



Photo by Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Defeat.

No longer unbeaten, Penn State is feeling pain and raw emotion, but with that comes a chance for growth and an opportunity to change

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

MINNEAPOLIS — Emotions were running high in TCF Bank Stadium on Saturday.

From the fans waving their gold towels and storming the field, to Minnesota head coach P.J. Fleck crowd surfing his players in the locker room after the game, to the defeated, teary-eyed Penn State players.

The Nittany Lions suffered their first loss of the 2019 season at the hands of the undefeated Gophers, a loss that wasn't taken lightly in the Nittany Lions locker room.

"It's a tough loss. Obviously a lot of emotions with that," quarterback Sean Clifford said. "We

just have to keep on fighting and that's what we did in this game, came up short."

"Just gotta keep fighting."

The loss will provide Penn State a chance to learn and a chance to get better from the first real, tough adversity they have faced all season. And the pain is a large part of that.

"This is adversity," defensive tackle Robert Windsor said. "We have to use it as fuel. It's pain. People are willing to change most when they are in pain so we've got to use this and change and get ready for our next opponent."

But, the process for Penn State, to move on from this loss, to move on and refocus on Indiana and get back to being '1-0 this week' is going to look differently than it

has in past seasons.

James Franklin alluded to the fact that in previous seasons, after tough losses, he would go in the locker room and start pointing out mistakes to the team.

Franklin didn't do that on Saturday.

"It's not the time for that," Franklin said. "The emotions are raw, the feelings are raw."

So instead, Franklin gave his team something to think about, gave his team a message that will sit with them on the plane back to State College.

"I did tell them that everything in life is a learning opportunity and to take a minute, take a deep breath but have this feeling, don't block it," Franklin said. "Have the feeling and everything can be used for fuel."

It was a tough message for Franklin to deliver to a deflated locker room and a very tough message for the players to hear.

Franklin mentioned that multiple players came up to him personally after the game and apologized for their performances.

This was something that didn't sit right with the coach, even though he understands the pain of a loss for everyone involved with the program.

"There is no reason for them to say sorry to me," Franklin said. "They give their blood, sweat and tears to this university and to this community and to this program. There is a lot of hurting guys in there."

"Coaches, players, everybody that is involved. I know the fans are hurting. I get it."

And the key to Penn State moving on from this defeat and

using it as fuel is in the locker room, in the individuality of every single player to commit to the team.

"I really haven't been around a team that loves each other like we do," Clifford said. "I think it's just all about staying together, knowing that each person has each others back."

"Just keep grinding through this season because we're not done yet."

In moments like this, it allows the leaders of the team to step up and what defensive tackle PJ Mustipher saw in the locker room after the game was exactly that.

"Just for the courage of a guy to come up and say that it's his fault, we definitely love that," Mustipher said. "That's what leaders do, but at the same time we are going to support that guy, we are going to love that guy and we are going to say it's on everybody. It's on each and every man and woman in this program."

The Penn State season is far from over. The Nittany Lions, with one loss, still control their destiny to a berth in the Big Ten Championship game and the College Football Playoff.

But a response is needed and its needed quickly.

"It's very important that we put it to bed tomorrow and move on," Franklin said. "I think there has been times where we haven't moved on from losses and I think part of it is how I've handled it in the locker room sometimes."

By handling it differently, Franklin hopes that it can avoid the back-to-back let down performances of years past.

And while the entire locker

room wasn't ready to see the defeat in that manner on Saturday evening, a few were.

"The season is not over. We have to have each others back," Mustipher said. "There was a lot of raw emotion and there should be. This was a big game and we didn't come out on top."

"Coach Franklin just emphasized that we have to support each other, tomorrow we have to go back to work and evaluate what we can do better but at the same time we have to use this so it doesn't happen again."

As Penn State returns to State College and prepares to take on a 7-2 Indiana team, there is a lot of thinking going on.

The raw emotions from the visitor locker room in TCF Bank Stadium may disappear, but the pain that came with them won't be forgotten so quickly and are going to stay by Penn State and be used for fuel.

But at the end of the day, Penn State needs to move on, one loss won't define its season, but how they respond from it, will.

"I think you can really take a whole day, win or loss," Clifford said. "Obviously, we haven't had to deal with this yet but definitely going to take a day to think, to reflect, to watch the film and that's really the only thing I want to do right now. Then just grow from it. That's one thing that I can guarantee is that through all this I'm going to come in tomorrow with the same mentality that I had before, if not hungrier."

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Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Safety Jonathan Sutherland (26) walks off the field after the game at TCF Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn. on Saturday, Nov. 9.

A lack of execution makes the difference

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

MINNEAPOLIS — Sean Clifford dropped back to pass on Saturday afternoon and fired the ball down the field to an open receiver.

But more often than not, the ball fell to the turf.

It was dropped and the maroon clad sold out crowd at TCF Bank Stadium rose to its feet and waved its gold towels with deafening noise.

In Saturday's 31-26 loss to Minnesota, Penn State didn't execute. The Nittany Lions didn't play 60 minutes of football and because of it, they are leaving Minneapolis 8-1 instead of 9-0.

Penn State's first drive of the game ended with an interception. Five plays later, Minnesota took a 7-0 lead on a 95-yard drive.

The Nittany Lions placed themselves into a hole three minutes into the game, a hole they were never able to get out of.

"At the end of the day, when you are playing a good football team like that you can't come out and not execute," defensive tackle PJ Mustipher said.

"We had to come out more dominant than we were, more aggressive than we were and we didn't do that."

Penn State's defense was shell-shocked in the first half. Minnesota was the first team to score a touchdown in the first quarter all season against the Nittany Lions.

Minnesota ended up averaging 10.4 yards per play in the first half



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Wide receiver Daniel George (11) lays on the ground after dropping a pass during the game against Minnesota at TCF Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn. on Saturday, Nov. 9.

and scored 24 points.

The most points Penn State had given up in a game prior to Saturday was 21 against Michigan.

"We understood that they were a good team and what they were going to do in running the ball

over us and on defense you can't give up 24 in the first half," linebacker Jan Johnson said. "We can't allow that to happen."

"It's not fair to our offense to have them play catch up all game. So I'm disappointed."

The defense just didn't exe-

cute. They blew countless coverages, missed tackles and frankly, at times, just looked lost out on the field.

The intensity that the Nittany Lions normally brought to the field every week, the ball hawking ability, just wasn't present in the

first half against Minnesota.

"I felt like offensively they were able to get in rhythm," James Franklin said.

"They were able to be very efficient and stay on schedule offensively. The game played out the way they wanted it to play out."

And by the time Penn State was able to adjust, by the time they were able to be the team that started the season with eight straight wins, it was too late.

On offense, it was a combination of dropped passes, turnovers and a lack of urgency.

Twice in the first half, long Penn State drives ended with short field goals instead of touchdowns.

And against 8-0 teams on the road, that is unacceptable.

"We just need to come out and start faster, execute better," tight end Pat Freiermuth said.

"Going back to the red zone, we didn't execute like we normally do and that's not a characteristic of us."

"We have to go back to the drawing board and figure it out."

Coming into Saturday, Penn State outscored its opponents 176-40 in the first half of its games.

A slow start, in this sort of environment, with real adversity, was something that the Nittany Lions hadn't experienced to this point this season.

And once Penn State was able to find themselves, they finished the game strong.

See **EXECUTION**, Page 6.

Students volunteer at Camp Kesem

The organization offers free summer camps for children who have a parent with cancer

By Kira Mohr
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State student Riley Kuhn’s involvement with Central Pennsylvania’s chapter of Camp Kesem goes beyond his dedication to the camp’s goal of empowering children who have a parent with cancer.

When Kuhn was 15, he was a camper himself, and experienced Kesem from a child’s perspective.

For Kuhn (sophomore -French and business), Kesem sets itself apart from other organizations through its enhanced focus on helping children who have been affected by the cancer of a parent, rather than solely on those affected by the disease.

“[Children of parents with cancer are] very often an under-loved population and these kids, some of them had to go through some of the darkest possible times of their lives,” Kuhn said. “I can personally say it gave me hope. I wouldn’t be here at Penn State today without it.”

With over five million people affected by cancer each year, Camp Kesem — a national organization dedicated to uplifting communities affected by cancer — hopes to continue providing support for children whose parents have cancer.

Camp Kesem’s mission as an organization is to support all children through and beyond a parent’s cancer — at no cost to the family — according to Central Pennsylvania Camp Kesem directors Maude Tarbox and Cheyenne Johnson.

Kesem currently offers free summer camps to children impacted by a parent’s cancer.

The organization’s initiative was designed at Stanford University in 2000.

As an organization, Kesem stresses the importance of diversity, inclusion and equity through various different areas of focus.

Though the organization’s



Courtesy of J. Diego Santos

Campers Dennis Focas, Chase Fetsko, Frank Campbell, Jonah Vitale, Ian Schmoke and Sarah Hussain smile for the camera during the camp-wide “Messy OlympiCKs”

main event is the annual camp, the organization holds various other fundraising events to fulfill its overall mission — including the Make the Magic benefit dinner, where guests receive a camp name for the evening, and have the opportunity to experience camp activities and donate toward Kesem’s fundraising goals.

In Central Pennsylvania, the camp is held in Camp Chen-a-wanda in Thompson, Pennsylvania.

However, events such as the Make the Magic dinner are held in State College.

Though Penn State students can get involved in Kesem through a plethora of different ways — such as online donations or event volunteering — becoming a counselor is an extremely rewarding experience for college-aged students, according to Tarbox and Johnson.

“College students, especially Penn State students, embody a rare quality — empathy,” Tarbox and Johnson said via a joint email. “Providing these

children with young adults they can look up to and feel comfortable around is what sets Camp Kesem apart. Camp Kesem’s volunteers are selfless, compassionate and driven.”

As a Penn State student and counselor at Camp Kesem, Sean Rich emphasized the importance of Kesem to his life.

Rich (senior-aerospace engineering), who began volunteering with the organization as a sophomore, said he believes college-aged students can make a difference in the lives of others through practicing Kesem’s initiatives and positively affecting the lives of children who need a support system.

“Perhaps one of the most unfortunate and under-looked consequence of having a parent affected by cancer is that kids often lose the consistent role models in their lives,” Rich said.

“College-aged kids have the perfect opportunity to step into this void and provide that support that the children may be losing. Joining Camp Kesem has taught me so much about myself,

and has demonstrated how much strength, bravery and resiliency our campers possess.”

Throughout the week-long camp, Kesem is filled with copious amounts of day-to-day events, in which attending campers and counselors alike participate.

A camp-wide favorite event, according to Tarbox and Johnson, is the “Messy OlympiCKs”, where campers and counselors dive into a mud pit and are splattered with paint, among other various messy items that leave them covered from head to toe.

A shower via firehose ends the day’s festivities, leaving each camper and counselor with an unforgettable memory.

In addition to the week-long planned activities, emotional empowerment is a significant aspect of Camp Kesem’s initiatives, according to Tarbox and Johnson. Unique compared to other summer camps, Kesem allows children and counselors to share their stories, creating a bond between all members of the Kesem community.

“Empowerment is part of

our emotional programming,” Tarbox and Johnson said. “This is an all-camp event that sets Camp Kesem apart from other summer camps. This is when campers are able to share their Kesem story, giving them the opportunity to share how cancer has impacted their life.”

One of the unique ways that campers and counselors bond throughout Camp Kesem is through “camp names”, which are nicknames created by each person that represent a small piece of their personality.

Kuhn, however, had a slightly different experience when choosing his camp name. At the time of his first attendance, he said he was suffering through one of the most difficult times in his life.

With no hope that the camp could help him, Kuhn gave himself the nickname “No Name” because of his disinterest in the camp at the time.

“I was scared and didn’t know if [Camp Kesem] was the place would be for me,” Kuhn said. “I thought it would just be a pity party so, out of fear, that name became ‘No Name’, and it stuck.”

Six years later, campers and counselors still know Kuhn as ‘No Name’, and continue the tradition of camp names each year.

In the upcoming year, Kesem hopes to open its doors to 30 more campers, continuing to support and empower children affected by the cancer of parent.

The chapter’s goal is to fundraise \$135,000 to support these families through and beyond, according to Tarbox and Johnson.

As for college students Rich and Kuhn, they plan to continue spreading hope to campers within Kesem’s Central Pennsylvania chapter, as well as gain some new faces to support the organization for the years to come.

“Just these kids and what it means to me personally — it’s everything,” Kuhn said, “and that’s why I continue to be a part of it.”

Students from China and Hong Kong weigh in on protests

By Lilly Riddle
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

On Oct. 1, an 18-year-old man was shot in the left shoulder by police in Tian’anmen Square in Beijing, China.

On the same day, thousands of 18-year-old Penn State students from China went about their Tuesday evenings at the University Park campus — but the act of violence that occurred that day still made its way to Penn State, even if indirectly.

Since April, protests and riots have been occurring in Hong Kong and elsewhere in the world, triggered by a bill that would allow suspected criminals in Hong Kong to be extradited to mainland China.

In the eyes of many, China has been overstepping its political boundaries, and should cede more power to Hong Kong or allow it to become independent.

Meanwhile, China wishes to keep Hong Kong as a special administrative region.

The Chinese student population is University Park’s largest international student body.

There are many Chinese student organizations at Penn State, with the largest one being the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) which has over 100 officers and 20 sub-departments.

The group hosts galas, entertainment events and eSports tournaments to bridge the gap between Chinese and American students and help them become more involved.

Qiuchen Fan, the president of CSSA, is from mainland China. She said that being able to look at both Chinese and American

media has allowed her to see the unequally distributed messages plaguing both sides of the Hong Kong debate.

“In the U.S., people keep saying that the police are acting violent toward the citizens of Hong Kong, but on the Chinese side, people are saying that [the protestors] are the ones beating the police up,” Fan (senior-hospitality) said. “I’m not saying that one side is fake, I believe both may happen. It’s just that both the [Chinese and American media] are one-sided.”

Fan added some of her friends from Hong Kong distrust the police, and that parents in Hong Kong are now conveying that same message to their children.

She said she doesn’t think this rhetoric is a good thing.

“I try to avoid conversations about [the Hong Kong protests] with friends, because when we talk, I know there will be different opinions,” Fan said. “I think a lot of students [at Penn State] are trying to avoid political conversations. Once you reach that line, it just becomes more difficult.”

Protests have occurred in Hong Kong, a former British colony, since its reassimilation into China in 1997 — but this series of political riots and demonstrations may hit closer to home for many students, especially those from Hong Kong.

Mingtian Yang, the communications department coordinator of the CSSA, went to high school in Hong Kong before attending Penn State.

He said many of his high school friends have different opinions than he does.

“Things are different now than when we were studying together,”

Yang (senior-computer science) said. “I’m worried that sharing my opinions would mean never talking to some of them again.”

However, Yang said he disagreed with Fan’s opinion that the media are biased in how they have been depicting this series of events.

He said he believes the media’s job is just to describe things that happen, which he said is what both sides have been doing.

“[The media] did describe what happened in Hong Kong. Some of [the stories] may be extravagant, but they’re still true,” Yang said. “The media just writes down what they see.”

Junsheng Shi, the graduate department coordinator for CSSA, said he felt the main reason for the protests is too much freedom in utilizing social media.

He said people receive biased opinions from social media and view it as the truth, which prevents them from thinking critically.

“People from China think differently from people in the U.S., but the freedom of social media allows anyone to get out their worldviews,” Shi (senior-accounting and applied mathematics) said. “CSSA wants to encourage people to have their own thoughts. We don’t want to constrain political opinions, but we should have our own ideas, and not just about what’s on social media.”

Fan said social media can also convey a negative image about mainland China, and create a false narrative about what life is like there.

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



Collegian file photo

Rechna Chabria holds her daughter Tamyra Dugar, 2, during the Diwali celebration hosted by ICLC PSU at Alumni Hall on Nov. 11, 2018.

Students celebrate Diwali with comedy act and performances

Kaitlyn Kudriavetz
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Indian Culture and Language Club (ICLC) hosted Vir Das, an Indian stand-up comedian and actor, as part of Penn State’s celebration of Diwali on Saturday night in Eisenhower Auditorium.

Diwali, which began on Oct. 27 this year, is the five-day Hindu festival of lights and a religious celebration of good over evil.

ICLC’s event also featured A Capella and dance performances from the student organizations Fanaa, Coda Conduct, JaDhoom and Nritya.

Following these performances, Das did his stand-up routine. Das has starred in Hindi cinema films and will star in a spinoff of the ABC comedy “Fresh Off the Boat.”

He stopped at Penn State as part of his current tour, “The Loved Tour,” in which he explores how love — and what hate — has been shown throughout his life.

“We measure our patriotism with how much we hate each other,” he said, “and I think that’s absolutely nonsense.”

His set did not err on the side of caution and took no prisoners, as he even took jabs at the Penn State football team’s performance from earlier that day.

“F*** Minnesota. Who do they think they are, with their better team?” he said.

(Das was immediately met with unhappy groans from the audience.)

He also joked about the warm welcome he received from Penn

State students on social media upon his arrival on campus, as he was greeted with the same message over and over — “Hey man, wanna smoke up?”

Student Kunal Koka thought Das’s set was “hilarious” and said he felt very positively about the entire event.

“It’s a great event for our community to get together and celebrate, not just Diwali, but Indian culture and the presence of Indians in State College,” Koka (sophomore-biochemistry and molecular biology) said. “Events like these really help [serve as] a reminder of who you are.”

Following Das’s set, students walked to Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center to eat Indian food catered by India Pavilion Exotic Indian Cuisine.

The night wrapped up with a Bollywood Hour, in which popular Bollywood songs were played by DJ Vaibhav Sharma and DJ Parth.

Pranoy Bharadwaj appreciated the performances and recognized the importance of celebrating Diwali, which he described as “probably the most important festival of the Hindu religion.”

“There’s not a whole lot of Indians in Happy Valley,” Bharadwaj (sophomore-biochemistry and molecular biology) said. “We’re probably in pockets here and there, but [it’s significant] to see a lot of people who share the same values in the same place and who can [relate] to whatever you feel.”

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Noah Riffe/Collegian

From left, Qiuchen Fan (senior-hospitality) and Mingtian Yang (senior-computer science) pose for a photo on Wednesday, Nov. 6 in the Willard Building.

Bloomberg’s candidacy sets Democrats further behind

Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City, took action to potentially enter the 2020 presidential race as a Democratic candidate last week.

This decision created noise among the other Democratic candidates and members of the party, as Bloomberg made this decision after months of campaigning have already been under way.

Contrary to what Democratic candidates’ intentions may be, adding someone new into the already packed pool of candidates is not helping anyone except Republicans and especially, supporters of Donald Trump.

Bloomberg is a multi-billionaire, and other candidates, such as Bernie Sanders, believe

OUR VIEW

Michael Bloomberg’s decision to potentially enter the presidential race only aids Republicans

he is now trying to “buy” the election by skipping out on the first few months of work, taking full advantage of his potentially large campaign budget.

While Bloomberg’s advisers claim he has not officially made a final decision, he filed paperwork to ensure he would make it onto Alabama’s primary election ballot, according to the New York Times.

If exceptionally wealthy candidates such as Bloomberg and Tom Steyer want to see a Democrat in office, it would seem most useful to invest their time and money into candidates

already far enough along in the race, giving the already-existing Democratic candidates a shot at succeeding.

Perhaps Bloomberg entered late as a strategy, to stand out among the myriad of candidates that potential voters have been trying to learn about for months.

Because he entered so late, his name is making headlines, and therefore potential voters might be more interested to look into his background and goals as a late-to-the-game candidate.

If Bloomberg has the money to run, he has every right to —

but is it worth it?

Is Bloomberg proposing anything exceptionally different from the other Democratic candidates already months into their campaigns?

Right now, the answer seems to be no. Bloomberg has released little information on what platforms he may campaign, but if he follows his mayoral policies, he figures to be socially liberal and fiscally conservative.

At the moment, it’s hard to deny a lack of unity from the Democratic party.

There’s little to show for the past three years,

in which Democrats in or running for office needed to successfully develop a plan together to take back the White House.

Time is dwindling for Democrats to find a solution, and they should aim to support the candidates who are most likely to realistically challenge Trump come next year.

With such a large quantity of candidates, it is hard for voters to have a decent understanding of each person’s platform — adding more won’t help. There’s a possibility the Democratic party could have a better shot at beating Trump if they can successfully boil the options down to a few strong front-runners, not candidates seemingly chasing their own personal agendas.



MY VIEW | Cassandra Kidwell

Gen-eds should be considered more than a requirement

Entering the first semester of my freshmen year, my schedule was as follows: Bi Sci 03, English 15, Spanish 200, a required freshmen seminar and one class related to my major in journalism, COMM 271.

I used to be confused at the large number of classes I was taking unrelated to my major, as the number of general education courses (gen-eds as many students call them) I took only increased my second semester, taking Entomology 100, creative writing, a women’s studies course, Astronomy 7N and once again only one class related to my minor, Spanish 253.

I will never see gen-ed filled semesters like my freshmen year again. I am now taking a larger course load of major and minor related classes, so I look back to my gen-eds and miss my semesters of taking courses across all subjects.

My general education requirements are a little more widespread than other majors as a print and digital journalism major, but the requirements are similar for all Bachelor of Arts candidates.



Penn State requires every student takes a certain amount of general education in the fields of Health and Wellness, Natural Sciences, Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Integrative Studies (commonly used as Inter-domain course.) The school also require English 15 (or a substitute) and a CAS speech class.

As to how general education classes help Penn State students, Penn State’s general education website said students can “acquire skills, knowledge, and experiences for living in inter-connected contexts; making life better for themselves, others, and the larger world.”

For me, my general education courses were a refreshing introduction into college learning. It is easy to dismiss gen-eds as pointless, throw-away classes, but they were a lot more to me.

Bi Sci 03 — one of the most common general science classes for students in the College of Communications — changed my outlook on the structure of a classroom. Focused on self-development over academic takeaways, it was certainly a class style that I never saw in high school.

The idea of these unrelated major requirements can also be frustrating — I know someone

“For me, my general education courses were a refreshing introduction into college learning”

Cassandra Kidwell

who would have a perfect 4.0 GPA if it wasn’t for his C in English 15 — but most gen-ed professors are not trying to fail students in their courses.

For those who never show up to their gen-eds or don’t consider them helpful classes, I believe they can actually provide some helpful takeaways. Gen-eds are a given opportunity to try a subject or course you have always been interested in, but is not the primary focus of your studies.

If students choose an easy-A gen-ed that is known to be boring, then it makes sense some say they don’t get anything out of gen-ed courses.

Now, having no gen-eds scheduled for either semester this year and only two gen-ed requirements left, I will certainly miss the diversity of taking classes in different subjects.

It could be because the classes were easier on my workload, but what other time in my life will I be able to hold a Madagascar hissing cockroach in my class than Entomology 100? Or watch someone drink their own spit in Bi Sci 03? Not many other classes allow the same freedom and excitement as some gen-eds do.

Only Penn State general education courses offer opportunities like SOC 119, where the lectures are recorded and posted on YouTube for audiences of thousands to see, or Astronomy 7N, an online video game that was created to teach students Astronomy in an interesting way.

My tips to those looking for gen-eds is to find a subject that you actually find interesting and can see yourself gaining beneficial experience from. Also, most advisers can find a way to make a class fit into a general education requirement if you want to try new fields. Don’t be afraid to ask questions and step out of your comfort zone, as you may find a new interest you never knew you had.

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Overtime winner secures eighth Big Ten title

By Madeline Lapreziosa
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It was a riveting back-and-forth match, but Penn State prevailed. The Nittany Lions captured their eighth Big Ten Tournament title in program history, defeating Michigan 2-1 in overtime, capping off an excellent run from late in the regular season into postseason play.

The two sides matched each other step for step in the first half, trading spells of possession in the other team's half.

Michigan nearly opened the scoring in the 25th minute, as center back Caitlin Haislip surrendered possession in her defensive half. Sarah Statigakis tried to put one past Amanda Dennis, who was off her line, but the Nittany Lion keeper came up with a leaping save.

Penn State created several opportunities, notably in the 32nd minute when Sam Coffey picked up the ball at midfield and surged toward the Michigan penalty area and fired a shot that sailed wide left of goal.

The Nittany Lions and the Wolverines both totaled seven shots in the first 45 minutes, with neither side able to make one count on the scoreboard.



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics/Ryan Snyder

The Penn State women's soccer team celebrates on the field after beating Michigan 2-1 in overtime to win the program's eighth Big Ten championship and third in five years.

The high-intensity, back-and-forth play carried over into the second half, but the Wolverines quickly gained the upper hand, pinning the Nittany Lions back in their own defensive third.

The final 20 minutes of regulation featured electric end-to-end action, as both teams threatened

in the attack. Penn State found a pair of chances in the 69th minute, launching a counter-attack through Frankie Tagliaferri who found Rachel Wasserman on the left side. The forward fired a shot that hit the side netting.

Seconds later, Coffey threatened in the penalty area, finding

herself one-on-one with goalkeeper Hillary Beall on the right side, but the Michigan goalkeeper denied the Coffey of the opening goal.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 82nd minute when Michigan's Raleigh Loughman drove a low cross in front of goal

which appeared to be buried by Sura Yekka. The goal was initially called back due to an apparent offside, but a replay revealed that the ball deflected off the foot of Payton Linnehan into the back of the net.

Just a minute later, chaos ensued again, as Tagliaferri drew a foul inside the Michigan 18-yard box, setting up a penalty kick for Coffey, who blasted her shot past Beall in the top left corner.

The match progressed to overtime tied at 1-1, but it didn't take long for Penn State to seal the victory.

In the 93rd minute, Linnehan found herself in open space with Beall off her line.

The freshman produced a picture-perfect chip from outside the 18-yard box for the decisive golden goal.

Following back-to-back clean sheets, goalkeeper Amanda Dennis was solid yet again.

The senior tallied six saves, as her performance kept the Nittany Lions in the game from start to finish.

Penn State will now look to ride its nine-game winning streak into the NCAA tournament, as Sunday's triumph guarantees them a spot among the field of 64 teams.

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Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Forward Liam Butts (7) scores the second goal of the game for Penn State during the Big Ten Quarterfinal game on Nov. 10. The No. 2-seeded Nittany Lions defeated the No. 7-seeded Badgers, 3-0.

Sload and Butts lead attack

By Justin Morganstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As Penn State's postseason run began on Sunday afternoon, its star forwards who have come through all year stood out once again.

Freshman Liam Butts and senior Christian Sload have been the offensive sparks for Penn State all season, and they are ready to display their uncanny scoring abilities on an important stage.

The Nittany Lions got the postseason start they were looking for on Sunday afternoon, soundly beating Wisconsin in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament 3-0.

And unsurprisingly, it was Butts and Sload who were at the forefront of the scoring in Penn State's win.

After going into the halftime locker room scoreless, Penn State — as usual — remained calm, as they've been a strong second-half

team all season.

"It's all about togetherness," coach Jeff Cook said.

"Staying together in every moment is what they've done and it's a great credit to this group."

That "togetherness" is something that the group of forwards knows best as both Butts and Sload have fed off each other at every chance they can.

With the first-team All-Big Ten nominee in Butts, and Sload who is an experienced forward that has come up with clutch goals time and time again, it is imperative that they are on the same page at all times in order for this team to be at its best.

"Our communication as the season has gone on has gotten better and better," Butts said about him and his fellow forward.

And after the teams left the halftime locker room to resume play, the communication between the forwards was evident as two got the scoring started for the Nittany Lions.

In the 58th minute, Sload took a beautiful feed from Butts in the box and did what both

forwards do best — finding the back of the net.

The Reading, Pennsylvania native, scored his third goal in three games and has been extremely active in Penn State's latest unbeaten streak which is now at eight, scoring the last two overtime winners for the Nittany Lions.

Butts, meanwhile, was able to pick up the assist on the goal, which would be the natural goal-scorer's first helper on the season.

Then just minutes later, the freshman star was able to get a tally of his own. Off a beautiful set up by Aaron Molloy, Butts finished off what would be an important insurance goal for the Nittany Lions and his ninth of the season.

The explosive forward combination of Butts and Sload has proven to be too much to handle for opposing defenses at times and will be essential if Penn State plans on playing soccer deep into November.

"Both those guys just carry a threat to position themselves in the box and it's really what [Butts and Sload] are good at," Cook said.

"That is the stuff we work on."

And if the defense and goal-keeping remains solid, this offense with the help of massive preparation can help carry the team in what hopes to be a Big Ten title run.

"Teams aren't gonna be easy to break down," Cook said.

"But we have to understand that it is gonna be hard in Big Ten Tournament play."

"It's all about togetherness. Staying together in every moment is what they've done, and it's a great credit to this group."

Jeff Cook
Coach



Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Christian Sload (24) celebrate after scoring a goal during the Big Ten Quarterfinal game against Wisconsin.

PSU shows postseason adjustments in victory

By David Pollak
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the regular season in the rearview mirror, Penn State has now entered win or go home territory.

Mistakes are no longer able to be fixed for the next game, because there's a chance that there won't be one, as one mistake can essentially be the end of the season and for coach Jeff Cook.

He took that into account in his side's preparation for its matchup against Wisconsin in the quarterfinal of the Big Ten tournament.

"What we're trying to do in the practice environment is just turn the pressure up a little bit and create those situations," Cook said. "An example of that, one of the ways you can advance is through penalty-kick rounds. We hope we can win the games in the course of play because penalty shootouts are really challenging."

However, Cook noted that despite preparing for these single-game eliminations, nothing can truly replicate those moments.

"You need to prepare for that but there's nothing that you can do to prepare for the actual pressure of that reality," Cook said. "We've been trying to prepare for that, should we need to go to penalties in the postseason, but then be confident and believe in ourselves if that moment comes in front of us."

Cook and the Nittany Lions turned around a slow first half to break through with three goals in the second half and cruised into the semifinals.

While it may not have had to implement the tactics of a single-elimination game, such as

going to penalty kicks, it's about having the mindset and awareness surrounding the significance of every detail that could turn into those situations.

For Penn State, its win over Wisconsin was the first victory in the Big Ten tournament since its victory in the play-in game in 2015.

This year's side has seen plenty of firsts. Even the upperclassmen haven't been able to experience a deep postseason run in their time donning the blue and white.

On the other hand, Cook has been here before. Before his days in Happy Valley, he spent 17 years at Dartmouth, winning five Ivy League championships and seven NCAA tournament appearances — including two appearances to the Sweet Sixteen.

Even before Dartmouth, he led Cincinnati in 1998 to its first NCAA tournament bid, including an upset over No. 1 SMU during the regular season.

"The biggest thing that I can say to our guys is how much we as a staff believe in them and they should believe in each other," Cook said. "The message we have to the group is don't change."

While the games are only going to become more difficult and the stage is going to be brighter than ever, it's about remaining humble and sticking true to Penn State's identity.

We've been working now for three months to get to this stage, so we have to stick to what makes us a good team and difficult to play against," Cook said. "That has to be next weekend or in an NCAA tournament game. Whenever it comes to us, we have to stay true to ourselves."

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Firstname Lastname/Organization

Defender Alex Stevenson (18) heads the ball against Wisconsin at Jeffery Field on Nov. 10.

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with associates and you will receive powerful feedback. Do a better job of listening when others come to you. Sometimes you are too into the ideas and not focused on basic facts and/or reality. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

Sean Clifford shoulders blame for loss

By Caleb Wilfinger
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following nearly every single Penn State victory this season, Sean Clifford has stressed that he could have played a better game.

And while Clifford has been his own toughest critic throughout his first season as Penn State's starting quarterback, the Nittany Lions won each of his first eight starts, registering his rather harsh self-assessments moot in the process.

Once again on Saturday, Clifford was quick to place the brunt of the blame on himself for the offense's struggles.

But this time around, there was certainly good reason for the young quarterback to be upset with his performance.

Clifford struggled from the onset against an upstart Minnesota team and it resulted in his first loss as a starter, as he finished the game 23-for-43 for 340 yards, a touchdown and three interceptions.

"I think I can definitely play a lot better, and I know I say that each week, but this week it actually hurt us," Clifford said. "It's one of those things where you can't help but blame yourself."



Quarterback Sean Clifford (14) carries the ball during the game against Minnesota at TCF Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn. on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Clifford was uncomfortable from the opening drive of the contest, as he underthrew a ball intended for wide receiver Justin Shorter, and it was picked off by Minnesota safety Antoine Winfield Jr.

That was the first of two interceptions from Winfield, both of which kept points off the board for Penn State and erased drives that would have given the Nittany Lions a lead in the first half.

Instead, the visitors were behind the eight-ball from the start and the Minnesota crowd fed off each of Penn State's mistakes, most of which were Clifford's fault in his eyes.

"Hats off to [Minnesota], they're a great team and they played a hell of a game," Clifford said. "But I just have to play better and there's not much else to it."

Clifford sounded exhausted following the contest and the redshirt sophomore certainly had every reason to be, both physically and emotionally after such a taxing game.

Beyond the usual bumps and bruises of a football game, Clifford suffered cramps late in the fourth quarter that made it difficult for him to even walk.

"As the game wound down you



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Quarterback Sean Clifford (14) throws the ball during warm-ups against Minnesota at TCF Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn. on Saturday, Nov. 9.

could see that he wasn't moving very well, he was cramping up," James Franklin said. "I thought overall he had a tough, gutsy performance and he'll learn from this."

And yet, while Clifford struggled in his third start against a ranked opponent, he still had a chance to lead his team to victory in the waning moments.

In fact, it appeared as if the hobbled quarterback was going to complete a remarkable fourth quarter comeback after Penn State marched its way downfield and into the red zone with under two minutes to play.

But the Nittany Lions would eventually stall inside the Minnesota 20-yard line in what was their final possession of a one-score defeat.

"[Clifford] did make plays to put us in a position to win today," tight end Pat Freiermuth said. "But the whole offense needed to capitalize more in the red zone. I think how we played in the red zone was unacceptable and we needed to execute better and score touchdowns once we got down there."

Clifford did mention that the Gophers did a good job in how they went about mixing up their coverages and disguising their

blitzes. This was something that seemed to disrupt the quarterback's rhythm at various points throughout the afternoon.

However, Clifford didn't make excuses for how he performed in a pressure-packed environment.

Even on Penn State's final play — when a pass interference call that could have kept the Nittany Lions in it was missed — he continued to lobby the blame at himself for making a poor throw.

"I was just trying to read what the defense gave me," Clifford said.

"The ball was actually intended for Jahan [Dotson], but I missed him. Simple as that."

Entering Saturday's game, Clifford had thrown for 1,931 yards and 20 touchdowns this season, to go along with completing 62 percent of his passes, a 164.9 passer rating and only three interceptions.

But as he sat in the visiting media room after the game, the

Cincinnati native was left to grapple with his first loss at the collegiate level as a starting quarterback.

This is the kind of result that erases much of what Clifford had

previously done to help get this Penn State team to a point where it could think about a Big Ten title and a berth in the College Football Playoff.

Now, what happens a month from now is the last thing on Clifford's mind. At this moment, it's about internalizing what he's learned from this demoralizing defeat and focusing on the week ahead.

"I don't really know how I'll handle this because I haven't been a part of a loss yet," Clifford said.

"But I know that as one of the leaders on this team, I have to step up and be better. The one thing that I can guarantee is that I'll grow from this."

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Execution

FROM Page 1.

For as bad as the Nittany Lions played in the first half, Penn State drove down the field with a minute left, with a chance to win the game.

"We just made adjustments," offensive lineman Steven Gonzalez said. "We put in our mind that we were just going to execute a lot better and we were going to be a lot more fundamentally sound." "It was just a mindset flip to be honest."

And while Penn State did flip a switch, so to say, it wasn't enough.

"I'm not disappointed in the way that we fought," Johnson said. "We had a chance at the end. I'm pleased with how we fought, just disappointed with the execution in the first half."

The Nittany Lions had small problems all season. That never cost them a victory, but they were far from perfect. Whether

it was a lack of execution, or a blown assignment, or a dropped it never really cost Penn State. On Saturday, Minnesota was good enough to make these small problems into big problems from the opening snap. Minnesota was the better football team on Saturday. The Gophers deserved to be 9-0 and Penn State deserves to be 8-1.

The defining moment for Penn State this season is how they are going to respond and how the Nittany Lions will deal with this defeat. That will determine if this team is really different from teams in previous years.

"We have to use this as a step forward. We haven't dealt with that," Mustipher said. "We haven't dealt with teams coming out and putting points on the board quickly like that. We'll look at it and tomorrow we will address what we need to do better and we will move on."

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Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Linebacker Jan Johnson (36) tackles Minnesota quarterback Tanner Morgan (2) for loss during the game against Minnesota at TCF Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn.

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