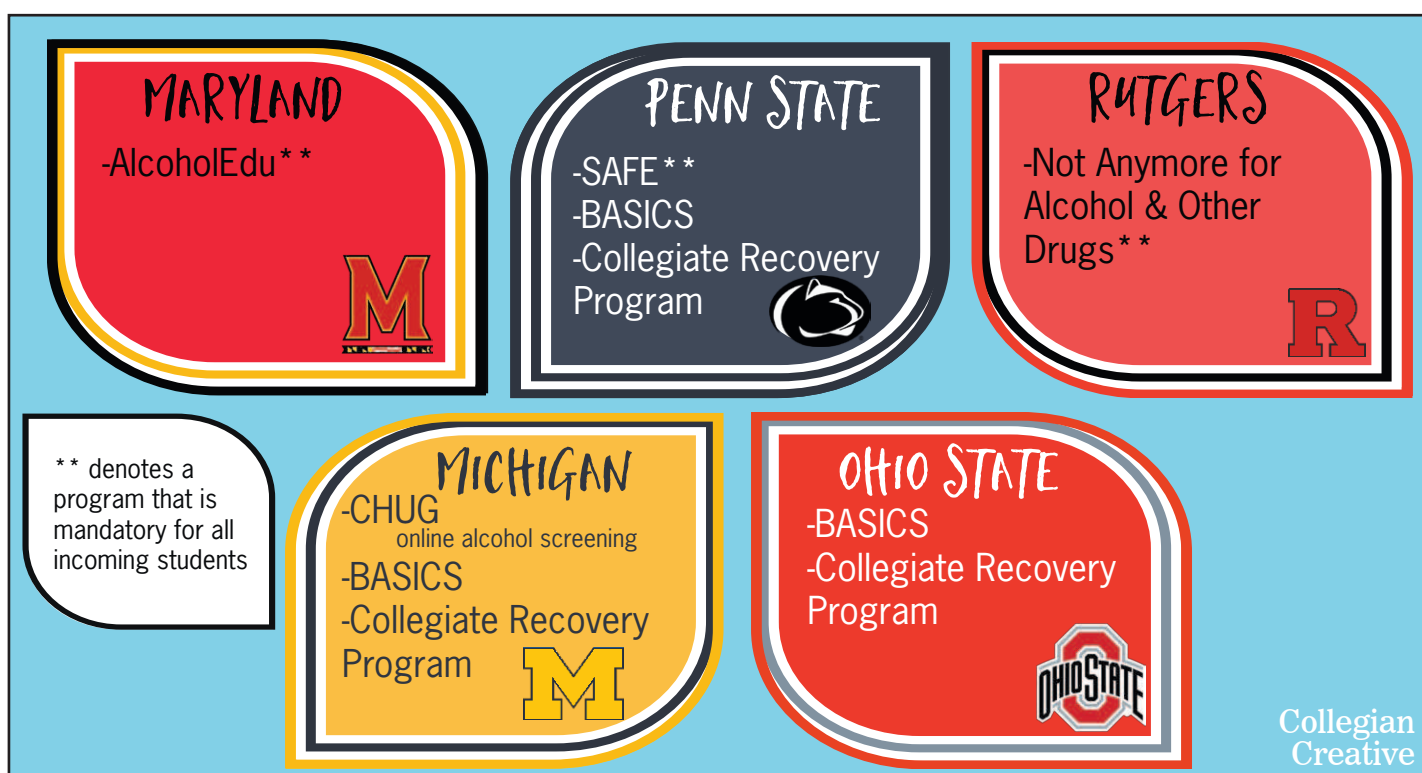
Prosecutors attempted to use LaSalle's testimony to suggest the defendants knew about the risks associated with drinking because of their participation in the program — and therefore should not have given Piazza an excessive amount of alcohol.

"I want to be able to do something," LaSalle said on the podcast. "No college student should ever die because they simply had too much to drink."

But that's what happened when Piazza, 19, died following an alcohol-fueled hazing ritual in February 2017 at the now-banned fraternity.

Despite the prosecution stressing this new piece of evidence, many Penn State students seem unconvinced of the program's ability to provide a lasting — and impactful — education on the risks associated with alcohol.

Penn State senior Zachary Zydonik estimated it took him 30 minutes to complete



when he took the SAFE program less than a month into his freshman year.

"I remember it tried to calculate my alcohol limit, which I thought was weird because my body is so different from everyone else's," Zydonik (senior-chemical engineering) said. "The only thing I remember learning from the program is that if you're drunk and with someone who needs help, you can help them without getting in trouble."

Laura Glatzer also took the SAFE program nearly four years ago as an incoming freshman.

Glatzer (senior-biology) said she thinks the program took her about 45 minutes, but she added it was hard to differentiate SAFE from all of the other safety programs she's had to take at Penn State for lab work.

She also said she remembers learning about Penn State's Responsible Action Protocol, which states students who seek medical assistance for themselves or friends will not be punished by the university for alcohol or drug use.

"I only wish the members of that frat

would have remembered that," Glatzer said. "That's the only fact in that program that's reiterated over and over again. If they had remembered that, they could've gotten help for that boy."

Katie Smith, a first-year student, spent about an hour and a half completing the SAFE program. Smith (freshman-elementary education) said she learned "how long it takes for a person to sober up" based on body mass index and the amount of drinks consumed.

Smith said making the assumption that the former Beta Theta Pi brothers retained knowledge learned in the program "is a stretch."

LaSalle said via email that a team at Penn State is currently in the process of redesigning SAFE and AWARE, a sexual assault safety module. She said the team has been working on the redesign since April and plans to launch the new version in January 2019.

Multiple interview requests for LaSalle seeking additional information about SAFE went unanswered. Penn State's Office of Strategic Communications also de-

ferred comment to LaSalle.

The initial overhaul of the AlcoholEdu program — and adoption of SAFE — stems from Penn State President Eric Barron calling for a Task Force on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in July 2014.

The Task Force recommended a required course for all first-year students that emphasizes positive relationships, student wellbeing and safety in an effort to prevent sexual misconduct and alcohol misuse.

According to the Task Force's final report, 714 University Park students were transported to the local emergency department for alcohol-related problems in 2014 alone. Their average blood alcohol level was .258, which is more than three times the legal driving limit.

And, nearly half of the students surveyed engaged in high-risk drinking at least once in the previous two weeks. One-sixth said they had done so three to five times in that period.

See **ALCOHOL**, Page B2.



Collegian file photo

Assistant coach George Abashidze talks with a group of foil fencers after their bouts with Yale during the duel in the White Building on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016.

## Assistant fencing coach placed on administrative leave

By David Eckert  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State fencing assistant coach George Abashidze was placed on administrative leave by the university, Penn State Intercollegiate Athletics spokesperson Jeff Nelson told The Daily Collegian.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport, a nonprofit organization seeking to end abuse within American athletics, lists sexual misconduct and sexual harassment violations under Abashidze's name within its database of disciplinary records.

A SafeSport representative declined to provide a comment on specifics in the matter, as well as whether those violations apply to a single incident or multiple. According to the same database, the violations are not final and are subject to appeal.

"We take matters of this

nature very seriously. We are aware of this situation and continue to gather information," Nelson said.

Abashidze would have been entering his 10th year as an assistant coach with the Nittany Lions. He was previously an assistant at Ohio State.

Abashidze, who brought a bevy of international competing and coaching experience, was also suspended by USA Fencing for three years on Aug. 1, a spokesperson from USA Fencing confirmed. That suspension is also subject to appeal.

At the time of publication, Abashidze still appeared in Penn State's directory and remained on Penn State Athletics' online fencing roster page.

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## 'Out' and about: LGBTQ THON org Prism returns for a second year

By Lindsey Toomer  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Prism Benefiting THON is a new organization on campus with the intention of creating a welcoming space within the THON community for LGBTQ students.

Prism was founded last fall by Veronica Gruning and other members of the LGBTQ club oSTEM — "out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."

The THON organization also went by the name "oSTEM" since all of its members were from the original STEM club, but changed its name to Prism this year.

Evan Sneed, treasurer for Prism, said the founding members decided being involved with THON was bigger than just STEM, but was something for all LGBTQ students, leading the clubs to completely separate this year.

"We are a very open and welcoming community, and we really just want people to come out and get to know each other, and direct all of that good energy toward a good cause — trying to raise money for THON," Steve Babyak, president of Prism, said.

Gruning (graduate-mechanical engineering) had been involved in different THON organizations throughout her undergraduate career at Penn State, but it wasn't until her senior year that she thought about fully bringing her queerness into it, leading her and her co-founders to create Prism.

"It can be so easy to get self-absorbed in college, and being able to look beyond the narrow perspective of just classes and your career...there are people way less fortunate than yourself for a variety of reasons," Gruning said.

Marissa Cannistraro has been a member of Prism since last year, and said the group is another great opportunity to bring the LGBTQ community together and find support in one another.

"Yes, it's another way to get involved on campus but more importantly, you're coming together for the charity aspect," Cannistraro (sophomore-forensic science) said. "We're all coming together to help end childhood cancer."

Cannistraro had a friend diagnosed with pediatric cancer when



Courtney Taylor/Collegian

A Prism display stands at the info booth for Prism Benefiting THON at the LGBTQA Student Resource Center's Welcome Reception on Sept. 5.

she was younger, and has since donated her hair every two years.

Babyak (junior-computer science) noted that many THON organizations are predominantly from Greek life, which is not always the way people want to get involved with THON. He said Prism is a smaller community for anyone to get involved without the commitment of a fraternity or sorority.

Kayla Monteiro, Prism's fundraising outreach chair, said her favorite part about joining this club is seeing the impact they have at THON, as well as meeting new people and creating relationships.

"I know a lot of people in the gay community feel like THON is just something for sororities and fraternities," Monterio (sophomore-English and classics and ancient Mediterranean studies) said, "and I think it's important that it's an inclusive event, because at the end of the day, it's about the kids."

Members of Prism were able to participate in THON last spring, and Monteiro and Cannistraro both said the experience was rewarding.

Prism meets from 7 to 8 p.m.

every other Monday in 302 Willard. Sneed (junior astronomy and astrophysics) said anyone is welcome to join Prism—whether or not they are a part of the LGBTQ community—and encourages everyone to get involved with THON however they see fit.

The organization has about a dozen returning members, with over 50 students showing interest in joining Prism at this year's LGBTQ Welcome Reception, Babyak said.

Regardless of the organization's size, both Sneed and Gruning feel it's important to have a welcoming space for LGBTQ people in the THON community. Sneed also said Prism is positive way to show people in marginalized groups can contribute to making a difference toward THON.

"...A lot of LGBTQ community service is geared toward helping other LGBTQ people," Gruning said. "But I think it's also really good to [expand to] something bigger than yourself, and pediatric cancer is so much bigger than any of us."

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‘RUFF’ DAY?



Eric Firestine/Collegian

Stella, a 10 month-old Golden Retriever puppy rolls around on Old Main Lawn on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Alcohol

FROM Page B1.

The Task Force recognized that online offerings are the easiest to reach all Penn State students. Still, it left open the opportunity for more “sophisticated offerings,” which would “increase the likelihood that students would give these programs the attention they require.”

The Daily Collegian reached out to four Big Ten Schools — Rutgers University, The Ohio State University, The University of Maryland and The University of Michigan — to evaluate how their alcohol education programs compare to Penn State’s.

At Rutgers, “Not Anymore for Alcohol & Other Drugs” is a mandatory program to teach incoming students the risks of drugs and alcohol abuse in real-life situations.

If students fail to complete it by deadline, they’re unable to register for classes.

Declan Intindola, a student at Rutgers, remembers taking the mandatory online test a year

ago when he was an incoming freshman.

“It just felt like an eighth grade health class all over again,” Intindola said. “I feel like with most college students coming in from high school, you know what the dangers of alcohol are.”

Just two weeks into freshman year, Intindola said his resident assistant caught him and his friends with alcohol in his dorm after a football game.

Intindola said he had to take an alcohol education program, in which he learned about the dangers of drinking and then wrote a 250-word essay.

“It was a classic, you did something wrong, this is what you did wrong, and we need you to know you did something wrong,” Intindola said.

Looking back, Intindola said he was more annoyed that he had to complete the online modules than learn from the test.

“Like, when you’re going out to this party, you’re not thinking about this module,” he said.

At Ohio State, no program was listed as mandatory for incoming students.

However, the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students program, or BASICS, is required for students fulfilling a court order as a result of an alcohol-related offense.

Penn State also has the BASICS program for first-time alcohol offenders on or off campus, as well as those who have gone to Mount Nittany Medical Center for alcohol-related emergencies, according to Penn State’s website.

BASICS is broken up into two 60-minute segments. Students meet with a facilitator in the first phase, in which they will answer interview questions and an online questionnaire. In the second session, students receive a feedback profile identifying possible ways they can reduce the risk of running into future alcohol problems.

Like Penn State, OSU has a Collegiate Recovery Community, designed to support students recovering from alcohol and other drug use disorders.

In addition to Penn State and OSU, The University of Michigan has BASICS and Collegiate Recovery programs on

campus. It also has a brief alcohol risk screening tool called “e-CHUG.”

At The University of Maryland, AlcoholEdu — the program previously used at Penn State — is required for all incoming freshmen.

Rob Buelow, the vice president of EVERFI, the company that created AlcoholEdu, said he works with nine out of the 14 universities in the Big Ten.

According to Buelow, most incoming students stated they were steadily non-drinkers and abstainers of alcohol based on the data collected from AlcoholEdu. The program is focused on incoming students as they are identified as a “high-risk” group coming from high school into college.

Kimberley Timpf, EVERFI’s senior director of prevention education, said one-time online programs, such as AlcoholEdu, are not the only solution to solve alcohol-related problems.

Timpf said changing the “social norms” of drinking on campus through campaigns can be a start. For example, signs on campus stating, “Here’s how you

drink responsibly,” reinforce the school’s conduct expectations, Timpf said.

Universities can also talk to students about they can be a part of the solution, Buelow said, and help with bystander intervention.

Providing more spaces where students can connect with their peers without the pressure to drink at alcohol-filled events is another solution, Timpf said. On UMD’s website, the two-part interactive online program lasts two to three hours. The module customizes students’ experience with the module through their sex, drinking pattern, level of awareness and choices.

Instead of online modules, Intindola said hands-on activities, such as skits with resident assistants, would be a more effective way to have students learn about making healthy choices.

“I think people would remember that more than clicking through a test,” Intindola said.

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Recycling rules aim for eco-friendly tailgating

By Alexandra Ramos  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For many, it’s almost impossible to imagine football without tailgating. But with tailgates come mounds of disposable items that aren’t properly thrown away — or don’t make it to a disposal bin at all.

Last year, the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority said there was more trash in the designated blue bags for recycling than actual recycling. So, Amy Schirf, an education coordinator for CCRRA, decided to write a column on how easy it can be to recycle while adjusting to recycling’s evolving protocols.

When fans set up their designated tailgate spot, they are advised to head over to an A-Frame that offers specific directions for recycling at tailgates. It contains two different colored bags — one blue and one white. The blue bag is to collect recyclable waste, and the white bag is to collect compostable waste.

Although CCRRA included paper in the recyclable items category last year, the organization since moved paper into the compostable category. Now, only plastic bottles, glass bottles and metal cans may be put into the blue bag.

With this new rule, CCRRA hopes that the sorting of the blue bags will run more smoothly than it typically did last fall.

Once the blue bags are tied up, tailgaters are advised to leave the bags at their designated tailgate spots for members of the tailgate grounds crew to pick up. Clear bags will be delivered to the landfill and the blue bags are sent to CCRRA to be sorted and recycled.

Since all blue bags are sorted by hand, Schirf hopes for a better sorting experience through this new waste protocol.

“It really is a team effort,” Schirf said. “We... have simplified our message this year: Blue bags are for bottles and cans, [and] clear bags are for everything else.”

Fan’s proper tailgate disposal efforts impact more than many possibly imagine off the bat, Schirf said.

According to Schirf, the recycled material generated at tailgates is kept from landfills, and precious natural resources are saved when recyclable materials are used to feed stock, which makes new products.

“Recycling correctly at tailgates and the games is a win-win for our community and our earth,” Schirf said.

To Susan Bedsworth, a market-

ing and communication specialist at Penn State’s Office of Physical Plant, there is success ahead for waste management matters this tailgating season.

“Our goal was to find ways of encouraging fans to recycle [and dispose of waste],” Bedsworth said. “We are optimistic [fans’] recycling efforts will improve now that there is greater awareness surrounding the efforts.”

Penn State students are helping out with these new rules, as well.

The Tailgate Ambassadors, student volunteers who help facilitate proper game day waste disposal, cover tailgating lots at every home game and make sure that the message of recycling your tailgate items is spread.

“By only collecting bottles and cans, the amount of recycling will actually increase which is amazing,” Jillian Barskey, Tailgate Ambassadors student leader, said. “Switching from all recyclables to only bottles and cans will, in turn, reduce contamination and will increase the amount recycled.”

For more information on recycling and disposal protocol for Beaver Stadium tailgating, visit Centre County Recycles.

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Max Petrosky/Collegian

Vernon Martin, Class of 2015, makes a toast to his friends while tailgating outside of Beaver Stadium before the Blue-White Game on Saturday, April 16, 2016.



Edward Fan/Collegian

Jil Suchodolski, of Blue Bell, 13, plays root beer pong during the tailgate at the Beaver Stadium Parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017.



Max Petrosky/Collegian

Fans grill outside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana before the 2016 Big Ten Championship game.



# JUULs are causing problems

Smoking is bad for you. Our generation seems to understand that. Starting this semester, Penn State even established itself as a “smoke-free” campus.

In 2005, 20.9 percent of adults in the United States smoked cigarettes, but that number fell to 15.5 percent in 2016, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Perhaps some of the decline has to do with the introduction of electronic cigarettes, which are tobacco-free smoking devices containing nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled by the user.

The invention was basically created so people trying to quit can still feel like they are smoking, but without the harmful consequences of tobacco. It also is less of a health risk and nuisance to people around smokers.

However, that doesn’t mean there are no harmful effects of ingesting hot air saturated with nicotine — an addictive chemical.

The main attraction is the JUUL.

It is a small, electronic,

## OUR VIEW

### Young people must be aware of how JUUL usage can lead to nicotine addiction.

flash-drive looking vape that is operated by JUULpods. The pods contain flavored, nicotine e-liquid that is then vaporized once the user begins inhaling.

When these devices first started gaining traction, most people thought it was just going to be a fad. But now, the trend seems to be getting even more popular.

On Sept. 11, the Food and Drug Administration has called the use of JUULs and other e-cigarettes a rising issue among teens, giving JUUL Labs and other manufacturers 60 days to prove they are able to keep the devices out of the hands of minors.

Under current law, the age of purchase for the devices is 18, but that hasn’t stopped its circulation among teens and preteens.

The intent behind JUULs is

logical — smokers quit so they can lead a healthier life.

The problem has become young people — who have never smoked and maybe never would have — are becoming addicted to their JUUL and nicotine. This is something the company actually addressed on their website: “These alternatives contain nicotine, which has not been shown to cause cancer but can create dependency. We believe that these alternatives are not appropriate for people who do not already smoke.”

However, that has not stopped the epidemic from spreading to State College, as JUULs are everywhere around campus.

We’ve seen them used in lecture halls, in Beaver Stadium and on College Avenue. They’re so small and sleek, they can be used fairly inconspicuously.

JUUL has also created

another unintended consequence: Litter.

We don’t see cigarette butts around campus, and they’re spotted rarely downtown, now used JUULpods have become the new form of litter. And, they’re plastic so obviously letting them rot on the ground isn’t great for the environment.

We’ve evolved as a society enough to understand how harmful smoking it. But now we’re becoming addicted to another less harmful, but still not-good-for-you, smoking device.

This one is electronic and futuristic though. So it’s cool.

It’s almost like reading an actual book versus reading on a Kindle — almost the same product, but it comes in a sleeker package.

There’s no evidence linking JUUL usage to harmful

diseases like lung cancer, but one day we’ll likely find out it can cause some type of health problem. Granted, we didn’t have the technology until recent history to fully understand the health consequences, but you never know what will be discovered.

It’s naïve to think people wouldn’t get addicted to this device the same way people became addicted to cigarettes. Nicotine is an addictive chemical.

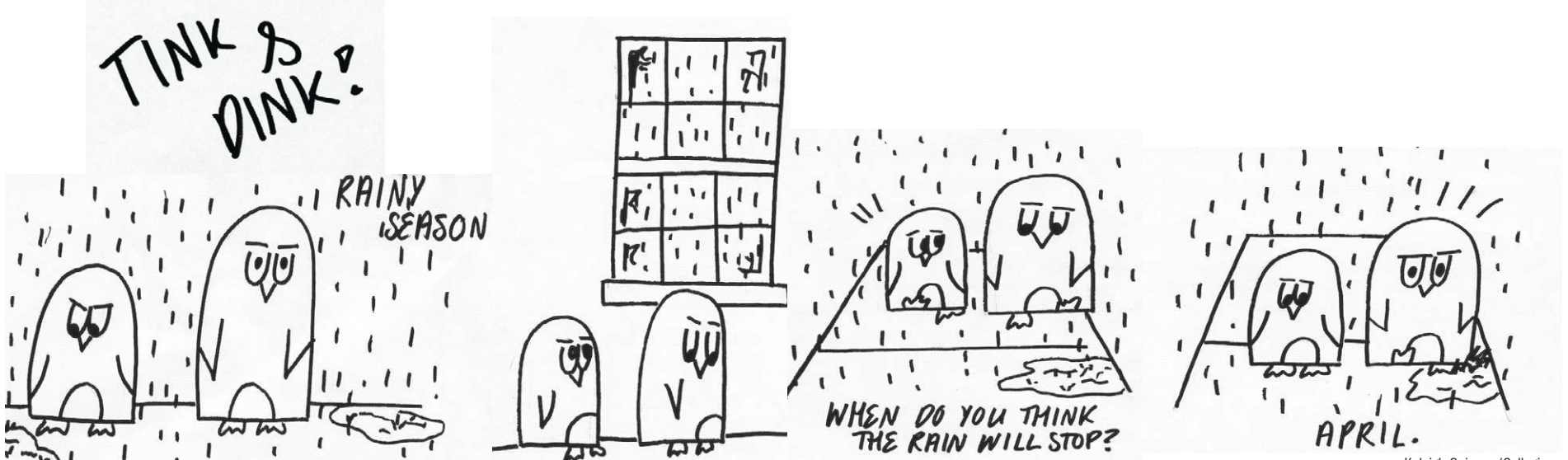
There’s not much more that can be done to regulate the manufacturing of these devices, but information surrounding it’s addictive nature should be more readily available.

The biggest issue is the public’s lack of knowledge.

For the most part, people only know that JUULs are less harmful than cigarettes — but its marketing targets current smokers, not those who have never used nicotine before.

There needs to be a concerted effort to make young people aware of the addiction they may face when they start using JUULs.

We hope this apparent fad wears out soon.



Kaleigh Quinnan/Collegian

MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

## Let’s talk about the issues of our two track presidency

Parallel to our divided nation, it’s now more blatant than ever that we have a divided presidency.

An op-ed titled “I am part of the resistance inside the Trump administration” was published by the New York Times last week. It was written by an anonymous author cited only as a senior White House official. It detailed chaos in the Oval Office the author said has resulted in a “two-track presidency.”

The president’s rash impulsivity — as exemplified in an all-caps tweet he put out in response to the opinion, “TREASON?” — and amorality are identified as the core of the ongoing downfall.

His flaws are apparent in routine scandals and controversies. He vouched for Putin on the topic of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, he has treated allied countries as foes and adversaries as friends, he has promoted sexual assault, he paid sex partners into silence, he failed to disavow white supremacists and he labeled the media as the people’s enemy. And that’s just a brief summary.

Washington Post fact checkers have counted his thousands of lies and false claims over the past two years, averaging them out to 7.6 falsities per day when it was tallied last August.

We as a nation have lowered our standards of the office of the presidency tremendously. Several of the previously listed concerns have been likened to former President Nixon’s involvement in Watergate. Rather than accounting for his faults, however, Trump has somehow passed each off as unremarkable smudges on what he so humbly believes is a superlative record.

The media steadfastly performs its watchdog function despite the president’s relentless barrage on it. The media is nonsensically called fake news and — save for the conservative Fox station — outlets are given derogatory nicknames from “failing” to “failing pile of garbage.”

This ridicule of the press by the commander-in-chief results in nothing but harm. Trump knows how to push people’s buttons and get under their skin. He will continue to poke and nag, and nag and poke until he forces a response.

Trump’s prodding has even disrupted his own

administration. Frustrated with Trump’s behavior, officials are revolting against the president and erecting a coup from the inside. The anonymous author and their counterparts are “working diligently from within to frustrate parts of [Trump’s] agenda and his worst inclinations,” they wrote.

Even as officials rebel, however, I am struck by the rationale that they are continuing to allow Trump to have his way. Usurping the administration from within is only a half-measure.

The anonymous author admitted there was talk among senior officials about calling upon the 25th amendment, “but no one wanted to precipitate a constitutional crisis,” they wrote. “So we will do what we can to steer the administration in the right direction until — one way or another — it’s over.”

Honestly, what is a little constitutional unrest in comparison to the umpteen controversies the past couple years have thrown at our nation? While the op-ed makes it clear not everyone is standing idly by, the administration still lacks the conviction to curb Trump.

Granted, the amendment would require an arduous process. It needs the vice presi-

dent and a cabinet majority to declare the president “unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.” If it were to fail, it could be political and career suicide, only emboldening Trump further. But at least enacting it would show the administration is willing to put up a visible fight.

We have allowed Trump to drag us down to the gutters with him. Instead of fighting our way out, we are only trying to prevent him pulling us in deeper.

Instead of forcing a game over, we are stalling it out. This is where the op-ed loses me. I appreciate the “quiet resistance” the author describes, but what I don’t understand is why they do not raise their whisper to a shout.

The author and their cohorts are too busy fighting the fire to run out of the building. Alerting the media was their way of pulling the fire alarm.

A silent coup is thwarting our presidency from the inside. Now, the administration behind it is enlisting the help of the media and of the American people.

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## FRESHMEN PHENOMS

*Penn State's freshmen middle blockers are establishing themselves as big-time contributors*

By Jake Aferiat  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Kaitlyn Hord was a key member of Penn State volleyball's top-ranked recruiting class for 2018. The Lexington, Kentucky native has quickly proven why, leading Penn State in hitting percentage at .475 and blocks with 26 — earning her keep and putting both people and the Big Ten on notice in the process.

Hord took home Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors, an award teammate Nia Reed said that Hord was unaware of, following her play against Stanford and Oregon during a weekend in which Hord had 23 kills and 12 blocks.

But for all the early success Hord's had, Reed still insists that she's a secret weapon of sorts for the Nittany Lions.

"Here she comes in as a freshman, puts people in body bags and does what she does," Reed said. "She's a string bean and she goes on the court and no one even knows how good this girl is because she's so skinny and doesn't have a lot of muscle yet."

While Hord might not have a lot of muscle yet, she's been a bona fide producer for the Nittany Lions and one of the most integral members of one of coach Russ Rose's most unique squads in recent history.

This year's Penn State team contains of the program's first ever grad transfer in Taylor Leath, returns only one All-American in Kendall White and has seen freshmen start in four of seven matches played this season.

For many of the freshmen,



Ken Kalbach/Collegian

**Middle blocker Serena Gray (16)** hits the ball over the net for a kill during the game against UMBC at Rec Hall on Saturday, Aug. 25. The Nittany Lions swept the Retrievers 3 sets to 0.

earning playing time has been a dependence on them coupled with their performance.

"We're certainly more dependent on this freshmen group right now because there've been times where both freshmen middles were out there or we had Allyson [Cathey], Jonni [Parker], Gabby [Blossom] or Jenna [Hampton] all out there," Rose said. "At some points in time, we've had five or six freshmen rotating in and out with Kendall [White] as the only veteran."

As a part of the platoon of freshmen who Rose has come to rely on, Hord has endeared herself to the 40-year head coach with her work ethic and demeanor.

Rose did admit, however that Hord, like all of the freshmen, still has to adjust to the college game and continue to improve.

"She's young and she does the

things she's comfortable doing," Rose said. "She's played well but I'm also realistic to the fact that she's young and there's a real big learning curve. But she works hard and has a real positive disposition, so those are all positive things."

Hord is the most recent in a long list of prolific middle blockers to wear the blue and white and she looks to fill the gap left by three-time All-American and 2017 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year, Haleigh Washington.

Though Washington isn't around to impart wisdom on her or fellow newcomer middle blocker Serena Gray, the upperclassmen have taught Hord and all of the freshmen valuable lessons.

"We haven't really played together a lot, but we're not playing as individuals which is a good

thing," Hord said. "Even if we make mistakes, we shake it off and we're making sure that every person is positive with themselves."

Washington, along with Simone Lee, Heidi Thelen and Abby Detering were some of the recent keys for Penn State for nearly the entirety of their tenures playing for Rose and they exuded a similar positivity, while also laying the framework for success and a path for these freshmen to follow.

That fact weighs heavy in the mind of Serena Gray who feels it's imperative to not let Lee, Washington or any other alumni of the program down.

"There are so many girls who came before us who built this program up. We have the responsibility to uphold that," Gray said. "Every year, Penn State is held

to a higher standard than most schools. We're tied for the most national championships and with that comes the responsibility to not tear down what others have built up."

Gray is already leaving her mark and doing her part to make sure that the pedigree and clout of the program are upheld.

She's one of only two freshmen to have started every match for Penn State, she's second on the team with a .356 hitting percentage and second in blocks with 25 and it appears as though she's already trying to take a page out of the Kaitlyn Hord playbook.

"She can read the game and tell where the setter's going before the ball is released, which is something I wish I was better at," Gray said. "She's working hard in transition every time to get up and that's something I want to work on."

The Temple City, California native is also keenly aware of the hard work that entails playing for Penn State, with Taylor Leath and fellow upperclassmen reminding Gray and all of the freshmen not to waste time and make practice count.

Rose has taken notice of Gray's concerted efforts to improve and said that while she still has room to grow, she was also benefited by playing such stiff competition in Oregon and Stanford.

"Serena like all of the freshmen is a work in progress, but she's picked up some things that were valuable over the weekend because they got a chance to see a number of All-American players that were playing on the other teams from Minnesota and Stanford."

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MY VIEW | ANDREW RUBIN

## This weekend will give PSU fans best look at Buckeyes

Ohio State versus TCU is one of the headliners of this college football Saturday. It's a



nonconference September showdown between top-25 teams, games Ohio State have been a part of on a regular basis in recent years.

The Buckeyes' Saturday night matchup against TCU will be its toughest of the first three weeks, the three games that'll be played with Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer suspended.

It'll be played in the stadium that saw the Buckeyes' biggest triumph since Meyer took over as head coach in 2012, AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, where Ohio State topped Oregon for a national championship.

This Saturday's game in Arlington will represent the biggest on-the-field test for Ohio State before they travel to Happy Valley in another few weeks.

In their first two games, the Buckeyes have rolled.

A 77-31 pounding of Oregon State and then a 52-3 beat-down of Rutgers that put to rest some of the defensive concerns that stood out in Week 1.

But now the Buckeyes have a top-25 opponent.

They are nearly two touch-down favorites heading in. They are expected to cruise.

In the first two games they didn't seem to miss Meyer at all from the outside.

But will that be the case if they face second-half adversity in Texas?

It's anyone's guess. It's also worth noting that when the Buckeyes take the field in Arlington they'll be just 14 days from kickoff in State College.

This will be Penn State fans' best look at the Buckeyes before the game they've been waiting for since Buckeye Nation poured onto the field at Ohio Stadium at the end of an instant-classic last fall.

How will first-year starting quarterback Dwayne Haskins look away from home in what

should be a somewhat evenly split crowd?

Coming in for an injured J.T. Barrett midway through the game against Michigan last year, Haskins looked good, but it's his team now, which no doubt carries a different mentality.

Will the Ohio State secondary finally lock vulnerable after losing more players to the NFL and its highly regarded cornerbacks coach Kerry Coombs?

Texas Christian has a speedy group of receivers that is undoubtedly going to test them down field.

How will the Buckeyes' front seven look against athletic dual-threat quarterback Shawn Robinson?

It'll be the best indicator of how they are going to defend against Penn State quarterback Trace McSorley before they actually have to do it.

Those are all valid questions headed into this primetime matchup that no one has the answer to.

What the answers look like come midnight Saturday will almost definitely do more than anything else between now and then to shape how both Penn State and Ohio State fans feel headed into the Sept. 29 matchup that could ultimately decide the Big Ten East.

It's the best tape coach James Franklin and his staff will get of these Buckeyes before they have to prepare for them. It's the only team out of Oregon State, Rutgers and Tulane that has any hope of matching up for long stretches of the game.

With the potential banana peel of a game that was Pitt cleared in emphatic fashion last weekend, it'd now be a massive shock to see the Nittany Lions be anything other than 3-0 as they prepare to take on Meyer's Buckeyes.

So, while the football team itself keeps its focus on the weekly task at hand to prevent lapses and potential slip ups, chatter across the region is no doubt going to start turning toward the Scarlet and Gray before that.

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John Stinley/Collegian

**Defenseman Kevin Kerr (5)** goes to take the puck from Denver's Kohen Olischefski (12) during Penn State men's hockey NCAA tournament game vs. Denver at the PPL Center on Saturday, March 24.

## Penn State position preview: defensemen

By Benjamin Ferree  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State possessed one of the nation's most potent offenses college hockey a season ago.

That made life slightly easier for a Nittany Lion squad that also possessed a porous defensive unit.

The Penn State blue line had a very up-and-down year, especially at the start of the season.

Last season, Penn State allowed 3.16 goals per game, which ranked 42nd out of the 60 Division I hockey programs. The Nittany Lions also struggled on the penalty kill, ranking 28th in the country.

Penn State also lost its two top defenders in Trevor Hamilton and Erik Autio.

But the Nittany Lions return some talented players and two new additions that could fuel this unit to be much improved from last season.

Alternate captain Kevin Kerr and now sophomore Cole Hults will headline the Penn State blue line this season.

Kerr is a talented defenseman but has struggled to stay healthy since his freshman year, only skating in 45 games over the past two seasons.

The senior should bring leadership and valuable experience to a relatively inexperienced position group.

Hults, a Los Angeles Kings draft pick, is back for his sophomore season and is carrying with him some very high expectations.

The Wisconsin native skated in all 38 games last and accumulated a total of 20 points while the Nittany Lions were plus-6 while Hults was on the ice.

Hults was also the first Nittany Lion to ever be named to the preliminary roster for the 2018 U.S. National Junior Team.

The offensive-minded defender fits the style coach Guy Gadowsky loves to play. As such, Hults is compared to former Penn State defender and now member of the New York Rangers AHL affiliate Hartford Wolf Pack, Vince Pedrie. Pedrie posted 22 points his freshman season before becoming the star of the team during the 2016-17 season.

James Gobetz also returns this year for his third season at Penn State. Gobetz skated in 35 games last season, but will be looking to gain a bigger role this season after the departures of Autio and Hamilton.

Fellow junior Kris Myllari is also back for the Nittany Lions this season. Myllari, who is now one of the oldest and most experienced players on the blue line, skated in all 38 games this past season and accumulated 14 points.

Penn State will have one freshman defender this season in

Paul DeNaples.

The Pennsylvania native played for the Sioux Falls Stampede in the USHL for the past two seasons. DeNaples was a captain for the Stampede last season.

The other addition, who could be the x-factor for this Penn State defense, is Evan Bell.

There are a lot of questions about Penn State's defensive group, but Bell could answer those questions for the Nittany Lions.

Bell, who played five games at Merrimack last season, will join the team in January because of the NCAA transfer rule. After playing with Merrimack, Bell rejoined the Fargo Force of the USHL where he spent a total of three seasons.

Last season the 21-year-old sophomore accumulated 23 points on eight goals and 15 points and helped lead the Force to the USHL championship last season.

The Force were also plus 15 while Bell was on the ice.

While Bell is inactive for the first few months, Derian Hamilton, Alex Stevens and Adam Pilewicz will look to fight for playing time. These guys spent most of last season on the bench, so they could see expanded roles early in the season.

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# ‘Asking for humanity’: Reflecting on strikes

## Penn State students discuss prison conditions, racial inequalities across the U.S.

By David Tilli  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

During the three-week period of Aug. 2-Sept. 9, prisoners in 17 states went on strike, refusing to eat or work in protest against America’s current penal system. While Centre County’s own correctional facility didn’t participate in the nationwide strike, the issues highlighted by the movement have implications for the entire country. Spearheaded by the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee — a subgroup of the wider Industrial Workers of the World — the strike called for an end to “prison slavery” and other forms of malpractice within the justice system. To understand the reasoning behind such demands, a little background into the United States’ history with the criminal justice system is needed.

The 13th Amendment, which abolished chattel slavery, included a loophole that allowed either “slavery or involuntary servitude” to be used as punishment for those convicted of crimes. This provision, prison reformers argue, creates a labor environment as exploitative as few others.

The Marshall Project, a journalism nonprofit focusing on the U.S. criminal justice system, estimated that the average pay for prison laborers is 20 cents an hour. Since at least half of America’s prison population of 2.2 million inmates currently works, this arrangement creates a cheap and massive alternative to the traditional labor force.

Various companies have outsourced their labor contracts to prisons including Target, Starbucks, Victoria’s Secret and McDonald’s.

This latest wave of strikes reflects the Prisoners’ Rights Movement’s troubled history. The Committee chose Sept. 9 as the

end date of the protest in honor of the infamous Attica Prison Riot of 1971 — an uprising that resulted in the death of 43 individuals including 33 inmates and 10 prison employees.

Another more recent source of inspiration for the prisoners came from the deadly riots in South Carolina’s Lee Correctional Facility in April, where seven inmates were killed.

Among the other demands of the strike includes an improvement in prison conditions, a decrease in mass incarceration and an end to racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

According to the Sentencing Project, America’s prison system has seen a 500 percent inmate increase in the last 40 years, with little evidence suggesting a correlation between the swelling prison population and decreases in crime rates.

Additionally, the NAACP found that, despite African Americans and whites using drugs at similar rates, the imprisonment rates for blacks is six times those of whites.

Sean Semanko, secretary of both Turning Point and the Bull Moose Party, “highly doubted” that such racial disparities are caused by racism.

While Semanko (junior-advertising) supports some of the movement’s demands, he still remains skeptical about its critiques and overall goals, characterizing them as “overblown.”

In instances of minor offenses, Semanko is in favor of shorter sentences and granting commutation to those already imprisoned. He cited Alice Johnson as a prime example of a candidate for such clemency.

Johnson, sentenced to life imprisonment for drug trafficking in 1996, was released from prison earlier this summer after President Donald Trump discussed the issue with celebrity Kim Kardashian in a formal meeting.

Trump’s decision came as



Associated Press

A nationwide prison strike has raised questions about the 13th Amendment, fair treatment in correctional facilities and the justice system.

a surprise to many, since he has previously endorsed the execution of drug dealers.

Supportive of minor prison reform, such as improving prison conditions and granting the right to vote back to individuals like Johnson, Semanko said that prisoners are “a burden to society” who must repay their debt.

“They’re bad people, who’ve done bad things,” he said. “They really don’t deserve any luxury.”

Opposed to paying prisoners for their work, he lamented the supposed decrease in prison labor and argued that many prisoners are actually “living pretty darn good.” According to Semanko, these “luxuries” include access to movies and books.

Semanko also supported the involuntary servitude clause of the 13th Amendment, and said that prisoners are “under the warden’s control” and thus subject to their commands.

These stances could not be more opposite from Evan Zavada’s beliefs.

As the president of Penn State’s United Socialists, Zavada (senior-community, environment and development) said that the prison-industrial complex imprisons people for profit and then criminally underpays them.

In favor of amending the 13th Amendment, Zavada argued that

the current system is designed to target and disenfranchise vulnerable populations. He also supports efforts to overhaul such an institution.

“[Prisoners] are standing up against modern-day slavery,” he said.

Zavada also drew a link between the prison strike and the socialist project overall.

“We have an economic system that makes money off ‘school-to-prison pipelines’ and incarcerating people,” Zavada said. “This is a result of capitalism.”

Katierose Epstein, president of Penn State’s College Democrats, said she supports any worker’s right to strike, including those imprisoned.

“Their demands are basically asking for humanity,” Epstein (senior-political science and women’s studies) said.

Rather than amending the 13th Amendment, since the process is too extensive in the short-term, Epstein instead wants to encourage prison owners to stop overloading their prisons.

Since so many prison workers are tasked with dangerous jobs — such as putting out wildfires in California — Epstein argued they deserve higher wages and greater protection. She also hopes the national conversation sparked by the prison strikes will lead to



Kiichiro Sato/Associated Press

Prisoners were on strike nationwide between Aug. 2 and Sept. 9.

meaningful change. “It is important for the justice system to [reevaluate] how we punish drug crimes,” she said, pointing out that it’s primarily communities of color most hurt by such policies.

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