



Collegian file photo

The Penn State football team holds the Governor's Victory Bell aloft after the Nittany Lions' overtime win over Minnesota at Beaver Stadium on Saturday Oct. 1, 2016.

# THE START OF IT ALL

*It's been over three years since Penn State last played Minnesota, and a lot has changed since that overtime win over the Gophers*

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Oct. 1, 2016 feels like a lifetime ago. Penn State was 2-2, coming off humiliating loss at the hands of Michigan. On that day, the Nittany Lions took the field against Minnesota, and after a disappointing first half, many wondered when the next head coaching search would begin. But only a few short hours later, they were off and running, and they have never

looked back. Penn State made a late comeback, tying the game in the final seconds and beating the Gophers 29-26 in overtime. After the game, James Franklin said that "this was a game that we can really grow from." Saquon Barkley said, "Hopefully we can just build off of that." It's safe to say they did. Since that day, Penn State is 37-7, once again among the elites of college football. But Franklin will never forget that half-time, when it looked like things couldn't get any worse.

I remember it very clearly, how the stadium was, and how the stadium was with me and how the stadium was with the team," Franklin said. "I remember that very clearly. I probably always will." Students made their voices heard, chanting "Fire Franklin" and "We want Les [Miles]" — fans are probably happy they didn't get their wish about that last one. The third quarter quieted some of that down. But there was still work to do in the fourth.

Franklin knew at the time that this was a special one. "I think it was definitely something our players needed. Everyone needed it, there is no doubt about it..." Franklin said after the game. "I remember when I first became a head coach we had a game against UConn that we won early on and it kind of built a lot of confidence in everybody. It kind of went from there and we needed that here. Tonight is one of those nights."

This Saturday, Penn State faces Minnesota for the first time since that day. The stakes are a little higher this time around, as both teams are 8-0. The Nittany Lions have a lot on the line, and they hope this game could put them in a spot to do some big things this season.

But Franklin knows that this team may not be where it is now without that game three years ago.

"I think if you look at from that game and from that year, moving forward, if you look at the coaches that have been doing it since then," Franklin said.

"There's very few that have won more games than we have as a program since that point."

This Penn State team is very confident, and that is illustrated on the field every week.

But that wasn't always the case before that night in 2016.

"We always talk about how good we can be," McSorley said after the game. "And it was time to stop talking, and start doing it."

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Collegian file photo

Former Penn State running back Saquon Barkley (26) makes his way through the Minnesota defense during the game at Beaver Stadium in 2016.

MY VIEW | DYLAN JACOBS

## The CFP committee got it right

The committee got it right. Penn State found itself at No. 4 in the first College Football Playoff ranking of the season, ahead of Clemson, right where it should be.

The committee made a statement that the schedule matters. It made a statement that consistency matters.

Earlier this week, I wrote that Penn State should be at No. 3, ahead of both Alabama and Clemson. But with the consistency of the Crimson Tide, I'm okay with it. Really, Clemson was where I drew the line.

If Penn State sat behind both of those two schools, then what's even the point of playing tough games? But that's not the case. And a win this week will get Penn State into the top-3, with the fact that Alabama or LSU have to lose. The Nittany Lions are now in a great position the rest of the way, and a big reason for that is Ohio State being ranked No. 1. Penn State fans should be ecstatic that the Buckeyes are at the top.

Now, if that's Penn State's only loss, it will be on the road against the best team in the country. It will be better than any loss any other team has.

Let's imagine that the Nittany Lions and Crimson Tide both finish as one-loss non-conference champions, with Alabama's loss coming to LSU.

Even though right now Alabama is ahead, Penn State's loss would be much better, as the Tide's would be at home, barring a blowout at the Shoe.

The committee would have to put the Nittany Lions in with that scenario. This also shows that if Clemson loses, it's out of it. Because it wouldn't have a loss that even closely stacks up to Penn State. The Pac-12 and Big-12 could throw a wrench in that, but when do things ever go as planned? What are the odds that both conferences end with a one-loss champ?

Something weird will happen. It always does. And what happens if Penn State goes into Columbus and wins? That alone would get them in, regardless of what happens in the Big Ten title game.

What doesn't help is Minnesota being at No. 17, lower than what the AP Poll had them.

But they still will have numerous ranked wins. Yes, at this point, where teams are ranked really doesn't matter.

We've seen teams come and go from the top-4 over the course of a season. But right now, Penn State has a chance to do something special, and the committee sees that too.



Lauren Magnotta/Collegian

Running back Journey Brown (4) surveys the field as he carries the ball during the season opener against Idaho at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Aug 31.



# 2019 Centre County election results

By Collegian Staff  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The 2019 Centre County general election results are in, with significant changes in store for the State College mayoral position and the State College Borough Council.

According to the Centre County website, voter turnout was higher for a local election.

In this election, about 31 percent of registered voters cast a ballot, with 33,876 ballots cast of 109,653 voters.

In contrast, voter turnout in Centre County was at about 25 percent in the 2017 local elections.

Four State College Borough Council seats were up for grabs during the 2019 local election, and the council will greet two new faces and welcome back two incumbents in 2020.

Jesse Barlow, Deanna Behring, Janet Engeman and Peter Marshall were elected to the council.

While Barlow and Engeman are returning, Behring and Marshall will begin their first terms as council members in 2020.

Despite the elected council members' different backgrounds and experiences, the four plan to address similar issues in the State College community.

Specifically, each elected council member outlined plans to address sustainability and diversity within the borough.

Additionally, State College mayor Don Hahn was elected as magisterial district judge for district 49-01-01.

Hahn will vacate his current mayoral position in December, and an interim mayor will serve the two remaining years of Hahn's term. The position is unrenewable.

Potential guidelines for interim mayor were discussed over the past few borough council meetings, but were tabled by the council on Nov. 6.

Several members of the



Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Voting tables at Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center on Nov. 5.

borough council wished to prevent a Penn State faculty member from serving as interim mayor.

In a statement provided by vote411.com, Hahn said that his top priority as magisterial district judge will be to maintain a level of service, fairness and justice in State College that is comparable to current Judge Carmine Prestia and those who have held the position before him.

"As an attorney since 1992, I have appeared before many judges and intend to emulate those whom I encountered who are patient, inquisitive, transparent, and thoughtful," Hahn said in the statement.

Voters also chose to pass a proposed amendment to Pennsylvania's constitution that grants particular rights to those affected by crime.

The rights include fair treatment, consideration of their safety in bail proceedings,

and restitution and return of property.

Voters also agreed to retain Judges Anne Lazarus and Judy Olsen for additional 10-year terms, as well as Judges Kevin Brobson and Patricia McCullough for additional terms on the Commonwealth Court.

The full election results are listed below:

## State College Borough Council

Jesse Barlow (D)  
Deanna Behring (D)  
Janet Engeman (D/R)  
Peter Marshall (D/R)

## District Judge District 49-01-01

Donald Hahn (D/R)

## Centre County Sheriff

Bryan Sampsel (D/R)

## Centre County Board of Commissioners

Michael Pipe (D)  
Mark Higgins (D)

## Centre County Controller

Jason Moser (D)

## Centre County Coroner

Scott Sayers (D/R)

## Centre County Treasurer

Colleen Kennedy (D)

## Centre County

## Prothonotary

Jeremy Breon (D)

## Centre County Recorder

## of Deeds

Joseph Davidson (R)

## Centre County Register of Wills

Christine Millinder (R)

## State Council Area Board of School Directors

Amy Bader (D/R)  
Gretchen Brandt (D/R)  
Amber Concepcion (D/R)  
Daniel Duffy (D/R)  
Laurel Zydney (D)

## Pennsylvania Superior

## Court Judges

Daniel McCaffery (D)  
Amanda Green Hawkins (D)

*Ashley Hayford, Erin Hogge, Lauren Fox and Maddie Aiken contributed to this report.*

# Pete Buttigieg's campaign bus makes stop in State College

By Ashley Hayford  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

South Bend, Indiana mayor and presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg's campaign bus rolled into State College at 2 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

The purpose of the "Pop-up Pete" event was to spread awareness of Pete's campaign and to allow attendees to take materials to distribute in their communities.

The Pete Bus started its trip in Iowa on Tuesday, and intends to arrive in New Hampshire by Thursday. State College is the only location the bus is making a campaign stop for in Pennsylvania.

Jessica O'Hara — a Penn State communication arts and sciences associate teaching professor and Central Pennsylvania volunteer for the Buttigieg campaign — spoke and rallied students, as she hopes to start an organization of Buttigieg supporters on campus next semester.

O'Hara said that Buttigieg appeals to students more than other candidates because of his age. She added he has experienced a lot of what younger generations have.

"I think Pete's age is something that attracts students. He's 40 years younger than some of the candidates," O'Hara said. "He is on the business end of climate change, as he often says, and there are a lot of financial time bombs that current politicians are ignoring. I think he can speak to that experience of having a future."

Additionally, O'Hara studied

under Buttigieg's father, Joseph Buttigieg, at the University of Notre Dame. She said she attributes her inspiration to be an educator to him.

"I happen to know his family very well, and heard about Pete when he was 12. I know how smart he is. I don't need him to be older," O'Hara said. "I really think that we could use his leadership to bring us forward into a future that he shares with us."

Jack Howard and Dan Risser were student speakers during the event. Both have canvassed and campaigned for Buttigieg in their hometowns.

"I'm speaking about Penn State values and how Pete Buttigieg is the Democratic candidate who best reflects Penn State's values of loyalty, service, and pride in our country," Risser (freshman-political science) said.

As a STEM student, Howard took a different approach compared to Risser, addressing a specific Buttigieg policy.

"I'm talking about his plans for renewable energy, and how he takes sort of a different, ambitious mindset, but realistic detailed work behind his approach to climate change," Howard (freshman-biology) said. "He's going to be giving opportunities to the next wave of engineers and scientists to be working in that green technology."

Risser added that he believes Buttigieg is in the presidential race for the right reasons, as the highest political position he has held in his career is mayor.

"He was sent into the political stratosphere," Risser said. "He's

the most well-spoken and qualified. When he speaks, it makes sense. He's not out for political gain, he's out to serve his country. I think that's really unique, that we don't see a lot in this political day and age."

Marv McMoore Jr., the National Youth Engagement director at Pete for America, spoke about how special it felt to return to Penn State again, as he came to campus in 2016 when he was the national president of College Democrats.

"As a young person, as a millennial, we know Washington is not getting it right," McMoore said. "We are sick of what we're seeing down there. We know that we need bold generational change to make America work for us and work for our generation."

McMoore continued to discuss Buttigieg's plans to invest in climate change, even at a local level. "We know that the experts tell us that we have about 10 years to get on the right path. If we're not on the right path, I won't be able to see my children and grandchildren go to Penn State or whatever college across this country," McMoore said. "Pete has bold, ambitious plans to make sure we address climate change, and invest billions of dollars into communities like this to make sure that we have the projects that we need to fight for a sustainable and clean economy."

McMoore, who identifies as queer, also addressed Buttigieg's policies and goals regarding LGBTQ rights.

"Pete's common goal is going to ban conversion therapy once and for all so we can stop torturing our kids," McMoore said. "Also under that plan, we're going to pass the Equality Act right away so that we can make sure you're not banned from housing and fired from your job just because of who you are."

Following student speeches, O'Hara took the microphone to share her thoughts on Buttigieg's policies. She said she feels he is most qualified candidate — demonstrated not only by his ability to speak seven languages or his role as a metaphorical teacher and student, but also by his stated goal to reframe issues to relate to the public's values.

"We're not just going to win this White House, we are going to win this era," O'Hara said.



James Leavy/Collegian

David Stone, of the Nittany Valley Water Coalition, speaks during a special borough council meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

## Potential interim mayor guidelines tabled, faculty eligible to serve

By Michael Sneff  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The State College Borough Council held a special meeting Wednesday afternoon to vote on guidelines for the interim mayor position, but passed a motion to table the guidelines after a lengthy discussion.

The council had planned to meet to officially vote on the guidelines proposed by councilwoman Catherine Dauler. The biggest talking point of the guidelines included a suggestion that the interim mayor "cannot be an active employee of the university."

The full list of suggested guidelines for a potential interim mayor include the person must have "actual work experience" in local government, cannot be a developer, must have commitment to Penn State student engagement and must have demonstrable experience conducting public meetings.

Councilman Jesse Barlow, who was reelected for council on Tuesday, proposed a motion to table the guidelines after many members of the council questioned why they were even voting on them in the first place. Councilman Dan Murphy seconded.

"We don't need the guidelines," Barlow said. "We're all capable of making this decision without them."

"These are guidelines. Nobody ever expected that we would sit here and say yay or nay," councilwoman Janet Engeman said. "I want to make it clear that it was never the intention of the members of the council to say yes, we need to adopt these guidelines."



Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Melissa Yahner, a member of Centre County for Pete Buttigieg, gives out a poster to a student during the Pop-Up Pete event on Nov. 6.



MY VIEW | Jake Aferiat

# The win in Virginia should inspire Democrats more than Kentucky

Democrats raved about a ‘blue wave’ in 2018, with the midterms leading the Democratic party to gain close to 40 seats in the United States House of Representatives.

There was a good reason for Democrats to be excited about making such big gains — it means real progressive legislation has a chance at passing through the House, but then it’ll likely stall in the Senate or once it gets to the President’s desk.

The same is true of Kentucky where one-term incumbent governor Matt Bevin, who has one of the highest disapproval ratings in the country, lost his seat to Democratic attorney general Andy Beshear.

People are hailing Bes-

hear’s victory as some sort of landmark victory for Democrats that means Mitch McConnell is somehow vulnerable in his re-election bid to the United States Senate.

Sure, a Democrat flipping the governorship in a state Trump carried by nearly 30 percentage points is always a good thing and maybe some things will change in Kentucky.

But I’m skeptical that will happen or that Mitch McConnell is in anyway going to lose in 2020.

McConnell will have the full breadth and weight of the Republican Party behind him, including President Trump’s support, and again in Kentucky, that will likely go a long way.

Even with McConnell’s growing unpopularity, unseating the Senate Majority Leader will be difficult, especially given the fact that the chief Demo-

cratic challenger to McConnell is failed Congressional candidate Amy McGrath, who among other stances previously said she would’ve supported Brett Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court.

McGrath won’t win, and that’s pretty clear, but that’s also not the point of this column.

As good and potentially inspiring as Beshear’s win may be, the Republicans currently have a 22 seat (61-39) majority in the Kentucky State House of Representatives and a 20 seat (29-9) majority in the Kentucky State Senate, meaning Beshear’s agenda either won’t get passed or will get watered down by the Republicans.

That’s why Tuesday night’s victories in the state House and state Senate in Virginia mean so much more than the win in Kentucky.

On Tuesday, Democrats in Virginia achieved the “trifecta,” meaning they now control the governorship and both legislative chambers after Democrats flipped the House of Delegates and the State Senate, meaning Gov. Ralph Northam’s agenda now has a much greater chance of getting enacted.

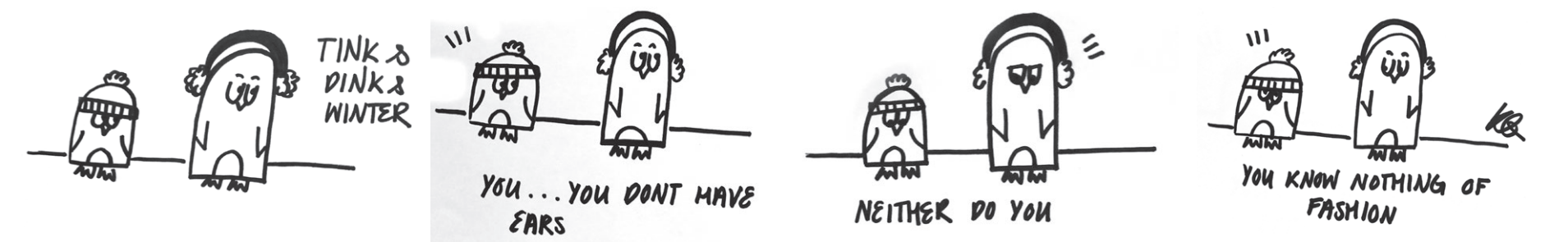
Northam already made plans to enact stricter gun control laws and expand pre-K across the state —

two big Democratic talking points — as well as taking up the Equal Rights Amendment in the state legislature.

If Virginia agrees to take up an enact the ERA, it would be the 38th state to agree to the amendment, meaning the amendment could be ratified at the federal level.

So yes, Andy Beshear’s win is important and it means 25 states have Democratic governors and 25 have Republican governors. But it’s in Virginia, where the people empowering the governor and others in positions to enact those legislative agendas, where the real hope should lie for 2020 and beyond.

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MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

# The environment needs more than 20 million trees

\$20 million by 2020 and 20 million trees by 2022.

That’s the goal set by YouTubers. YouTuber Jimmy Donaldson — also known as Mr. Beast — recently partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation to

launch the #TeamTrees campaign. For every one dollar donated, a sapling will be planted. He set an ambitious target of \$20 million by the end of the year.

Rightfully, this campaign is being treated as more than another internet challenge. Remarkably, the sum of donations is over halfway there just weeks after the campaign went public. When this column was written, more than \$13 million have been contributed. The environment is at the forefront of conversation, as it should have been for years.

We’ve all been fretting about keeping the global temperature increase under

two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, per the Paris Agreement . Voters pay attention to climate change policies when determining their front-running presidential candidate. We have climate strikes and we support activists, such as Greta Thunberg. But we have felt relatively helpless in the face of the climate crisis.

It feels as though we waited too long to pay attention to the needs of our home planet, and the destructive impact we’ve had on it is irreversible.

Unless we also curb carbon emissions, a tree on every square foot of land is not going to cancel out negative effects on the environment. That is not to say we shouldn’t donate; I donated a few dollars of my own. Planting trees throughout the world will absolutely have a positive impact. It just might not be fast enough.

As much as we would like to take the issue of climate change into our own hands

“It feels as though we waited too long to pay attention to the needs of our home planet, and the destructive impact we’ve had on it is irreversible.”

Madeline Messa

when politicians are slow to act, government regulations are necessary. Without strict emission caps on corporations, trees may not be able to negate the toxins in the atmosphere.

Once 20 million trees are planted, the mission is not complete. It likely never will be. We have to continue to urge politicians to collaborate for the sake of the planet, we have to keep innovating to conserve energy and reduce waste, and we have to take accountability for the damage humans have done to the Earth so it may be atoned for to the greatest possible extent.

That said, the #TeamTrees campaign is positive and worthy of applause. Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and other pollutants while releasing oxygen. Their shade conserves energy by reducing the need for air conditioning. They provide a home to wildlife.

By saying that planting trees is not enough, I do not mean we shouldn’t plant them.

We absolutely should. But we do need to do more.

While it is fun, the campaign to plant 20 million trees should be taken seriously.

It will have real-world effects on more than your social media if you donate. Plus, you get to say you donated trees to the Earth. How cool is that? By giving a little green, you can contribute to a greener Earth.

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Photo by Lily LaRegina/Collegian

# LAMONT'S RESURGENCE

*After an up-and-down first two years, the junior cornerback has enjoyed the best month of his collegiate career*

By Caleb Wilfinger  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Lamont Wade has put a lot of thought as to where he stood as not just as a member of Penn State's secondary, but as a football player in general.

In dwelling on his collegiate career to that point, one where he saw limited action on the field, Wade realized how important taking the field on Saturdays meant to him.

But in his junior season, Wade is focused on playing in the present, and he's doing it with attitude, confidence and a newfound purpose on the football field.

"I think I've really found myself as a player, and I'm more confident than I've ever been playing football," Wade said following Penn State's win over Michigan. "I think my success is a combination of everything for me — the mental aspect, how I'm watching film, preparing for games and executing once I'm on the field."

Wade has been playing the best football of his career over the

course of the last month, and his improved performance and attitude on the field is not just due to his increased level of focus and preparation.

Functioning as a part of an elite defense has also led to more success for the first-year starter, and the rest of the Nittany Lions secondary has taken notice.

"I would say that Lamont is a lot more confident on the field right now," senior safety Garrett Taylor said.

"I think his confidence has definitely shown through his play [this season]. He's flying around and making plays out there every week."

Over the past four weeks — against Purdue, at Iowa, against Michigan, then in sloppy conditions at Michigan State — Wade made 31 tackles, with five pass break-ups, 2.5 tackles for loss and a sack.

"I don't really label any of my games as the 'best one' or rank one over the other," Wade said. "But I do think I've been playing solid football, and I feel like my performances have been consistent [this season]."

Overall, Wade is third on Penn State's defense in tackles with 42 on the year. In fact, he trails only linebackers Micah Parsons and Cam Brown, who have tallied 57 and 44 tackles, respectively.

Additionally, about 75 percent of Wade's tackles this season have come in the last four games, as part of an excellent October stretch that has propelled the junior into All-Big Ten conversation.

As the season has progressed, Wade has undoubtedly become one of the most important members of this "championship-level" defense, and his teammates have been there for the continued growth of one of the leaders in the secondary.

"I think he's waited a long time for this moment," cornerback Tariq Castro-Fields said. "You can just tell that he's waited a long time to be in the starting role and he's taken full advantage of his opportunity. I'm super proud of how he's handled the challenge and with how he's carried himself this year."

Even with his strong play, Wade believes that no small part of his

success can be attributed to the success of Penn State's defensive line.

"Those guys are destructive man," Wade said. "Every defensive back's dream is to have a defensive line like can get to the quarterback and cause havoc like that. It makes my job easier because I don't have to cover my man as much, and that obviously helps me out."

One of the key plays of the season for Wade — and Penn State's defense as a whole — came in the waning seconds of the White Out game against Michigan, in which the safety was draped all over wide receiver Ronnie Bell as the Wolverines wideout dropped the potential game-tying touchdown.

That kind of season-defining play was one that Wade dreamed of making a year ago, and one that he couldn't have made without the confidence and freedom that he's gained in recent months.

It's those experiences that have served as inspiration for how Wade has carried himself this year, and what he has tried to impart on his fellow teammates.

"I just feel like being here and going through the process of struggling, and then overcoming that — it's given me a new perspective," Wade said. "I'm just trying to give other guys the knowledge that I've gained in my career, and I'm doing my best to lead whenever I can."

On the field, Wade has successfully put the past behind him, and it's translated into an excellent run of form during some of Penn State's most important games of the 2019 campaign.

But it's the admiration that he's garnered from his coaches and teammates that makes Wade one of the more respected members of this Penn State team.

"Lamont is obviously a great player and a hard worker, but more than that, he's one of my brothers," defensive tackle Fred Hansard said. "He's a guy that I know will be at my wedding in the future because that's how close we are. Everyone respects Lamont because he's not only a great player but a great person."

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# What's different about this Minnesota team?

By Benjamin Ferree  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Minnesota lined up at the 1-yard line with 5:40 left in its season opening game at home against FCS powerhouse South Dakota State.

Mohamed Ibrahim plunged ahead and crossed into the goal line on the second down play, giving the Gophers the lead and eventual victory, 28-21.

"I told these guys after the game, there are no bad wins," Minnesota head coach P.J. Fleck told reporters following the Gophers victory. "The mission coming into today was to get that first win of the season, whether it's by 20, 40, or seven, we got it done."

"I know we can play a lot better and the guys in the locker room know that, but they were handed a very difficult test, and they found a way to pass that test."

Fast forward 10 weeks and Minnesota is still finding ways to pass that test. Something that James Franklin has noticed.

"I look at them as a program, started out the year with some games against the Jackrabbits and against the boys from Fresno and found ways to get wins," Franklin said. "As the year has got on, like good programs and coaches do, they keep getting better. They just keep getting better. They know how to win. They play a style of football that you don't see much anymore."

The Golden Gophers are off to a historic 8-0 start this season, setting up a showdown of unbeaten when Penn State takes the field in Minneapolis on Saturday.

Minnesota is 8-0 for the first time since 1941, where they ended up being national champions.

It will be the first time since 2004 where Minnesota will take part in a matchup where both teams are ranked in the top-15. The last time a home game occurred with Minnesota and its



AP file photo

Minnesota head coach P.J. Fleck leads his team onto the field at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

opponent being in the top-15 was in 1961.

Dating back to last season, Minnesota has won 10 straight games, which is tied with Baylor for the third longest winning streak in the nation, behind Clemson and Ohio State.

The Gophers have won four Big Ten games this season by at least 20 points for the first time since 1934.

So, what exactly is different about this Minnesota team?

Well, it starts with the Gophers head coach. P.J. Fleck is in his third season with Minnesota and already changing the foundation of the program, just like he did at Western Michigan.

In 2013, the Broncos hired Fleck as their head coach and stumbled to a 1-11 season. The next two years, Western Michigan finished 8-5, before going 13-1 in 2016 with the Broncos only loss coming in the Cotton Bowl to Wisconsin.

And Fleck is doing the same thing in Minnesota and it's through his unusual philosophy.

In a recent Washington Post article, Fleck explained how to turn around a program in three pieces: "the right people, cultural consistency and valuing the long-term vision over short-term desires."

In Minnesota's most recent win over Maryland, it was Fleck's 50th career victory, making him the second youngest active FBS coach to reach that milestone.

In a recent article in the Pioneer Press, Fleck praised James Franklin and the culture he has built at Penn State and detailed the close friendship between the two coaches which includes the two coaches trying to visit each others programs once a year.

"We are just visiting about culture, about our program, and what are we doing different this year than we did last year," Fleck said in the article. "Talking about

different things that he likes doing and really just diving into each other's culture."

And after listening to interviews with Fleck and the Minnesota team a few phrases are thrown out that are very familiar to Penn State. The '1-0 mentality' and the use of the word 'elite' are common themes in Minnesota press conferences.

Fleck just does things differently and its working.

Minnesota is outscoring its Big Ten opponents 206-72 this season with an average margin of victory of 26.8 points. The offense is averaging 41.2 points per game this season which is second in the Big Ten and hasn't been held under 28 points yet this season.

Minnesota has also totaled more than 400 yards of offense in five straight games.

Penn State's defense is one of the best in the nation, but will be facing by far its biggest test on Saturday.

The highlight of the Gophers offense is its deadly trio of receiving threats.

Rashod Bateman, Tyler Johnson and Chris Autman-Bell have combined for 91 receptions for 1,558 yards this season.

Bateman and Johnson both have over 600 receiving yards so far this season.

The trio has accounted for 86 percent of Minnesota's receiving yards and are responsible for 17 of the 18 Minnesota receiving touchdowns this season.

Minnesota's signal caller, Tanner Morgan, has benefited greatly from the trio of receivers and have been the model of efficiency for the Gophers offense.

Tanner has a 65 percent completion percentage and has thrown only four interceptions to his 18 touchdowns.

The redshirt sophomore also averages 220 yards through the air per game.

In the Gophers last three home games however, Minnesota has excelled moving the ball on the ground, making this already explosive offense even tougher to slow down.

In their games against Illinois, Nebraska and Maryland, the Gophers have rushed for a combined 975 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Rodney Smith leads the team with 889 yards this season and is averaging 5.8 yards per carry.

In Minnesota's most recent game against Maryland, Smith became the leader in all-purpose yards in Minnesota football history.

But while Minnesota's offense has gained a lot of attention, its defense has also been playing steady, dominant football.

The Gophers are giving up an average of 14.4 points per game with is fourth in the Big Ten and have not allowed more than 300 total yards in six straight games.

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







# Conel out to make most of year at PSU

By Jake Aferiat  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Kyle Conel knew his odds of even being where he is today were incredibly slim.

**WRESTLING** The Ashtabula, Ohio, native is part of an elite class of wrestlers — the one percent who get a chance to wrestle collegiately at the Division I level.

But recently, the former All-American from Kent State joined even more prestigious company — he became one of just 35 Division I wrestlers that will get to compete this season as a member of Cael Sanderson's nine-time NCAA champion Penn State team.

The magnitude of the situation isn't lost on the sixth-year senior who came from a program in Kent State that produced one individual champion in that program's 91-year history, transferring to a Penn State program that is just a few years removed from having five individual champions on the same team.

"It's an experience of a lifetime. I don't want to say I take it for granted, but being here for a while, you know, you get you get used to it a little bit. But every day, I put it in perspective and remember that to be a Division I athlete I think there's about .9 percent of wrestlers who get to

do that," Conel said. "And to be a Division I athlete who wrestles at one of the greatest programs in the country, that's something many people dream about."

Conel, too, dreamed about it for a time, even if it was only when he finally made his decision to transfer.

The news came out on March 18 when Conel tweeted that if he got a medical redshirt, he intended to transfer to Penn State and almost seven months later, on Sept. 19 it was announced that Conel was cleared to compete for the Nittany Lions this season.

But Penn State fans were familiar with Conel long before he ever stepped foot in the Lorenzo Wrestling Complex.

As a junior at Kent State in 2018, Conel went 30-11 which was good enough to qualify for his second NCAA Tournament, but not good enough to get seeded.

Then, in the NCAA Tournament, the self-described "relaxed person" found another gear and managed to take third place at that year's NCAA Tournament thanks to downing Ohio State's Kollin Moore twice, which garnered Conel his first — and, to date, only — All-American nod.

Anytime an opposing wrestler prevents an Ohio State wrestler from recording points at the NCAA Tournament, it goes over well with the Penn State faithful.



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

**Graduate transfer Kyle Conel** speaks to the media during Penn State wrestling media day at Rec Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

And so, the unlikely All-American decided to finish his computer science degree at Kent State before putting his name in the transfer portal and going to the place where he became a fan favorite without ever donning a blue and white singlet.

"It's kind of ironic and I just thought about that when I got to the transfer portal and was like, 'What if I went to Penn State?'" Conel said. "Because of what happened at nationals and everything a ton of Penn State fans came up to me and they really accepted me and were obviously happy because of what happened. But it's nice to be here and have a year here in Happy Valley."

The former All-American will slot in at 197 for Penn State — a spot previously occupied by three-time NCAA champion and former Hodge Trophy winner Bo Nickal.

Sanderson conceded it's not about replacing Nickal in the lineup, but rather "building the next

wave" of Penn State standouts and even if Conel will only be a part of that next wave for a year, he adds an important veteran presence to the lineup.

"We're excited to have him in the program. He's really just a good kid, you know, always [has] a big smile and I think we'll have a lot of fun with him this year," Sanderson said. "He's obviously a really good wrestler. Our goal is just to help him with his weight and just being more consistent and hopefully jumping a level but again that's going to be up to him. But we're excited and I think it'll be a lot of fun to watch him wrestle."

The fun's already begun for Conel though, as the chief messages of Penn State's program — controlling what can be controlled and not taking life too seriously — have been reinforced in him for much of his short tenure here.

"Sports have never been an end all for me," Conel said. "Because I know like I said, that

my career is not going to be forever. So being here where people know and realize that, I'm just having a ton of fun."

Don't be fooled by Conel's perceived nonchalance toward his athletic career or his easygoing attitude. He's likely to be a force at 197 this season and between his wrestling and attitude, he seems to have earned his teammates' respect in his short time in the room.

"He's just one of the most genuine dudes I've met; he's such a nice dude. I've only worked out with him one time, you know, and scrapped a little bit but he's really cool to work with," teammate Shakur Rasheed said. "He's a different style and a different feel for me, so it helps me out a lot. But he's just a great dude to have on the team."

As for Conel, he's as committed as ever to his craft and insists he can turn the metaphorical switch on when it's time to compete.

But when it comes to trying to replace Bo Nickal or add any pressure to himself to succeed, he's just going to stick with what's worked for him thus far.

"I'm going to be me and that's it," Conel said.

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Follow him on Twitter at [@Jake\\_Aferiat51](https://twitter.com/Jake_Aferiat51).



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

**Cael Sanderson** speaks to the media during Penn State wrestling media day at Rec Hall on Tuesday.

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