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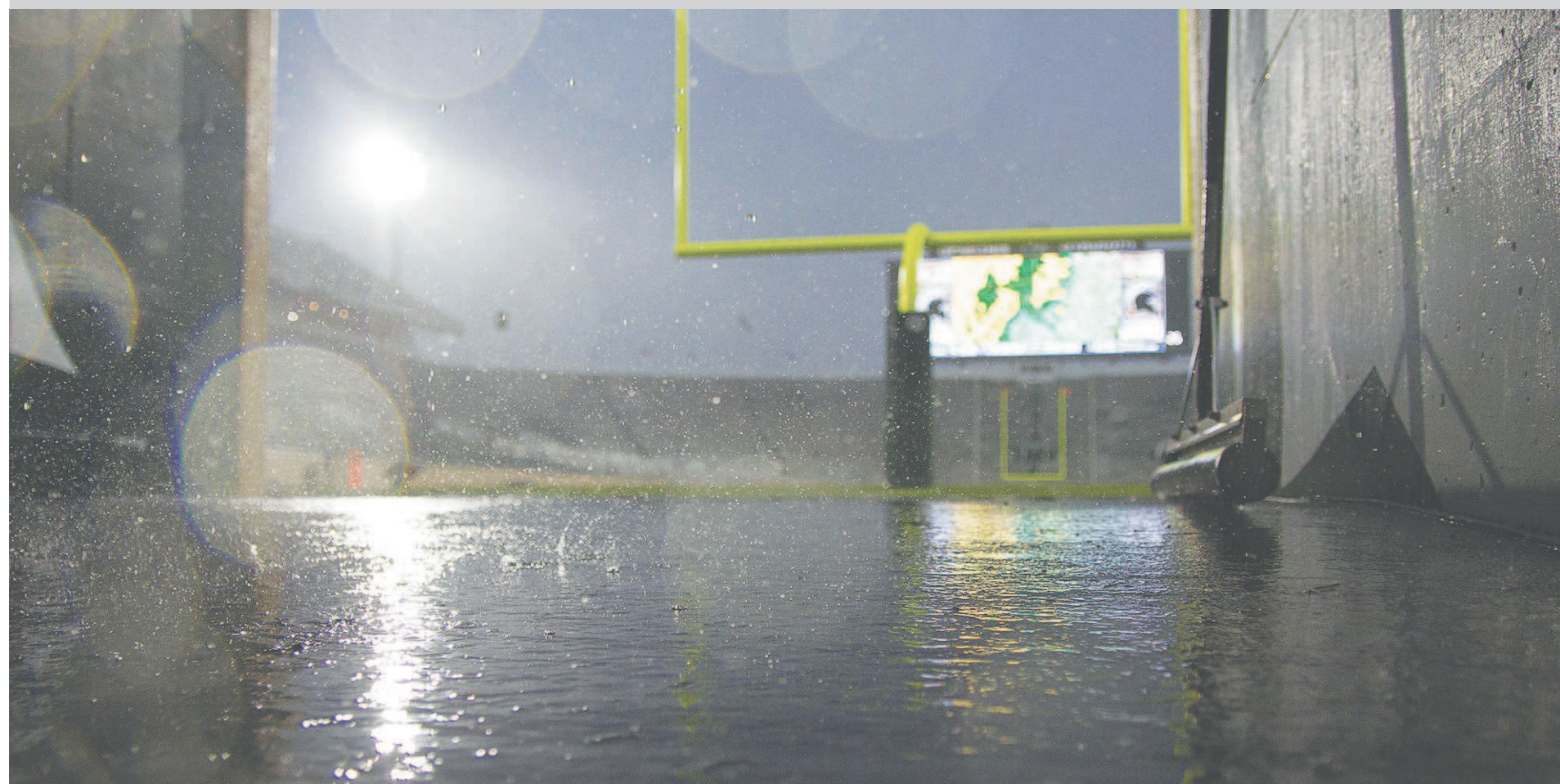
VERSUS



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NO RAIN ON THIS PARADE

By Patrick Burns
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Over a three hour and 23 minute period last November, Penn State didn't really know what to do.

With 7:57 left in the first half against Michigan State, the Nittany Lions put down their helmets, took off their pads and started chowing down on Chick-Fil-A and pizza.

During a weather delay that lasted almost as long as the game itself, some players played hangman, some watched Netflix and others either napped or listened to music inside of Spartan Stadium.

"It felt like forever we were in that locker room," Yetur Gross-Matos said Tuesday. "It was just terrible."

Junior linebacker Cam Brown felt similarly, telling reporters: "It was kind of like we had too much time."

The players weren't the only ones who didn't know what to do, as James Franklin admitted he wasn't prepared for a delay like that.

"I didn't have anything in my head coaching manual about how to handle a three hour and 23 minute delay," James Franklin said after a last second field goal by the Spartans thwarted any last hopes of a College Football Playoff run. "But I guarantee you I will have one moving forward."

The blue and white's next step on the highly publicized mission from "great" to "elite" is avoiding a loss to Michigan State for the second-straight year.

Just like a season ago, Penn State is primed for a showdown against the Spartans coming off of a crushing one-point loss against Ohio State.

Pristine weather isn't in the forecast for Saturday, with light rain projected in the morning and cooler temperatures throughout the day, but just about anything is more favorable than what the teams endured in 2017. The Nittany Lions are hopeful the outcome will be different, too, instead of another crushing 27-24 loss like last year.

"I feel like the team knows we have to move on [from Ohio State] and not let it be the end of our season," Brown said. "So we're going to come in and beat Michigan State this week."

Another loss to the Spartans, and the Nittany Lions' climb from "great" to "elite" will be delayed another year, as a defeat would eliminate them from playoff contention.

Luckily for the blue and white, this Spartans squad hasn't looked a whole lot like the group that was picked to finish in the top-10 by many experts.

The rushing game for one, is an absolute disaster, partly due to a series of injuries to an already suspect offensive line.

The green and white have split carries pretty evenly between Connor Heyward, La'Darius Jefferson and veteran LJ Scott, mainly because none of the three have stood out.

They've combined to average just 3.6 yards per carry and haven't broken off a run longer than 17 yards.

Spartans' Quarterback Brian Lewerke, however, is more than capable of causing trouble.

"[Lewerke] is extremely talented," Nick Scott said. "He can make all of the throws."

Michigan State is just as hot and cold defensively.

The Spawws for granted.

"One game at a time," Juwan Johnson said. "We're just sort of trying to just focus on now. Focus on what we can do this game to do better and work from there."

Weather permitting.

To email reporter: pab5404@psu.edu.
Follow him on Twitter at @PatrickBurns_.

Photo by Caitlin Lee.

PENN STATE

Nittany Lions (4-1) (1-1 Big Ten)



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.

Michigan State

Spartans (3-2) (1-1 Big Ten)



No.	Name	Position/Elig.
2	Justin Layne	CB/Jr.
3	Xavier Henderson	S/Fr.
3	LJ Scott	RB/Sr.
4	Matt Coghlin	K/So.
4	C.J. Hayes	WR/R-Fr.
5	Andrew Dowell	LB/Sr.
6	Theo Day	QB/Fr.
6	David Dowell	S/Jr.
7	Michael Dowell	S/Fr.
7	Cody White	WR/So.
8	Chris Jackson	CB/Fr.
8	Jalen Nailor	WR/Fr.
9	Dominique Long	S/So.
10	Matt Morrissey	S/Sr.
11	Connor Heyward	RB/So.
11	Davion Williams	CB/Fr.
12	Nick Krumm	WR/Jr.
12	Rocky Lombardi	QB/Fr.
13	Mickey Macius	QB/Sr.
13	Laress Nelson	WR/So.
14	Brian Lewerke	QB/Jr.
15	La'Darius Jefferson	RB/Fr.
16	Brandon Sowards	WR/Sr.
17	Tyriq Thompson	LB/Jr.
18	Felton Davis III	WR/Sr.
18	Kalon Gerwvin	CB/Fr.
19	Josh Butler	CB/Jr.
20	Emmanuel Flowers	WR/Fr.
20	Davis Lewandowski	WR/Jr.
21	Cam Chambers	WR/So.
21	Chase Kline	LB/Fr.
22	Josiah Scott	CB/So.
23	Eli McLean	ATH/Fr.
24	Elijah Collins	RB/Fr.
24	Tre Person	S/So.
25	Jake Hartharger	P/Sr.
25	Darrell Stewart Jr.	WR/Jr.
26	Brandon Bouyer-Randle	LB/So.
27	Weston Bridges	RB/Fr.
27	Khari Willis	S/Sr.

No.	Name	Position/Elig.
28	Jon Reschke	LB/Sr.
29	Shakur Brown	CB/Fr.
30	Tanner Hallock	LB/Fr.
31	Edward Warinner	LB/Fr.
32	Corey Pryor	S/So.
33	Jeslord Boateng	LB/Fr.
34	Antjuan Simmons	LB/So.
35	Joe Bachie	LB/Jr.
36	Jiah Norman	CB/Fr.
36	Noah Sargent	RB/So.
37	Dante Razzano	LB/So.
38	Byron Bullough	LB/Sr.
39	Alante Thomas	RB/So.
40	Collin Lucas	FB/Sr.
41	Reid Burton	FB/So.
41	Gerald Owens	DT/Sr.
42	Brent Mossburg	DE/Fr.
43	Jack Mandryk	S/Fr.
44	Grayson Miller	LB/Sr.
45	Noah Harvey	LB/Fr.
45	Ben Line	FB/Sr.
47	Ryan Armour	SN/Jr.
48	Kenny Willekes	DE/Jr.
49	David Kruse	S/Fr.
49	Max Rosenthal	FB/Fr.
50`	Nick Chudler	LS/Fr.
52`	Dillon Alexander	DE/Sr.
53	Peter Fisk	LB/So.
54	Mitchell Sokol	LB/Fr.
55	Jordan Reid	OT/So.
55	Zach Slade	DE/Fr.
56	Matt Carrick	OG/Fr.
57	Collin Caffisch	SN/Jr.
58	Terry O'Connor	LB/Fr.
59	David Beedle	OG/Sr.
61	Cole Chewins	OT/Jr.
62	Luke Campbell	OT/So.
63	Noah Listermann	OL/Jr.
64	Matt Allen	OL/So.
64	Jacob Slade	DT/Fr.

No.	Name	Position/Elig.
66	Blake Bueter	OL/Fr.
67	Bryce Wilker	OL/Jr.
68	Dan Vanopstall	OT/Fr.
69	Tommy Liesveld	OL/So.
70	Tyler Higby	OL/Jr.
71	James Ohonba	OL/Fr.
72	Mike Panasiuk	DT/Jr.
73	Jacob Isaia	OL/Fr.
74	Jack Henrichs	OL/Fr.
75	Kevin Jarvis	OG/So.
76	AJ Arcuri	OT/So.
77	Dimitri Douglas	OL/Fr.
79	Mustafa Khaleefah	OT/Fr.
80	Jalen Allen	WR/Fr.
80	Matt Seybert	TE/Sr.
81	Matt Sokol	TE/Jr.
82	Javez Alexander	WR/Fr.
83	Mufi Hill-Hunt	DT/So.
83	Andre Welch	WR/So.
84	Noah Davis	TE/So.
85	Khylin Barton	WR/So.
86	Drew Beesley	DL/So.
86	Jonathan Brys	TE/So.
87	Jahz Watts	WR/Fr.
88	Trenton Gillison	TE/Fr.
89	Matt Dotson	TE/So.
91	Jack Camper	DE/Fr.
92	William Przystup	P/Fr.
92	Deari Todd	DE/Fr.
93	Naquan Jones	DT/So.
94	Chase Gianacakos	TE/Sr.
94	Dashaun Mallory	DT/Fr.
96	Jacub Panasiuk	DE/So.
97	Justice Alexander	DE/Jr.
97	Tyler Hunt	K/P/Fr.
98	Parks Gissinger	DE/Fr.
98	Cole Hahn	K/Fr.
99	Bryce Baringer	P/Fr.
99	Raequan Williams	DT/Jr.



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UNDRAFTED

How former Penn State cornerback Trevor Williams worked his way to becoming an NFL starter in less than two years

By Tyler King
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When Trevor Williams was in high school, he decommitted from West Virginia because he had a feeling he would be moved to defense when he got there.

Williams, then a star wide receiver at Calvert Hall High School in Baltimore, was dead set on playing on the offensive side of the ball going forward.

He ultimately ended up committing to Penn State and saw time as a receiver as a true freshman, getting his first career start against Ohio State in 2012.

After the season, then-head coach Bill O'Brien had a conversation with Williams about potentially switching to the defensive side.

This wasn't uncommon during this period of Penn State football where scholarships were thin and the main goal was to find talented players and put them on the field at whatever position necessary.

For Williams, when O'Brien asked about the potential switch, he saw a sign and a chance to help his team in any way possible.

"Maybe this is a sign from God that my days on the offensive side are over," Williams thought to himself. "I took a chance and it paid off on the long run."



Los Angeles Chargers' Trevor Williams (24) defends a pass against the Miami Dolphins on Sept. 17, 2017.

The decision sure has paid off for Williams.

Now in his third season in the NFL, Williams has started the last 20 games at cornerback, a position he didn't start playing until the spring of his freshman year in Happy Valley.

Despite going undrafted, he's quickly emerged as one of the

more promising young cornerbacks in the league and has played a large role in the Los Angeles Chargers' highly-rated pass defense.

Last season, Williams was the 10th-highest rated cornerback in the NFL, according to Pro Football Focus, and combined with teammate Casey Hayward to help produce PFF's second highest-graded pass coverage unit.

All of those stats show Williams' rapid improvement, but none of it would have happened if he hadn't gotten a chance to show what he could do in an increased role.

And that wouldn't have been possible without him taking a chance on himself.

After his first collegiate season, Williams found himself working throughout the spring and summer to learn a position he had never played before.

Even as a two-way star in high school, Williams had never played cornerback.

"In high school, I played safety," Williams told The Daily Collegian. "I wasn't a hard-nosed hitter, I was more of a ball hawk."

Williams was joining a second-

ary filled with guys looking to prove themselves, and he did that right from the start.

In the season opener against Syracuse at MetLife Stadium, Williams earned a starting role and rewarded the coaches for that decision in the biggest spot of the game.

With the Nittany Lions holding a six-point lead in the final stages of the game, the Penn State defense was in search of one final big play to seal the win.

Williams delivered.

As the clock ticked under two minutes, Williams came up with an interception along the sideline, ensuring the victory.

"I remember that day. After that first game I thought cornerback was going to be easy the rest of the year," Williams said. "It was a tougher transition than I expected."

While Williams was going through his own personal transition, the program itself was trying to transition itself into a new era.

Carrying the program out of the darkness were all of the players that stuck by the program and Williams was one of the few to do so, becoming one of the few players in program history to have his

name on the back of the famous blue and white jersey.

"It felt amazing," Williams said as he reflected on the impact he and his teammates had.

"Michael Mauti was a great leader. Those guys helped keep the foundation and the team together. Even though we couldn't play for a bowl game or a championship, you could tell everyone in that locker room was going to play for one another."

Every team at every level of football employs a simple rule for when a player gets injured — next man up.

When Chargers cornerback Jason Verrett, a former 2014 first round pick, went down with a season-ending injury just one week into the 2017 season, Williams was that next man.

Williams was first acquired by the then-San Diego Chargers as an undrafted free agent after the 2016 NFL Draft and was waived before the season started, ultimately remaining with the franchise as a member of the practice squad for the first few weeks of the season.

"Being on the practice squad, you're on the scout team and you're helping the offense out, giving them certain looks that they're preparing for during the week," Williams said. "But you're also working on your fundamentals and your technique. If your name is called, you gotta show up and play."

A little more than a month later, he was called up to the active roster and that's where he's remained ever since.

"It came sooner than I expected, but when it came I had to take advantage of the opportunity," Williams said.

Williams appeared in the final 12 games of the season, making five starts in the process.

But his real opportunity came when Verrett went down the following September.

"It's unfortunate when one of your teammates goes down and you see what they go through," Williams said.

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



Trevor Williams (10) grabs an interception during the game against Rutgers on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014. Penn State won, 13-10.



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‘The trophy no one wants to win’

The story of The Land Grant Trophy: The massive award given to the winner of the annual Penn State-Michigan State matchup

By Thomas Schlarp
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Lord Stanley, move over. Coach Lombardi, the bar has been raised.

When the final whistle blows Saturday in the game between No. 8 Penn State and Michigan State, only one team will have the honor of hoisting one of the most “unique” trophies in all of sports.

Or, as former Penn State Associate Athletic Director for Communications Budd Thalman told The Daily Collegian, “More like the ugliest trophy in all of sports.”

The Land Grant Trophy has come to symbolize something more than just an award given to the winner of a Big Ten rivalry game established 25 years ago.

Its middle school woodshop aesthetic has developed a bit of a cult status in the world of college athletics.

The trophy is a hulking hunk of wood with a picture of Old Main and Michigan State’s Beaumont Tower affixed to the block.

Two additional wood platforms



Penn State football players hold the Land Grant Trophy after defeating Michigan State, 45-12, at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016.

are attached, one holding a Lion Shrine replica and the other holding a Spartan statuette.

Topping the trophy is a small

football player figurine on a platform. Its majestic size requires multiple near 300-pound men to carry.

“It weighs a ton,” Thalman said. “It’s not handled easily. Bottom line is this thing is just very awkward and very heavy.”

“As I remember it, I sent a picture of Old Main and a Nittany Lion statue to [Michigan State],” Thalman said.

“As far as what it turned out to be, it’s pretty awful. That was the extent of my participation. I take no further blame.”

Regardless of Thalman’s feelings toward the Frankenstein of a trophy he refuses to take responsibility for, the trophy’s origins were of great intent.

Created in 1993 per the request of Michigan State head coach George Perles to spice up the forthcoming annual matchup with new Big Ten opponent Penn State, the trophy was supposed to keep fans interested in the game despite the geographical distance of the two programs.

“Perles was excited about the trophy, excited about the football game,” legendary Detroit Pistons and Michigan State football play-by-play announcer George Blaha told the Collegian.

“He said that having Penn State in the Big Ten was going to

hurt Michigan State in the long run, but all of that pales in comparison to what a significant thing this rivalry will become.”

The name came before Michigan State sports information director Ken Hoffman ever saw the finished product.

H o f f m a n chose “Land Grant” as a way to honor the two schools’ unique places in history as the two pioneer land-grant institutions in the United States.

Each school was founded in 1855 — Michigan State on Feb. 12 and Penn State just 10 days later.

Despite the two schools being over 450 miles apart, the rivalry couldn’t be much closer.

Michigan State holds a slim 16-15-1 advantage over the Nittany Lions dating back to 1914 when the Spartans were Michigan Agriculture College.

When it comes to the Land Grant Trophy era, however, Penn State has taken the trophy home in 14 of 22 matchups.

While Michigan State will be tasked with bringing the trophy back to Beaver Stadium this year, make no mistake that James Franklin has intentions of ever letting it leave.

“We take a lot of pride in keeping the most beautiful trophy in all of college football home, the Land Grant Trophy,” Franklin said prior to last year’s game with Michigan State. “What makes it so beautiful is how unorthodox it is.”

Hoffman, Perles and Thalman could never have imagined what they were helping to create 25 years ago.

Today the trophy even has its own Twitter handle and is celebrated for all of its glory on social media.

“It really has developed a cult status,” Thalman said. “It’s become the trophy no one wants to win.”

Penn State’s entrance into the Big Ten in 1993 spawned one additional trophy game.

The Governor’s Victory Bell is presented to the winner of Penn State and Minnesota, a contest that now happens only four times every 10 seasons since conference realignment in 2010.

The Nittany Lions are currently in possession of the Liberty Bell-shaped trophy — a trophy Thalman much more readily takes responsibility for creating — and have been victorious in nine of the 14 matchups.

But with Penn State not scheduled to play the Gophers until November of next year, the Nittany Lions must settle for the true beauty of the trophy universe.

“I like the idea of a trophy game, but I hate the Land Grant,” Thalman said.

“I can’t imagine wanting to win that.”

“It weighs a ton. It’s not handled easily. Bottom line is this thing is just very awkward and heavy. As far as what it turned out to be, it’s pretty awful.”

Budd Thalman
Former associate athletic director for communications




Penn State football players raise The Land Grant Trophy in the victory over Michigan State in 2004.

CATABUS Community Input Meeting

Tuesday, October 16

CATA staff will host a community input meeting on Tuesday, October 16, at 5:00 p.m., in the State College Borough Building Community Room, 243 S. Allen Street, State College.

This meeting is an annual event held to gather community input regarding CATABUS (Community and Campus) service.

**CATA**


For more information, please visit www.catabus.com or call (814) 238-CATA(2282).

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Embracing the spotlight

The bright lights haven't been too big for true freshman Pat Freiermuth

By Patrick Burns
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Just six weeks ago, Pat Freiermuth opened the season with three tight ends in front of him on the depth chart.

It didn't take long for James Franklin and the rest of the coaching staff to realize that probably had to change.

"The thing we noticed pretty quickly is the stage just isn't too big for him," Franklin told reporters Tuesday. "It hasn't been in the weight room. It hasn't been in practice. It hasn't been in meetings. You never know when the lights come on, but it hasn't seemed to be there, as well."

The true freshman ascended up the depth chart each week since then, becoming a co-starter for the first time three weeks ago against Illinois.

After playing 80 percent of snaps against Ohio State and catching three passes for 43 yards and a touchdown, Freiermuth sits alone at the top of Penn State's depth chart heading into this weekend's bout against Michigan State.

It's not that Jonathan Holland, Nick Bowers and Danny Dalton have necessarily under-



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Tight end Pat Freiermuth (87) celebrates after his touchdown during the game against Ohio State at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 29. Ohio State defeated Penn State 27-26.

performed, as Franklin went out of his way to praise all three on Tuesday. Freiermuth has just been that good.

"Obviously he's not playing like a freshman right now," Franklin

said last week. "He's big, he's strong, he's physical, and he's catching the ball really well."

The Nittany Lions had high hopes for the Massachusetts native out of high school.

Possessing a 6-foot-5, 285-pound frame that could probably pass by in the NFL, Freiermuth figured to contribute early, especially in the run game.

It's everything else that's caught the blue and white by surprise.

"In the summer time I saw something in Pat that you don't see from a freshman," Juwan Johnson said. "He was very mature, very cool, calm and collected."

"I was very happy [to learn] that he was a starter," the veteran wideout continued. "I have complete confidence in him."

Trace McSorley echoed that praise Wednesday.

"He's just a lot more comfortable in the pass game," McSorley said. "Running routes, attacking the ball and going up and making those contested catches."

The stats aren't anything crazy.

Seven catches for 87 yards and two touchdowns for No. 87 isn't anything to write home about, especially considering the numbers that Mike Gesicki put up over his final two seasons in Happy Valley.

But the film speaks for itself. "He's physical," Franklin said. "That's something that we have shown the team: examples of big runs and big plays that he's had where he's pancaked people. He's playing really well right now."

Against the Buckeyes, Freiermuth came down with a one-handed touchdown grab in the fourth quarter.

Then, McSorley looked his way on the game's final drive with Penn State down a point.

Two weeks ago, reporters were given a glimpse of the future at the tail-end of Penn State's practice.

On one side of the field, Freiermuth hauled in a one-handed snag for a touchdown, and just seconds later, fellow freshman tight end Zack Kuntz did the same thing in the opposite end zone.

The Nittany Lions recruited Freiermuth and Kuntz in the same class, hoping that they'd form a dynamic "1-2 punch" in the future. By all accounts, it looks like that's coming to fruition.

But for now, the spotlight is all Freiermuth's.

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Zack Gething/Collegian

Pat Freiermuth (87) high-fives students after the game against Pitt at Heinz Field on Saturday, Sept. 8. Penn State defeated Pitt 51-6.



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Pat Freiermuth (87) celebrates after a touchdown during the game against Illinois at Memorial Stadium on Friday, Sept. 21.

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MY VIEW | MATT LINGERMAN

Out with the old, in with the new?



Just two games into their Big Ten schedule, the Nittany Lions are faced with a familiar — but uncomfortable — proposition.

The similarities between 2017 and the current season already run deep, even before the halfway point in the campaign. Just as was the case last season when a last-breath touchdown pass to Juwan Johnson avoided catastrophe against a lesser Iowa team, Penn State snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in Week 1 against Appalachian State in 2018.

And, as has been well-documented, Penn State blew a fourth-quarter lead and lost by a single point to Ohio State for the second straight year. But the parallels between the two seasons go beyond that.

For the second consecutive year, the Nittany Lions' game immediately following the loss to the Buckeyes comes against a quality Michigan State opponent. Last year, the Spartans were coming off a tight loss at Northwestern and were ranked the No. 24 team in the nation.

This season, Mark Dantonio's team is coming off a loss to — you guessed it — Northwestern, but has fallen out of the top-25.

That's where Saturday's homecoming affair becomes dangerous for Penn State. Penn State's loss two weeks ago was deflating to the team, coaching staff and fan base, and, like 2017, the Nittany Lions are now forced to play catch-up in the race to the College Football Playoff, while Ohio State is on the fast track to make the final four yet again.

All Penn State can do is win out and hope for other results around the country to fall its way. Upon taking a glance at the schedule, Penn State is in a position to fulfill its end of the bargain.

But that was also the case last year. Penn State did not win out.

The Nittany Lions lost to Michigan State in one of the more bizarre games of the college football season, effectively ending any hopes of reaching the College Football Playoff for the first time in program history.

Saturday's matchup presents the blue and white with an identical situation.

Now, it must be noted that there are a couple major differences between last year and this year, which should benefit the Nittany Lions.

First, the forecast for Saturday calls for no precipitation during the game. Last year in East Lansing, Michigan, the game was delayed some three and a half hours due to severe weather, which Franklin openly admitted at his weekly press conference effected his team's performance — especially since no Big Ten facility is equipped to "house 150 people" who are wearing soaking wet clothes and are unsure of when the game will resume.

In addition, Penn State had the luxury of taking its bye week in between playing these two tough opponents this season, whereas the Nittany Lions had just six days between Columbus and East Lansing last year.

That should make for healthier players, more in-depth game planning and clearer heads this time around.

"We were able to go through a bye week and sit on that loss a little bit longer," Trace McSorley said. "Be able to learn a little bit more... Let that pain set in and learn from it."

Penn State also managed to move up in the polls without playing last weekend thanks to losses from then-No. 5 LSU, then-No. 7 Oklahoma and then-No. 8 Auburn. The Nittany Lions are still squarely in the race for a top-four spot, and the off week gave the players a chance to better understand that.

The shock value from the loss to Ohio State should have worn off by now. I'm not sure that was the case heading to Michigan State last year.

Make no mistake — Saturday's contest should still be a tough game for the Nittany Lions. By Franklin's estimation, the Spartans return 29 of 30 starters from last year's team, and they may see the return of running back LJ Scott, who has missed the last three games with an ankle injury.

Plus, Michigan State's rushing defense has been one of the best in the nation thus far. With McSorley freely admitting Penn State's passing game isn't yet where he wants it to be and with the Nittany Lions clearly focusing more on the run of late, it will be interesting to see how the teams match up.

But, confronted with a scenario eerily reminiscent of 2017, the Nittany Lions are in better shape to fend off Sparty and prevent their College Football Playoff hopes from being completely dashed prematurely.

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‘The symbol of our best’

By **Aubree Rader**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Nittany Lion stood in the newly constructed Beaver Stadium locker room awaiting his cue to run onto the field and excite the blue and white sea of color.

He was invisible among the focused football players preparing for their own performance on the field. But, he was always seen by then-assistant football coach Joe Paterno.

“They would run out of the locker room, and Joe Paterno would come over to me,” Jack Lesyk, the man who wore the Nittany Lion suit in 1960 and 1961, said. “He would look at my face inside the mouth of the lion and he would tap me on the shoulder, and he would say, ‘I’m glad you’re here.’”

Forty years after Lesyk graduated, he attended a Homecoming dinner where Paterno was the guest speaker.

Lesyk told Paterno he remembered their interactions before each game, and Paterno said, “I still do that,” Lesyk recalled.

While the role of the Penn State Nittany Lion mascot has evolved since its original

rollout in 1922, the responsibility to inspire Penn State pride has stayed consistent.

Jackie Esposito, a university librarian and coauthor of “The Nittany Lion: An Illustrated Tale,” said the idea behind the mascot came from a baseball game at Princeton University. Princeton was boasting about their Bengal tiger mascot, before a Penn State player spontaneously said the Princeton tiger should watch out for the “Nittany Lion,” which at the time did not exist.

Esposito said she assumes the player was recalling a taxidermy mountain lion in Old Main. The enthusiasm past mascots exude is “absolutely contagious,” she said.

Andy Bailey, who was the Nittany Lion from 1975 to 1977, said the Lion’s job is to help Penn State win.

“That’s your primary mission, to excite the crowd and get them behind the team,” Bailey said. “I took the losses as hard as the players did.”

Three former Nittany Lion mascots — Lesyk, Bailey and Michael Valania — have all been a part of Penn State’s history, which is on full display this week for Penn State’s 2018 Homecoming.

The celebration honors the university’s traditions, including the Lion. There’s even the annual “Guard the Lion Shrine” event that features Penn State ROTC students who protect the shrine from defacement by rival universities.

Becoming the Nittany Lion

Lesyk’s fraternity brother nominated him to wear the suit during the 1960 and 1961 football seasons. He was chosen after being interviewed by the athletic director in Rec Hall.

“Back in those days, it wasn’t a big deal,” Lesyk said. “We were not gymnasts. We didn’t do acrobatic things.”

By 1975, the application process intensified. Bailey was one of over 40 students interviewed. But when he was selected for the position, it wasn’t the first time he’d encountered the Lion’s suit.

Bailey had received a call from a frater-

nity brother, Robert Welsh, who happened to be the Nittany Lion from 1973 to 1975. Welsh was unable to attend the pep rally for the Cotton Bowl that night and asked Bailey to fill in with an hour’s notice.

There was a time freshman year when Bailey dreamed about wearing the suit after listening to an interview Welsh gave on the radio.

“I remember very vividly sitting there and thinking, ‘Boy, that would be the greatest job in the world,’” Bailey said. “But that would be a one-in-a-million chance that I would become the Lion.”

As a 6-foot, 135-pound runner with no upper-body strength, Bailey did not think he would meet the criteria to be the Lion. But, he gained weight and grew stronger.

He worked out with the gymnastics team, and then-coach Gene Wettstone became his lifelong friend who taught him the “little” acrobatics that he did acquire. Although he did not interact with the football team much, Bailey said Paterno would always greet him.

“He made you feel as if you were a part of the team, which he didn’t have to — but he did,” Bailey said.

Bailey said he was expected to perform one-handed pushups on the field — a tradition that continues to this day.

Owning the Role

Valania also dreamed of getting dressed as the Nittany Lion. He grew up with Penn State football season tickets and would watch the Lion perform on the field.

He remembers the first time the Nittany Lion took off his head on senior day.

Valania knew he wanted to be that person.

Once Valania stepped on campus, he began the mascot application process. His physical tryout included performing a prepared and improvisational skit. He was selected from 2013 to 2015.

While the role didn’t require any gymnastics or dance skills, Valania had to prove he could do 50 one-handed pushups.

“I was a good dancer, but I wasn’t the best dancer,” Valania said. “I had good gymnastics, but I wasn’t the best gymnast. But I was so in awe of the position that what I lacked extrinsically, I made up intrinsically.”

Each Nittany Lion had the ability to make the role his own.

Valania said he was passionate about Penn State’s THON, and he worked toward increasing the Lion’s presence at the 46-hour dance marathon. At THON 2015, he even had a dancer number pinned on him as the Lion.

See **LION**, Page B2.



Photos courtesy of Andy Bailey and Jack Lesyk
Graphics by Collegian Creative

LGBTQ students reflect on coming out

By **Lindsey Toomer**
and **Kaleigh Quinnan**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor’s note: The Daily Collegian follows AP style, which is a standard in the industry. AP style uses the acronym LGBTQ, leaving out the ‘A.’ The ‘A’ is believed by some to stand for ‘Ally,’ and by others ‘Asexual.’

By the time college rolls around, many have gone through trials and tribulations of dating, and are comfortable forming new relationships.

For others, this is not the case, as some within the LGBTQ community face challenges others do not when it comes to being open about dating.

Coming out at any point in an individual’s life can be difficult and stressful, as well as rewarding. For individuals who choose to come out toward the end of high school or in college, the decision may resonate with some as a chance for a new beginning.

Sonya Wilmoth, assistant director of the LGBTQ Student Resource Center, said no coming out experience is identical. “We are acknowledging that [coming out] is a tough process,” Wilmoth said. “Not everyone’s process is the same, not everybody’s process is positive. But we are supportive as a center and as a university.”

“We are acknowledging that [coming out] is a tough process,” Wilmoth said. “Not everyone’s process is the same, not everybody’s process is positive. But we are supportive as a center and as a university.”

Matthew Haines

Matthew Haines often experienced an uncomfortable feeling in high school. He would wake up in the morning and frequently dread having to leave his room. He felt uncomfortable with himself.

At the time, Matthew’s name wasn’t Matthew, and he said biologically he was a woman.

One weekend during his junior year was so unbearable that he couldn’t push his feelings away — something was more wrong than usual.

Eventually, he realized what he was feeling, figuring out that he “wanted to grow up” as male.

“I kind of had to wrestle with myself,” Haines (sophomore-food science) said. “Does this identity fit me? Is this what I want?”

Haines is a transgender male who started his legal and medical journey of transitioning this year. He started testosterone injections in January and legally changed his name to Matthew Benjamin Haines in February.

Haines started “social transitioning,” as he referred to it — cutting his hair shorter, going by Matthew, and using he/him/his pronouns — after he came out to his friends at his junior prom.

Because he grew up in such a small town in Pennsylvania, Haines was worried about how his friends, family, school administration and community would react.

“The environment that I grew up in was white, rural, Christian, conservative,” Haines said. “So you don’t really hear about it or talk about it. Just being gay is a big deal, and then being trans is even more of a big deal.”

To Haines’ surprise, he was overwhelmed with support, and he mentioned how much happier he’s been since coming out. Others have noticed, too.

“People would tell me, ‘You look so much better, you look so much happier,’” he said. “I totally am because it feels like a weight was lifted off.”

Cody Harpster

Cody Harpster said he came out in stages. To this day, he still struggles to decide whether he feels comfortable letting someone know he is gay.

Harpster (junior-French linguistics) originally discovered he was gay in high school, and described his initial coming out experience as “a little typical.”

“I was seeing a girl and having feelings for this guy, and that was really kind of awkward,” Harpster said.

He came out to his immedi-



Lindsey Shuey/Collegian

Matthew Haines (sophomore-food science), a peer education intern at the LGBTQ Student Resource Center, poses in the LGBTQ Student Resource Center in the Bouke Building on Friday, Oct. 5.

ate family and close friends in high school, but when Harpster became a founding member of Students Cultivating Change at Penn State, he was worried about others discovering his identity.

Students Cultivating Change is a queer club in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Harpster said being a part of this club, he was worried that his extended family would find out he was gay from someone other than him.

In a different vein, Harpster considers it much easier to come out to those he doesn’t know.

“I can come out to a classroom full of people and it’s not as big of a deal because I don’t know anyone,” Harpster said. “In my experience, telling people I’ve known for a long time is really hard because if they react poorly, you’re losing something.”

Depending on the situation, Harpster said he may still “act straight” if he feels uncomfortable or unsafe around people he suspects may react poorly to his identity.

But Harpster said the best part about coming out is the freedom it gave him to stop hiding.

“People will care a lot less than

you think they will,” Harpster said. “It’s hard at first, but once you get past that it does get easier.”

Harpster said his coming out process was about figuring out what he wanted for himself and when he was ready to share that with others.

“Looking back [there were] definitely things from my childhood where I can’t believe I thought I was straight,” Harpster said. “Denial is one heck of a thing, which is a pretty common queer experience.”

Jessica Dawes

Jessica Dawes came out as pansexual and transgender when she was 19. She said she knew she was pansexual before she knew she was trans, but waited until she was certain of both to come out.

“It was just something that I realized was always there, whether I knew how to identify it or not,” Dawes (junior-psychology) said. “Basically my understanding of myself grew as I became exposed to that information.”

According to Dawes, being at Penn State helped make her coming out experience more positive because of the inclusive, ac-

cepting environment within the LGBTQ community on campus.

“Being in an environment where you feel physically safe helps,” Dawes said.

Dawes described some of the difficulties of coming out in the beginning, particularly vocalizing how she truly felt and answering questions from others about her identity. However, her anxiety levels lowered once she realized she was no longer hiding her true self.

“Just finally getting to that point where I thought to myself, ‘I am a girl,’ and then waiting for my reaction to that emotionally — it scared me but it did seem true,” Dawes said.

When it comes to dating, Dawes said now she is much more vocal about her needs when she is with a partner because she has a better understanding of who she is and what she is looking for.

“It feels like I had always been a little girl and I built up a man around that to protect her,” Dawes said. “So, coming out was basically trying to rebuild myself as a woman instead of just as a girl.”

See **OUT**, Page B2.

ROARIN' RODEO



Courtney Taylor/Collegian

The Nittany Lion rides the mechanical bull at Homecoming’s Best of Penn State Carnival on the HUB-Robeson Center lawn on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Lion

FROM Page B1.

While Valania said wearing the suit could be a lot to balance at times between classes and ROTC, the moments of regret are only brief. Overall, he said was “over the moon” to have the opportunity.

Remembering the games

During his years as the Lion, Valania traveled with the women’s volleyball team to Oklahoma City and Seattle, where Penn State won two national championships. He also shot a commercial with College GameDay, visited Ireland with the football team and once was in the lion suit for 55 hours during Homecoming Week when Pegula Ice Arena opened. “Maybe you are working a 14-hour day and you are tired, but whether it is your 200th interaction of the day, the person that you are interacting with, it might be their only time that they ever get that close to the Nittany Lion,” Valania said. “So, it has to be as special for them as it was for you the first time you put the suit on.

Memories from Lesyk’s time in the suit have stayed with him, even after 50 years. At a game against Army, Lesyk was dressed in full costume and posed next to the opposing team’s mascot, a cadet on a real-life mule. As a photographer grabbed a shot, the mule started bucking. “I was scared to death. I envisioned myself getting trampled to death in this lion costume by this mule. So I ran right across the 50-yard line, across the field into the grandstand, and ran all the way up to the top,” Lesyk said. When he looked back, the mule hadn’t moved at all. Bailey has his own favorite memories from his time on the field. He saw a streaker run across Kinnick Stadium, wearing only an Iowa pennet and a baseball cap. The streaker dove into a grassy area before Bailey caught him. “Good mascots are ones that, I believe, take advantage of certain situations to entertain and excite the fans, so I thought ‘This is great,’” Bailey said. “I ran after him. People were going crazy in the stadium and laughing.” Once Bailey had jogged to the sidelines, his advisor, Richie Lucas, asked what he was planning to do if he caught the streaker. “I didn’t actually think that far ahead,” Bailey said with a laugh.

Once a lion, always a lion

Bailey said he loved walking in parades and watching children’s faces light up as he passed by. However, after Lucas ordered a new suit with the head of the Lion snarling, Bailey received the opposite reaction. Children began screaming and crying at the sight of Bailey in costume. “It was one of my very first football games as a lion... My heart sunk,” Bailey said. After three games, Bailey was able to convince Lucas to let him change the head of the Lion. He became the last student to wear the Nittany Lion costume with a mane on the head. After graduation, Bailey didn’t expect he would be back in the suit 12 years later. Penn State asked if he would fill in for the Lion at a pep rally at Harrisburg International Airport. Bailey thought it was a joke. But the Nittany Lion at the time was ill and unable to attend before the Orange Bowl. Bailey agreed to suit up again, and the costume was delivered to his parents’ house. “To think that I would have the opportunity to wear the suit again was surreal, that’s the only way I can describe it,” Bailey said. It all came back to him — how to be the Nittany Lion and how to motivate the crowd. It really was the “greatest job in the world,” as he had once envisioned. “It is so unique,” Bailey said. “It’s incredible.”

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Lindsey Shuey/Collegian

The Nittany Lion runs down Curtin Road on Saturday, Sept. 1.

Out

FROM Page B1.

Joe Gronsky

Joe Gronsky came out when he was a junior at his 500-person high school. “One day there was a Culture Day assembly, and I was asked to speak,” Gronsky (senior-education and rehabilitation and human services) said. “After I agreed, and then came out to my entire school. My kind of love is no different than yours.” His message was received with applause and cheering from an audience that did not share any of his external characteristics. Gronsky was the only student with hearing aids and the only white student in his graduating class at Freire Charter School in Philadelphia. Having people accept him as gay within his community and faith was not something Gronsky expected. It was less of a starting over or a moment of realization for him, but rather, he was finally able to be honest with himself and the people in his life. “I wasn’t sure of myself early on,” Gronsky said. “I didn’t know what was going on with my life.” His family members are supportive and “learning every day,” Gronsky said. Finding acceptance in oneself is difficult, and finding it in others can prove to be even more so. “It would be different if I came out earlier,” Gronsky said. “I did some non-acceptable things to my body, accepting those feelings.” Now, at Penn State, he said he uses the LGBTQA Student Resource Center as a resource in an already supportive community. “Sometimes life’s gonna suck,” Gronsky said. “Be

with people who do not.”

AJ Bryant

AJ Bryant, a transgender straight male, has played sports all his life, but went from playing girls’ soccer to men’s football early on in his athletic career. “When I hit middle school and thought I should be liking guys, I didn’t,” Bryant (sophomore-science) said. “I didn’t know what to do with myself. I knew I liked girls, but as a guy.” Bryant’s transition began in high school, where he sought support from teachers and friends. His parents, who are separated, came to accept the idea at different times, and getting them on the same page was a struggle when having to repeat already difficult subjects. Growing up outside of Boston, Bryant had always had difficulties with acceptance. Being one of the few African-American students at his high school, when he transitioned, the glares he got for being different were not an unfamiliar feeling. “I always felt like I had to prove myself,” Bryant said. His decision to come to Penn State was motivated by his desire to leave Massachusetts. He wanted to find a place where people could get to know him for his personality before he came out. “I was always hesitant if people were going to accept and support me,” Bryant said. “[I was] scared of people’s views and what they [would] say and do.” While there was not a moment he “knew” he was transgender, there was a moment of acceptance where he finally felt like “one of the guys.” According to Bryant, Penn State was able to create a more accepting environment for him. Now, he is the first person to identify as transgender on the power-

lifting team, and there’s no question whether or not he can compete.

Derrick Pena

Coming out does not have to be all-inclusive, and it can take more time to find acceptance in some groups than others — Derrick Pena can relate. Pena (senior-biochemistry and molecular biology) explained that for him, coming out happened with different people at different times. As someone who was raised in a very religious household, he has come out to his peers and friends but not yet to his family. “It’s something that runs through my mind every day,” Pena said. Outside of his home, he has found that University Park has been an accepting community that has allowed him to feel liberated. To this day, people in college still ask him about his sexuality — something that has surprised him since being here. “Being asked if I am gay is surprising, like, really? Still?” Pena said. Pena is currently an intern at the LGBTQ student resource center where he works with Queerpeer — a program helping students transition on to a new college campus. Pena previously attended Penn State Hazleton. Pena also said people should come out when they want, not when they feel like they should. “Do not feel pressure to come out when you’re in a new environment,” Pena said. “It takes time to come to terms with how you’re feeling. If you don’t feel like it’s necessary to come out now, then take your time.”

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‘A name that is as inclusive as our mission’

Centre County Women’s Resource Center changes name to Centre Safe

By Mikayla Corrigan
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Heading into Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Centre County Women’s Resource Center has rebranded to “Centre Safe: Empowering Survivors, Eliminating Violence” to “represent survivors of violence from all backgrounds.” Starting in 1975, CCWRC began as a group of women offering resources for women’s empowerment. Now, about 40 years later, the organization is no longer operating from the one-room space, and has expanded its resources to meet the needs of those effected by violence within the county — regardless of gender identity, race, religion and sexual orientation. Moving forward, Executive Director Anne Ard said Centre Safe is not adding any services because the organization has always been inclusive. However, the name change is going to make those services feel more accessible to people from various backgrounds, Ard said. Centre Safe currently operates a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and a transitional housing program. The organization also gives access to day time counseling meetings, support groups and other resources to victims of violence. The CCWRC started the name change process about three years ago, when the organization wanted to find out if the community knew who they were and the services they provide.

Ard said they found the community was pretty positive about the organization, but was confused on the resources they provide to Centre County. “[Some community members] thought we only served women, so they really didn’t understand that we served children, men [and] people of all gender identities and sexual orientations,” Ard said. “We want to be sure that our mission is very inclusive and we wanted a name that reflected that.” Ard said a task force probably looked at about 75 to 100 names, narrowing it down to two and taking them to the board last May. As of this month, the name is technically in-effect, but any kind of brand change is a process. Ard said they are using the month of October to shift all of their branding and hope everything will be done by the new year. Brian Patchcoski, the director of the LGBTQA Student Resource Center, said the new name is really a reflection of the services the CCWRC has been providing for years. He said the name change sends signals of being a safe place that is inclusive of men, transgender individuals and others identifying as genderqueer or gender non-conforming. “Recognizing the truly embedded history around women centric issues, it’s critical and how the [CCWRC] was formulated,” Patchcoski said. “I think — in terms in the ways we have shifted and changed in our understanding of gender and sexuality

— Centre Safe has been a resource that has served many more folks than just women.” Ard said the rebranding does not take away from a mission of helping and empowering women survivors. “A part of what we want people to think about is not that we’re getting away from the [CCWRC] because we know that the vast majority of our clients are still going to be women,” she said. “Women are much more vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence than other people.” However, this does not take away from the fact that sexual and domestic violence can still happen to men, people in same sex relationships and other backgrounds, Ard added. But Jennifer Pencek, the programming coordinator for Penn State’s Gender Equity Center, said CCWRC’s rebranding is similar to when the Gender Equity Center changed its name from The Center for Women Students. The Gender Equity Center offers very similar resources to Centre Safe, but is based on campus instead of downtown. “It sounds like the services them-

selves have not changed and they have always been inclusive — but you want your name to reflect that inclusivity and do not provide any unintended barriers to people accessing your services,” Pencek said. Pencek said the two organizations have worked very closely together for years on programming, including for events during October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ard said Domestic Violence Awareness Month will give Centre Safe an opportunity to talk about their new name and to talk about why it’s important for inclusivity and moving forward as an organization.

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Courtney Taylor/Collegian

The resource center is located at 140 W. Nittany Ave.

Steps needed to combat suicide

On Oct. 10, the world came together to recognize World Mental Health Day.

According to the United Nation's World Health Organization, the day's purpose it to raise awareness of worldwide mental health issues as well as "mobilizing efforts in support of mental health."

The WHO also wants the day to act as a platform for professionals to be able to articulate what more can be done to make "mental health care a reality for people worldwide."

Across the world, there is still a stigma surrounding discussion of mental health issues and suicidal thoughts. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in the United States, almost 44,965 individuals die by suicide every year.

In England, where 4,500 people take their own lives each year according to CNN, Prime Minister Theresa May decided to try to combat this tragedy and appoint her country's first minister for suicide prevention on World Mental Health Day.

Member of Parliament,

OUR VIEW

There is a need for more mental illness education, so our society can be more vigilant

Jackie Doyle-Price, was chosen by May for the position, where she will head a taskforce dedicated to the issue. It will involve Doyle-Price working with doctors, clinicians, those affected by suicide and other experts in suicide prevention, according to CNN.

By establishing this position and task force, May hopes to "end the stigma" that causes people to quietly suffer, which will hopefully lower the number of tragedies throughout the country.

Currently, the United States does not have an equivalent to this position, despite suicide being the 10th-leading cause of death in the country, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

While it is a step in the right direction to have a government position dedicated to an issue that has become prominent throughout the world, it really depends on what this task force plans to implement.

The United States should potentially adopt a similar position to call attention to this crisis if it really does try and make a difference.

If the task force — in any country — doesn't make actual efforts to help those suffering from suicidal thoughts, educate its citizens about mental illness and how to check on your loved ones, then it's just for show.

Growing up, the only health education in school we receive is physical, which is something we need. But, we should be pro-

vided resources for how to recognize and seek help for mental illnesses.

It should go beyond a couple videos about cyber bullying and some pamphlets or hand-outs.

Far too often, the first time people are exposed to a mental illness is once it's too late. In society, once our community is rocked by a suicide or an attempted suicide, we are exposed to the aftermath — but eventually move on until another tragedy occurs.

With more education mandated, not only can students be vigilant and seek help for mental illnesses as they do for physical ailments, but more people can also learn what signs to look for in their loved ones, to recognize

when something is wrong.

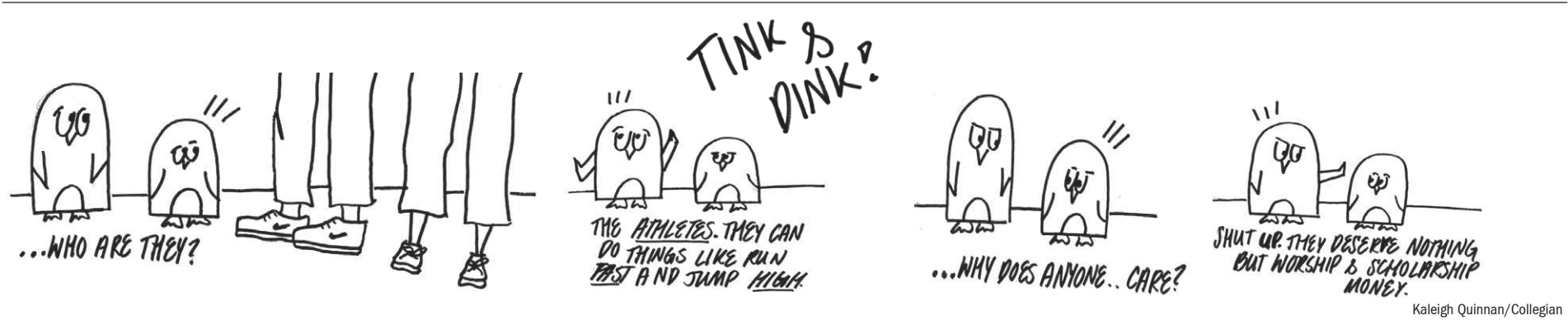
It would also show people how it's OK to admit that you're not OK. Instead of pushing down their issues and bulldozing forward, more preventive education would show students at an early age that it's fine to seek help.

It would give people a framework to use in order to recognize when something isn't right either with themselves or with a loved one.

It is hard to define what this education should look like, but that's why hopefully the experts May gathered in England will figure out a strong approach. Every individual's story is different, so there is certainly not a singular answer as to how to help everyone experiencing a mental illness or suicidal thoughts.

But, the issue is clearly something that is affecting far too many people.

Eventually, the United States should establish something similar to what England has adopted in order to combat the suicide rate in our own country.



Kaleigh Quinnan/Collegian

MY VIEW | Anonymous

Out-ish: Remember to love yourself through coming out

Editor's note: The columnist has remained anonymous out of respect for family members she has not come out to yet.

Before I even knew what "introspective" meant, I was acutely so — painfully, sometimes.

I don't feel like myself if I'm not being honest, transparent and self-reflective. I don't ignore my feelings. I can't.

That said, I came to Penn State knowing this place was going to let the sun shine in on the corners of myself like I'd never seen before. But, on the other hand, life has certainly yanked my feet out from under me more times than I can count.

Over the past year in particular, I've experienced a very strange, uncomfortable combination of sun-shining and feet-yanking all at once — all because one person made me realize I wasn't who I thought I was.

For the first 19 years of my life, I only ever considered myself as a straight woman. Then, some kind, funny, intelligent, caring lesbian waltzed into my life and made me realize I was... certainly farther from straight than I thought.

How could this have happened to me? I knew I wasn't strictly "gay" — I had only dated men previously. I had only ever wanted to date men previously.

I "looked" straight. I was a cheerleader in high school. I wore pearl earrings. Boys liked me. I had already gotten through the supposedly turbulent years of high school when everyone struggles to find themselves. Wasn't I too old to

be questioning who I may or may not have crushes on?

I guess the good news is, that girl apparently liked me back, because we've been dating for over a year now. It's been pretty amazing.

I certainly wouldn't trade our relationship for anything. But reflecting on where I began in the discovery of my sexuality, it's safe to say my feet got yanked. Hard.

Coming out to close friends the first four months of the relationship was the easy part. The rejection I faced when I came out to my parents over that holiday break, though, was unlike any other hell I've ever experienced.

I had never felt like such a worthless, inanimate, sexualized object in my life. My parents were disgusted. I couldn't even look at them without wanting to break down.

There was a lot of shutting myself in my walk-in closet and crying, staying at my part-time job long past when my shifts were over, or asking friends to pick me up and get me out of my house.

Truthfully, my mind goes blank when I try to remember vivid details from the dark moments that break. My brain has compartmentalized the trauma I endured and stored it in a place so deep it knows I can't reach.

The one thing that will never lock itself away, though, is when my mother told me she "wouldn't have a dyke for a daughter."

I had no more options as the person I knew I was. I convinced myself that if I dressed a certain way or talked about

certain things, my family might forget I was dating a woman.

I wanted to disappear.

I wanted to not be seen or heard. I wanted to hide everything that made me who I am. I'd never felt like such a stranger to myself — even when I first realized I wasn't straight.

I gave myself some time to grieve my losses — as the daughter my parents thought I was, and who many people still think I am. I let myself be angry that my parents rejected me. I let myself cry as much as I needed to.

But eventually, I knew the only possible way I would survive this, is if I took the time to appreciate the warmth every ray of sunshine this situation had brought me instead of counting how many times being openly queer has knocked me on my ass.

Though I certainly hope this isn't the case, my parents may never be ready to meet my girlfriend. I know for a fact they'd rather me be straight. My relationship is still excruciatingly awkward — and frankly painful — to talk about with them.

Even though my future as a queer person and my relationship with my parents don't seem like they'll ever coexist, I hold out hope. And I know I'm going to be okay.

I truly believe I could not have survived the dark days without those friends over winter break who picked me up at 12:30 a.m. for a Sheetz run when I needed to get away from home. There's no way I could have survived without my sister, who has been a phenomenal light in my life despite

my parents' reactions. I certainly could not have gotten through this without my girlfriend, who still promises me she's found the light at the end of her "coming out" tunnel and that I'd find it, too.

My hope is that by some National Coming Out Day in future years, I can write a column like this with my name attached to it — that I can scream from the mountain tops that I'm in the best relationship ever, and not worry about the rejection and hatred I'll face from those who are supposed to love me unconditionally.

Something we cannot forget, regardless of sexuality, is that coming out is a process. You will have days and weeks and months on Cloud 9. You will have days and weeks and months where life keeps clocking you square in the jaw. You will have confident days and you will have days where hiding is necessary.

On days like National Coming Out Day, take time to remember the queer people who aren't ready to post on Instagram or Facebook, or share with family and friends about how proud they are to be out.

For those of you who still lock yourself in your closet and cry sometimes like me, hold out hope that you will be happy. You will be healthy. You are loved.

Your day — and hopefully mine, too — will come when you don't have to sacrifice who you are to make others comfortable, and it will be worth it.

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DESTINED FOR THE PITCH

With the middle name Pele, Dani Marks always knew soccer would be a part of his life

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Even before he kicked a ball for the first time, Penn State captain Dani Marks may have been destined to be a quality soccer player. His middle name is Pele, the name of one of soccer's all-time greats.

"Pele in Hebrew means 'miracle,' so it's related to Hebrew and my dad likes soccer as well, so it worked out well both ways," Marks said.

Marks, who has been starting at center back for the last three years for the Nittany Lions, has been perfecting his defensive craft since before his time playing collegiate soccer.

Marks' journey started in his home country of Israel, where he discovered his passion for soccer at a young age.

"I joined my school team in elementary school when I was about five or six," Marks said. "I just loved it."

But his life and soccer career haven't been without obstacles. Marks served in the military for over a year as part of mandatory service, then left his home country of Israel to go to a school he had never really heard of where he was injured for his first season.

"From the age of 16-17 I started playing center back," Marks said. "I used to play right back only because I was shorter and faster."

The passion Marks had for the sport from his days in Israel is what kept him coming back to play every year until he made his way to State College.

"I just really enjoyed it and

kept signing up for the team every year until I joined an academy team and playing every weekend," Marks said. "And here we are."

But before Marks was able to take his talents to the U.S., he had to get over a hurdle that life put in his way.

Military service is mandatory in Israel, meaning Marks had no other option.

Marks spent 16 months in the Israeli Defense Forces' National Service before being released in February 2014 – putting his life and soccer career on hold.

"Life just comes in the way sometimes," Marks said. "You can make all the plans you want, but sometimes it's just out of your control. Military is mandatory so it basically puts your life on hold."

At the time of his service, Marks belonged to an academy team where he was constantly training and improving his soccer abilities. Having to go serve in the military for over a year impacted his life and his form.

"It definitely affected my development in a negative way," Marks said. "Just like I think it would affect anyone's development in a negative way, not being in a professional environment 24/7 like most academy players are."

Despite not being in his academy environment as much as he would have liked to, Marks found ways to make the most of his time with the military.

Marks was able to get a job within the military that allowed him to go home most days, which he used to be able to practice with his team.

"I tried to deal with it as best as possible, learn as much

as I could, and just grow as a person and move on," Marks said. "Sometimes I would miss trainings and would miss games but by and large I still belonged to a team."

It was toward the end of Marks' military service that he started to think about taking his game to the next level and play soccer in the United States.

Like lots of international soccer players looking to play at an American university, Marks didn't know much about any of the schools he was looking to attend.

Marks took a leap of faith after being connected to former Penn State head coach Bob Warmington through an old coach/friend and decided that Penn State was where he would play collegiate soccer.

"I'm very lucky to have come here because I could have ended up anywhere in the U.S. and guys in the same situation as me just said yes to schools not knowing where they were going, exactly what I did," Marks said. "I ended up in this amazing place and they ended up in other places, so I consider myself very lucky."

In Marks' first season at Penn State he was redshirted due to an injury, so he didn't play in his first game until his sophomore season — one that he will remember forever. "We played San Francisco at home, we won the game 1-0, Mac Curran scored the winning goal in his freshman year, I think it was his first appearance as well," Marks said. "It was incredible, my dad and my brother were here and it was incredible to play in Jeffrey after waiting for 12 months."

Since then, he has become a staple to the Nittany Lion defense.

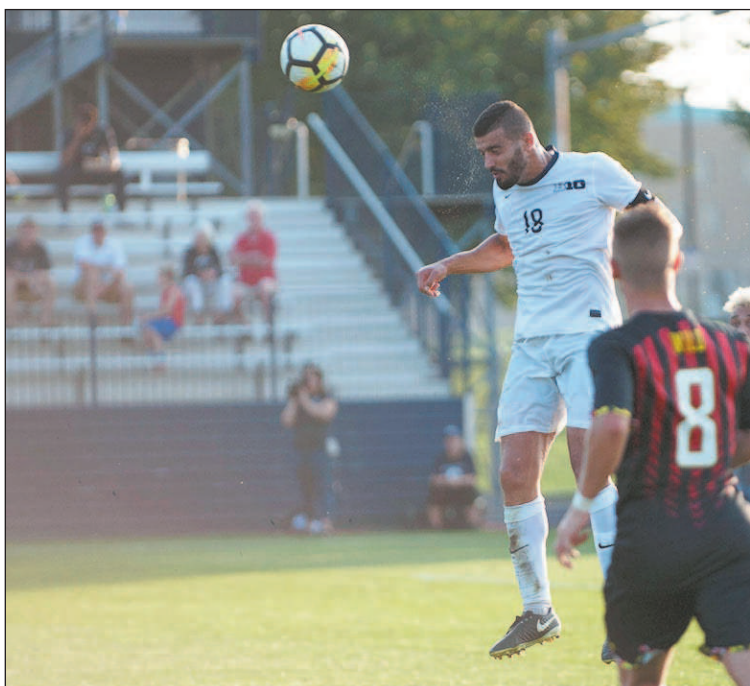
Marks has started in 46 games since his initial injury his freshman year and led the team in total minutes played over the course of last season.

This is the third season in Marks' career that he has been named a captain on the team, but he has seen some setbacks throughout the first portion of the schedule.

Coming into the season Marks was coming off a calf injury that sidelined him for the first game of the season before he returned for a couple of games.

Marks was injured again and missed even more time before coming back against Indiana, and starting in the most recent contest against Stony Brook.

But even when coach Jeff Cook's defensive star missed time, the first-year coach wasn't concerned about Marks' eventual return and how he'd respond to the adversity.



Collegian File Photo

Defender Dani Marks (18) head-butts the ball during the game against Maryland at Jeffrey Field on Sunday, Sept. 17 2017.

"You just watch him work hard and he's got so much experience," Cook said. "Dani's presence in the team and how hard he works and how connected he is to the group made me confident that he would return ready to go and that's exactly what we're finding."

Marks received high praise from his head coach for how he handled his injury and was able to bounce back and focus on the team, a quality he learned from his time back in Israel while in military service.

"Dani's got a great mentality in terms of putting the team first, and obviously he was really disappointed to not be able to contribute on the field but he is one of the best guys I've ever had at looking at the big picture and understanding that the team is the main focus," Cook said.

Marks makes an impact when he is on the field with his talent, but the center back's presence extends far beyond just when he is making things happen with the ball.

"I think the great thing about having Dani back is it'll give us more depth, gives us leadership, and someone with great experience and presence on the field," Cook said.

When Cook took the job here at Penn State, Marks was in an interesting position.

As a senior looking to make one last run at a Big Ten title, it was unclear if his new coach would have the same mentality in his first year with the program as many new coaches look to use their first year to rebuild.

But all it took was one conversation between the two to know

that they were on the same page heading into the 2018 season.

"The first time I spoke to him, the first thing he said to me was that he wants to do well immediately and he wasn't going to waste a year trying to build a team," Marks said. "He wants to do well right now and help the seniors win something so that created an immediate connection and a desire to work harder to improve."

Throughout all of his time spent here at Penn State, Marks has been a beloved teammate, captain, and center back.

Even his goalkeepers recognize the work that Marks does within the backline to help keep the ball out of the back of the net.

"It makes my job easier," said goalkeeper Arie Ammann. "All I have to do is communicate and tell them where to be."

As the season continues on, Marks and the rest of the Penn State team are improving game by game, chasing success that has been absent in recent years. Through his time here at Penn State, Marks believes he has improved a lot, even if the end goal for the team hasn't necessarily been reached.

"I think as a leader I've developed a lot," Marks said. "Just having more responsibilities and dealing with teammates, going through struggles together as a team, and as a team I think now we have more guys who are serious about winning and more guys who want to progress and play professionally one day, so that's a motivating factor every day in training."

To email reporter: ejp5401@psu.edu.
Follow him on Twitter at [@evan7patrick](https://twitter.com/evan7patrick).



John Stinely/Collegian

Defender Dani Marks (18) passes the ball during the men's soccer game against Bowling Green at Jeffrey Field on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

Jeff Cook not losing faith despite difficult results

By Jake Aferiat
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Jeff Cook has made it his personal mission to rebuild Penn State men's soccer.

It was even the first thing he told several of the seniors — that he wanted to win something for them right away. The only problem is that Cook has never had to rebuild a college program before.

Penn State's first-year coach had 17 years of Division I head coaching experience, 149 career Division I wins and eight NCAA tournament berths prior to arriving in Happy Valley — where the program that Cook inherited hasn't posted a winning season since 2014.

The Nittany Lions won just five games a season ago, winning only two conference games and finishing seventh of nine teams in the final Big Ten standings. And while Penn State hasn't recently been known for its soccer prowess, Cook looked to change that as well.

"This is one of the iconic athletic departments in the United States and our men's soccer program should be no different," Cook said in August prior to the start of his inaugural season.

While Cook admitted he wasn't sure how quickly he would achieve his goal, the Nittany Lions have both struggled at times this season while also displaying one of Cook's favorite traits — resilience.

Though the Nittany Lions have only won three games this year, though two of them were shut-



Zack Gething/Collegian

Coach Jeff Cook yells to his players at the men's soccer game at Jeffrey Field on Friday, Aug. 24. Penn lost to UCF 2-1 in double overtime.

outs, two of them saw the Nittany Lions score multiple goals and one was against conference rival Ohio State.

But there was also a stretch where Penn State failed to score a goal in three consecutive contests in addition to two other shutout losses the Nittany Lions have suffered.

Still though, while outsiders may critique the Nittany Lions' lack of offensive production or the system and culture Cook is trying to implement, Cook himself has never wavered in his commitment to his goal, nor in his belief in his players. Cook was his typi-

cal positive self and in full motivator-in-chief mode following his team's 3-0 win over Stony Brook on Tuesday.

"We feel like we're just starting to scratch the surface of what our potential is and for me it's a positive sign and a good step forward," Cook said.

The win came at a critical juncture for the Nittany Lions who entering Tuesday hadn't scored in three consecutive games and were starting to see their standing in the Big Ten rankings slip further and further. Yet Cook, who is more intimately familiar with the inner workings of his team

and its culture, wasn't fazed by his team's sporadic offense and was quick to warn that the box score doesn't tell the whole story, especially against the four ranked teams Penn State has faced.

"As we try and build this program, we want to bring consistency, give the players confidence and not overreact to results that go against us. We just have to keep pushing forward," he said. "Goals can change games and sometimes the results can be impostors. The results can sometimes disguise certain elements of your play."

One area where the Nittany

Lions have excelled is defensively.

They've held opponents to one goal or less in eight of their 11 games played and posted three shutouts in that span and yield just under five shots on goal per game.

Part of that is the emphasis Cook has placed on it, but he feels that many of his defenders place just as strong a focus on it, even if means they're not padding their stats or racking up awards.

It's the selflessness, but also the trademark resilience and determination Cook thinks have been an asset for his back line.

"It's because of determination and a real pride in keeping teams off of the scoreboard. We have guys that are really determined and willing to do the hard work of defending," Cook said. "It's not always what you get a lot of accolades for and it doesn't make the front page normally, but I think our defense has been excellent."

Regardless of the result and regardless of the play of the offense or defense on any given night, Cook knows his team possess innate talent and a deep bench that will bode well for the Nittany Lions down the stretch, as the end of Big Ten play and the start of the Big Ten tournament draw nearer.

"It's a good feeling when you make a substitution not just to give someone a break but you make a substitution where someone can impact the game," Cook said. "That's what we're learning — it's not just survive for five minutes and get off — it's get out there and make a difference."

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



Zack Gethig/Collegian

Kendall White (3) dives to save the ball at the women’s volleyball game versus Pitt at Rec Hall on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017.



Christopher Sanders/Collegian

Penn State's Nikita Pavlychev (13) skates up the ice alongside Ohio State's Dakota Joshua (8) in the game at Pegula Saturday Jan. 21.

Details: Men’s hockey vs. Clarkson When: 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11 Where: Pegula Ice Arena	Details: Women’s soccer vs. Maryland When: 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12 Where: Jeffrey Field	Details: Men’s soccer vs. Wisconsin When: 12 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14 Where: Jeffrey Field
Details: Men’s hockey vs. Clarkson When: 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12 Where: Pegula Ice Arena	Details: Women’s volleyball vs. Nebraska When: 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13 Where: Rec Hall	Details: Women’s soccer vs. Rutgers When: 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14 Where: Jeffrey Field



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Bigar’s Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ One-on-one relating takes you down a colorful path. An authority figure could surprise you with his or her attitude. If you cannot work within this person’s parameters, walk away. Relate directly to a loved one, and you’ll be pleased with the outcome. Tonight: All smiles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Don’t take a stand, even if you’re inclined to. Stay out of others’ whirlwinds and issues. You will know when to reconnect on a deeper level. Let those around you know that you have confidence in them and in their choices through your actions. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Focus your energy where it counts. You will see a situation differently once you have completed the necessary work to wrap up a project. Share your perspective more openly at this point. You will get the respect you desire and need. Tonight: Put up your feet and relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Express your emotional creativity. Others note how different your ideas are. Someone of interest might decide to come toward you in order to get to know you. You will find out what happens by being authentic. Honor your integrity. Tonight: Time to let your hair down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Understand what is happening around a domestic matter and a piece of property. Realize that your priorities might need revising. Do not fight the inevitable; instead, flow with it. Look to making changes at a later date. Tonight: Remain positive, and say "yes" to a fun get-together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.22)
★★★★ Reach out to someone you care about. This person seems to remain responsive no matter what you do! Do not push or test your limits, as a reversal could be close to impossible to enact at the present point. Let others know how much their loyalty means to you. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Act rather than speculate, except when dealing with money ventures. The risk might not be worth it. You could be questioning how to best deal with a difficult roommate or family member. This situation is not new, yet you might want to try a new approach. Tonight: Give 100 percent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You want to get to the bottom of a problem. Others might be reluctant to give you more information, yet you will accept nothing less. Understand that someone’s priorities might influence which facts he or she chooses to relay. Share news. Tonight: Think "weekend."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Back out of a problem, or decide to be mum about it for now. You need to look at the issue at hand from several different perspectives before making a final judgment call. You will like what you see. Use the gift of time to your advantage. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You can’t count on others’ reactions to be what you want them to be. You can count only on yourself and your own responses. Do not create a hassle where one doesn’t exist. Examine your possibilities more openly. Detach from a heated situation. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You carry additional responsibilities, but not because you want to. Much seems to fall on your plate because others know you will follow through. Consider using the word "no" more often. Be willing to be slightly less responsible once in a while. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Reach out to an expert to get feedback, rather than brainstorm with a friend who is more likely to agree with you. You will get more dynamic input and have an opportunity to see an option that might not be readily visible. Tonight: Make weekend plans with loved ones.

BORN TODAY

Author Elmore Leonard (1925), golfer Michelle Wie (1989), singer/songwriter Daryl Hall (1946)

YOUR BIRTHDAY MESSAGE:

This year you open up to new possibilities and ways of managing your life, especially with regard to your finances. You will feel more secure than in recent years. If you are single, your charm emanates and draws many people toward you. You have choices to make, especially as winter approaches. If you are attached, communication with your sweetie improves and intensifies. You will find your daily life as a couple to be more vital. SCORPIO has strong opinions; listening does not mean you agree.

Crossword

Across

1 State openly
5 Tablelands
10 Retro hairdo
14 Ritzy
15 Uncredited actor
16 Diving bird
17 Talipot palm leaf
18 Watchman
19 Kind of surgery
20 Tempest
22 Golfer’s concern
23 Card game
24 Strained
27 Humanities degs.
30 Family tree word
31 Bird of myth
32 German river
35 Suggested
37 Russian orbiter
39 Libertines
40 Sunshine State
41 Museum VIP
44 Shellfish
46 Store posting (Abbr.)
47 Chemical suffix
48 Between Arnhem and Utrecht
49 “C” ____ la vie!”
50 Advocate
53 Solar system member
56 Clavell’s “____Pan”
57 Armored vehicles
61 During
62 More owlsh
64 Challenge for a barber
65 Like some vases
66 Skirt style
67 Radiate
68 Quarry
69 Retreats

Down

1 Mil. addresses
2 Electrical unit
3 Quisling’s city
4 Quay
5 Ryan of “I.Q.”
6 Rejoiced
7 Flight segment
8 Overdue debts
9 Needing a lift
10 Vocally
11 Contour
12 Be itinerant

70 Soaks, as flux

13 Sole
21 Parsons
23 Lying down
25 Linda ____
Supergirl’s alias
26 Apex
27 Hard close-grained wood
28 French romance
29 Some rail lines
32 Related maternally
33 Quiet actors
34 Bypass
36 Pastoral setting
38 Woody Herman’s “____Autumn”

42 Lennon’s lady
43 Lizard, e.g.
44 Permissive
45 Literary piece
50 Roly-poly
51 Desert sight
52 Circus performer
53 Seductress
54 Mideast potentate
55 Emergency CB channel
58 Reputation
59 Make a sweater
60 Hardens
62 Pallid
63 Hi-____graphics

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WORD SEARCH

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Poker Night

Ace
Ante
Bet
Bluff
Buy In
Call
Cards
Casino
Chips
Contest
Dealer
Deck
Draw
Flop
Flush
Full House
Hands
Jack
King
Limit
Luck
Pair
Poker
Queen
River
Shuffle
Straight
Suit
Wager
Wild Card

T G L J E R J O B Y B E Z P A A F L
E H D X U T Q U E E N F P A O V M L
B O G E H Z N F G A C M A I H L X A
U I X D A V I A N F O B Y R F Z F C
E C A R U L Q W I U N Y U H B M F D
J H I A U D E C K X T O N I S A C R
L O K C U L O R Z H E Q U P Y U L W
U T S D W R Z J U E S E I L Y C L W
F I B L C Y E X S R T H B F N I A F
Q M S I G R K U P E C D Y H Y R M A
C I L W M I O V S D R A C L D U F T
P L Z E S H T H G I A R T S W D D N
C T N J L D Q Y S K G A N U A E Q F
O W F L S M N S G J V B F I G M L F
R U U C Z Z U A N I Y U B T E Y J U
D F H X C W X C H Z P O K E R A F L
V O B S V N S H U F F L E F C K X B
R E V I R O T Q J N O F V K N D K N

Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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

	16	13		18	19		3	28	
17			17			11			21
			12			18			
18						30			
	16	20	30				5		
							9		
17			20		34				
24				13	10				
		21							
			24						

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PENN STATE VS. MICH. STATE

GAME INFO

Penn State vs. Michigan State
Time: 3:30 p.m. Saturday
Place: Beaver Stadium
TV: BTN
Spread: Penn State -3.5
Over/under: 54

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Penn State:
WR Juwan Johnson

The junior wideout made the catch of the season against Ohio State, but he's yet to prove himself as a true every down receiver. The Nittany Lions will once again look to get him involved early and often against the Spartans.

Michigan State:
LB Joe Bachie

Everyone talks about the Spartan defensive line and its run-stopping abilities, but Joe Bachie is the true star of the defense. He'll be tasked with stopping Trace McSorley and Miles Sanders this weekend.

BY THE NUMBERS

51

Penn State and Michigan State combined for 51 points in last season's matchup.

400

Michigan State quarterback Brian Lewerke threw for exactly 400 yards on 33 completions last season.

102

DeAndre Thompkins had a big game against the Spartans last season, racking up over 100 yards receiving.

1

Both teams head into this weekend's matchup with just one win in-conference, leaving both teams desperate for a W.



Collegian file photo

Spartans bring top run defense

By Thomas Schlarp
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Eight.
Not even the distance between the chains on first down were accumulated by the Northwestern running game last week against Michigan State. The Wildcats rushed the ball 20 times for a total of eight yards against the Spartans, and although Northwestern walked away with the win, the Michigan State run defense walked away as the top unit in all of the country.

Through five games in which Sparty has allowed just 169 yards on the ground — 25 to Utah State; 44 to Arizona State; 29 against Indiana; a season-high 63 to Central Michigan; and most recently eight to Northwestern — the No. 1 rush defense has been the backbone of an otherwise less than stellar Michigan State defense.

A defensive line led by 6-foot-4, 300-pound nose tackle Raequan Williams along with Mike and Jacob Panasiuk and tackle-for-loss leader Kenny Willekes, the Penn State offense will have its toughest challenge to date running the ball just two weeks after playing a highly touted Ohio State unit.

"You watch the tape and you're looking at all those thighs and legs and rear ends, I mean, they are massive," Franklin said. "They take a lot of pride in making you one-dimensional, and you know, you see that on tape."

Penn State struggling to run the ball against the Spartans is familiar territory. In the past two seasons, the Nittany Lions have only rushed for 65 and 77 yards respectively. Running back Miles Sanders is coming off his worst performance of the season against Ohio State in which he only rushed for 43 yards on 16 tries. Even though Sanders will look to get back on track against the Spartans, he knows how difficult that will be.

"All 11 players have their eyes in the backfield," Sanders said. "The linebackers, the [defensive backs] and the safeties, instead of reading the actual play, they read the guards....It's just running physical and getting those hard runs. It's being patient."

Where the Michigan State defense has struggled this year is in defending the pass. Allowing 305.2 yards per game through the air, the Spartan pass defense is the only Big Ten team allowing over 300 yards passing and ranks 122nd out of 129 teams nationally. In particular, the defense

struggles to defend intermediate passes, with the linebackers busy being concerned with the run, therefore giving up explosive plays in the pass game. An example is the first quarter, 77-yard passing score from Northwestern quarterback Clayton Thorson, which gave the Wildcats an early 7-3 lead.

The availability of speedy wideout K.J. Hamler will be important if Trace McSorley and the Nittany Lions want to make Michigan State respect a threat over the top, pulling a stacked line and linebackers into coverage.

"They just get hats to the box in the run game," McSorley said. "That's kind of been their staple. Over the tenure of being there, they're not going to let you run the ball. They're going to make you earn it. They're going to make you have to make one-on-one plays in the passing game."

Perhaps the biggest individual matchup to solving the Spartan run defense will be between McSorley and linebacker Joe Bachie.

"We think [Bachie] may be the best linebacker in the league that we have seen," Franklin said. "Very productive, very physical. Great leader for them. Runs really well."

Bachie currently leads Michigan State with 39 tackles and has

had success in past years limiting McSorley's effort on the ground. In McSorley's two prior starts against the Spartans, he has just 15 rushing yards on 17 carries.

Coming off his first career 100-yard rushing performance against the Buckeyes and the fact that the quarterback-run is a heavy component of offensive coordinator Ricky Rahne's game plan, just how much Michigan State keeps Bachie near the line of scrimmage to spy will be key to what type of big plays are available for Penn State.

"One thing they do really well is that they obviously have great linebackers year in and year out," McSorley said. "They get the defense set and get them in the right position and ready to play fast and aggressive."

While no one expects Penn State to gash the Spartan defense for triple digit rushing yards, the Nittany Lions just need to run effectively enough to keep Michigan State on edge and keep the clock rolling.

"I see why the stats are the way that they are," Sanders said. "We know what they're like in the run game. We're up for the challenge."

To email reporter: rts5199@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @TSchlarp.

Settling on a top defensive unit

By Matt Lingerman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After beating Illinois in Champaign, James Franklin said the defense's rotation was nothing out of the ordinary.

Second and even third teamers played snaps, many of which came prior to the game becoming a blowout, and a cycling linebacking corps was as effective as it had been all season. Franklin even mentioned the ever-changing linebackers after the game.

However, it's rare for truly stout defenses to incorporate more than 14 or 15 players on meaningful snaps, and through four games Penn State was using upwards of 20. Then the Nittany Lions hosted Ohio State, and the rotation stopped.

The defensive line continued to cycle through players, which Franklin said is the norm for his program, but substitution all but ceased elsewhere. Cam Brown played all but one snap at the SAM linebacker spot, Koa Farmer was occasionally relieved by Micah Parsons and five secondary players played essentially every snap, with the Nittany Li-

ons electing to use mostly nickel.

For three quarters, Penn State's defense bordered on elite.

"In the fourth quarter, they got their athletes in space," Franklin said. "We did not do a good job of tackling their athletes in space. Did we take a step as a defense against an elite program? Yeah."

Limiting the amount of defenders who got high-leverage reps against the Buckeyes proved to be the right decision. Through three quarters, the Nittany Lions held the nation's second-best scoring offense to 14 points.

But there was a visible downside to applying this tactic in the most important game of the year to date: The players weren't used to playing such a large quantity of snaps.

"We play our best players, and we get worn out late in the fourth quarter against really good football teams," Franklin said.

Fatigue certainly had an impact on the players, and probably had a hand in their sloppy tackling late in the game. But Penn State is at a point in the season where playing tired guys is a risk worth taking.

"As you get deeper in the season, with Big Ten play and things

like that, coaches are going to put in guys who they trust and who they feel like can make the plays necessary," Nick Scott said.

Penn State was caught between a rock and a hard place against Ohio State. Franklin couldn't have chosen to give younger, less experienced players a go at the Buckeyes, but there's no

saying they would've had any more success than the worn starters. Nixing the rotation also adds the issue of potentially damaging the confidence of those young players who didn't see the field, but Scott is familiar with the situation.

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



Ken Kalbach/Collegian

Safety Nick Scott (4) tackles an Appalachian State receiver during the game at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 1.

Tyler King



King

coming into this game. Penn State bounces back with a double-digit win.

Score: Penn State 38, Michigan State 21

Patrick Burns



Burns

offensive line continues to battle the injury bug.

Score: Penn State 45, Michigan State 24

Matt Lingerman



Lingerman

stout rush defense and put the Spartans away early in the second half.

Score: Penn State 42, Michigan State 20

Thomas Schlarp



Schlarp

in rushing yards, and Penn State will find enough success on the ground for more big plays.

Score: Penn State 35, Michigan State 20

Multimedia Editor: Jack R. Hirsh



Hirsh

still throw for over 300 yards in garbage time.

Score: Penn State 52, Michigan State 17