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## MAD SPIRIT

Graphic by Ella Freda

### Men's basketball making history by believing in each other

By Tyler Millen  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Every day on the walk from his car to his office inside of the Bryce Jordan Center, Micah Shrewsberry sees the same picture, the same four former Nittany Lions who give the second-year head coach a constant reminder — a reminder that his program has longed for an NCAA Tournament appearance.

On that walk, Shrewsberry sees Talor Battle, Jeff Brooks, David Jackson and Andrew Jones, a core four who all share one thing in common: They were members of the last Penn State tournament team in 2011.

Sitting on a wall inside the BJC, this voiceless, motionless group of Nittany Lions sitting at a podium for a presser ahead of the 2011 NCAA Tournament are an everyday reminder that Shrewsberry wanted his players and this current group to have the same experience those four did.

Announced as the 14th head coach in Penn State history on March 15, 2021, Shrewsberry has orchestrated one of the nation's most improbable turnarounds, turning a historically dominant football school into a community

passionate about basketball, an unheard-of construct in State College.

Just two years after taking the reins, a veteran unit with a young and motivated head coach has rewritten the history books time and time again, etching itself into Penn State immortality one win at a time by simply believing in each other and the process.

On the walls of the Nittany Lions' locker room in the historic United Center in Chicago — the same building that Bulls legend Michael Jordan called home — the blue and white called upon the TV show "Ted Lasso" for inspiration, using one simple word that would take a bubble team to a true tournament threat with national championship aspirations.

"Believe," written in big blue letters on a vibrant gold background, quickly became the embodiment of three wins in three days, as the team took down the Big Ten's best in the process and reached the conference finals for the first time since 2011, an all too familiar year for the program.

"I say it all the time that nobody believes in those guys like I do," Shrewsberry said. "They believe in each other the same way. I

think that's the biggest thing is they're trusting each other. We're starting to do our jobs, so the trust has been building for a long time."

With Penn State back on the national stage and back in the Big Dance for the first time in over a decade, a fictitious soccer coach played by Jason Sudeikis transforming the culture and fanbase of a fake soccer team, AFC Richmond, is much like Shrewsberry who has made Nittany nation believe in the program again.

Much like the team in the show, the Nittany Lions play with a unique sense of togetherness, a special brand of basketball that's built upon the pillars of veteran leadership from fifth-years Jalen Pickett, Camren Wynter, Myles Dread and Andrew Funk, whose play on the court transcends just made baskets and long-range 3-pointers.

With senior forward Seth Lundy as an emotional leader on both the offensive and defensive end of the floor, Penn State has captured the hearts of a community longing for basketball success because of its ability to never give up, play together and believe, concepts that have bolted the Nittany Lions to a 10-seed in this year's NCAA

Tournament. "These guys don't let anything rattle them, being down against Maryland, being down against Purdue; until the horn goes off, we still got a chance," Shrewsberry said. "They really believe that, so there's never a lead that's safe."

Leading a mixed bag of experienced transfers, highly touted freshman and under-recruited castaways, Shrewsberry has been the catalyst for success while learning how to build that belief at every single stop, which includes a long list of teams like Purdue, Butler and the Boston Celtics.

While Shrewsberry has developed prominent NBA All-Stars like Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Gordon Hayward and made them believe in their own abilities, he has built a culture of belief all over the country, even when he had to wash clothes and drive the team around at NAIA school, IU South Bend.

Despite making the tournament a number of times with Purdue and coaching alongside Brad Stevens in back-to-back national championship games, Shrewsberry will coach in his first NCAA Tournament game as a head coach, unfamiliar territory that

he and his team are prepared for.

"You take it for granted sometimes when you're at a program and you go every single year," Shrewsberry said. "You just expect it, and then you forget about how hard it is to get there. That's what we've done, that's what we've accomplished, and like I said, we're not gonna take our foot off the gas. We gotta keep playing, but we got to enjoy this, and I'm gonna enjoy it."

Shrewsberry has pushed his squad to compete with Buzz Williams' Aggies, who are one of the SEC's most physically imposing teams, and despite their ability to score the ball at an elite level, belief remains Penn State's mantra and mentality.

While both teams closed their postseason campaigns with losses in their conference championship games, Shrewsberry recognized how the Big Ten gauntlet prepared his resilient and never-say-die group for the best teams in the country.

"We believe in each other, we believe in our abilities, and we believe we can win every single game that we play."

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### Micah Shrewsberry says success for men's basketball program comes with 'moving forward'

By Seth Engle  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With a Big Ten Championship appearance under its belt and an NCAA Tournament game looming ahead — both firsts since 2011 — the more Penn State achieves, the more lucrative Micah Shrewsberry looks as an option for more advanced basketball programs.

Connections to open coaching positions at Georgetown and Notre Dame have prompted questions surrounding Shrewsberry's future with the Nittany Lions, a program that will soon have to determine its plans to continue developing its budding basketball program.

Contract extension aside, Shrewsberry's fate will come down to whether the university is ready to make a sizable investment to compete in all aspects with the programs that have reportedly shown interest in the prized headman.

"As you're building a program, as you're growing a program,

you can't take steps backward," Shrewsberry said on Monday. "That's the biggest thing. You have to constantly be moving forward."

There may be no program in the country that has grown as quickly as Penn State since Shrewsberry took over as head coach two years ago.

In his first recruiting cycle in 2022, Shrewsberry hauled in the highest-ranked class in school history and followed up with another top-30 class for 2023, a group highlighted by highly touted 4-star forward Carey Booth.

Shrewsberry's impact on the Nittany Lions began to grow even before winning basketball games. But now that the wins are piling up, Penn State has a golden opportunity to make itself consistently competitive.

"You don't want to lose momentum," Shrewsberry said. "You want to continue to gain, you want to continue to do things. Whether this helps us in recruiting, whether this helps us in NIL or

marketing, whatever it may be, you have to build off of this because this is the excitement level right now."

After an NCAA Tournament appearance, continued competitiveness likely begins in re-signing Shrewsberry to an extension. But the means in which an extension gets signed comes down to the agreement that Penn State will improve nearly every facet of its basketball program.

It's no secret that Shrewsberry's potential suitors, Georgetown and Notre Dame — two consistent tournament teams — are far ahead of the Nittany Lions in terms of historical and general focus toward basketball.

Roaring crowds of 107,000 pack into Beaver Stadium nearly every Saturday in the fall, but only a fraction of those fans show the same passion toward the basketball team, which struggled to fill over 60% of the Bryce Jordan Center with each home game in Shrewsberry's first season.

But as Penn State marched on

and continued to compete for the postseason, fans began to fill the seats more than they likely have since the coronavirus-shortened

season, which may show a shift in anticipation toward the program.

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Ryan Bowman/Collegian

Micah Shrewsberry calls a play during Penn State's game against Michigan on Jan. 9 at the Bryce Jordan Center.



# DROP IT LIKE IT’S HOT

By Leonardo Frepoli  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Steven Segel and Max Goldberg were both juniors attending business classes at Indiana University Bloomington when they decided to create a new music discovery app.

Segel and Goldberg are now the co-founders of HotDrop, which aims to connect musicians with audiences and grow their fanbase without the constraints currently created by music labels on apps such as Spotify or Apple Music.

The pair have worked together for years outside of Boston and are looking to put a spotlight on college students looking to get their product out there to the masses.

“Ninety percent of independent artists have zero plays on the music they released to Spotify, so there are millions of artists out there... no one’s heard them,” Goldberg said. “So for us, we see this almost as democratization that’s inevitable in the music industry... We’d like to give more artists a voice and a moment of exposure that the fans desire.”

According to Segel, one of the obstacles he and Goldberg saw as college students is that many music discovery apps created before 2010 don’t have an intuitive design or a connection with the “Gen Z audience.”

“If you look at a lot of the more social apps nowadays, they’ve completely reinvented how content is discovered and how quick you can discover different forms of content,” Segel said. “I think it really just deems the playlist obsolete at this point.”

On HotDrop, artists upload their music on a web browser application called “HotDrop studio,” which allows them to upload and organize songs and successive releases.

Artists may choose which “30-second snippets” of their songs they wish to upload.

The listeners, on the other hand, interact with the iOS app and have the capability to create



Courtesy of Steven Segel

**Steven Segel (left) and Max Goldberg** created HotDrop, a music discovery app that allows independent artists to gain more exposure. “There’s so much talent on campuses. But they’re lost in a sea of industry politics,” Goldberg said.

a library and start listening to the complete tracks.

To the cofounders, the algorithms put in place on Spotify, TikTok or Apple Music are “part of the problem.”

“Our thinking is that algorithms — traditionally on really popular music apps — very much pigeonhole listeners into a very selective, almost echo chamber and experience... We’re hearing a lot of the same stuff,” Goldberg said.

“So, our approach has been to present new artists and content frequently to users and give users more control over the discovery experience.”

The initial version of HotDrop was launched in September 2021 and used a swiping left or right feature to like or dislike songs — much like popular dating apps such as Tinder or Bumble.

The current design of HotDrop consists of an “endless vertical

feed” of music content more akin to TikTok or Instagram Reels.

“We’ve seen a tremendous amount of uploads from artists on all Big Ten campuses, as well as outside the Big Ten,” Goldberg said. “There’s so much talent on campuses. But they’re lost in a sea of content and a sea of industry politics.”

For student music creators at Penn State, HotDrop can be a way to get more exposure.

One such student is Jack Odell, who works as a producer, songwriter and a mixing and mastering engineer.

“I think that’s why this app is so great. It allows independent artists to get their music onto a platform that people are going to specifically to listen to these independent artists,” Odell (junior-sound engineering) said. “Most people don’t realize how hard it is to actually make it as an independent artist.”

Odell said he tries to help develop other upcoming artists around campus, observing their potential and letting them grow using his experience in music recording.

He said his team of three people books shows, records and produces music, and promotes artists to get more exposure.

“Just the three of us are the ones doing all of it,” Odell said. “So, it’s so difficult, but if you were a part of a label, for instance, they have such a large network already.”

HotDrop’s co-founders said they believe their app can be the perfect solution to this problem, so it can cater more to the needs of music enthusiasts.

Goldberg said most of the time, artists promoted on popular music apps such as Spotify “already have tremendous followings and a substantial amount of resources.”

“What we discovered when we were college kids is that there’s just this obsession over following and finding the little guy — finding a new artist who’s about to break out — and almost taking ownership or being competitive with friends over being the person that finds that new star,” Goldberg said.

Segel and Goldberg are aiming to set up a marketing campaign at University Park during the second quarter of 2023 to give HotDrop a physical presence at Penn State.

“We want to provide that opportunity for as many people as possible and really truly democratize becoming famous and building fame and fandom in the music industry,” Segel said. “And we’d love to help Penn State student-artists do that.”

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Courtesy of Michael Doyle

**OK Otter** plans to release new songs on the fourth Friday of every month during 2023. The next release is “The Toad.”

## OK Otter’s new bops

By Abigail Shanley  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

OK Otter, a Pennsylvania-based indie rock band with strong State College roots, has a year-long campaign planned for new songs to be released on the fourth Friday of each month, with the most recent being “The Machine” for the month of February.

“The Machine” is about “leaving your cushy job to go do [what] you know your passion is,” according to OK Otter’s founder, songwriter and guitarist Michael Doyle.

Doyle, a Penn State graduate, said he was inspired to write the song based on a podcast from stand-up comedian Bert Kreischer, who told the story of how he quit his job to pursue his dreams.

“[Bert Kreischer] worked with the travel channel and had a great job, but all his friends really [said], ‘You’re meant to be a stand-up comedian,’” Doyle said.

Doyle said he even named the song after Kreischer, whose nickname is “The Machine.”

“It was kind of .... a subtle nod to [him],” Doyle said.

Rob Bonsell, the drummer for OK Otter, said he first met Doyle two years ago after Bonsell’s former band “dropped off.”

A percussion teacher on the side, Bonsell went on Craigslist and looked at musician ads. He then responded to Doyle’s ad, “and everything kind of fell together.”

For “The Machine,” Bonsell “got it, laid down the drums and sent it to [Doyle], and he said it was good.”

“I’m more of an arranger,” Bonsell said. “He’s more of a really good writer, and I think it works really well together.”

Joe Tombasco, OK Otter’s key-

boardist and bassist, is also a Penn State graduate who first met Doyle in college through mutual friends.

“[Tombasco] also is supremely talented. He’s such a talented keyboard player,” Bonsell said. “He lays down the bass notes with his left hand, and he plays the keys with his right hand.”

Tombasco, who is also a Penn State Blue Band alumnus, “started really playing piano” when in college and did “musical stuff around town.”

“State College is a wonderful, wonderful hidden gem of a town to play music, and the people here are fantastic,” Tombasco said. “There’s a lot of venues, and we’re blessed here to have the good positivity.”

The next release from OK Otter is called “The Toad,” which will be released March 24.

“‘Toad’ is a really kickass tune... I’m looking forward to playing it,” Tombasco said. “It’s got a lot of movements in the song, and maybe that has to do with the frog jumping.”

According to Doyle, “The Toad” is the second song he ever wrote “back in high school” that had never been released before now.

“It’s about a toad that’s walking through the road, and some guy’s trying to get by and he’s like, ‘This is my road,’ and they just get in a fight,” Doyle said. “It’s a children’s song, but it’s not... obviously a children’s song.”

Doyle said he never took music “seriously,” until later, when he realized “music is the heart.”

According to Bonsell, OK Otter’s main goal is to “just try to have fun, and hopefully it wears off on the people.”

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

## Reading program relaxes

By Mercedes Hamilton  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Schlow Centre Region Library has provided the State College community with information, resources and programs since its opening in 1957.

On Jan. 30, the library kicked off its fifth annual Winter Reading Program, which will run until March 30.

Karen Lambert, an adult services librarian, runs the Summer and Winter Reading Programs at the Schlow Library.

“It’s something to tide you over and get you through those unbearable cold months,” Lambert said. “Happy Valley is very cold, snowy and gray.”

Lambert said the program has activities and prizes for many age groups, previously having participants ranging from ages 11 to 80. However, she said there usually aren’t many teens involved.

After registering for the program through the library’s website, participants are able to keep a book log and complete activity quests online.

Lambert said this format is “flexible,” allowing those who travel during the winter or summer to log their books from anywhere.

According to Lambert, some winter activity quests include reading to family, watching a movie through Kanopy and attending virtual author Q&As and a book bingo challenge.

“For book bingo, there is a list of genres,” she said. “Once [participants] finish reading five books, they get points that go toward the final drawing.”

Lambert said book bingo breaks participants out of their

“reading comfort zone” with categories like mystery and diverse authors.

“One of my favorite activities in the reading program is bingo because the different categories encourage me to look for genres of books that I might not otherwise read,” reading program participant Tori Indivero Picht said.

Indivero Picht said she learned about the program through the Schlow Book Club, which she joined after moving to Centre County in 2011.

“I participate in part because I love a good book-related challenge and also because I had heard that my participation helps Schlow receive funding,” Indivero Picht said.

Community member Megan Leathers said she’s been participating in the program since it started, and her kids participate as well. Like Indivero Picht, Leathers said she enjoys the book bingo activity because the challenge gives her the opportunity to read books she’s never seen before.

She said the program is “pared down” for younger age groups but still includes interesting activities.

“At this time of the year, they also have the Centre County Reads book, which is ‘Remarkably Bright Creatures’ by Shelby Van Pelt, so you can get a prize for reading that book and writing a review about it,” Leathers said.

She said readers of the novel get to see the world from an octopus’s point of view, making it “a very interesting story about how lives weave together” that she wouldn’t have read if the library hadn’t featured it this year.

Participants receive points for completing challenges and read-

ing books. These points can then be used as entries into prize raffles, which are categorized by age group. The final drawing will be on April 4.

Indivero Picht said she has won Dairy Queen coupons in the past, while last summer she was able to pick from a selection of books as her prize, and she chose “Greenlights” by Matthew McConaughey.

According to Leathers, the summer reading program is “a bit more extensive” than the winter reading program with more quests and weekly prizes.

“Last summer, one of the activities was an online scavenger hunt all about Schlow,” Indivero Picht said. “I learned about some of the library’s history and its resources that I didn’t know about before.”

Lambert said the library sees a higher number of program participants during the summer, but the winter program has grown in recent years with new activities added each year.

“Certainly the past couple years have been difficult with [the pandemic] and stuff,” Lambert said. “I’m just trying to give people a break from their daily professional stressors.”

Leathers said the pandemic affected many programs at the library, such as in-person author visits and Research Unplugged, where Penn State professors discussed their research topics at the library.

She said the library is moving toward returning to its former “glory” with in-person book clubs, board game meetups and knitting club, as well as in-person events for children.

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Tyler Mantz/Collegian

**The Schlow Centre Region Library’s Winter Reading Program** will run through March 30, providing community members with reading activities and prizes.



# 25 years of World Campus

By Katie Knol  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From paper manuals to CDs to the internet, Penn State World Campus has constantly evolved in the 25 years it's been offering classes.

Starting in 1998, it offered classes intended for adult learners to finish their college education.

Associate Vice Provost for online education at Penn State World Campus Karen Pollack said she started in 1998 and knew right away online education was going to be “the future.”

Pollack said flexibility was especially important in serving World Campus students.

“Adult learners, who by this time have families they’re supporting, could also be taking care of their own parents but really had a desire to finish what they started,” Pollack said. “As we’ve gone on, [our understanding] has really become more nuanced to those populations and their unique needs.”

According to Pollack, the coronavirus pandemic and in-person classes shutting down led to a change in World Campus enrollment.

“Suddenly, a more traditional student audience became aware



Courtesy of Penn State World Campus

**Renata Engel** speaks at a podium. Penn State World Campus offers a variety of classes to learners no matter their age or geographic location.

of our existence,” Pollack said.

Mike Dawson, assistant director of external communications for Penn State, said students have “gotten younger as the years go on,” but the campus is still tailored for adults with other responsibilities. In the 2022 fall semester, the average age of enrollment was 32 years old.

“For adult learners, being able to do your homework from 9-11 at

night before you go to bed, that’s what they want,” Dawson said.

Dawson said World Campus’s oldest graduate was 78 years old at the time of graduation, and the youngest was 18.

Dawson said World Campus has served students from 130 countries outside of the U.S. — in part due to the courses’ flexibility and accessibility.

Marie Hojnacki, the director of

online programs for the department of political science, has been involved at World Campus for the past 10 years. Among adult learners, she said she’s also dealt with a lot of military students who complete their assignments while deployed.

“We have students who are on a laptop in Afghanistan trying to finish their paper assignments there,” Hojnacki said.

“[There are] students who write in a tent somewhere in the middle of nowhere and are still engaged in a classroom experience.

She said not all online programs are created equal, though. According to her, some are only interested in profit and don’t offer a high standard of education.

Hojnacki also said online learning is still pretty new — especially to professors — so they’re always looking to make improvements.

“Most of us did not get degrees online, and people of my cohort were educated at a time when this was not prevalent,” Hojnacki said.

Since students learn in a variety of ways, World Campus has also adapted to suit these styles. Course instructors focus on interacting with students or pushing them to interact with each other through discussion posts or activities.

“Here’s something, and you can wrap your head around it because you did this,” Hojnacki said.

“You were one of the pieces of information to help me come to this conclusion.”

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## Students weigh in on Penn State entering March Madness

By Ethan Kovac  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For the first time in over a decade, Penn State men’s basketball has earned a ticket to the dance at the 2023 NCAA Tournament under the leadership of head coach Micah Shrewsberry.

The 10th-seeded Nittany Lions will face off against the seventh-seeded Texas A&M on Thursday night.

Luke Miller is on the executive board for the Legion of Blue, the men’s basketball student section, and said he’s excited to be able to see the Nittany Lions compete.

Miller (sophomore-business) said he watches college basketball daily, noting he’d watch any good games on at the time.

Miller has confidence in Penn State, but he said he thinks

Alabama will win the tournament.

“There’s a good chance they win the first round,” Miller said. “They could even make a run for the Final Four.”

Amid reports Shrewsberry could possibly leave Penn State to coach at another university, Miller said he wants Shrewsberry to stay.

“I absolutely love him,” Miller said. “I really hope he doesn’t go. He fits the community really well and has brought in two of the best recruiting classes Penn State has ever seen.”

Will Percy said he doesn’t follow NCAA basketball very closely, but he does watch most of Penn State’s games.

“I think Penn State is a little under the radar,” Percy (sophomore-finance) said. “We have a good shot versus Texas A&M. It

all depends on whether we hit our shots since that’s our bread and butter.”

While Percy watches Penn State basketball, he said he’s less familiar with the coaching staff.

“I don’t really know much about [Shrewsberry], but from what I’ve seen, he’s a pretty good coach,” Percy said.

Percy said he made a bracket for March Madness, and he projects UCLA to win the tournament with Penn State in the Final Four.

Ben Matthews said he watches college basketball, but he follows it more than he actually watches.

Matthews (junior-finance) said he created a March Madness bracket that has Penn State, Marquette and Texas “winning some.”

Despite a contradiction in his bracket, Matthews predicts that

the first seed, Houston, will win this year.

Matthews said he believes Shrewsberry has done a good job with the program, saying he brought in “one of the best recruiting classes in Penn State history.”

Connor Ford watches March Madness but said he doesn’t follow college basketball very much outside of the tournament.

“I’m fully on the hype train,” Ford (senior-chemical engineering) said. “We’re making it to the Final Four.”

Ford isn’t only on the team’s hype train but Shrewsberry’s as well.

“He’s doing a great job. In two years, we got a tournament and were second in the Big Ten,” Ford said.

Despite his excitement for

Penn State, Ford said he believes Marquette will win it all.

Oliver Holt called himself a “decently big fan,” saying he’ll watch a good game if he’s available, but this year offers something special for Holt (sophomore-communications).

“I’m ecstatic. Being able to see your team in March Madness as a student is crazy,” Holt said.

Holt is particularly excited that Penn State’s first game is on a Thursday night since “it’ll be crazy if [the Nittany Lions] win.”

His projections are that Texas A&M will win the tournament, and Penn State will win its first match then lose its second one.

Holt likes Shrewsberry but said he has concerns that Penn State won’t be with him much longer.

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# Penn State must use its resources to keep Micah Shrewsberry

It's time to break out the checkbook. Making its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2011, the men's basketball team has experienced more than a rebirth — it's become an opportunity for the blue and white faithful to embrace another major sport with open arms, an enthusiasm that had previously been exclusively reserved for sports like football, wrestling and hockey.

Micah Shrewsberry's second season with the program was one for the Penn State record books — a rare bright spot in a long history of mediocrity.

The Nittany Lions posted a 22-13 record in the regular season, good for the fourth-most wins in program history. Breaking numerous records along the way, the team will make just its fifth appearance in the Big Dance since 1965.

For over a decade, the words "excitement" and "basketball" hadn't been uttered in the same sentence by fans, as the Nittany Lions hadn't been successful compared to other athletic teams that made more headlines — like the wrestling program, which has claimed nine of the last 11 national championships.

However, excitement in Happy Valley seems to have started moving to the basketball court as a consequence of the positive influence Shrewsberry has had on the Nittany Lions.

In just two seasons recruiting for Penn State, the head man has already brought in two of

## OUR VIEW

### Interest from prospective students will increase with a successful basketball program

the highest-rated classes in program history. Additionally, three of the six highest-rated recruits to ever arrive on campus have come in the last two years.

Shrewsberry, like many other important figures in Penn State athletics like James Franklin, Cael Sanderson and Guy Gadowsky, has become a staple piece and important character in the monetary, cultural and social relevance of the university.

As the second-most profitable collegiate sport, the success of the basketball team will directly impact the rising hope and excitement among students — encouraging a bigger audience to fill the Bryce Jordan Center.

This year, the wrestling team competed in two dual meets at the BJC, and both events drew an attendance of just under 16,000. The largest crowd for a basketball game at the BJC this year was 12,082 against Rutgers, though there was a large contingent of Scarlet Knight fans present to boost that number.

The Penn State fanbase has shown what it can do for football. There are very few schools in the country — if any — that

can pack a stadium with over 105,000 fans for a game against Villanova. The fanbase is desperate for a winning program it can rally behind, and it looks like Shrewsberry is finally giving fans something to cheer for.

However, with success also comes an array of opportunities for the man behind the victories. Connections to open coaching positions at Georgetown and Notre Dame have created uncertainty behind Shrewsberry's future leading the Nittany Lions, putting pressure on Penn State.

Penn State needs to use its resources to keep Shrewsberry as the program's coach to continue winning games and recruiting well, as the tangible benefits his success brings are monumental — affecting fields in and out of Penn State Athletics.

According to The Washington Post, this phenomenon has occurred in many universities throughout the years, such as Villanova when it saw a 22% increase in applications after winning the 2016 NCAA Tournament.

With the increasing success in a sport as profitable and wild-

ly popular as basketball, a chance for Penn State to elevate its profile as a university has emerged, bringing a potentially larger pool of applicants in future years that will gravitate toward the university's athletic success and spirit.

In addition to heightened interest of prospective students, the success of Penn State's basketball team directly affects the possible success of smaller sports, from building better facilities for nonrevenue-generating sports to even influencing the popularity of the women's basketball team. The futures of other Penn State sports heavily rely on Shrewsberry's presence.

With the athletics department generating a revenue of \$181,227,448 during the 2021-22 school year alone, Penn State undoubtedly has the resources to keep a sought-after coach who has rebuilt the team with impressive speed.

Penn State shouldn't settle for less, but rather, it should continue to aim to have a basketball team that keeps its student body involved and excited. Shrewsberry is imperative to the future of the program, as well as to basketball fans and

Penn State students. Shrewsberry's contract information is not public, but he is speculated to be making roughly \$2 million per year, which pales in comparison to other Big Ten coaches, many of whom Shrewsberry has outperformed. Michigan State's Tom Izzo reportedly makes over \$6 million a year, and Brad Underwood is set to cash in over \$4 million this year from Illinois — a team Penn State beat in all three contests this season.

Only Minnesota's Ben Johnson reportedly makes less than the Nittany Lions' leader (\$1.95 million), and the Golden Gophers finished dead last in the conference this season with a 2-17 record against Big Ten foes, with the wins coming by a combined four points.

Behind a successful team is a person willing to maximize its performance. Shrewsberry's presence is a key component as to whether the BJC will roar in unison or remain continuously overshadowed by other athletic teams.

A more enticing contract would have the potential to unlock another important aspect of the school's culture, one that positively affects other sports, gathers students to celebrate and increases its notoriety among the Nittany Lion faithful.

Penn State men's basketball has been widely regarded as a sleeping giant — a large school with a large fanbase and the resources to be successful. With Shrewsberry still in town, that giant will continue to stir.



Cartoons by Olivia Woodring

MY VIEW | Gracie Carella

## ‘Everything Everywhere All At Once’ makes history for Asian Americans

On Sunday, the academy hosted its 95th annual Oscars.

The academy has a rich history of identifying and nominating the best of the best in the motion picture industry, but it has fallen short for appreciating and showcasing masterpieces produced by creators who belong to minoritized groups.

In 2015, the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite was born in response to the academy failing to include nominees of any other race or ethnicity in the pool.

In the last decade, 89% of all nominations went to white people, 6.3% to Black creatives, 2.6% to Latino/Hispanic people, and a slim 1.4% went to Asian creatives.

It's apparent these numbers are terrifying. After all, the academy said its goal is to "advance and uphold excellence" within the industry; however, those statistics scream otherwise.

These shortcomings in inclusion and appreciation for the work done by minoritized artists not only affect our current generation but also have a concerning effect on future generations.

Growing up, I was constantly surrounded by white people in Beverly, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston just north of the Bean Town. Being raised in a community that was predominantly white, I felt a bit unsure of what my chances were in the world.

I was a very determined child and always wanted to take the most challenging road.

What was I going to be? Was being adopted a disadvantage compared to my peers? Will not being white give me less opportunities to make a name for myself?

It felt like I was in a world that preached inclusivity and equal opportunity, but when it came to matching words to

actions, time and time again they failed me and my marginalized brothers and sisters.

A24 produced the film "Everything Everywhere All At Once," which was nominated for 11 Oscars across the board and in every category — highlighting the hard work and creativity of its Asian American cast.

The achievement of those in my Asian American community made my heart feel full, as we are just as smart, talented, worthy, hardworking and human

as any other creator.

Seeing the representation and dedication of the Asian American actors gave me hope and brought me to tears throughout the program.

Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan won Academy Awards for best actress in a leading role

and best supporting actor, respectively — with Quan's speech bringing me to tears.

Quan's speech was personal, sincere and a display of raw emotion. He shared that he had spent months on a boat and at a refugee camp, and somehow he ended up on "Hollywood's biggest stage."

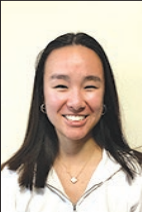
He described his journey as "the American dream" and shared his gratitude for his family and friends who supported him all the way.

"Dreams are something that you have to believe in. To everyone out there, please keep your dreams alive," Quan said after accepting the highest honor for an actor.

After listening to his speech, I muted the livestream and took some time to reflect.

I'm now in college, and I'm 20 years old with a whole life ahead of me. I've achieved more than I could've dreamed of and have helped more people than I would've ever imagined.

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



Carella

Gracie Carella

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Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include graduation year. All writers should provide their address and phone number for

verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

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als. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them.

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## FASTER, STRONGER

*Collegiate coaches note changes in players' athletic build over the years*

By Daniel Mader  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Mark Pavlik is a volleyball lifer; he's been the Penn State men's volleyball coach for nearly three decades.

Through a national title, 22 NCAA Tournament appearances and 23 EIVA titles, Pavlik has coached generations of volleyball players.

Yet, the longer he's been around volleyball, the more he's noticed how the sport has grown in front of his own two eyes.

As a player in 1979, Pavlik was a setter under legendary Penn State coach Tom Tait, who helped elevate both Penn State women's and men's volleyball from club to varsity status.

Comparing today's game to then, Pavlik said he remembers two middle blockers in the league being taller than everyone else that year — one from Rutgers Newark and one from Ball State.

"They were the only 6' 10" guys," Pavlik said. "In 1986, Chris Chase came here. He was 6' 10" to 6' 11" — dwarfing the 6' 3" guys in that age."

Things have changed a lot across collegiate volleyball since then.

Just in the EIVA conference alone this season, there are four players listed as 6-foot-9 or taller.

No. 2 UCLA, which took down the Nittany Lions on Thursday in Honolulu, has three players listed



Jonah Rosen/Collegian file photo

For nearly three decades, Mark Pavlik has coached generations of Penn State men's volleyball players and has noticed how the sport has grown over the years.

as 6-foot-9 or taller, all three of whom are freshmen.

"Now, you look at every team — 6' 9" , 6' 10" — it's not the exception anymore," Pavlik said.

However, this trend of athletes growing extends far beyond men's volleyball.

USC coach Jeff Nygaard noted that it isn't just the men's game that has seen major growth over time.

"You can look at the women's side of the game, and if you walk into a national team development program, you're going to have an entire gym full of 6' 2" to 6' 5" women," Nygaard said.

The sports term "unicorn" has become prominent in recent

years, most notably in basketball, to describe a player who isn't just tall, but also skilled, making them unique.

In volleyball, unicorns are becoming less exclusive. Having tall players no longer separates a losing team from a winning one.

"The unicorn players, they're the ones with the length and the speed to try to get somewhere before somebody else can get there," Pavlik said. "They're the guys with length, with jump and have great movement skills — explosive, quick."

Interestingly, junior Toby Ezeonu, sophomores Cole Ignaszak, Owen Rose and freshman Matthew Luoma are all tied for the

tallest player on the team at 6-foot-7.

"This might be the smallest team that I've been around in my career, but we're so athletic and quick," Pavlik said.

Princeton coach Sam Shweisky joked about genetics playing a huge part in a volleyball player's success.

"Toby [Ezeonu] works hard, but he also picked his parents right, as [Pavlik] would say," Shweisky said.

Height may not be controllable, but strength, conditioning and size can be; the development of strength and conditioning programs across all sports has made a significant impact on volleyball.

## Deion Barnes brings 'passion'

By Seth Engle  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Just under a decade ago, Deion Barnes was a star Penn State edge rusher, sitting in the same room he'd eventually lead team meetings in as the program's defensive line coach in 2023.

Despite interviewing a "wide variety" of candidates from both the college ranks and NFL to replace John Scott Jr., who left for the Detroit Lions in February, James Franklin ultimately hired the young, in-house candidate Barnes on Monday.

It's not often that graduate assistants jump to position coaching in just one year, especially at the Power Five level, but Franklin and his staff seem to believe that Barnes, 30, is ready to make the jump.

"We ended up interviewing a ton of people for it," Franklin said on Tuesday. "People that we had relationships with, people that we didn't have relationships with... throughout the process it just became more and more obvious that this was the right thing to do."

Current and former Nittany Lions "felt strongly" that Franklin hire Barnes for the position, which speaks to Barnes' impact on those he coaches, but wasn't necessarily the defining characteristic in Franklin's decision.

Former Penn State defensive tackle PJ Mustipher did as much as tell reporters at last week's NFL Scouting Combine that Franklin "should" hire Barnes as Scott's replacement.

Ultimately, the decision came down to an impressive interview process and an understanding of the culture and the defensive scheme, which Barnes coaches with his own unique demeanor

"He has the ability to be hard and demanding on them in a way that they respect and can relate to," Franklin said, "which a lot of times younger coaches have a hard time with."

A likely reason for Barnes' demanding nature is his past as a trainer in Philadelphia and its surrounding regions, helping develop some of the area's "high profile" high school defensive linemen, Franklin said.

With an NFL dream behind him after short stints with the New York Jets and Kansas City Chiefs, Barnes made the most of his initial coaching gig at his alma mater, Philadelphia's Northeast High School, where he began to shift from trainer to coach.

"There are aspects and similarities of those two jobs that are similar, but there's a lot of other aspects that go into it as well," Franklin said. "I also think his ability to relate to the players and recruits is also going to be a strength of his."

It helps that Barnes has had the opportunity to learn under some of the country's defensive minds, such as current and former Penn State defensive coordinators Manny Diaz and Brent Pry, respectively, over the past three seasons.

Barnes knows exactly how Diaz wants to run his defense, which should make the transition that much smoother than if Penn State were to have dipped into an outside source for Scott's replacement.

"When you go out and hire maybe a more experienced coach from the outside, you get

[experience] but then that guy's got to spend time learning to defense and understanding the culture," Franklin said. "So you could make arguments both ways."

Many were interviewed for the position, some who Franklin was "definitely" considering hiring and others that were brought in as possible candidates for openings in the future.

But regardless of who appeared for interviews, Barnes ultimately wowed the coaching staff with each response.

"Not only did you hear it, but you felt his passion for coaching d-line," Franklin said. "You felt his passion for Penn State, and you felt his passion for this specific group of defensive linemen that he has a relationship with."

James Franklin

been made by Penn State's spring break the first week of March, Franklin didn't feel rushed to come to a conclusion until Sunday or Monday, he said.

So on Monday, the team gathered in a meeting room, one that Barnes had sat in as a player just years before, and Franklin made his decision public, walking toward a door to introduce the newest coach to his defense.

"I want you guys to meet our next defensive line coach," Franklin told his team in a video posted by Penn State. "He's already in the room!"

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Ryan Bowman/Collegian

Roman Bravo-Young answers questions from the media during a press conference at the NCAA Championships.

## The Rivalry: RBY vs. Fix

By Kaleb Boyer  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

TULSA, Okla. — In the calm before the storm, the top-seeded 133-pound rivals Roman Bravo-Young and Daton Fix discussed their path to being

## WRESTLING

crowned national champions. Ahead of the NCAA Championships, the familiar foes discussed the possibility of facing each other in the national title bout for the third season in a row.

Both wrestlers have been ahead of the pack in the weight class all season and remain as the only unbeaten Division I wrestlers at 133 pounds this season.

Ranked No. 1 and No. 2 respectively, Bravo-Young and Fix are heavy favorites to make it to the final bout at 133 for the third-straight year.

For Fix, such an occasion would mark his third time being in the national title match, with the Cowboy losing the bout all three times. The three-time All-American said he believes this year will finally be his chance to get over the hump.

"I think it is my year. Every year I come here, I think it's my year. Every year I've been here, I [have] thought that I was the best guy in weight. You know, I still think that," Fix said.

In each of Fix's finals appearances, he lost the bouts by one score. Most recently, he dropped a 3-2 decision to Bravo-Young last season. The two prior 133 finals appearances for Fix were both 4-2 sudden victory losses, one to Bravo-Young in 2021 and the other to former Rutgers wrestler Nick Suriano in 2019.

"I've lost a couple close matches that just didn't go my way," Fix said. "I think that if we wrestled some of those matches again, then I could have easily done things differently and won, but that's in the past. I'm just focused on my performance."

"There's more big players, more physical players," Nygaard said.

A stronger volleyball athlete can jump higher, hit the ball harder and prevent injuries when doing so.

Pavlik stressed the importance of how proper strength and conditioning can keep a player healthy throughout the long season.

"If three of our guys are injured in April, that does us absolutely no good," Pavlik said.

Shweisky said he's found that players who commit to getting stronger on their own time, whether during the offseason or in season, are the ones who improve most.

The overall growth — both in height and strength — of volleyball athletes over the years is undeniable. Both Pavlik and Nygaard suspect that it's the product of how youth sports have continued to grow.

"I think that what we're seeing is a direct result of the proliferation of youth sports," Pavlik said.

Its athletes have drastically grown over the years, and they've changed how the sport is played along the way.

"It really has changed it from a physicality point of view, and again, everybody has it," Pavlik said. "They're a huge team, they've got some big guys, you got some big guys. It's like the Oprah show."

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Jackson Ranger/Collegian

James Franklin speaks at a spring conference. Franklin and his staff said they believe that Deion Barnes, a former Penn State edge rusher, is the perfect fit for defensive line coach in 2023.

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# Students reflect on spring break

By Kate Irwin  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As students get back into the swing of work after last week’s spring break, which varied from quiet weeks at home to more rowdy experiences on the beaches of Florida, they reflected on some of their favorite moments from the time off.

Mia Reine said she went to Hollywood Beach in Florida with a group of friends.

“It was a lot of fun — it wasn’t as crazy [as nearby Fort Lauderdale],” Reine (junior-health policy and administration) said, “but we had an Airbnb with 14 people.”

Reine said she went on a spring break trip last year to an all-inclusive resort, so her money was spent before the trip.

“This time, I felt like I was constantly spending money,” Reine said, “but it probably evened out to be about the same in the end.”

Maddie Beer said she also went to Florida last week, but she was in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Fort Lauderdale.

“It was fun but a little chaotic. The beaches were packed,” Beer (sophomore-international politics) said. “Any movie you’ve ever seen about spring break — it was like that. It was insane.”

Beer said the highlight of her week was being able to spend time with friends, including some



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

**Students** sit on the HUB lawn. “I went home, which is San Diego for me, so I got to hang out with my family,” Olivia Ouyang said. “It was the reset I needed – being at home, being with my family, being outside.”

from Tampa who visited. The stressor of the week was flight delays, she said.

“Our flights got delayed on the way there and on the way back,” Beer said. “I feel like the flights this year were horrible.”

Olivia Ouyang also had a bit of flight trouble, but she said it didn’t “bother [her] too much.”

“I went home, which is San Diego for me, so I got to hang out with my family,” Ouyang (sophomore-finance) said. “It was the

reset I needed — being at home, being with my family, being outside. It was the most perfect break I could ask for.”

Other students like Ouyang opted out of taking trips with friends over spring break and chose to reset at home.

Sara Walsh said it was a perfect time to “recharge.”

“I didn’t go on a big trip or anything, but it was good and relaxing,” Walsh (sophomore-health policy and administration) said. “I was able to visit with some high school friends I don’t get to see throughout the year.”

Some students aren’t particularly eager to get back into the swing of schoolwork after break, but Carla Olazo said she had mixed feelings about coming back to Penn State.

“I dreaded coming back a little bit, but also I missed it,” Olazo (sophomore-political science) said. “My [break] was alright; I didn’t do much, just stayed home in Scranton, but it was relaxing.”

Devin McDonnell said he had a similar experience while being home in Harrisburg for the week.

“I saw some friends I hadn’t seen in a while,” McDonnell (junior-computer science) said. “It wasn’t a busy week, but then I was ready to see people back [at Penn State.]”

Lauren Beall and Halie Bien, both seniors, decided to do something a little different for their last spring break.

“We went to Montreal — we didn’t go for the warm side [of spring break] — we opted for

colder,” Beall (senior-biomedical engineering) said.

Bien said she and other friends in their group had never been to Canada, so they thought it would be “fun.”

“We went tubing, which was a lot of fun. That was my favorite. It’s different from American tubing because you have big rafts where you can fit a bunch of people at once,” Bien (senior-biomedical engineering) said.

Beall said she had a personal connection to the trip that proved to be a “highlight” for her.

“My grandpa grew up there so I was able to see his childhood house, which was really cool,” Beall said.

“That was one of the unique parts of the trip.”

Beall and Bien said they hadn’t really processed last week as being their last spring break.

“I didn’t even think of it that way, wow. It’s kind of scary but also good,” Bien said. “It’s bittersweet.”

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Jackson Ranger/Collegian

**Penn Staters** play spikeball on Old Main lawn.



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

**Students** spend time outdoors. “We went to Montreal — we didn’t go for the warm side [of spring break] — we opted for colder,” Lauren Beall said.

## Individuals involved with alleged BB gun shootings charged

By Katelyn Garcia  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

College Avenue and South Fraser Street.

The State College Police Department charged two Centre County residents for allegedly being involved with shooting individuals with a BB gun while driving in downtown State College.

SCPD received various reports from four individuals who reported being shot by individuals driving a dark-colored SUV, according to the complaint.

On Monday, Teagan Eddinger, 20, was charged with a misdemeanor charge of simple assault, four second-degree misdemeanors for recklessly endangering another person, one third-degree misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and one summary count of harassment, court documents said.

Sierra Gregg, 22, was also charged on Monday with one misdemeanor charge of simple assault, four second-degree misdemeanors for recklessly endangering another person, one third-degree misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, one third-degree misdemeanor count of false reports and one summary count of harassment, the complaint said.

The complaint said the first individual reported being struck multiple times in the chest and hands while standing in a group at the intersection of West

The second individual reported being shot in the face on the 200 block of South Pugh Street, which allegedly caused redness and swelling in the area it was struck, the complaint said.

The third individual was shot in the torso on the 200 block of South Pugh Street and allegedly heard a male laugh as the vehicle passed, according to court documents.

The court documents said the fourth individual was struck on the 100 block of West Beaver Avenue.

According to the complaint, State College police tracked Gregg through the registered license plate. When she was questioned, Gregg allegedly said she was forced to drive a man named Aiden who was responsible for the incidents.

Gregg later admitted to fabricating her statement and said she was involved in the incidents, taking turns operating the vehicle, court documents said.

Eddinger allegedly said he was not involved and later admitted to involvement, the complaint said.

A preliminary hearing is set for Eddinger and Gregg April 12 under the office of Magisterial Judge Donald Hahn.

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Jackson Ranger/Collegian

**Police cars** sit in downtown State College. The State College Police Department charged two individuals with misdemeanors.

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The Board of Directors establishes broad policy and long-term strategy, selects top management, oversees the operation and ensures the financial independence and editorial freedom of the Daily Collegian and related media.

The board of directors has 11 voting members, including six students, two Penn State faculty members and three at-large members.

Two of the students are Collegian’s current editor in chief and business manager. The board meets monthly during fall and spring semesters and other times as needed.

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